

# Of Interest to Teachers

## Help for the Learning Disabled

Parents and professionals are constantly seeking accurate information on a wide variety of services for children with learning disabilities—schools, remedial/tutoring services, speech and learning specialists, counselors, visual training therapists—to name only a few.

The 12th edition of *The Directory of Facilities and Services for the Learning* answers this urgent need with approximately 500 listings throughout the United States. Two indexes (alphabetical and primary service) and an area code map add to the directory's usefulness. Information is also included on various national associations, agencies, publishers, et cetera, serving the learning-disabled population.

The directory is free. However, to cover processing, handling, and mailing, you are requested to send \$2.00 for each copy requested.

Order from Academic Therapy Publications, 20 Commercial Blvd., Novato, CA 94947-6191.

## U.S. College Loans Triple in 10 Years

"Federal loans to college students have tripled in the past decade, ballooning to \$9.8 billion, raising concerns whether the next generation of graduates will be weighed down with debt, a congressional report released [recently] said. . . .

"The report, written by Janet S. Hansen, director for policy analysis of the Washington office of the College Board, found that while total aid to college students has remained relatively constant, there was a huge drop in grant aid, such as Social Security and GI Bill benefits, and a big increase in loans.

"Hansen said that total loan and grant aid to students from colleges and federal and state programs had dropped from \$21.2 billion in the 1975-76 academic year, to \$20.7 billion in the 1985-86 year, measured in 1986 dollars. Three-quarters of the latter amount came from the federal government, and none of those figures included private borrowing by students.

"In 1975-76, loans constituted less than a fifth of student aid. A large portion of the 1975-76 aid—\$10.6 billion—was in Social Security 'student benefits' that were repealed in 1981 at the request of the Reagan administration or in education benefits for veterans, which have been phased out. By 1985-86, benefits from those two programs had dropped to almost nothing.

"The gap, in effect, was filled by federal loan programs (largely the guaranteed student loan program), which together rose from \$3.5 billion in constant 1986 dollars to

\$9.8 billion over the decade. As a result, loans constituted almost half of the entire \$20.7 billion aid total in 1985-86, according to the study.

"The figures showed that the average guaranteed student loan received in 1985-86 was \$2,333. The report said that in the 1985-86 school year the average student borrower at a private college had a debt of \$8,950 on graduation, which in constant dollars would have been equal to only half that amount a decade earlier."

The Senators issuing the report called the rising cumulative debt of college students "disturbing." They worried whether the loans could be repaid, and whether undergraduate debts might discourage young people from attending graduate school. They also wondered whether college students might be pressured away from important but lower-paying careers because of the salary demands that such debt may impose.

The report speculated that the decline in college enrollment by blacks may stem from fears of taking on a large loan burden, now that grants are more scarce.—From *The Washington Post*, December 29, 1986.

## Parents and Teachers—Partners

Turning parents into active partners in schools is the focus of *Beyond the Bake Sale: An Educator's Guide to Working With Parents* from the National Committee for Citizens in Education. It stresses collaboration and shared problem-solving, drawing on research and examples of successful programs and practices. Lists of organizations to help in the effort are also included. Write to NCCE, Suite 410, Wilde Lake Village Green, Columbia, MD 21044; \$15.95 hardcover, \$9.95 paperback.

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