

# Ask the Professional



Dr. Gordon L. Fletcher, Au.D.

## Audiology

### **VIEWMONT AUDIOLOGY**

**Dr. Gordon L. Fletcher, Au.D.**

**336 10TH AVENUE NE • HICKORY NC**

**828-322-4327**

**Q: I've recently developed a ringing noise in my right ear but not in my left. What should I do about it?**

**A:** It is important to determine the cause of your ringing, known as tinnitus. The first thing you should do is to see your regular doctor. An examination of your ear canal and eardrum will determine if there is a visual cause for the ringing (such as earwax or middle ear fluid). If none is found, your doctor will then want you to have a complete hearing evaluation to assist in determining the cause. Your hearing test results may indicate that further investigation is necessary. This could involve additional hearing tests, referral to a medical ear specialist (an ear, nose and throat doctor or ENT), or specialized x-ray or imaging studies. The condition you describe should not be neglected or taken lightly. Ringing in one ear could be a sign of a serious medical problem. Get this checked out right away.