

-----Original Message-----

**From:** LodatoClan@aol.com [mailto:LodatoClan@aol.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2006 11:42 AM

**To:** Michael Copps

**Subject:** We need a low cost DSL for all the disabled people

Handwritten: #04-36

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**No One is a Disabled Person While on the Internet**

by **Janine M Lodato**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**LodatoClan@aol.com**

I have been fighting MS, in special for the last thirty years and now I am a cripple in a wheelchair.

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Over the years I have worked as a Correspondence Secretary for a Californian State Senator, now the Insurance Commissioner of California. Later I taught, in the Silicon Valley, English as a second language to many high tech people from all over the world. At present I am in the process of writing important books and technical articles. I enjoy being busy. However, after fighting off an assault of multiple sclerosis (MS), my hands can no longer type.

I am quadriplegic and most people when they see me cannot deal with my problems. I am a useless cripple in their eyes, a burden on society.

But my aging geek husband and caregiver said it well: "nobody is a cripple on the Internet". The Internet is a great equalizer, the greatest ever invented.

So we had to put it in a poem. Poems are a great and short way to communicate, perfect for the Internet especially on small size screens like a mobile phone or a PDA.

Sickness, sickness everywhere

So hard for one to stay alive

Caregivers, they surely care

Swamped, they work in overdrive

Handicapped folks are all out there

With the Internet they all thrive

Crippled ones, most people they scare

But on the Web they are equal, they strive

The Internet can also be great benefit or extreme danger to mankind, just like the atomic energy and weapons development. So maybe there is a third Hungarian, (in addition to Dr. Edward Teller and Dr. Leo Szilard) who can claim the potential destruction or the potential safety of mankind based on the power of the Internet and his contributions to it.

The Internet, unfortunately, is a great tool for destructive elements in our populations: the terrorists, the sexual abusers, the pedophiles, the scam artists and many others. The terrorists use it to recruit, organize, educate, propagandize the 1.2 billion Islamic population.

Each new great invention has the potential for both uses: doing great good, but doing great evil as well.

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The atomic bombs are a great example. The bomb may have threatened the world with total and complete destruction but that very potential most probably eliminated the Cold War turning into the Third World War between the West and the Soviets. The potential of mutual total destruction has done the job.

Now the H-bombs fusion technology may reduce the reliance on petroleum and solve, in part, the energy problems of the world before the BioTech based fuels from soy, corn, sugar cane and other plants, with their BioTech enhanced DNA to produce greater amounts of BioDiesel, are made available on the massive scale.

In order to continue writing, I now rely on voice recognition technology to do my typing for me. Baby boomer that I am, I must learn new tricks of the trade, with new tools of the trade, taking into account the effects of my multiple sclerosis. Once connected to my new technology, I feel connected to the world via email and word processing.

Voice recognition technology is still in its infancy, and has provided me with some amusing and frustrating moments. Finding a voice recognizable to readers is tricky. Finding a voice recognizable to a computer is even trickier. But voice recognition plus my husband who works as my InfoBot: I tell him what I want and he keyboards it into the computer, thus he is an information robot of mine. These capabilities allow me to become involved with the world in spite of my quadriplegic condition. I find this involvement very beneficial for my mental conditions and even my physical well being. By concentrating on something which is worthwhile I do not feel that anybody who reads my articles pays any attention to the fact that I am handicapped.

In order to connect to the Internet one must have a PC (personal computer) and the Windows version by Microsoft just simply will not do. Windows based PCs by Microsoft are maddeningly complex, insanely unreliable and criminally expensive.

The Internet can be very good and it can be summed up in the following poem:

Data, data everywhere, not one chance to think;

Email, email overbear, one can hardly blink;

Virus, virus constant scare, Windows, you sure stink;

Promo, promo all unfair, in trivia we sink;

But,

Info, info searched with care, to knowledge one can link.

What we need is a simple, reliable, clean, low cost PC like the ones running Linux and just equip them with a search capability, e-mail features, instant messaging features and simple document generation capabilities. That is all needed to get involved.

Maybe a courages company like Wal-Mart with the help of Google and Sun alliance will do this for the 100 million people in need: the disabled, the chronically ill and the frail elderly as well as their 44 million caregivers: family and friends. This 144 million population segment is just in the USA, and it is the same all over the world especially in the group of ten nations.

The Internet is a great tool for PsychoNeuroImmunology (PNI), the medical term for the potential of getting involved thus helping the people in need to improve their physical conditions.

There is increasing scientific interest in the area of brain-immune system interactions and the physiological changes that are induced by activation of the immune system. It is apparent that behavioral and psychological factors can modify the function of the immune system and health. Susceptibility to viral infections, activation of latent viral infections, and relapses/remissions in patients with HIV positive individuals are influenced by interactions between the brain, endocrine, nervous, and immune systems. Stress and other behavioral and psychological factors may be linked to disease susceptibility and progression.

The best way to control someone's chronic conditions or disabilities is through involvement and the PNI effects such activity brings about.

Most of the 100 million population segment of the USA who are in need have major difficulties to participate in face to face group interaction which would be very beneficial to bring about PNI effects. But they can do it in a "virtual" manner via the Internet: instant messaging, blogs, emails, group teleconferencing are all potential tools offered by the Internet.

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