

Editor's Note

The 1975 Summer Institute was held in Soquel, California, from June 30 - July 3. The focus of the program was on counseling the hearing impaired and their families.

Margaret Fleming-Haspiel and Dr. George Haspiel presented a program on counseling hearing impaired adults. Their program consisted of a brief formal presentation followed by activities in which the audience participated. Plentiful time was allotted for group discussion. The orientation of this program was primarily on methods of facilitating better communication.

On another day Dr. David Luterman discussed counseling theory and pitfalls, and counseling the parents of hearing impaired children. An evening session was devoted to experiences to increase self-awareness, and a role-playing situation with group participation. The role-playing experience consisted of participants imagining themselves a parent of a deaf child going to the audiologist, receiving the diagnosis, going home, etc. It was a very emotional and self-revealing experience.

In response to requests for Dr. Luterman's formal presentation to appear in print, he offered to submit the paper to this Journal if, and only if, participants would put in writing their reactions to the evening session. This contract was fulfilled, so on the next few pages will be found selected reactions to the role-playing and self-awareness experience and Dr. Luterman's paper. The editor wrote to all participants soliciting their comments about Dr. Luterman's evening session. Several of the participants responded to this request. The reactions presented here have not been edited in any way, except to delete parts of their letters not directly relating to the experience.

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"I was tremendously impressed with the presentation made by Dave Luterman. He presented what, to many of us, was a new and extremely insightful method of working with the parents of the hearing impaired. He provided us with techniques and procedures that really challenge both us and the parents and opened new insights for many of us. His actual demonstrations were impressive and dramatically moving. He not only made us think but he made us feel and this latter experience was a real eyeopener. I honestly believe that Dave gave us one of the most professionally exciting presentations in which I have ever had the opportunity to participate."

"I have long believed that the historical emphasis of conselling with hard of hearing people has taken a wrong approach. We have been dealing with an ear and/or a hearing loss, rather than a human being. My own approach to aural rehabilitation has evolved over the past five years into one which is strongly client-centered. I have found this approach evolving as I have gone through a good deal of personal growth myself.

I feel as though I grew as a result of the experience with Dave Luterman. It gave me an opportunity to fantacize more of what it is like to be the parent of a hard of hearing child. It provided me an opportunity to get in touch with some of my own feelings of inadequacy as a counsellor and as an Audiologist working with the parents of the hard of hearing children. I believe that I am a better counsellor and a better Audiologist as a result.

I have spent a good deal of time reflecting upon the experiences of the Academy meeting. The atmosphere created by Dave Luterman on the first day and Margaret Fleming-Haspiel, George Haspiel, and Nancy Drew on the second day allowed me to make more of a personal commitment to not only the meeting but to my colleagues there."

"It is difficult to say what happened. Each of us has been afraid of something in the past. While not the same fear that a deaf child's mother might be experiencing, each of us tried to do so on the basis of our own past experiences. The big difference was that we did an unnatural thing, we actively sought the fear and tried to relive it during a sustained period of time. I, for one, am not accustomed to that kind of exercise. The group esprit which had developed was a necessary crutch for me. I doubt I could have done it, one-to-one. I am not sure I could have done it with any advance information about what was going to happen. David pulled a fast one on some of us, but we had come to trust him. That trust was borne out in the period which followed and his help in bringing the various fears, and reactions to the fears, to the front part of our brains. If he had left them somewhere in our guts, it would have been an unrewarding time.

Having helped us handle our own fears, after first bringing them to light, he gave me the insight which should have been obvious, probably was a head level but NOT gut level; if you don't function intellectually under the strain of fear, how can you expect parents to do so. When fear is around, handle the fear first or nothing else will be handled. It may not be important to understand such a thing, head and gut, if you are a mechanic. How much fear is associated with a bad valve? But for people who deal with the terror of deafness and its implication for social isolation, it would seem to be a first basic step in understanding.

I wonder how it will all look on paper. There is a part of the world that is non-verbal. I once laughed at the "sheep" (the clinicians of the world as one professor called them). What could not be operationally defined and reduced to "the critical experiment"? How do you create the esprit in a reader? I wonder. Who will support him and where does the trust necessary attach itself? Trust Dave—ok, trust a page, I wonder.

