All children have the right to learn

by Stephen Kimber

A frustrating search for services for their own learning disabled child back in 1964 convinced Joe and Doreen Kronick that the whole area of learning disabilities was a virtual wasteland of misinformation, poor diagnoses, and lack of facilities.

So they decided to do something about it.

That something was the formation of the Canadian

Association for Children with Learning Disabilities begun in 1964 with the aim of trying to oganize parents and professionals to get help for children with learning handicaps. Since then the movement has mushroomed

with 56 branches opened up across Canada in every province except Prince Edward Island.

Mrs. Kronick, the organization's first and current President, says that her experience with the association has shown that group efforts to alleviate such problems as those faced by children with learning disabilities can be successful.

"People are sometimes concerned that if they do something the child will suffer, that educators will take it out on the child, but we find that never happens."

Mrs. Kronick, who is scheduled to speak at a conference on learning disabilities in Halifax, October 21, 22, and 23, says there are many ways of winning public and professional support for an association like ACLD.

"We tried to teach every parent to become a one-person pressure group," she says. "If a child needs special services, we tell them to call the principal and tell him you're going to call special education. This is an important step because you can't antagonize the principal.

"You talk to special education and talk to your elected representative. Ask him if you can make a presentation to the school board."

Sometimes, though, she

agrees that more extreme measures are needed to get the message of the learning disabled child across to the public.

A study by the Canadian Commission of Emotional and Learning Disorders indicated that one in eight Canadian children suffer from some form of learning disability. Many are still being diagnosed as deaf, retarded, emotionally disturbed, or simply as "bad kids".

And that, says Judy Pelletier, President of the Nova Scotia chapter of ACLD, is one of the main reasons for the first Atlantic Conference on learning disabilities which is being held in October, and also one of the main reasons for inviting Mrs. Kronick to speak at the meeting.

"There is still a lot to be done, simply in letting people know about the problem of kids with learning disabilities, and what we're trying to do with this conference is to bring together educators, parents and professional people to give them an idea of the depth of this problem and what they can do to solve it."

The Conference, called "Right to Learn" will be held at the Dalhousie Student Union Building and is co-sponsored by the Dalhousie Student Union and the Canadian Forces Wives



Mix-up with yearbooks

The 1971 yearbook, Pharos, is two weeks overdue for distribution. It is presently sitting in the Pharos office on the third floor of the Student Union building.

According to Student Union Treasurer Ian Campbell, approximately 1200 copies should have been sent to graduate students from the printers, the National Yearbook Company of Winnipeg. Instead, all 1400 were delivered here.

John Graham, Student Union manager, stated that this situation should be remedied in a few days when local graduates will be telephoned and asked to pick up their copies. Other grads will be

traced if possible and their copies shipped to them. "This won't involve more expense to us. Mailing costs will be deducted from the contract with National," said Graham.

The yearbook will lose approximately \$2000 this year as compared with \$1800 in 1970. Last year's editor, John McManus, questions the validity of Pharos but says he would like it to continue in a more artistic vain. A survey of 500 graduating students last year showed that approximately seventy per cent are in favor of keeping the yearbook at Dalhousie.

The only application for the position of editor in '72 was submitted by Paul LeDoux,

coordinator of the cultural display area in the SUB. Although it is past the usual time, a deadline for applications has not been set.

The yearbooks, which cost approximately \$7, are paid for out of Student Union fees, \$2.50 each year.





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