



World Gifted

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

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JUNE 1981

BIENVENU à MONTRÉAL le 21-25 AOÛT

As of May 5, nearly 750 people have registered at the Conference and more come in daily. If your preregistration package is still unused on your desk, please act quickly since requests for hotel accommodations will soon be competing with regular summer tourist reservations.

From the President of the World Council:

WHERE NOW?

The trouble about an impecunious international body is that it can very easily lack cohesion and even credibility. Any drift in that direction by our World Council has been effectively scotched through the devoted work of Milton Gold at the Secretariat. In its life of less than two years he has established a base known to all members and has regularly edited and issued our first newsletters. Considering our very slender means this has been a remarkable feat.

Before I cease being President I would like to record here our lasting gratitude to Milton and his helpers, and of course to Harry Passow for inviting us to Teachers College in the first place. With the prospect of a highly successful fourth World Conference I am optimistic for the future.

However, the Council is so fragmentary with members in 32 countries that if it is to burgeon effectively it will need active support by everybody. In many ways the key lies in the Assembly of Delegates. This is the governing body and consists of up to three members elected by each country present at the biennial conference. The Assembly of Delegates then elects the seven members of the Executive Committee.

The Executive, the working committee, is given various powers by the Constitution and should be the operations centre. Cost of air fares has limited our number of meetings but, although I say it, much has been achieved. When finance improves, this committee could be throbbing with vitality and frequently in touch with each other. As its members will often be implementing decisions of the Assembly of Delegates, it is essential that Delegates take a lively interest in Council affairs between

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The various committees are now putting the final touches on the program and schedule before sending it to press, reserving exhibit commitments, arranging the film festival and cultural program, among other things. Interest continues to spread as program and registration participants extend more widely around the world. Countries known to be represented so far include Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, France, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Taiwan, United Kingdom, USSR, United States, and West Germany. This list is drawn from program contributions; others are certain to be among the registrants.

The Conference theme, *Many Views of the Gifted for the Advantage of All Children*, is being realized with contributions from several disciplines in addition to education and psychology, such as sociology, philosophy, the sciences, mathematics, neurology, and computer science. Cultural diversity, handicapped, and very young gifted are reflected in the program.

For the many Conference attendees who are already reasonably expert in the field, the Program Committee has asked a selection of presenters to assume this expertise in their audiences. This will be indicated in the program, ensuring sessions suitable for those newly interested in the gifted and others long experienced. Of course, some sessions, such as national overview of activities, are of equal interest and relevance to all.

Because the program is now complete, it is no longer possible to consider new proposals for Conference sessions.

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NAT'L CONSORTIUM FOR STATE LEADERSHIP

Seven national organizations representing state legislatures, governors, state boards of education, chief state school officers, local boards of education, parents and educators have formed "The National Consortium for State Leadership in the Education of Gifted and Talented Children." Over the next three years those organizations will inform policymakers of current issues and practices in gifted and talented education, and provide assistance to them as they plan and develop policies and programs for gifted and talented children.

In addition to working with policymakers, the Consortium will help develop support systems of parents, professionals and interested lay persons who serve as advocates for gifted and talented children. These concerned persons will receive training on effective methods of communication with state and local officials.

The Consortium will primarily focus on intensive activities for six states in the first year: Illinois, Maine, Michigan, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah. Other state policymakers will receive information and assistance on request. The intensive assistance activities will begin with meetings for policymakers that will raise their awareness of the special needs of gifted and talented children. Then a needs assessment will be conducted on current state policies and programs for the gifted and talented and the perceptions of key leaders as to steps the state should take to improve programs.

Following the needs assessment, state policymakers will meet to review the results of the

PASSING THE TORCH IN NEW ZEALAND

The Executive Committee of the New Zealand Association for Gifted Children has accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Barbara Gesthuizen from the Office of the President.

Over a period of five years she worked with energy and initiative for the Association in Hamilton as Branch Chair-person, on the Executive Committee, and since September 1978, as President of N.Z.A.G.C. Her efforts have benefitted many gifted children and their families. We wish Mrs. Gesthuizen and her family every good fortune in the future.

