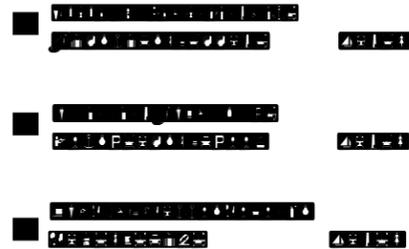


LANSGING COMMUNITY NEWS

Serving the Town and Village of Lansing, Cayuga Heights, King Ferry & Genoa

"Not quite paradise, but a nice place to live."

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Lickona Speaks on Character Education & the Future of Our Children

By Matthew Shulman

More than 125 parents came to the Lansing Middle School cafeteria last Thursday evening to hear nationally known educator and development psychologist Thomas Lickona discuss and answer questions about "Raising Good Children."

In our society, the values portrayed on television don't always correspond with the virtues of fairness, honesty, respect and responsibility that most families want to transmit to their children, said Lickona, who serves as director of the Center for the 4th and 5th Rs (respect and responsibility) at Cortland State University. Parents are at a moral divide.

Good character, said Lickona in a hand-out distributed at the meeting, "consists of moral knowing, moral feeling and moral action." Character education teaches the core values of respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, diligence, perseverance, self-control, caring and courage and motivates young people to put these values into action.

Parents can make a conscious choice to raise children with a moral compass of their own choosing or, by inaction, to forfeit the role of parent to popular culture.

Stages of Moral Reasoning

Children still develop moral reasoning in predictable stages at predictable ages as they always have. But demands on parents' time and shifts in culture have conspired to remove the traditional supportive moral environment that formerly helped youngsters develop. "Moral growth is very slow through

youth into adulthood," claimed Lickona. "The challenge is to help get our kids to the top of the moral ladder; to having a principled conscience in young adulthood.

"It's a lot tougher world for kids to grow up in than when we were young," said Lickona, and the data doesn't always suggest that it's better.

Eighty percent of the children who begin coupling off and going on individual dates at age 12 are sexually active before graduating high school, said Lickona. This figure drops to just 20 percent when dating begins at 16.

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A FULL HOUSE at the Lansing Elementary School last Thursday asked questions and got pointers as Dr. Thomas Lickona discussed "Raising Good Children."

A Teenager's Perspective By Emily Dill

thing for me to hear.

Lickona began his workshop by reassuring everyone that, "Being a good parent doesn't mean having perfect kids." He went on to talk about how it is "a different world for our kids" which made me smile thinking of all the times we've said, "Mom, you're too old. You just don't understand the way things work anymore."

Lickona warned that if parents aren't careful today, their children will end up being "raised by the culture instead of their moms and dads." In many families, he said, television has replaced parents as moral teachers. He suggested forming a close relationship with children when they are very young that will endure through the years. If this relationship is sturdy and full of trust, the children will be able to turn to their parents with problems. He also suggested "fairness discussions" which are planned family meetings to sort out problems and teach mutual understanding.

Listening to Lickona speak made me realize that parents can actually be unsure that what they're doing is right. It seemed growing up, that mom and dad knew what to do on every occasion. But I began to realize that parents have to learn to be parents. So while they put on a front of absolute knowledge, half the time they're scared they aren't doing the right thing.

This workshop would be a great thing for us kids to hear because it would make us

(Continued on page 6)

U.S. Geological Survey Monitors & Assesses WNY Water Resources

Tucked unobtrusively between Stone Travel and the Corners Gallery in Community Corners, 21 US Geological Survey (USGS) water resources scientists and technicians work largely outside the public eye on hydrologic problems affecting millions of New Yorkers.

While most people know the USGS for the famous "topo" maps its Topographic Division produces, the Water Resources Division has a completely different mission. It's responsible for cataloging, assessing and analyzing the quantity and quality of all surface and ground water resources.

