



EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER of Stuttering Self-Help Groups

Number 1

December 1982

Editorial

Here it is, the first issue of our European newsletter. We started the project in accordance with the decisions made at the First European Meeting of Stuttering Self-Help Groups in 1981, and we are glad to see that the willingness and enthusiasm shown at St. Andreasberg was not short-lived zeal. Of course we are well aware of the fact that compiling and publishing this issue is just one half of the work. The other half - i.e. bringing the news within reach to all members - has to be done by the national organizations, and we are eager to hear how this will have been managed.

What is to be done next? Even though we certainly made a successful step, cooperation in general and publishing a newsletter in particular cannot be ends in themselves. The situation is somewhat odd: We are working together without knowing yet exactly what for. The definition of common goals and the development of strategies to reach them will be the tasks of the near future.

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The discussion is opened; we would like to thank all those who contributed so far and invite everyone to speak - making free use of the motto "Rather stutter than be silent".

Konrad Schäfers

Edwin J. Farr

ITALY

'La Lingua Amara'

The Italian Association for Stutterers and Ex-Stutterers is called 'La Lingua Amara' - 'The Bitter Language'. It was constituted only a year ago. For this reason it needs to receive contributions, ideas and suggestions from other European associations.

In 1987 there was 61 members and on September 30th we reached the number of 250. We hope to double this number soon.

At present, fifteen groups have been formed in many Italian cities, and other groups are going to be created in the coming weeks.

'RES PUBLICA' - a new journal

Our articles have been published in 'Agora', a publication of the Institute 'Villa Seria', where most of the Italian stutterers attended courses for language re-education. Starting in January 1989, we will publish our own review 'Res Publica'.

Our national office is in Pisa, where our President Piero Pisrotti lives. Our second national congress will take place in Roma from 8th to 11th December 1988.

In our new journal we would like to publish articles

and advertisements from European stutterers who are interested in exchanging hospitality with us during holidays.

Our best wishes for a good activity!

Con i più cari saluti -

Piero Pisrotti

DENMARK

The Association for Stutterers in Denmark

The Association for Stutterers in Denmark is in Danish abbreviated to FSD. To make it easier I will use the abbreviation in the following.

Some short facts about the FSD: FSD was started in 1970, we have about 180 members. We have a newsletter called PPP 6 times a year, we inform about stuttering by selling booklets, we arrange a stuttering camp (one week), we arrange weekend meetings with different subjects, and we participate in a Nordic cooperation with the Annual Nordic Meetings.

...more than a social association

But FSD is more than a social

association. The purpose of the association is to help and support stutterers in any way and to support research about stuttering problems. We have a critical point of view of the established treatment system in Denmark, who primarily see stuttering as a speech problem. We believe that stuttering is a problem which involves the person's whole personality. We have made a report on the subject which we have given to different people like politicians, speech therapists, and others.

Activities in 1988

But what has happened this year?

The level of activity depends on the number of people who want to make something and the number of people who want to participate in the activities. Unfortunately it is so for the moment that the level isn't very high - but of course something happens. Among others I can mention our stuttering camp, a TV programme about stuttering, a weekend meeting with psychologists, and the planning of the next Annual Nordic Meeting.

The stuttering camp was the third camp we have arranged. The idea is that stutterers and others are together one week where stuttering is the standard, and non-stuttering is 'abnormal'. We do a lot of different activities, and we also talk a little

about stuttering problems.

This year 44 attended the stuttering camp.

Two of our committee members are making a TV-programme about stuttering and the examination, for the Danish television. We are looking forward to showing this programme in TV, because we think the TV-media is the best way to be known.

In consequence to our attitude to stuttering as a handicap which involves the person's whole personality we plan to make a weekend meeting with a psychologist in November.

Nordic Meeting 1989

Next year, in 1989, it is Denmark's turn to arrange the Annual Nordic Meeting. The theme will be "The playing human being". The idea behind the theme is that most stutterers are too much focused on their speech (with a negative self-esteem as a result), so they often forget their creative sides.

