

# Learning disabilities are hidden handicaps

By SANDY TESSLER

He is not blind, but he cannot seem to see. He is not deaf, but he cannot seem to hear. He is not retarded, but he cannot seem to learn. He is a hidden handicap.

This statement was published by the Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (MACLD) to describe the nature of a learning-disabled child.

A powerful group made up of parents and professionals, the MACLD was the major force be-

hind inclusion of these children in the Mandatory Special Education Act and Special Education Code. Prior to September of 1973 children with learning disabilities were not serviced by special education departments of the Michigan Public Schools.

Today these children, who have the potential for success, are given the opportunity to achieve it via cooperation among parents, educators, doctors and psychologists.

RECENTLY THE Troy members of MACLD in cooperation

with the Royal Oak Area Chapter sponsored a meeting entitled "We Know the Child Has a Problem—But What Makes Him Act That Way?"

Dr. Jean Braun, Associate Professor of Psychology at Oakland University and consultant to the Troy School District, addressed the group of 60 parents and teachers.

Dr. Braun estimates that at some time in their school years, 15-20 percent of all school children will have enough of a learning problem to bring them, to some professional.

She stressed, through numerous examples and documented statistics, that parents or professionals cannot determine what is wrong with a child, or assign a label to him, simply on the basis of observed behavior.

For example, a child displaying symptoms of hyperactivity cannot be labeled "hyperkinetic" without benefit of clinical observation and administration of a battery of psychological tests. Hyperactivity is an observed behavior, while hyperkinesis is a clinical diagnosis.

ALSO, DR. BRAUN noted, there is a very difficult distinction to be made among children whose problems are primarily emotional and those with a perceptual or other learning handicap, because the learning-disabled child may also have emotional disorders as a result of constantly meeting with failure.

However, the distinction is that a learning disabled child is suffering from a neurological dysfunction of some kind. Therefore the root of his problem is physical; not emotional.

As one becomes aware of the complications in diagnosis, it becomes obvious that this type of distinction cannot be made simply by observing the child.

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# Businessmen plan extravagant picnic

Two area businessmen have stored up the energy to toss an energy-saving party June 2.

Co-hosts Fred Graczyk and Gerald Haynes will hold an extravagant picnic for 100 guests from 4 to 7 p.m. at the new Annex of The Vineyards, 29230 Franklin Road, Southfield. The party celebrates the recent opening of the Annex, a cocktail and dancing room.

Graczyk is owner of The Vineyards. Haynes is owner of Gerald's Franklin Salon, 32770 Franklin Road, Franklin.

THE TWO businessmen hit on the energy-saving theme for the party after Haynes attracted national attention for his innovative "Energy Cut" hair design.

The party is utilizing energy-saving techniques including chilled food, chilled wines, candlelight and self-generating energy with Mel Ball and his group called Colours. All the guests were invited to

walk, trot, jog, or bicycle to the "un-hampered" event.

The invitations, made of miniature wicker picnic baskets filled with straw flowers, contained RSVPs tied with gingham ribbons. Each was hand delivered. Graczyk's new annex to The Vineyards restaurant emphasizes murals created by Bob Parrish of Detroit and Hanna Milliken of Birmingham. Mel Rycus of Detroit designed wrought iron chandeliers with small lights contained in old wine bottles. West Bloomfield's Penelope Brown, an Eastern Michigan University student, created circular, stained glass skylights.

Graczyk ordered six-foot copper and lead sunbursts to hang on the straw and mortar walls. He and his father-in-law, general contractor Ralph Dalley of Southfield, worked out the balance of design and engineering to accommodate 120 people in the free standing building.

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