Notwithstanding this point of regret the Executive of N.Z.A.G.C. has pleasure in unanimously confirming Mrs. Anne J. Murrell to be President for the remainder of the term. Anne has been in the forefront of N.Z.A.G.C. affairs as Vice-president and we wish her well in her new position.

--NZAGC Newsletter, March 1981

"TAG" AWARDS IN GIFTED EDUCATION

The Association for the Gifted (TAG) made three awards at the meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children in April for "outstanding contributions to gifted education." Awardees were J. P. Guilford for his work in creativity and "structure of the intellect," to Julian Stanley for his research on acceleration, and to Milton J. Gold, Executive Secretary of the World Council.

Newsletter of the WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

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Editor - Milton J. Gold
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needs assessment and to examine a range of policy and program options for state leadership in educating gifted and talented children. Leaders from parent and professional organizations will also be convened for a special training session on how to communicate information to policymakers and build a coordinated approach for advocacy for gifted and talented children.

The Consortium is funded by the Office of Gifted and Talented and by the Rockefeller Family Fund. The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) will be responsible for the administrative leadership of the Consortium and act as its banker.
--Patty Bruce Mitchell, Consortium Project Dir.
Nat'l Ass'n of State Boards of Education

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Having returned from England to Waynesboro, Tennessee, in the United States, Grace and Robert Armbruster are continuing their efforts for the gifted, now in their native land. Bob reports: "Grace is developing an awareness of the existence of these children in this very remote and, to some degree, primitive, community. She has brought them suddenly into the twentieth century by introducing computers into her program. Now others in the school system are interested in what can be done with those machines for students across the intellectual continuum."

* * *

Berenice D. Bleedorn of the Center for Creative Studies at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN (USA) announces the establishment of a Master of Arts for education of the Gifted, Creative and Talented. The program is designed for experienced, duly-licensed elementary and secondary teachers who wish to prepare as teachers or curriculum specialists in this area.

* * *

Temple University (Philadelphia) and the Perkiomen Valley School District are co-sponsoring their third annual workshop on teaching gifted children, June 22-26, 1981. Write: Dr. Linda Jensen, Ritter Hall 445, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122.

* * *

The University of New Brunswick (Bag. No. 45555, Fredericton, N.B., Canada E3B 6E5) is offering a series of six two hour sessions starting September 17, 1981, and continuing on successive Thursday evenings on "Recognizing and Developing the Gifted Child." Write Prof. David Willings who "would be very grateful to receive from members of the World Council details of authentic cases which may be useful for this course."

* * *

G/C/T (Marvin Gold, editor, Box 66654, Mobile, AL 33660) is publishing a list of more than fifty summer programs for gifted and talented students which will be offered in 1981. Many of them are sponsored by universities. In many, both identification and program are involved, frequently on the model of Governor's

Schools in several States. In some cases (Purdue University, University of South Florida, Kansas University, e.g.) teacher education programs are integrated with these programs for children and youth.

* * *

Madeleine F. Coutant (Oneonta, NY) is representing education of the gifted on two national committees. She is representing the American Association for Gifted Children as an Advisory Commissioner to the Education Commission of the States, and she represents ECS as a member of the Steering Committee of the National Consortium on the Education of the Gifted and Talented

BELOW THE EQUATOR

Jock Omond, Chairman of the Office of the Gifted (30 Bird St., Port Elizabeth 6001, So. Africa), reports publication of a volume, *The Education of the Gifted and Talented*, including some 50 papers. The office has been running a series of six-week seminar/group discussions for high school students on "Thinking about the Future: AD 2000+." The film *Future Shock* is the kick-off for programs on critical thinking, religion, education, communications, women, ideas.

Mr. Omond also writes that with the appointment of an educational planner for the gifted in the Cape Province, "our office may be on the fringe of expansion especially in our service to Parents. We find few teachers as yet really have any idea of how to help a gifted child in class let alone at home. With the increased attention to the gifted in class we hope Parents will also begin to realise their share in the provision of challenging learning situations at home. Our Parents are perhaps fortunate in that before a child is admitted to our Questioners' Club (which offers Enrichment classes after school...) the Parents have a two-hour interview with me, perusing together the two Questionnaires they complete at home. This enables me, in effect, to give them a two-hour background of Giftedness and how they can help their child. Some admit they did not realise how little they knew of their child before they completed the two Questionnaires."