We want to give the participants some ideas of how they can begin to look at themselves as persons with a lot of possibilities. The Nordic Meeting will take place at the end of September.



I hope this first attempt on making an European newsletter for stutterers will lead to a permanent newsletter one-two times a year. I hope the tender European cooperation will grow much bigger in the following years. I think we can learn a lot from each other, both about how to handle the stuttering problems and how to organize the stuttering associations better.

(Per Knudsen) ■

GREAT BRITAIN

Development Of The AFS In 1988

1988 has been a year of consolidation and forward planning for the AFS after a year of change in 1987. The AFS now has a pool of dedicated committee members from all parts of the country. Membership is rising after last year's fall, and we are hoping for 1,000 members soon.

The AFS has held Open Days in Manchester, Sheffield, and Liverpool with the Annual General Meeting in London doubling as an Open Day. The Open Days consisted of a wide variety of talks and discussions on all aspects of stuttering. More Open Days are planned for 1989.

A Major Problem: Money...

This year the AFS has had to impress on its members that the AFS is not a club for stammerers but a Charity. The AFS needs members to support the charity, not to join the club. We had to remind ourselves that the charity strives to improve conditions for all stammerers and to increase public awareness of stuttering.

A major problem for the AFS has been money, or the lack of it. In 1988 outgoings exceeded the income. This year the AFS decided to employ a recognised Fundraising Consultant. We are now much more optimistic for 1989.

Insight Into European Groups

During 1988 leaders of 'Speaking Out' have had an insight into the activities and workings of other European Stammering Self-Help Organisations. Following Edwin Parr's attendance at the 1st European Conference of Stuttering Self-Help Groups he has written

articles on West Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands. The AFS feels continued links and information on other organisations can only be beneficial for all stammerers.

European Cooperation

Aims for future years should be mutual discussion and continued links. We have two items we would like to raise at the World Conference in Cologne in 1989:

- (1) We should discuss combined fundraising with particular emphasis on EEC and United Nations funding.
- (2) We should discuss the possibility of compiling an International Directory of Stammering Therapies together with stammerers' comments, or perhaps a variation on a directory.

Prior to the World Conference all countries attending should approach the media to publicise the event. The AFS will approach the BBC and the independent companies.

(Edwin Farr)

NORWAY

The Annual Nordic Meeting 1988

"Stuttering is a life long vaccine against superficiality. We who stutter can simply not afford to waste words and talk about nothing!" said the famous Norwegian author Knut Faldbakken when he visited the Scandinavian Stuttering Seminar last September. Faldbakken - who is a stutterer - felt very comfortable being allowed for once to talk in public about our handicap. In some regards he found advantages in stuttering; we are humane and generally not clustering.

"Can you consider yourself a Rambo that stutters?" asked Faldbakken. After his lecture, he was made a honorary member of the Norwegian Association for Stutterers - a very popular event. Over 100 stutterers from Finland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden were gathered to the 18th Scandinavian Stuttering Seminar in Oslo 16th - 18th of September 1988.

Non-Verbal Communication

Non verbal communication was the theme for this year's seminar. Throughout, lectures from the psychologist Berit Gaal and

child psychiatrist Hesse Linnaa. It was focused on how we establish contact with people that surround us with our verbal language and with our body - and what situation we find ourselves in as stutterers.

Swedish Video-Film

At the seminar for the first time a Swedish video-film about stuttering was shown to a Scandinavian audience. The title of the film is "A story about daring".

To put it short, the story is about the 17 years old boy Bengt. He is a stutterer and doesn't dare to talk in many situations. Bengt is in school in class, the teacher is announcing the results of a short-story writing competition. Bengt has reached the finals of the competition. The finalists have to read their own story in front of a big audience. Bengt fights and wins - even though he doesn't get the prize for the best short-story.

A very good film which will now be used in information campaigns about stuttering in the Scandinavian countries.

The next Scandinavian Stuttering Seminar is to take place in Denmark next autumn. The theme will then be "The playing human being". The seminar is open to participants from all countries!

