

The UAD Bulletin is published quarterly by the Utah Association for the Deaf, a non-profit organization founded in 1909 and incorporated in 1956, in the interests of the deaf in Utah. The Bulletin will be sent free of charge to parents of deaf children in Utah and to other organizations of or for the deaf. Cooperation in sending their addresses to the secretary is welcomed.

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Good Years

The past two years have been good to the adult deaf people in Utah.

Essential services have been provided for those who need them. Prior to initiation of special services for the adult deaf in the Division of Rehabilitation, an average of about 10 deaf clients a year sought help. With a deaf counselor behind the desk, ready and willing to give deaf people the kind of understanding and help they need, the number has grown to over 130, with new clients seeking help weekly. An impressed Utah State Legislature has provided funds for an additional counselor and office help.

ANOTHER PROGRAM, to provide more meaningful television programs for deaf viewers, is making headway. Through the extraordinary efforts of the staff at KUTV (Channel 2) the heralded Theater of the Deaf premiere was made available for Utah viewers not only on TV but in a special studio showing for those who missed the video presentation because of LDS Church Conference sessions. The other commercial stations, especially Channel 4, have been using more captions on newscasts. Now KUED-7, the University of Utah's educational channel, has promised special consideration for deaf viewers starting this fall.

All this is deeply appreciated.

The 1967 Utah Legislature also passed a bill providing for interpreters for deaf people in court. A workshop for interpreters last month focused more attention on this vital area and, hopefully, will lead to better services.

IN ALL THIS, and other gains, the Utah Association for the Deaf has played an important role, and in the process has gained prestige as more and more members discovered the satisfaction that comes through helping others. We have also been able to close our fiscal year with a modest increase in funds.

There is good reason for quiet satisfaction along with renewed enthusiasm as our 22nd Convention nears.

Ballet—Music In Motion

To most deaf people, music is little more than a word.

To be sure, we can "feel" the vibrations of a dance band, the throbbing of juke box, the swelling tones of an organ, but this is not music as hearing people know it. Just as color is meaningless to the blind, music is something that can't be explained; it must be heard, and thus is an unattainable pleasure for those who are profoundly deaf.

PERHAPS the closest we can come to enjoying music lies in the sensation aroused by live ballet. We recently had the pleasure of attending a performance of "Giselle" at the University of Utah. As the story unfolded, through the medium of dance and pantomime, we were in tune. We were satisfied.

It is almost as hard to describe live ballet as live music; it must be seen. Deaf people owe it to themselves to discover the only "music" they can really appreciate and we hope more and more will share in the pleasure it brings.

STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO POINTED QUESTIONS

Recently, Robert G. Sanderson, president of the National Association of the Deaf and Utah state coordinator of services for the adult deaf, and Eugene W. Petersen, president of the Utah Association for the Deaf and editor of the UAD Bulletin, discussed the impact of new services for the adult deaf on the people and organizations affected. The questions are by Petersen, the answers by Sanderson.

THE LAST DECADE has seen a proliferation of special services for the adult deaf. Do you think this poses a threat to the independence of deaf people and the role of volunteer service organizations like the National Association of the Deaf and the Utah Association for the Deaf?

There has hardly been a **proliferation** of services. There are still vast needs to be met and far too few agencies to meet them. I do not think that the type of assistance being made available to deaf people will create any more dependency than there is now. Rather, the objectives of education and of rehabilitation programs are essentially the same as those of volunteer organizations: To assist deaf people along the road to independence and enable them to share more equitably in community resources. Community sponsored adult education programs, for instance, aim at overcoming the educational deficiencies for deaf people which made them dependent; rehabilitation provides appropriate training (when the individual so desires) to enable him to become independent. The only program I am aware of that does create dependency is welfare provided to the able-bodied deaf person.

The role of volunteer organizations is critically important: That of continually working for better educational and training opportunities for deaf people. It is only through alert and aggressive leadership of these organizations that deaf people may share in the rich resources of opportunity open to the hearing population.

BUT WILL deaf people still support the service organizations? I have heard it said, "We

don't need the UAD now. The state will take care of us."

Any deaf person who believes that the "state will take care of us" is completely wrong. The state has made certain services available—but deaf people must also pay taxes to support such services. Those who apply for services quickly find that they, too, must make strong efforts in their own behalf. The philosophy of rehabilitation is that of working **with**, not **for**. We have received some criticism from those who have expected us to "give them everything they wanted" and to "help deaf people more"; our reply is that those who get the most out of our help are those who are willing to work hard for themselves. Studying in school or learning a trade can take a long time, and be really difficult for a deaf person. Those who do not succeed in finding a suitable job are usually those who gave up or dropped out; those who succeed in getting work in the trade they wish are those who stay with it and develop the necessary skills and competencies.

The volunteer service organizations such as the NAD and the UAD must continue working actively to assist a segment of the deaf population which cannot always help itself: those with multiple disabilities. It is sad but true that they are increasing in numbers, and volunteer organizations not only have an obligation to make their lives socially more complete but they must continually bring their unique needs to the attention of appropriate governmental agencies.

THAT'S a large order. I have also heard it said, "The 'family' comes first. The UAD should stop sending so much money to the NAD; it gets enough from the government now. We can put the money to better use at home." In view of local needs, is this criticism justified?

To correct a serious error: The NAD does not get any government support money. The NAD **sells** one service to the government for a fair price: Evaluation of captioned films for the deaf. Such income is only a small part of our annual budget, so we still need, desperately, the support of all deaf

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Straight Answers To Pointed Questions

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GRANTING THAT it is worthwhile for the state associations to continue supporting the National Association of the Deaf, what is the relationship they should have?