Whether it's examining the effects of an underground mine collapse on the regional aquifer system of the Genesee River Valley or monitoring a test well in Cortland to chart

migrating plumes of contaminated groundwater that could threaten the city's water supply, the Cayuga Heights-based sub-district office of the USGS Water Resources Division is responsible for assessing all water resources west of the Adirondack and Catskill Mountain ranges.

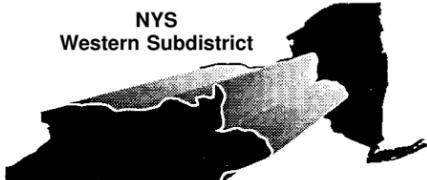
Hydrologic Data Collection

Knowing the past and current status of our water resources is the surest path to solving current and potential future challenges, explained subdistrict chief Edward Bugliosi. That's why his staff regularly measures the volume and velocity of waterflow at gage houses at more than 150 sites along rivers, streams and reservoirs throughout the western part of the state.

To measure the changing depth of a stream or river, a pipeline carrying harmless nitrogen gas runs from the stream bank gage house to an outlet in the center of the stream. As the depth of the water passing over the outlet rises or falls, the pressure of the water on the gas changes. This pressure change is automatically recorded every 15 minutes and converted to a depth measurement.

A manual measurement of the stream's velocity is taken every seven weeks. The technician goes out in the stream with a pole-like apparatus that has a propeller-shaped vane at the bottom. The speed at which the propeller spins indicates the speed, or velocity, of the water at a given point of the streambed. By lowering the pole to the streambed at twenty points across the cross-section of the stream, the technician can calcu-

NYS
Western Subdistrict



late the total volume of water being carried by the stream in cubic feet per second. This information may sound pretty arcane, but it's essential in sizing culverts, designing bridge abutments or for siting bendway weirs along Salmon Creek.

In fact, stream flow volume and velocity are just several of the different types of data the USGS collects per site. The annual Water Resources Data, New York carries surface water data that's used by engineering firms, the Department of Transportation, civil engineers and environmentalists. The important thing, said Bugliosi, is that, "we're a non-regulatory, unbiased data collection agency." The USGS makes NO binding recommendations but provides resource planners with the technical information to reach decisions. "It keeps us from political involvement," Bugliosi concluded.

Hydrologic Studies

Though USGS research, data assessment and analysis is never directive, its findings are often used by federal, state and local governments. "We often work on the basis of cost-sharing cooperative agreements with government agencies," said Bugliosi. The federal government can match up to 50 percent of a project's cost with state or local taxing entities.

After Hurricane Agnes devastated portions of the Southern Tier and Pennsylvania local USGS technicians spent months collecting and analyzing field data. "Our work was used to define HUD maps that delineate flood zones," said hydrologic technician, and 30-year Lansing resident, Donald

Sherwood.

Other cooperative arrangements with local governments use surface water data to create computer simulations of water behavior before development occurs on or near streams so planners have reliable information to make decisions about development in local watersheds. In Camillus, the USGS has been evaluating the effects that detention basins will have during flooding events.

Because most of western New York has abundant surface water resources, there's generally little of the drawdown of deep subsurface aquifers that's common further west. There are exceptions, such as Johnson City, Olean and Cortland, where aquifer resources provide municipal water supplies.

Cortland has a fine water system which draws its water from a substantial aquifer, said Bugliosi. However, they're also facing a contaminated water plume coming from a former industrial site not too far from the pumping well. The USGS has measured the plume and has run computer models to simulate the time it will take to move towards the pumping station. Such preventive monitoring will not only show the rate of the plume's movement, but will also suggest alternatives to ensure the maintenance of the city's high quality water.

Several years ago the USGS worked with Tompkins County to develop an artificial wetlands system to purify landfill leachate. The system used biological and physical components to meet state and national pollution discharge elimination standards. This local work is now being replicated in Monroe County.

For a quiet little office, they sure get around.



Photo: USGS

STREAMFLOW measurement yields data to protect waterways and to design man-made structures.

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