(Gutstein Wilson)

SWITZERLAND

VERSTA -

The Swiss Association For Stutterers And Their Relatives

The VERSTA which consists of five self-help groups in Zürich, Bern, Aargau, Basel and Graubünden, is celebrating its decennial year. Aims of the association are to see to its members' interests, to support stuttering self-help groups in Switzerland, and to keep in touch with groups and single stutterers from other countries.

Our members are stutterers, but also interested fluent speakers, therapists and organisations.

Zürich, For Example

The group in Zürich is regularly attended by ca. 12 persons, meeting each Thursday evening. One hour is devoted to therapy including vocal, speech, rhetorical and communication exercises. In the second hour speech problems and general psychological issues of every day life are discussed. Each session is supported by another member of the group.

'Naturmethode'

The VERSTA mainly works according to the 'Naturmethode'

(natural method), set up by VERSTA member Norman Bush.

Recently the book 'The Advanced Natural Method' appeared, written by Norman Bush and Erwin Richter, the well known writer and expert on stuttering from GDR. The book is available from the VERSTA.

Theory And Practice

We care for our members, not only to practice self-help exercises but also to learn as much as possible about the theoretical background of the treatment of stuttering. Therefore we offer two courses each year: one on communication skills and a general course in the Autumn. This year's seminars have been presented by Arno Schulze and Erwin Richter. Furthermore we have a library which can be used by all members.

Misconceptions

Unfortunately new stutterers still have misconceptions of a self-help group. That is why we make great efforts to inform the public and stutterers on the advantages of self-help groups.

As mentioned above, we are very motivated to cooperate with self-help organisations from abroad to exchange experiences. In particular we are interested to learn what ideas and methods others have to strike at the evil of stuttering.

(Geat Weichtry) ■

SWEDEN

News From The S S R

Our first videofilm is now ready for selling from our new office: SSR

Box 36033

S-10071 Stockholm

After one year of work it was ready for first showing at the SSR's Annual Meeting in Jönköping in March 1988. It is 17 minutes long about a boy in highschool.

He is living quite a normal life, but a problem is his stuttering. One day he wins a novel writing contest, but he must read his story in front of the whole school. To accept or flee - that is his situation. And that is what the film is all about: his choice. The title is 'Beslutet' in Swedish, or: 'The Decision'.

National Office Opened

We opened our first national office in Stockholm in October. If you visit Stockholm - the address is: Reimersholmstgatan 100K.

After two years Gunnar Dahlstrand resigned as chairman. After only a couple of months the new chairman also resigned. So now Mrs. Annika Willfors is chairman of the SSR.

In the meantime we are working with the brochures that will inform the public of our new video. A nice cover will also be included. It will be addressed to all schools etc. that are interested in showing it to the public.

We have also had a seminar on the video for the local branches of the SSR in May 1988.

We will try to get the film with an English text for the World Conference.

(Gunnar Dahlstrand) ■

AUSTRIA

Stuttering Self-Help In Austria

The stuttering self-help movement in Austria is still being built up. The first Austrian self-help group started in Innsbruck, Tirol in 1984. Emphasis has so far been on work in the group and on public relations. Of special enjoyment was the international cooperation in the Alps area. Together with fellow stutterers from Munich we spent a weekend wandering and getting to know each other. Some of our German friends also took part in a seminar on the 'Hausdoxter' speech technique at Innsbruck in June 1988.

This year's outstanding activities was the organisation of an information stand at the 8th Health Exhibition and a live broadcast of 45 minutes on 'Stutterers' fears and hopes'. This educational work has preliminarily been rounded off by an information weekend in Eastern Tirol in October.

Cooperation With Therapists

There is an efficient cooperation with therapists - logopedists, speech pathologists, psychotherapists. They have recognised the importance and necessity of self-help groups, and they support us.

Our goals:

- building up of further groups in Tirol;
- making contact with other Austrian self-help groups;
- cooperating with self-help organisations from neighbouring countries;
- 'Putting legs on stuttering'-together!!!

