MICHAEL

Negativity, whether it be our own or something coming from a third party, can have devastating and far reaching effects on a person's life. I was once asked to help a young man, named Michael, who, at a very young age had been labelled as a 'learning problem'. At the age 16, having failed grade 10, Michael had dropped out of school and became an assistant to his dad, who was an electrician.

Although Michael was a tall, good looking young man, he was utterly lacking in self-esteem and confidence (*not surprising).* At our first lesson together, he politely informed me right up front that he had a 'learning problem' and that, if I didn't believe him, I should call his mom, who could verify what he was telling me. I looked Michael straight in the eye and firmly said, "From this moment on, you do not have a learning problem". Of course he just stared at me in disbelief, like I had just landed from Mars. After persisting for a few months and focusing primarily on his attitude towards life and himself coupled with newly developed study habits, time management and Goal setting, Michael astoundingly remarked, "I'm actually quite clever! I'm sure I could complete my Grade 12 now." Following a brief stint as a specialised locksmith, as well as some time studying abroad, Michael re-located to the U.S.A.. Today he is in the IT sector and lives in Washington DC, is married with children.

"I can only thank and recommend Linda and AIM for guiding me and opening up a new understanding of everyday life situations and to see life from a constructive point of view."