

Observer Life

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Testing helps assess 'smarts'

Simply defined by the *American Heritage Dictionary*, intelligence is said to be the capacity to acquire and apply knowledge or the capacity for knowledge and understanding.

From this basic definition, it would be easy to conclude that having a lot of "intelligence" is a good thing and not having a lot of "intelligence" is not a good thing. We all know people we would consider "highly intelligent" or smart, bright, on the ball, and sharp. Conversely we all know people who we would consider "not intelligent" and slow-minded or dumb or without many smarts.

Standardized intelligence testing, now almost 100 years old, has been called one of psychology's greatest successes. The Stanford Binet Intelligence Test was one of the first to identify learning impaired children in the early 1900s.

Developed later, the Wechsler Intelligence Tests have been used for a long time as tools to identify children with mental retardation, help the U.S. military place new recruits, identify "gifted" or intellectually superior children and adults, help teachers and parents know what to expect from a child in learning situations, and predict success or failure in college or careers.

The Wechsler IQ Test has become the most frequently used of all the tests of mental ability that have been spawned from the early Stanford Binet and the original Wechsler Scales. Intelligence tests like this one are samples of problem-solving abilities and knowledge of learned facts and are good predictors of future learning and academic success.

LIMITATIONS

There are several factors these tests are said not to measure. For example, motivation, curiosity, creative talent, work habits and achievement in academic subjects such as reading, writing and arithmetic.

Others have reported the intelligence can be thought of as the general ability to reason, plan ahead, solve problems and comprehend things. The higher the IQ score, the better one is at these activities. The lower the IQ score, the less able one is at these things. Some have likened this to the ability to "catch on" and "make sense of things." The inventor of the Wechsler Intelligence Test defines it this way: "the global capacity to act purposefully, to think rationally and to deal effectively with the environment."

Probably the most common reason that an IQ test is administered is to determine the educational planning and placement of a child in a school. "IQ" stands for Intelligence Quotient, which is a number obtained by measuring a mental age of a person with a standardized test and dividing it by the chronological age and multiplying by 100. The result is the IQ score.

WHAT'S NORMAL?

The most frequently asked question about intelligence has been, in my experience, "What's normal?" Much statistical research and development has gone into these



Starry, starry night



Delores Chenning of West Bloomfield samples the very popular chocolate fountain. The fountain, provided by The Vineyard Cafe, kept guests coming back for chocolate covered fruits, marshmallows and assorted cookies. Top, this sculpture by 2002 Artist in Residence, Bernadette Zachara-Marcos, is on display at the Costick Center.

Annual gala raises \$6K for Arts Council's weeklong celebration

Lovers of the arts gathered Saturday evening at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills to kick off the annual Festival of the Arts celebration, which continues throughout this week.

In addition to a highly successful silent auction, which raised approximately \$6,300 to support the Festival, guests danced to fine jazz and swing music provided by Danielle Blanchard & Friends. Also featured on the dessert table was a Bavarian chocolate fountain, provided by The Vineyard

Cafe. According to cultural arts coordinator Nancy Counounoudouris, attendance was higher than it has been in recent years. About 190 people crowded into the Costick Center's Shannon Room, which was transformed with elegantly set tables, star-studded cloth hangings and balloons for the evening.

Thursday and Friday are student days at the Festival, with demonstrations by Farmington



PLEASE SEE FESTIVAL, C7

Silent auction items included this piece of painted furniture.

Family members still occupy historic home

Sites in the Farmington Hills historic districts reflect the history of Farmington, Michigan and the United States. They illustrate the kind of houses people built and the stories of people who lived here.



Ruth Moshman

Farmington History

The buildings are unique because they have survived and are still being enjoyed by residents.

The 100-year-old house Lewis Howard built in 1903, for instance, is currently owned by members of the same family.

The house was constructed with timber harvested from the farm and is recognized as a Farmington Hills historic site.

It is generally considered better if the house is located on its original location, but this house was moved from Halsted Road in 1985.

Parts of the Howard farm are now a shopping center. A church was built near where the 1913 Howard barn once stood.

FAMILY HISTORY

Lewis Howard was the son of Theodore Howard, a schoolteacher lumberman and farmer who came to



Michigan in 1846. In Farmington, he met and married Lydia Ann Lamb, daughter of Caleb Lamb, an early Baptist missionary.

In pioneer days, missionaries came to Michigan from the New York Missionary societies. They preached, distributed Bibles and established churches. Caleb Lamb was also a homeopathic doctor.

There was a lot of drunkenness on the frontier; this was a favorite vice for the preacher to speak against.

The missionaries purchased farms of their own to earn a living. The missionary societies did not pay them enough to support themselves and their families by church work alone. Some even had mills or other businesses.

As in the case of Rev. Caleb Lamb,

they often cleared a farm and then their missionary duties necessitated moving to a new location.

They usually established another farm, once more clearing away forested land.

The land in Michigan was covered with forests. In order to use the land for farming, the trees were cut down. Many of the early forests were burned so land could be used for farming.

Rev. Caleb Lamb's missionary work took him from Farmington to Clinton Township in 1852. Theodore and Lydia Ann purchased her parents' farm, moving from the farm they owned in West Bloomfield.

They had nine children, five of whom lived to maturity. Theodore Howard died in 1866, leaving Lydia Ann to raise her children and run the farm.

She married Stiled D. Marvin. Her son Lewis Howard attended the State Normal School in Ypsilanti, now Eastern Michigan University. He became a teacher.

He married Martha Dart of Grand Rapids, who also attended the Normal School.

When Lydia Ann died in 1895, Lewis and Martha took over the family farm where there was a tiny house which the Rev. Lamb had built.

In 1903, Lewis Howard built his mansard-roofed house. This style was popular at the turn of the century. The Howard house was similar to the house Henry Ford had built in Dearborn.

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The next Howard to own the farm was Ray Howard and his wife, Clara Iona.

The Howards had strong affiliations with the Baptist Church founded by Rev. Caleb Lamb, Ray Howard's grandfather.

On the farm the family raised apples, peaches and cherries. In 1956, Ray Howard retired from farming and became a truck driver.

In 1985, when the farm was being developed for commercial use, Lee Cox, a grandson of Ray Howard moved the house, saving it from demolition. The historic Lewis Howard house has been restored by Lee and Debbie Cox. Their children are the fifth generation to live in the house. Lewis Howard built. The barn has been demolished.

Ruth Moshman is a local historian and chairs the Farmington Hills Historic District Commission.