(Georg Goller) ■

THE NETHERLANDS

'Demosthenes'

Learning from others is very important for us. "Don't try to invent the wheel again!" is a popular saying in the Netherlands, but that's true for us as well. Knowing how other organisations of stutterers developed and how they see the future is important. I want to tell you shortly about the Netherlands.

History Of 'Demosthenes'

In 1958 the association for stutterers 'Demosthenes' was founded as a reaction from the major grouptherapy of the famous Schoenakers. They encouraged self-help in a way that stutterers should practice the learned exercises more continuously in a group. Later on 'Demosthenes' developed as an organisation to take care of the interests of stutterers.

At the end of the seventies it became clear that one of the most important issues was the information and enlightenment on stuttering, apart from what kind of therapy. One reason for that was the rise of more specialised therapies that was not concerned about the cause and the reasons for stuttering.

Two Groups Combined

We then combined with another organisation, based in Rotterdam. They pointed out the importance of starting treatment as early as possible and having parents organised as well. We already worked together in an independent foundation for enlightenment on stuttering. After the fusion they went on, representing 'Demosthenes' on all occasions on this subject. They publish a comprehensive list of therapists, which stutterers searching for help can use.

TV-Campaign

In 1987 there was a very large campaign with commercials on television and advertisements in newspapers, all with the slogan 'Give stutterers just the time!' All Dutch people could take notice of the fact that there is nothing odd about stutterers and that stutterers themselves know they can talk without fear of stuttering. The stress on treating stuttering at the most early stage is still on and we think that's the only way to get stuttering out of this world!

Present Situation

'Demosthenes' has now about 400 members and 200 extra-subscribers to our periodical. We have about 15 self-help groups and a periodical coming out every two months, with a lot of news and articles written by stutterers on issues concerning themselves. We have contacts in an organised way with other associations of handicapped people, with speech-trainers and - most important - the recently founded organisation of stutter-therapists. These are specialised speech-trainers, psychologists, speech-pathologists and all other professionally trained on treatment of stuttering. Together we try to make the best environment for stutterers, so they can do something about their stuttering, and for stuttering children and their parents to prevent stuttering to become a handicap.

And of course, as least it is very important for us to keep contact with you, fellow-organisations in Europe and the rest of the world - to learn, to exchange experiences, to stand strong in the interest of the stuttering world. See you in Cologne!!

(Leon Klader) ■

WEST GERMANY

Bundesvereinigung Stotterer-Selbsthilfe - Serious Crisis, But Self-Help Still Alive...

Stepping into its tenth year of existence the BV Stotterer-Selbsthilfe has to cope with a serious crisis: The national office in Seltigen is in danger of having to be closed. In the course of 1988 the staff decreased from five to three members, and another position - that of the office's leader - will possibly not be maintainable in 1989. Even if professional work can be continued on a reduced level consequences will be considerable since the office is not only engaged in administration but also in substantial planning.

Expecting that things might develop that way the executive committee has fortunately been pursuing a policy of decentralization for the past few years. In ten of eleven members of the federal state independent regional self-help organisations have been established, and though all of them are run on an honorary basis they might be able to take over at least some of the tasks of a national secretariate.

But of course self-help means more than the 'institutional superstructure' of organisations, secretariates and executive committees. Quantity and quality of practical work done by and in 54 local groups proof that stuttering self-help in Germany is still going strong. 'Der Kieselstein', the common journal of Austrian, Swiss and German stutterers, celebrated its decennial year. Celebrating projects started this year are a feature film on stuttering problems and the 2nd International Conference 1989.

"...OF COURSE SELF-HELP
MEANS MORE THAN
AN 'INSTITUTIONAL
SUPERSTRUCTURE' OF
ORGANISATIONS AND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES"

International Conference 1989

Fortunately, organisation and execution of the world conference will not be unduly injured by the unlucky development described above, as the conference is going to be held by the self-help group of Cologne which legally forms a club of its own. For this reason it was possible to engage a coordinator on a full time basis who gets paid through a public employment programme. His name is Ari Köpf, he is a social worker, non-stutterer (sometimes you have to make compromises...), and he has a lot of experience in organising.

