

CRIPSTORY

The Unheard History of Disability

Rolling Quads

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The Rolling Quads was born from the legacy of Ed Roberts, a self-advocate who paved the way for severely disabled students seeking higher education by attending Berkeley in the 1960s. Several other disabled individuals joined him, and together, they formed the Rolling Quads, a group of disabled student activists at the University of California, Berkeley. Despite their lack of political experience and limited connections to campus and community activists, the Rolling Quads provided disability services such as transportation and wheelchair repair while advocating for removing physical barriers to campus access.



Their most notable achievement was the installation of the first-ever curb cuts in the United States, for which they fought relentlessly. Stories still circulate today of them going into the streets with their allies, using sledgehammers to bust up curbs and build their ramps. However, the Rolling Quads' bureaucratic actions were their most significant contribution. In 1971, the group demanded that the Berkeley City Council build curb cuts on every street corner, which was unanimously agreed upon, and the first 11 curb cuts were put in place legally in the United States. This was the first call to action by the disability community in the United States, leading to other actions such as the 504 sit-in and the Capitol Crawl that ultimately helped pass the American Disabilities Act.

The Rolling Quads' impact is still felt today, as their actions paved the way for greater accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities in all aspects of society. Their remarkable legacy continues to inspire disability activists to this day.





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DISABLED

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PEOPLE!!

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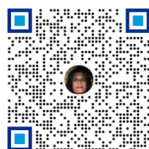
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