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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

Stay Tuned: The Challenge of Hearing Loss [videotape] by Menachan, D. & Dornbaum, M., (Fanlight Productions, Boston, MA, 1993).

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in July of 1990, service providers have been encouraged to "educate" and "empower" the consumer. In instances of hearing loss, simply providing a hearing aid for the client is no longer enough. Rather, the client's communication needs must be considered for home, school, work, and recreation. The newly released videotape entitled *Stay Tuned: The Challenge of Hearing Loss*, shows such a holistic approach to management of an adult client's hearing loss. After being fit with a hearing aid, Ann Pope, a middle-aged client, is then provided with habilitation consisting of listening practice, speechreading training, and use of communication strategies. Through contact with other individuals with hearing loss, she receives information and support about the use of assistive listening devices and assorted coping strategies. Her husband and family are shown being actively involved at each step.

While this holistic approach is positive, the videotape moves very slowly. The information conveyed might have been summarized more succinctly. Parts of the videotape show Ann and other hearing-impaired persons talking to an interviewer. Other segments follow Ann through speechreading training and participation in a Self Help for Hard of Hearing conference. Viewers may have been better able to relate to some of Ann's feelings, and to those of other persons with hearing loss, if their comments had been clustered in meaningful groups centered around a particular topic.

Additionally, some of the remarks made by

those interviewed in the videotape are misleading. For example, Ann Pope, claims that her doctor told her "absolutely nothing" can be done about her Meniere's disease and the hearing loss associated with the condition. As she relates to the interviewer, she said that she was left with "no hope." While this may be the case for Ann, there are many individuals who are helped by medical intervention using drug treatment, dietary therapy, and digital hearing aids. Another client expresses her concern that she may one day become "deaf as a post." Such a comment may be viewed as insulting to persons who are deaf who have usable residual hearing and are dealing with their own struggles of empowerment.

The advertisement accompanying the videotape says that "this video will be a valuable tool for counseling those who have recently suffered a hearing loss, as well as for those who are studying and working in the fields of audiology, speech-pathology and aging." If the goal is to acquaint an adult client with the fact that management of hearing loss involving hearing aids, training, and group support, then this videotape fulfills its objective in 29 minutes. For undergraduate students in speech pathology, aging and/or psychology, it would be expected that they would have such introductory information. A captioned version of this videotape is available but was not reviewed.

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