But not only the personnel situation is reasonably favourable. The organising committee has been very successful in raising funds. Apart from various governmental grants a support promised by the Commission of the European Communities amounting to ECU 20.000 (ca. DM 40.000) should be mentioned in particular.

In the meantime, the first information on the conference has been sent to all national secretariates. To obtain this information please refer to your organisation. Please note the closing date for registration.

(February 28, 1989) and the address for all correspondence regarding the conference: Stotterer-Selbsthilfe, Kasperstr. 4, D-5030 Köln 1

European Cooperation

Why should we Europeans work together? Some ideas:

- Cooperation could mean support for the work and the policy of the national organisations. At the European Meeting several participants pointed out that an international alliance of self-help organizations speaking with one voice (e.g. in form of an resolution) could help to increase public awareness of stuttering in their countries, maybe even put some kind of pressure on governments and/or authorities to be more responsive to stutters' demands.
- Cooperation helps to exchange ideas and to widen horizons. The article on the Dutch Parents' Committee in this issue of the newsletter is an excellent example of this. We can learn from each other!
- Cooperation is a sign of the

times. Of course we should not just follow a fashion, but any not profit by favourable circumstances? The generous support for the 2nd World Conference promised by the EC should encourage us to plan other projects for the future.

- Therapists have got the IALP - the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics. What about their patients?

IF WE EUROPEANS WANT TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE HERE MUST BE SOMEONE TO OPEN HIS MOUTH!

- So far, not the 'whys', though the list is certainly uncomplete. With regard to the 'hows':
- We should
 - keep in touch by meeting regularly;
 - continue publishing the newsletter, trying to transmit details of our work;
 - check carefully possible sources of financial support, on national and international levels;
 - discuss if it would be as well for us to organise ourselves. We (the Germans) are shuddering at

the thought of another time and energy taking organisation as well as probably anyone else if you will do. But if we Europeans want to speak with one voice, there must be someone to open his mouth. Maybe some less binding form of association like a working community with one member acting as a speaker would do.

Please comment!

P.S.: We would like to offer a workshop on European affairs at the International Conference; some kind of European Meeting within the World Meeting.

(Konrad Schäfers)



"I'm a stotterer - so what?"

POLAND

Klub 'J' - Official Recognition In Sight

Hi from Poland! Let us introduce ourselves: we are the mutual help organization for stutters in Poland, perhaps the youngest one in Europe, consisting of three groups: at Cracow, Gdansk and Pila, gathering almost 200 persons: adults (at Cracow and Gdansk) and children (at Gdansk and Pila). Parents of stuttering children and friends of stutters are members of the groups as well.

First National Meeting

This year has been very important for us. Firstly, we had an excellent meeting of our members and friends from 15th to 17th of April. These three days are unforgettable for all of us. It was

the first meeting of stutters in Poland - if you remember your first meeting you can imagine the impressions during and after the event.

But 1988 will be memorable for another reason: Perhaps we will soon be officially recognized and registered by our government as 'Polish Society of Stutterers'. If this happens, it will be a success for us.

Activities

The number of our members is increasing; growing up is our activity. We have weekly meetings of each group. Some of the meetings are well structured (having a subject and a programme, usually therapeutic or social),

some are just 'coffee tea wine' meetings. Not all members take part in these meetings, but we try to keep in touch with all of them by post (we publish a brief one-page newsletter and send it to our members). Apart from that, many letters to and from our members are written.

Right now we are planning next year's activities: the 2nd All-Society Meeting at Gdansk, and the 2nd International Conference at K5ln, Germany, your invitation to which we truly appreciate.

Greetings to all of you, folks!

Klub 'J' - Poland

(ALJana Bazylovska)

The NEWSLETTER is published irregularly by the Bundesvereinigung Stotterer-Selbsthilfe e.V., West Germany, an affiliate of European stuttering self-help organisations.

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8000, December, 1988

Self-Help Research

When surveying the international self-help scene we came across the I.I.S. Its director Dr. Jan Branckeerts kindly gave us the following introduction.