REVIEWS

Colangelo, N., and R. T. Zaffran (eds.) New voices in counseling the gifted. Dubuque, Ia.: Kendal-Hunt, 1979, 521 pp., \$14.95.

This is a volume of specially written articles for the most part. As a result it has greater continuity than the typical book of "readings." There is a freshness in the volume with ideas not commonly found: the Piechowski definition based on "overexcitability," use of Torrance talent structure for identification, the theory of positive disintegration accounting for control of behavior by the emotions, and the deliberate psychological education model for use with minority gifted. Major divisions are general perspectives, identification, counseling, creativity, career development, minority and handicapped gifted, women, families, and programming and counseling. The sections on careers and women are more inclusive and more incisive than normally found in general treatments. Limiting minorities to Black people is not helpful to persons dealing with other cultural minorities: Asian, Hispanic, Sephardic, e.g., which project different cultural values. There is an excellent bibliography (but incorrect information on the reviewer's own volume) but no index. All in all, this volume is a significant contribution to the literature on counseling the gifted, worth reading and worth having.

Willings, David. The creatively gifted: Recognizing and developing the creative personality. Cambridge, England: Woodhead-Faulkner, 1980, 184 pp., 9.25 (UK).

Willings has contributed a thoughtful, if subjective, volume to the literature on education for creativity. He distinguishes defensive and productive thinking from three types of thinking he regards as creative: Elaborative, adaptive and developmental. He provides an extended example of each, with emphasis on the problems that each may encounter. Chapters include imagery and language; adolescence; creativity in school, home, work and university; the counselling process and the counselling situation. He cautions creative thinkers that their maintenance depends upon productive (convergent?) thinkers who keep the wheels of the world turning, and gives greater attention to the difficulties of creative persons than to their development.

Miller, B. S., and M. Price (eds.) The Gifted Child, the Family and the Community. New York: Walker & Co., 1981, 246 pp., \$17.50.

The American Association for Gifted Children has sponsored this volume which is directed primarily to "adults who live and work with gifted children." Thirty-three succinct and sprightly contributions, including some choice poems by high school students, grace the book. All but a few of the articles are specially written, and the authors include some of the "big names" in education of the gifted but also many new voices from whom it is good to hear. The book is informative and pleasant reading for parents and for teachers new to the gifted arena. The senior editor is Director of the Hunter College Campus Schools in New York City.

Dewey Protegee Still Publishing

Lillian Rifkin Blumenfeld, one of few active person who studied with John Dewey and William Heard Kirkpatrick, has collaborated with Joan Harris, former Director of College for Kids, on the second edition of "True Myths," published by Creative Childrens Publications in Wilkes Barre, PA. Other booklets in the series also provide stimulating ideas and activities, especially useful for the gifted. "Lillian is 84 years old and still going strong," Joan Harris reports.

UK GIFTED CHILD STUDY REPORT AVAILABLE

Frieda Painter's research on 73 gifted and 64 control children in England is now available from Pullen Publications, Caxtons, Park Lane, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6PF at £9 plus £1.60 for shipping. Title: Gifted Children: A Research Study. The study of relative levels of scholastic achievement and interests reports that gifted primary school children are on average performing two to three years behind their mental capabilities. The gifted children, averaging 160 IQ (Stanford-Binet) were matched with "bright" children averaging 116 IQ. At average age 8 years and 8 months, the greatest difference was in written English. The research was partially supported by the Social Science Research Council.

LATIN AMERICA: PROGRESS IN EDUCATION FOR THE GIFTED

Professor Mario Gamba of Chile who founded the Pilot Institute for Gifted Children 20 years ago represents Latin America on the World Council's Assembly of Delegates. When he went back after the Jerusalem conference he initiated an active campaign among Latin American countries. All the institutions he has founded, directed or presided over, are of a non-profit making nature. In his report to the Education Departments of Latin American countries he covered the characteristics, importance and action of the World Council, details of the third International Conference and the need to implement educational policies on behalf of gifted children in each country.

