

Weekender

Comment

Dust has settled for now

Although the issue is by no means dead, the question of abortions at the Markham Stouffville Hospital has been put on hold — at least for the time being.

A major victory at the hospital corporation's annual meeting Thursday evening assures that the hospital board will be composed of moderates. Obviously, the hospital board people managed to get out the troops (make that life members of the corporation) to overpower the pro-life forces many of whom bought annual memberships in blocks this year.

Raising the annual membership fee to \$40 from \$5 will make it much more difficult for mass annual memberships next year. So the dust has settled, there is no special interest group dominating the board and planning for the hospital can go ahead without incident.

But the abortion issue has not gone away. When the hospital board does contemplate creation of a therapeutic abortion committee, full public discussion of the issue — a promise made by trustees — must be allowed before a decision is made.



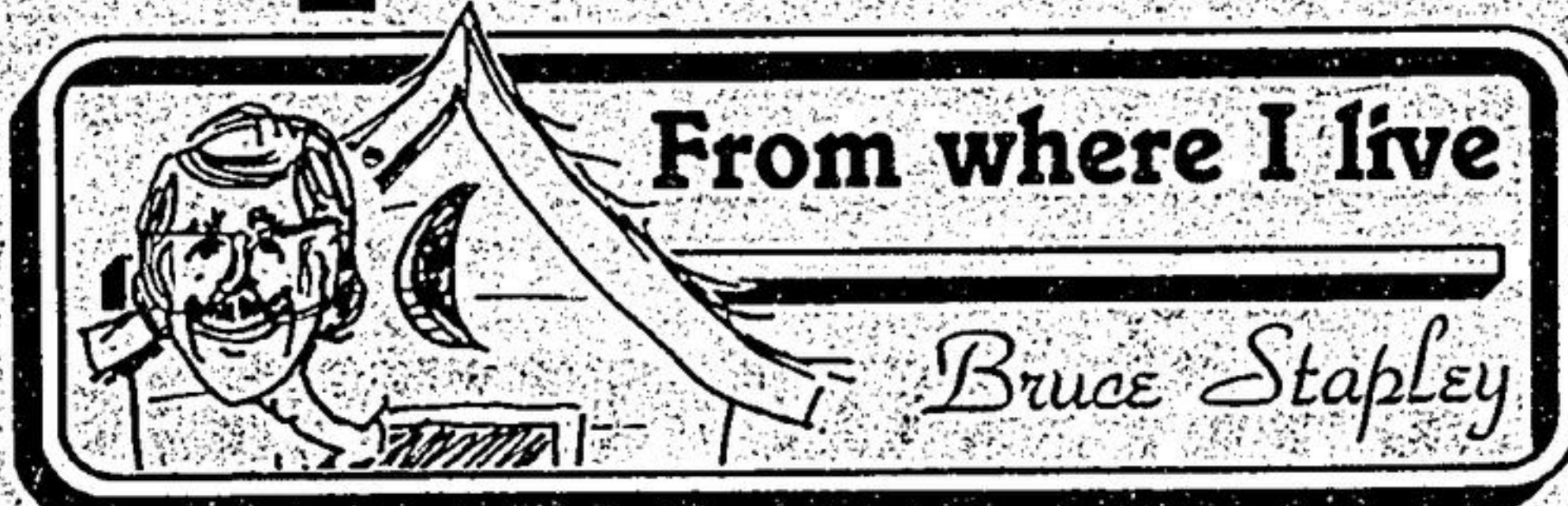
Chiropractor helping kids

"It's very frustrating for a girl six years old. She couldn't interact with other children, had problems concentrating, and didn't know why. It certainly is rewarding being able to help a child like this. Basically, her life has been changed."

The speaker? Stouffville's Dr. Allen Turner, chiropractor. An incredibly dedicated professional who is constantly seeking new applications for the somewhat misunderstood practice of chiropractic.

His latest breakthrough involves the treatment of kids with learning disabilities and dyslexia, and the results have been stunning. Meghan Russell, the six year old referred to in the above quotation, was unable to learn letters or numbers, and her condition was affecting her ability to relate to other kids.

Her mother wasn't willing to accept defeat. After spending a fruitless few months drilling



Meghan in basic letter and number recognition, she sought Dr. Turner's assistance. She was convinced her child wasn't a slow learner.

The cause of the problem was soon pin pointed to a fall Meghan had taken at the age of three that had caused bones in her skull to shift, knocking the vertebrae in her neck out of alignment. Treatment resulted in immediate improvement, and after 6 months she was tested and found to be above grade level in all subjects. No, she certainly wasn't stupid. Just stuck.

The treatment used by Dr. Turner on Meghan, and countless other kids who have come from as far as Denver, Colorado, for help, is based on three techniques.

The first is an application of age old acupuncture philosophies and principles — the energy channels that flow through the body. The second involves kinesiology, which, when put in layman's terms, means the reorganization of the nervous system.

The third technique is a process of cranial moulding, actually moving the bones of the skull. This concept is fascinating in

that, contrary to popular belief, the skull consists of many bones held together with sutures, so they truly mesh together. Any misalignment of these bones can cause pressure on the brain, thus incapacitating it.

While kids with learning disabilities are sometimes perceived as having low overall intelligence, the very opposite is often the case.

The ones who are able to cope at all are usually extremely intelligent, which is proven by their ability just to survive this short circuiting of the brain and nervous system that causes their disability. For these children, it is a huge struggle just to stay in the race.

Dr. Turner is one of only a handful of specialists in Canada doing this kind of work, and has personally pioneered several new approaches to the problem area.

He stresses the importance of early treatment of kids with learning disabilities, before the

effects of the handicap take too great a toll physically and emotionally.

He points to research done by Dr. Carl Ferrari in the United States that suggests that learning disabilities and dyslexia are the leading cause of teenage suicides.

The frustration becomes simply too much to bear, as their handicap expresses itself in anything from a constant stammer to an inability to relate normally to their peers.

As for his success rate, Dr. Turner states that change is seen in all of the kids he treats, with 50 per cent or better experiencing dramatic improvements.

So a doff of the hat to a local professional who has done so much for children who are the victim of cerebral short circuiting.

Because of his efforts, many kids will be able to live normal, or better than normal lives. That is no mean achievement.

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