The International Information Centre on Self-Help and Health

The International Information Centre on Self-Help and Health, more commonly known as the I.I.S., is a project of the Sociological Department of the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) in collaboration with the Unit for Health Promotion of W.H.O.'s Regional Office for Europe and the Flemish Ministry for the Family and Welfare.

Development of the I.I.S.

After the first international conference on self-help in 1979 in Dubrovnik (Yugoslavia), an informal working-group of researchers decided to meet regularly to discuss their self-help research and to exchange ideas and experiences on how to promote self-help and to support self-help groups. In the meantime, W.H.O.'s Unit for Health Promotion began to emphasize health as a social idea and no longer as a medical concept, and in this sense considered self-help and self-help groups as a very important component of primary health care. International support and information exchange being of the utmost importance for the above interested parties, W.H.O. established an 'Inter-

national Centre into Research on Self-Help' in Hamburg in October 1981. This centre moved to Leuven in 1984, broadening the activities to 'Self-Help and Health'.

Networks

So far for the history. More important are the things we actually do. Like all W.H.O. collaborating centres the core functions of the I.I.S. are: to network, to collect and disseminate information, to develop special projects and to assist the World Health Organisation concerning the subject 'Self-Help and Health in Welfare'. How is this rather vague description put into practice? First of all, the networking: the centre disposes of a resource network (i.e. a roster of contact persons, institutions and organisations that brings together national and regional steeringgroups, researchers, health authorities, policy-makers a.s.o. This network is used as referral for interested people and as a source for obtaining information, collaboration and mutual assistance.

Information

The second core function is the collection and dissemination of information, based on a continuous search for relevant data from several sources such as personal contacts, correspondence and literature searches, the centre disposes of a collection that ranges from highly scientific research reports over more accessible publications to leaflets, programmes and brochures from all kind of groups and organisations. This information is disseminated in various ways: through a three-monthly newsletter, an extensive introductory information pack, and customer-tailored answers to specific questions. When no appropriate information is available - this mostly occurs when people ask for particularly rare diseases or locally restricted information - we try to answer these questions by orienting in the literature or by referring to experts in the network.

Projects

The third core function, developing special projects, pertains to workshops and publications. About once a year, the I.I.S. organises a workshop on a specific topic. Issues already covered a.o. are "self-help and chronic diseases" and

"supporting self-help". The emphasis of these workshops is practical rather than theoretical. In small workinggroups, participants elaborate certain issues and recommend future actions that need to be taken by e.g. the W.R.O. or national ministers of health. Besides this political aspect, the workshops are also seen as an opportunity for mutual exchange of information, as a chance to develop informal contacts and networks.

Another special project are the I.I.S.-publications: the newsletter, a directory of clearinghouses and resource centres as well as an annotated self-help bibliography. Not listed in the core functions are the occasionalities, the things we do outside the formal planning such as attendance at meetings, visits, collaboration on other centres' projects or writing a short article for this magazine.

Summarised, we try to prevent people from re-inventing approaches to problems or groups when they can rely on already existing experiences and knowledge from other people, organisations or clearinghouses elsewhere, or to offer a startingbase for new initiatives.

(Dr. Jan Stanczkerts)

More Informations:

I.I.S.
E. Van Ewenstraat 20
B-3000 Leuven
Belgium
Tel. 0032/16/28.31.58

What can we do to support the work of the I.I.S.? At the moment the most important thing might be to provide the centre with information: each organisation should send copies of their journal, written materials on meetings, projects etc.

Another question is what the centre can do for us. Unfortunately the introduction remains a bit vague in this concern, but we are sure that we can count on the centre whenever special information will be needed, for instance to lighten up the organisational jungle of the EC and W.R.O. We should keep in touch.

The Ed.

Parental Self-Help

Whys and Hows of our
Dutch Parents' Committee

Hendell Johnson once said: "Stuttering begins in the listener's ear." Although I only partially agree with him (as some kids are well aware of their own disfluency from the very start of it) the actual fact is that in most cases we, as parents, are the first to be confronted and to feel worried about it; and this "worryfulness" is a very special one, not to share with other people.