In December 1979 Professor Gamba founded the Latin American Association for the Integral Development of Gifted Children and the National Association for the Development of the Gifted Children Education in Chile on the basis of close contact achieved with these children's parents and people professionally interested in giftedness. Their aims include:

- a. Creating public conscience on the educational and general problems affecting gifted children and youth.
- b. Persuading official authorities to consider the adoption of specific measures of benefit to gifted children.
- c. Supporting the Programmes run for the above purpose.

In 1980 Professor Gamba, accompanied by his son, who is Inspector of the Pilot-Institute, visited nine capital cities in 35 days - Buenos Aires (Argentina) - Montevideo (Uruguay) - Asuncion (Paraguay) - La Paz (Bolivia) - Lima (Peru) - Quito (Ecuador) - Bogota (Colombia) - Caracas (Venezuela) and Panama City (Panama).

In each of these cities high level lectures were given and there was useful publicity by the media. The main television channels showed the film, "Gifted Children - Guilty or Innocent?" produced in 1980 by the Pilot Institute in video-colour U-matic 3/4. Also they were able to meet Presidents, Chancellors, Education Ministers, University Deans and other senior educationalists.

Later that year Professor Gamba founded "Supraxia International" an organisation for gifted adults. The word Supraxia means inte-

grating concept of the higher values of mankind. As an aim-concept it goes beyond intelligence since it represents an integral higher development.

* * *

The above is a summary of a much longer report. I would like to congratulate Professor Gamba on all the practical support he has given the World Council. His energetic enthusiasm deserves the full cooperation of all those in the Latin American countries who rank high the needs of gifted children.

--Henry Collis

ASEA WITH THE GIFTED?

Dorothy Sisk, James Ott and Michael Bagley will direct a graduate course on a seven-day cruise to Bermuda, August 1-8. Title: Expanding Dimensions of G/T Programs. Monmouth College (NJ) offers three graduate credits. Write EICA, Box 595, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07675. Tel.: (201) 391-8036.

WORLD COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

Contrary to previous report in these pages, Looking to the Future, Proceedings of the 1975 World Conference in London, is alive and doing well! Copies may be ordered at £5 (Stirling draft drawn on a UK bank), from NAGC, 1 South Audley St., London W1Y 5DQ.

Proceedings of the 1977 Conference, Gifted Children: Reaching Their Potential, edited by James Gallagher, should be ordered from Trillium Press, PO Box 921, New York, NY 10159, at \$14.95 US, including postage. Trillium is also distributing GATE I (\$6 US). GATE II may be ordered directly from the Secretariat--also \$6 US.

In the changeover from GATE to Gifted International as the Journal of the World Council, Levcho Zdravchev has generously offered to send copies of GATE III to Council members while the new journal is getting organized. GATE III is scheduled for publication this summer.

WHERE NOW

(Continued from p. 1)

Conferences. I would hope that each country's Delegates would meet together at least once so as to discuss possible projects, and the progress made on their national and local levels towards a greater understanding of gifted children and their needs. Also, they should do their utmost to inform more parents and others interested professionally so that they join the Council.

World wide impact may never come, but it will be brought much nearer by all our joint efforts. We should use our knowledge and enthusiasm as a corporate catalyst for seeing that gifted children are increasingly accepted and enabled to reach their potential.

My best wishes to you all.

Henry Coles

ON TO MONTREAL!

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We look forward to a fruitful and enjoyable meeting. If you have not yet registered, we urge you to do so now.

*Bruce M. Shore, Chairman
Program and Organizing Committees*



**Fourth World Conference
on Gifted and Talented Children**

Montreal, Quebec, Canada
August 21-25, 1981

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To: Milton J. Gold, Executive Secretary, World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, Box 218, Teachers College, New York, NY 10027

I enclose a check for 30 US dollars to cover my subscription to the World Council for the Biennium ending June 30, 1983. Fee includes issues of *Gifted International* (Journal of the Council) and *World Gifted* (newsletter).

Name (printed or typed) _____

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Address _____

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