Again, there is a bit of confusion on this point. Many deaf people think in terms of their association "supporting the NAD," overlooking completely the fact that cooperating states are the NAD! The NAD is composed of cooperating states, and the states govern it through their elected representatives. The NAD is what those representatives make of it. The state that elects strong representatives will be the state that sees its desires influence the policies of the NAD through convention directives.

Representatives elect officers and a board; these officers conduct the business of the association between conventions according to policies set by the board, which in turn is guided by convention directives. Each state association may expect the NAD to provide certain services to it and to deaf people in general. Each state may ask for assistance at any time, and if the request is reasonable and within the physical and financial abilities of the NAD, every effort will be made to provide that help. We have responded recently, for example, to calls for help from Georgia, California, and several other states. The NAD is a clearing house for information on a wide range of subjects—deafness, adult education programs, social service agencies, rehabilitation, education and many others. The information is free, for the most part. Successful programs are described, information exchanged, and deaf people everywhere kept informed through our publications, **The Deaf American** and the **Newsletter**.

Recently the NAD showed what it can do for deaf people when principles affecting all deaf people are involved: It entered the notorious Christensen case in California as *Amicus Curia* (friend of the court)—and won! The NAD has spent several thousands of dollars on this case.

BUT THIS still leaves a nagging question: Between the many new state and federal programs and the competition of service organizations, isn't there danger the adult deaf will start expecting more and more until they wind up in the same fix as the deaf in Europe — where paternalistic governments take care of them from the cradle to the grave?

I do not think it will happen here in America. Our traditions—the fabric of our culture—are based on the concept of rugged individualism. But I'll admit deaf people are very human, and as quick as hearing people to take advantage of "opportunities." The fault will not be theirs, however, so much as it will be that of the schools and overly protective and permissive parents who are afraid to say "no" to children. It is unfortunately true that there has been, in the last 30 years, a constant change in the philosophy of schools for the deaf. Years ago, the children were required to take care of themselves, their living quarters, their school yards, and to repair damage they did. Today they utterly lack responsibility, conscience and are not expected to do any more than carry their books to class. Schools do too much for the children and not enough with them. Parents aid and abet this situation by belly-aching if poor Johnny complains about having to mop a hallway that he helped to get dirty by his own thoughtlessness. I have noticed, however, that children who are required to wash a wall that they have marked with crayons seldom mark a wall again.

The weak parent—or school authority, for that matter—who backs down in the face of a teenager's anger has ruined the child forever.

SUPPOSE the administration passes into Republican hands and the "Great Society" is junked in favor of "private enterprise"?

The pendulum inevitably swings both ways. Republicans will not be able to disregard pressing needs any more than have Democrats. Pressures of population are too great.

And here, too, is where the

UAD, other state organizations of and for the deaf, and the NAD will be serving an increasingly useful function: Keeping the needs of the deaf in the public eye.

Unfortunately, private agencies do not have the resources to deal with problems of the deaf effectively on the national level because deaf people are too thinly dispersed throughout the country. Again, private agencies operating best at the local level must be "educated" into the needs of deaf people. Local deaf leadership will always have more than enough to do!

The rank and file must be made aware of the fact that they are the last hope of those who are less fortunate than they: the multiply disabled deaf people. Hearing society is not going to accept socially these crippled, retarded, palsied and deaf people; such people are too different. I believe that the only pleasure they will ever get out of life will be in association with other deaf people with whom they can communicate.

"Normal" deaf people must open their hearts to these sad, unfortunate people and make life a little more bearable for them.

ISN'T THERE a question of semantics here? When I was in school, there were always a few "dumbbells" and others with physical defects. Nowadays we use words like "retarded," "brain damaged," and "multiply handicapped," which sound nicer. But are there really so many more "exceptional" children today?

No semantics here. We evaluate and describe people more accurately now and are more careful with our terminology—but there are many more to deal with. This is partly because of our population growth, partly because of the miracle drugs which saved many babies who would otherwise have died, and partly because of the damaging effects of the recent rubella epidemic.

There were a few such children in school years ago—possibly one or two per cent of the children were multiply disabled. But today there are 25 to 35 per cent of a student body to contend with who have disabilities in addition to deafness. Some schools have a low inci-

dence of such children—but only because they deliberately and ruthlessly exclude them from enrollment! Such children are thus kept at home to become "attic children," or are dispersed among local school districts which handle them quite ineptly and inadequately.

Here again the state associations and the NAD must work actively to make authorities aware of the needs of these sad children and adults. We are happy to report that the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration and the U.S. Office of Education are taking an active interest in the problem, inspired in large measure by the active leadership work of state associations and the NAD. Examples are Barbara Bahhini (who attended the Utah School for the Deaf) in her much-quoted article on "Attic Children" in California, and the efforts of the California Association of the Deaf to get a special school for these special children. **The Deaf American** magazine has published many articles on the problem and has received much attention from governmental authorities.

Local clubs and state associations must join cooperatively with the NAD in a continuing effort to alleviate such problems. Much work remains to be done: Local and state organizations need the help and experience of a national coordinating agency; the NAD, in turn, cannot function effectively without the support of the state associations.

WILL THE INCREASE in special services for the adult deaf tempt our schools to orient their programs to children with uncomplicated hearing handicaps and dump the rest in the lap of rehabilitation counselors?

I hope not! I do not feel that a rehabilitation counselor should be expected to do in a few short months what schools could not do in 10 or 12 years! Rather, I feel that schools for the deaf are fully aware of the problems facing these exceptional children, and there will be a growing trend to cooperative efforts between schools and rehabilitation. We have already begun work in this direction, and soon hope to have a functioning evaluation facility as the first of our joint efforts. Several other states have similar plans.