If anyone can pull it off, Dave can."

"The active participation through role playing during Dr. Luter-
man's presentation was an experience which made the convention the
most rewarding and exciting I have ever attended. I have spent time
going over the notes from the lecture portion and making cross refer-
ences to other information. I have also spent time reviewing my rela-
tionship with clients and the patterns of behavior which emerged.
Until I reviewed charts I had not realized that this was the pattern
some of my clients had forced me to take with them. I also noticed that
when I had tried to ignore some of the areas which I felt uncomfort-
able handling, the progress was not as beneficial as the previous group.
His presentation forced me to stand back and see what I am doing from
another perspective. It gave me a chance to analyze my own "savior
needs" and how much useless energy that area can drain from pro-
ductive work.

My reaction to the behavior I saw and shared brought about three
ideas which I feel audiologists and persons in the helping professions
should become aware of:

1. I felt that it was difficult for some participants to cope with their
own personal problems and this blocked their comprehension of the
total process being discussed. Personal experiences by some participants
indicated that they had not had time, or had not been able to stand far
enough away from their own feelings to observe their own behavior.

2. Some of the comments mentioned strengthened the viewpoint
presented in discussion that audiologists sometimes tend to cling to the
validity of an electronic gadget and miss the human element. It was
encouraging to hear some of the participants being able to say that
although they were unsure and slightly afraid, they were willing to get
out from behind the audiometer and look at the feelings and total
performance of their clients and their families' relationships instead of
only numbers on a chart.

3. There were very few negative comments from people implying
that Dr. Luter-
man was trying to make psychologists out of audiolo-
gists. It was interesting to notice that these comments were followed by
self revealing statements which indicated that the person had un-

resolved problems of their own which were interfering with their perception of others. These included the "savior complex" described in the lecture; insecurity concerning their own feelings and abilities; and an unwillingness to look at the total environment of their clients instead of the isolated look from behind an audiometer."

"I feel that the presentation by Dave Luterman at the ARA Summer Institute in Soquel was the most worthwhile program I have attended at any workshop or convention in the last several years.

The role playing experience helped us to "come out" of ourselves and shed our "outer shell" or facade so that we could experience our inner feelings and reactions more deeply. In only a few short minutes time, I knew a great deal about my partner's thoughts and feelings in a number of areas. These areas included many of those which are not traditionally discussed among acquaintances, work associates, or often even close friends. We talked about inner feelings regarding sex, having/not having children, whether marriage can provide for all of a person's needs, where we each "fit" into this whole pattern, what the field of audiology has/hasn't to offer, how basic insecurities we experience as a person may be alleviated (or at least seemingly so) by involvement in a "helping profession" such as audiology, etc. It was amazing how the range of intense feelings and experiences could be so freely and intimately shared with someone you didn't even know previously. It indicated to me the level of a relationship that is possible when persons place trust in one another and are willing to risk without 'worrying what the other person will think'.

The sharing of feelings and thoughts by many of the participants following the role playing experience was very gratifying. People were willing to risk and to share with others where they might have been shy and inhibited prior to the role playing exercise.

It is difficult for me to fully convey my feelings of the total experience into words. However, I feel that Luterman's presentation was very unique and that we could benefit from much more of the same next summer."

"In reference to the role playing experience Dave Luterman provided as part of his presentation at the Summer Institute to which participants submitted themselves, I personally felt that it was an enlightening experience. Since Dave was attempting to demonstrate his techniques in counseling the parents of hearing impaired children. I feel that it was an appropriate experience for participants at the Summer Institute. I personally do not feel that many of those who participated in the role playing experience were emotionally ready for what occurred that evening. I feel, however, that the experience was a

worthwhile one and gave many of us greater insight to alternative approaches to parent counseling. I feel that a report of Dave's presentation and the role playing experience would be appropriate for publication in the *Journal of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology*."

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It was a rewarding experience, as have been all summer institutes, and we encourage all those interested in the rehabilitation of the hearing impaired to attend the 1976 Summer Institute scheduled for June 27-30 at the High Country Inn in Winter Park, Colorado. President-elect Roger Kasten is in charge of the program and Jerry Alpiner is in charge of local arrangements.

E. J. Hardick