

Untapped potential lurks in human mind says Dr. Manica

"Today's genius at the present state of evolution is using about 15 percent of his intellectual capacity."

That's the assessment of Dr. John P. Manica, a pediatric neurologist at William Beaumont Hospital, who spoke at Thursday's workshop sponsored by Southfield Parent-Youth Guidance Commission (PYG) in cooperation with Southfield public schools.

Dr. Manica's topic was "What Makes Johnny Tick?" in the first of a series of workshops on child development conducted in Stevenson Elementary School.

"If you were sitting next to another caveman 2,000 years ago and said, 'Hey, buddy, meet you at the library,' the guy would've thought you were nuts because libraries didn't exist," Manica continued. "Obviously some guys 2,000 years from now are going to be looking at us the way we look at the caveman."

"The brain has an immense amount of untapped ability. I'm not a mystic, but just as the caveman couldn't foresee reading, there are probably other means of communication, other things the brain can do that we don't have a concept of now."

Brain development, Manica said, begins from the point of conception and continues until the 18th birthday when the circumference of the head ceases to grow.

MANICA DISCUSSED what he calls "brain sophistication" and how it relates to various stages of progress among children. In some youngsters, he said, electrical and chemical areas of brain function develop in a more sophisticated manner than in others.

"We don't know why this happens," he said. "If we did, it would be easy to explain why some kids learn more quickly or slowly than others. There's also a developmental immaturity factor to consider."

"Many kids I see in my office have no real neurological problems. They're just a little bit behind themselves. Given time to catch up, they usually go on through their academic life with little or no trouble."

Some children seem to be slow developers, significantly behind in neurological development according to their ages, Manica said. Parents become concerned that their toddlers aren't performing the tasks they should be at certain stages, he said.

"Parents make appointments to have their children examined by a neurologist," he said. "By the time they get an appointment two weeks later, the kids are doing what's normally expected at their age and sometimes more. These little ones go for months without show-

ing any signs of progressive development and then suddenly progress by leaps and bounds in a month."

The IQ is important in determining the potential for the child's future function, he said. Intelligence is dependent on the heredity or IQ of parents as well as the environment of their families and schools.

"INTELLIGENCE is broken into two areas, verbal and performance," Dr. Manica explained. "The verbal area is the use of communicative skills or language. Performance area are basically pencil or paper skills which perform non-communicative tasks."

"Some kids who have poor verbal skills can turn out unbelievable work when they're given a pencil and paper. Others write communications extremely well but can't communicate verbally. These problems indicate learning disabilities."

Children's IQs are defined at the ages of 5 to 7, Manica said. Once single recognition of numbers, letters, colors, animals, body parts and shapes are complete, intelligence can be fairly well determined, he said.

Manica's presentation was the first segment of a four-part series geared to provide parents and other interested persons with important information on child development from infancy through adolescence, said Barbara Hoffmann, adult education chairman of PYG.

"WE TOOK a survey last summer which indicated a large interest among parents for more speakers from the medical profession," Mrs. Hoffmann said. "Parents are concerned about various areas of child development."

The next speaker at the 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, workshop is Dr. Michael Levitt, a pediatrician consultant for Southfield Public Schools. He will deal with the area of mental and emotional development and some of the stresses of today's children.

Dinghy Sharp, learning disability consultant, Thursday, Nov. 6, will talk about learning disabilities and how they affect the growth and development of children.

Mira Bakke, parenting and child development consultant, will be the Thursday, Nov. 1, speaker. She will discuss meeting human needs within the family structure as children grow and develop through various stages.

The charge for the complete series of workshops is \$5 and \$2 for individual sessions. The 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday sessions are in Stevenson Elementary School, 27777 Lahser. For more information contact PYG at 354-4864.

Environmentalists put nix on M-275

By MARY LOU CALLAWAY

The responsibility for last year's scuttling of M-275 and Northwestern Highway extension plans belongs to Gov. William Milliken and environmental groups.

That's what John Grubba, Oakland County Road Commission (OCRC) managing director, said when he met with the West Bloomfield Planning Commission last week in a work session.

No plans or site plans will be approved by OCRC along the controversial Northwestern alignment through West Bloomfield, insists Grubba.

He was invited to meet with West Bloomfield planners by commission chairman Jeffrey Zeib.

"NORTHWESTERN is still on the township master plan. Still, there is much speculation, public and private," said Zeib.

"If M-275 is not built, Northwestern will not be built. It's tied to M-275. We have a contract with the highway department," said Grubba.

OCRC tried using the highway department but lost because the department never said it would not build it, Grubba explained.

Now OCRC is hoping someone will sue the county so the Northwestern matter can be settled in court. But that suit must be brought by someone other than a governmental agency, said Grubba.

If the OCRC refuses to approve a site plan along the Northwestern alignment, a developer could litigate.

"It's the organized environmental

groups flexing their muscles," that stopped both highways from going through, added Grubba.

He now predicts a 3-3 vote on the M-275 matter when the six-member state transportation commission meets in November to consider the issue again.

The governor appointed the commissioners.

"It's bull—when the governor says he doesn't talk to the commission. He was behind the M-275 cancellation. Like SEMCOG (Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments), he doesn't want the rural areas to build up. They see it as a destruction of Detroit," continued Grubba.

ACCUSING the governor of national political ambitions, Grubba said "there is a political link between Milliken and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. Milliken wants to ride a 'subway' to Washington."

"When can we build Northwestern at least to Maple Road?" asked West Bloomfield Trustee Raymond Holland. He is also the planning commission secretary.

"There can be no extension at all, even to Maple. It's not our road, it's the state's," answered Grubba.

Then Holland and Planning Commissioner Adam Sobczyk wondered if there were any way for the township to extend Northwestern.

"The township can't build roads. You and me don't own the rights-of-way. The state does. The transportation department wants M-275 and Northwestern. The transportation commission doesn't agree," Grubba said.

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