



# A hearing professional\* gives readers an earful

\*Steve Chargo has a Masters degree in Audiology and 20 years experience.

## "CAN DEAFNESS OCCUR OVERNIGHT?"

*This is a story about a patient we'll call Gerry, an attorney who woke up one morning unable to hear in one ear. What would you do?*

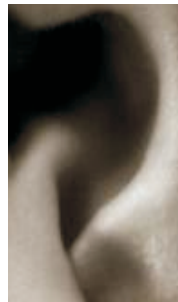
In this case, Gerry, age 62, called a hearing clinic, came in for a check-up and got mixed news: Says Steve Chargo, the hearing practitioner who took the call, "Gerry's sudden 'deafness' was caused by a build-up of wax in the ear canal, which his doctor easily removed. But, during our assessment, we also found a high-frequency hearing loss in both ears—and that explained a lot."

The type of loss that Chargo found can be the reason behind complaints that children and women (whose voices are higher-pitched) mumble; that restaurants are too noisy for chat; or that the TV needs to be cranked up yet another notch.

"Hearing professionals find it rewarding to solve a collection of stresses all at once," says Chargo. "No, the grandkids don't have a speech impediment; no, the TV doesn't have to rattle the walls; no, all waiters in restaurants aren't mumbling!"

At the hearing clinic Chargo owns with two partners, people with issues like Gerry's, ask for hearing tests to explain a problem, to fix a problem, or to stop damage. Gerry did all three: He had the wax removed; he discovered a hearing loss that explained occasional stresses; and he agreed to take precautions to prevent any more damage.

"Gerry's favorite sport is recreational hunting," Chargo explained, "for which he'd never worn ear protection. He's now using custom-fitted 'active' earplugs that soften the firearm noise, but keep conversation audible.



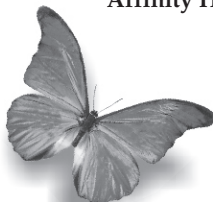
And if his yearly check-ups show the need for hearing improvement, then he'll have the option of the new digital

CIC [completely in canal] devices that are virtually invisible."

Because of cases like Gerry's, Chargo invites anyone with even a minor concern for a free hearing assessment at his clinic, Affinity Hearing—which makes its own brand of hearing instruments, as well as offering other major brands.

**FILE THIS FACT: Better hearing lowers stress.**

**Affinity Hearing will be offering complimentary and confidential hearing evaluations for four days beginning Tuesday, July 19. Call 763-744-1190 for an appointment and directions.**



--Avril Dell

Avril Dell is a freelance writer