

CID Profile

No one is going to tell him NO!



Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz is a family man. He is known to some as Associate Dean in-charge of Educational Support Service Programs at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, New York. To still others he is known as a national leader among deaf persons who has served on the Executive Board of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) for the past 8 years, and was recently elected to the presidency of that century-old association. To his former teachers at Central Institute for the Deaf, "Tracy" is remembered as a bright-eyed little boy, sharper than most in math and very alert to everything happening around him. But to Bernard and Stephanie he is known just as daddy.

At the 36th Biennial Convention of the NAD in St. Louis, beginning on the 4th of July, Bernard and Stephanie will get to see their daddy installed as 23rd president of the National Association of the Deaf. The convention will be at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel, just a few blocks from CID where Dr. Hurwitz attended school for ten formative years, where his mother had gone to school before him and where he met his wife-to-be, Vicki Bernstein.

When he graduated from CID in 1956, Alan went to public high school in his home town of Sioux City, Iowa, without the benefit of support services. He went on to Morningside College, a four-year liberal arts college in Sioux City, where he studied pre-engineering, after he was talked out of studying law or becoming a teacher. At Morningside he was aided by a notetaker, an entering freshman who would be taking the same classes. Through symbiosis, the grades of both Alan and the notetaker jumped. After two years he

transferred to Washington University and graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. At his first job as an Associate Electronics Engineer at the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation headquarters in St. Louis, Alan was encouraged to continue his studies, and this he did for four and a half years while working full-time, raising a family with Vicki, and learning about computer programming on the side. He studied in the evenings at St. Louis University, and by 1970 had his Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

With his continuing dream of becoming a teacher, and having heard about the developing National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Alan and Vicki moved their family to Rochester, New York, where he became an Educational Specialist for deaf students enrolled in the College of Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology, affiliated with the NTID.

Here, a desire to learn more about educational processes and research led Alan to resume his formal education in the Graduate School of Education and Human Development of the University of Rochester in 1976. His own experience as a student with good supporting services prepared him well for his position at the NTID where he is responsible for the direction and management of interpreting services for the 1000 college-age deaf students; for training programs for teachers, interpreters, tutors and notetakers, and for educational research and development. Here, also, T. Alan Hurwitz, Ed.D., began his active work in organizations concerned with the welfare of deaf persons. He served several years as President of the Empire State Association of the Deaf, and became a member

of the Executive Board of the National Association of the Deaf before becoming its President-Elect. Perhaps his earlier terms as President of the CID Alumni Association had started him in this direction.

But Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz is a family man, and through all this academic and professional activity, he has taken pride in Bernard's Little League and Cub Scout accomplishments, and now in his writing of stories and poetry. He has enjoyed and encouraged Stephanie's progress in language and growing communication skills, and in Vicki's continuing studies. The Hurwitz family frequently camps out in New York State parks and spends as much time together as possible, considering their active schedules.

Vicki has now returned to school to pursue a degree in Social Work at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She presided over the first Upstate New York Deaf Women's Conference and has directed conferences at conventions of the Empire State Association of the Deaf.

Alan and Vicki Hurwitz are among the "new wave" of deaf citizens — at home with either hearing or deaf persons, organizing and advocating in order to achieve and to expand opportunities for deaf people, proud of their abilities rather than deterred by their disabilities, and not willing to miss out on anything. Alan summed it up in a recent magazine interview. "Today we see deaf people becoming lawyers, medical doctors, engineers, scientists, computer specialists, accountants, professors and so forth. It is a tough world to live in, but if a deaf person wants to succeed, no one is going to tell him no."