

Summer Vacation Offers Chance To Display Ability

Rubamah S. Frank

Modern parents sometimes complain that child psychologists have a tendency to make them feel guilty; that they should have done for their children; that they should not have done, etc., etc. But on one point the experts relieve parents of responsibility: no true genius, they say, has been denied to the world because of failures or defects in child-training! Mozart, Mendelssohn, Kreisler, Menuhin and many others showed their musical genius at so early an age that only heredity could account for it.

Leonardo da Vinci was the (illegitimate) son of a Florentine peasant girl and a minor official in 15th century Italy. What circumstances, what wisdom in rearing could have anything to do with Da Vinci's towering genius in

sculpture, painting, science, mathematics engineering and invention? Or our own Shakespeare—what special environment or opportunities developed a dramatic and poetic genius so far above that of his contemporaries? Such genius, studies seem to indicate, arise from a rare combination of genes or hereditary factors carried by parents who can themselves be very ordinary. And genius of so high an order cannot be stifled by circumstances.

CAN BE OBSERVED

Summer vacations are ideal for study and discovery of gifted children. Though genius may find its own way, special gifts and talents can and sometimes are undiscovered and lost. Gifted children can be recognized by certain signs and summer vacations give par-

ents the opportunity to watch for them. What are some of these signs? In the current issue of "National Parent-Teacher" Dr. Paul Wittly, a specialist on the gifted child (and professor of education at Northwestern University) enumerates the following:

1. A large vocabulary, accurately used.
2. The use of phrases and sentences in the field he is interested in at the time; the man who works with animals; the engineer, the geologist, etc. And of course books are invaluable. The eager, probing mind of the gifted child can be very wearing as teachers know during the school year. In the summer parents must study ways and means of meeting the challenge single-handed.
3. Keen observation and retention of information about things observed.
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5. Interest in books—and later enjoyment of atlases, dictionaries and encyclopedias.
6. Interest in calendars and clocks.
7. The ability to concentrate longer than most children.
8. Early discovery of cause-and-effect relationships.
9. Early development of reading ability.
10. Proficiency in drawing, music or other art forms.

It is clear that these characteristics cannot be understood unless there is a continued warm relationship between the child and his parents. They must share many

activities. They must read together and go on trips together. The child's "keen observation and retention of information about things observed" can only show itself and be developed if the child has had a variety of experiences and been guided to outside material to supplement his own observation.

Such a child should meet people working in the field he is interested in at the time; the man who works with animals; the engineer, the geologist, etc. And of course books are invaluable. The eager, probing mind of the gifted child can be very wearing as teachers know during the school year. In the summer parents must study ways and means of meeting the challenge single-handed.

MARY HAWORTH Man 21 Years Is Brilliant

Dear Mary Haworth: I am a young man, 21, considered one of the most brilliant students ever enrolled at this university. About a year ago I met Carol, and I think I love her but can't be sure, as I am homosexual.

I feel very dishonest and cheap when she talks of marriage; yet I too dream at times of the beautiful life we might have together, and even hope that I could be a normal person. But the dream fades and becomes unreal. I would give anything to be normal—but I suppose some people from the very beginning weren't meant to be.

I have a very domineering mother who rules the household and everyone in it with an iron hand. She has forced me toward a profession that I don't want, and has almost strangled me with her apronstrings. As a result, what love I may have had for her has

turned to hatred and disgust.

HATES SIBBY TAG

As soon as I graduate from college, I shall be called into the Army; and to shoot a gun makes me so weak I can hardly stand. I know that I will be laughed at and called a sissy—a word I have learned to hate. It was applied in my school years to a boy who didn't see much sense in running up and down a playing field, trying to catch someone with a ball; he preferred to study and listen to music.

I want to marry Carol, to have a home, to be a father, to be successful—above all, to be a man, able to cope with defeats and learn from them.

I want to be a member of the first sex, not the third. But I am not strong enough to do all this without help; and any type of medical help is beyond my reach. I have hit the wall and it seems there is no place for me to go except down, to the kind of life I most detest—bringing shame to family and friends. Please advise me, if you fall then I fall, may God have mercy on my soul. J.D.

Dear J.D.: It seems to me that

you are a long way from being a mistake of nature. Obviously you have a good mind, with a direct if unconscious apprehension of the truth of things. I think you can have a man's life, by clear-headed effort.

The human creature is more than his physical self; he is also a soul, and will and understanding are properties of soul. In a decision as to who's going to run the show, body or soul, I should think soul has conclusive say, if one means business.

Speaking of your good mind, intuitively you've struck to the crux of the emotional conditioning that fosters homosexuality in many cases. Namely, the domineering mother—the iron hand in the velvet glove—who implants in her more sensitive sons the unconscious impression that femininity is power and the only alternative to being dominated. And who also causes them unwarily to hate and distrust the species she represents.

LOSES REAL SELF

Thus the sensitive lad acquires a mixed-up personality and an undecided "either-or" gender. This isn't inborn. He is alienated from

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his essential masculinity during formative years, due to mom's dictator drive and dad's absence or abdication of the real man role of admirable leadership.

In identifying with the female parent—as the supposed first sex and nature's champ—the lad not only loses track of his real self. He acquires an embittered distaste for the female sex he envies and emulates. And thus he is primed for the defensive drama of distraction known as homosexuality.

To have drifted in this direction isn't an irreversible trend. And there is little ground to retrace at your tender age of 21. Emotion follows action, psychologists teach and the way to be and to feel like a man, since nature designed you for the role, is just to live the part decisively.

It isn't necessary to like football or firearms, or to act as an Army assignment, to prove yourself a man. Our highest concept of manhood is "gentle-man."

As for strength to save yourself, it comes from God, when you per-

stantly ask for it. I suggest you read "The Healing Light" (Master Park) by Agnes Sanford, refuse faith, and then go after the help you'll ever need—from psychiatry, religion, right as ciates, etc. M.H.

Mary Haworth counsels through her column, not by mail or personal interview. Write to her care of this newspaper.

VISIT REBELS

JAKARTA, Indonesia (Reuter) A group of senior Indonesian government officials left Jakarta today by air for Merado, capital North Celebes, to hold "brotherly discussions" with local leaders who have defied the central government by declaring the North Celebes Islands of East Indonesia an autonomous province.

The mission was led by Just Minister Gustaf A. Maengke and included the Indonesian ambassador to Canada, Libertus Palar, and the former Indonesian ambassador to Peking, Arn Mononutu.

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WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
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FRIDAY
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