

DIMENSIONS

Conference '79

Mrs. Margaret Drew, Supervisor Junior Extension, Home Economics Branch welcomed the 146 delegates to the Provincial 4H Homemaking Club Conference at the University of Guelph. The Theme, "Dimensions '79 The International Year of the Child."

The scope of the theme should prove interesting and it is our hope that the sessions will broaden your interests. This is a time for making new friends as well as a time for projection. What will the family be like in the future — what part will "I" play in the world I am growing up in?

Regional Supervisors, Lorraine Holding, Joyce Canning and Mrs. Carol Crerer were in charge of the Conference assisted by a half dozen Home Economists.

GREETINGS

Dr. Geo. Collin, Production and Rural Development Division brought official greetings from OMAF, saying the theme provided a vehicle to encourage each delegate to expand, stretch and reach full potential in realizing leadership goals.

LEADERSHIP

Mr. John Flynn, Consultant, Youth Services, Ministry of Culture and Recreation gave the girls many many ideas for better leadership.

Basically if you behave the same in front of all people you are well adjusted, but if you change roles and act one way for one person and another way for another, you are not well adjusted.

It's important to talk about feelings, sad, angry, happy, however, one must distinguish between feelings and thoughts. It will help you to know yourself. It will help you to share an issue. What caused your feelings? Anger is a secondary emotion (example) fright then anger, embarrassment then anger.

Learn to report your feelings with an "I" statement. The better and more skillful making "I" statements, the more effective leader you will become. Remember, find the right timing to say and talk.

There is no such feeling as "negative feeling" only down. As long as you make "I" statements and are assertive you will become an effective leader.

When you say "I think it went well" or "I think I did well", you are not being arrogant, you are being proud. You can always grow, that's reality. "I" can work on weaknesses, "I'm" happy and can grow, "I'm" good but "I" still have weaknesses but "I" am working on them.

DR. RICHARD BARHAM

Dr. Barham, Chairman, Department of Family Studies, College of Family and Consumer Studies, University of Guelph, stated parenting will not come naturally, there is training to prepare us for all other facets of life but not for parenting.

Our concerns are natural concerns, however each must look to their own house and get it in order first. We become so used to rights being broken we lose sight of genuine needs, challenges and changes.

We must ask ourselves, what lies down the road for whole generations?

Dr. Barham asked where do we get our parenting skills? How do we acquire them? Women have a maternal instinct which comes naturally, however not all children have been well parented.

Statistics show in 1974, 50,000 couples divorced, five times that of 1964. We are now heading for one in three. Half of these families live in poverty and 60% are headed by women.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

After Dr. Barham's speech the delegates divided into groups to discuss questions concerning the child.

One thought came through quite clearly, the vast majority of parents love their children; the well being of the child cannot be legislated and many children are denied a decent life.

Another group concluded in a marriage break down, the child should go with the parent he/she feels more comfortable with. Parents are often so wrapped up in their own problems that children are passed by and all objectivity for the best interests of the child is lost. Another group felt, homemaking skills and household chores should be shared by parents.



Dr. Richard Barham joins a workshop session to talk about dimensions '79 and IYC.

INTEREST GROUPS

CREATIVE AND MODERN DANCE sessions limbered up the muscles and tested group coordination. FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY The would-be photographer viewed slides and were given tips on better picture taking techniques. SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE ARBORETUM A visit to the Arboretum touched the soul of the nature lover. BUDGETS and money