It hurts to see your child struggle with speech, trying to communicate "spontaneously". The warm and open harmony between child and parents, a right by

**"IT HURTS TO SEE
YOUR CHILD STRUGGLE
WITH SPEECH...
SOMETIMES PARENTS
FEEL REAL GUILTY."**

birth and a need to full development as a person, is likely to be destroyed by this stuttering speech. Like in other cases of pain or grief most Mums and Dads are anxious to help their child out of it or relieve the pain. In case of disfluent speech parents feel

most uncomfortable and uncertain about what to do or even worse... at times they feel real guilty and notice the reflection of these negative feelings in their child's behaviour. The result is: more stuttering.

And yet most doctors and speech-clinicians (who don't follow the latest researches) tell us not to do anything at all, better neglect it: "In most cases the child will overgrow it..." But what if he does not?

Meanwhile we feel very uncomfortable, isolated and guilty, unable to reach our child in needs. Last years' researches point out the benefit of warm and understanding caretaking from parents to their kids. It makes them feel more comfortable and at ease with one another. This mutual feeling of ease and comfort not only creates more safety and room in the child's life; it makes the speechflow "easing out".

That's why a number of "parents with children who stutter" - and still well aware of their experiences in this -, offer the possibility of sharing their accumulated knowledge in their

children's happy future with young parents in search for help. We operate a national "stutter-telephone".

**"MUTUAL RECOGNITION
OF WORRY AND ANXIETY
MAKES US FEEL
MORE SECURE, AND
THIS REFLECTS TOWARDS
OUR CHILDREN."**

And as such will give an open ear to worrying parents in order to assist them to find their way to accurate special clinicians.

Occasionally we organise small meetings for parents of stuttering children to create a possibility to exchange needs and knowledge with one of us. Sometimes even the child's school-teacher and speech-clinician attend these meetings. These meetings always result in happy conversations. The mutual recognition of worry and anxiety of "how further..." makes us feel more secure and ultimately this will reflect towards our children.

Theresia Pruymboom-van der Laans
Guderwerk aan de IJssel (NL)

A letter

From overseas:

(A.S.C.) ASSOCIATION DES BÉGNES DU CANADA INC.

Montreal, September 13, 1988

Greetings from Laurent Bouchard and L'ABC, self-help group for French-speaking stutterers in Canada.

Hello, my fellow European stutterers and friends:

Just a few lines to let you know I remember all of you and think of you often. I wish it would be possible to write to each and everyone of you. However, you and I know that will not happen. It is not only because of the time it would take. It is also the problem of writing in so many different languages. So think of this as a personal letter to each one of you.

I am interested in knowing what is happening to stutterers everywhere. As all need support all the time, and I wish I could fly to you on a magic carpet to give it.

L'ABC is doing well. We will soon be recognized as a charitable organization by the Canadian Government. Our second annual conference (LA JOUSSE-REINCONIÈS DE L'ASC) will take place on Oct. 1, 1988. It promises to be a good conference because of the hard work of a six-member planning committee. We try try for smaller seminars every three months in 1988-1989.

I am looking forward to attending the Second World Conference next August. It will be wonderful to share with you and stutterers from other countries. Until then, good luck and best regards.

Your friend,

Laurent Bouchard
Laurent Bouchard
President-founder

'RBS PUBLICA' appears in public

Good luck to our Italian friends for the start of their own magazine. We hope many fellow Europeans will find time and energy to send contributions - at least some warmhearted regards!

BAD NEWS:

There won't be another issue of the newsletter

prior to the Cologne Conference unless we will receive any entries by April 15, 1980.

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We are well aware that time is a bit short due to the complicated ways of distribution. On the other hand, a summary of statements (affirmative or against) on the ideas expressed in this issue could serve as a basis for further discussion and decision making in Cologne. (Besides, when will time ever be sufficient for anything...?)

So you may keep it short, but not silent, please!

WANTED: A NEW TITLE

Any idea for a striking title? 'European Newsletter...' certainly is correct, but a bit boring. The title should be significant, witty, but still serious... No problem, as you can see. Let us hear your suggestions.



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