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THIRD ANNUAL TAGT CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars now! The Third Annual TAGT Conference will be held October 17-18, 1980, at the Holiday Inn Central in Dallas. Dr. Dorothy Sisk has agreed to keynote this conference on Friday evening. This will provide the proper first stage in our exploration of our Conference Theme: “What's Happening With the Children?”

SPEAKERS

Dr. Dorothy Sisk, University of South Florida, Tampa
Mr. Charles Evans, Member of Texas House of Representatives, Hurst
Dr. Leif Fearn, San Diego State University

RESERVE ROOM EARLY!

Make your reservations for October Conference NOW directly with the Holiday Inn Central. TAGT has a block of 150 rooms at special rates. Please indicate you are part of TAGT room block. Rates: singles, $34.00; twin or doubles, $40. Make your reservations early because of the Texas State Fair room demand! Room Block will be held only until Sept. 17, 1980. (Use Reservation form on Page 3.)
President's Report

Our Association has been fortunate and very successful in its many endeavors since we organized two years ago. This success can be attributed to many factors including hard work, dedication, enthusiasm, perseverance, and excellent communications.

I also believe that cooperation among the various groups involved in the gifted & talented movement is perhaps the most important factor in our success. Parents, educators, students, and concerned citizens working together on a common goal is proving to be a winning team.

The age-old saying that strength comes in numbers has taken a slight twist in our Association, with a new word—"diverse." We can honestly say that our clout comes through "strength in diverse numbers." The diversity of the Association has had many positive affects on me, and surely on others as well. By communicating with teachers, administrators, students and other parents, I have learned to place the various problems each segment faces in education in its proper perspective. I would hope these other groups are doing the same and by working together in a cooperative venture problems that will arise in the State will be cooperatively solved.

I hope all of our members are planning to be at the Fall Conference in October. I am sure we will have a packed house, so make your plans and reservations early.

Many thanks to our Vice President, Mrs. Minnie Champ, who is doing an excellent job on our quarterly newsletter.

Until we meet, stay active and speak up for gifted and talented education.

Phillip Gonzalez
President

National G/T News

(From the May 15, 1980 letter to Friends of G/T Children from Jeffrey J. Zettel, Specialist for Policy Implementation, CEC.)

. . . Secretary Hufstedler alone received over 3,300 letters urging her to reconsider the Administration's position with regard to (budget) cuts. We are happy to announce that both the Congress and the Administration, upon receiving such a substantial amount of negative mail, have now reconsidered their original requests. Funds for the Office of Gifted and Talented Education (under P.L. 95-561) will not be cut back this year or next. It now appears that gifted and talented education has an active and powerful citizen lobby behind it. We extend to you our appreciation for your support.

. . . While we had hoped to ask for additional monies for gifted and talented children for FY 81, the prospects for such an increase at this point in time . . . (are) less than optimistic.

CEC, nevertheless, during the next few weeks will continue to explore new avenues for obtaining additional monies for g/t education. Likewise, we would ask you to immediately write to your local representatives on the House and Senate Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittees, asking them (a) if they would be willing to sponsor an amendment calling for a "slight" increase (i.e., $2-3 million) for g/t education; or (b) if they would support such a measure if someone else introduced it. Furthermore, we would appreciate hearing of any positive comments you might receive with regard to this matter.

(Cont. page 5)
G/T Lobbyist. Jeff Zettle of CEC is a Policy Specialist and is gifted's only paid/active lobbyist in Washington. He has helped create a National Coalition for Increased Federal Appropriations that includes the leaders of the major gifted organizations....

G/T funding. It may seem insensitive to ask for this increase (G/T funding) in times of budget conservation, but G/T education is vital to our country and the amount is so small. Priority should rank with other areas receiving increases, like the military. We believe that Gifted and Talented education needs the full appropriation of $35 million. If you have not made you(r) initial contact, do it now....

Placement of Office of the Gifted. Secretary Hufstedler of the Department of Education has decided to place the Office of the Gifted in the Bureau of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services....

Washington Policy Seminar for Juniors and Seniors. . . . Sam Halperin. . . of the Institute for Educational Leadership. . . will set up a Washington Policy Seminar for high school juniors and seniors. They will learn how government runs and hear speakers who will help them understand the role that youth can and has played in government. At the same time, the people whom we would like to inform about education of the gifted will get to meet and interact with these youngsters.

The IEL will furnish the meals and speakers and make the necessary arrangements. . . . We (furnish) transportation and lodging for two students from each state. We can do it. If you represent a parent group, can you sponsor a student? If your state has a State Coordinator, that may be the place to start . . . You can figure out a way to make this work. Talk to your parent group. Talk to your school district and see if they can nominate and help sponsor a student. Please give GAIN immediate feedback. If you can and will commit to this, we will set up with Sam Halperin in Washington, DC and show our legislators what kind of kids we are talking about when we claim that gifted students are the next leaders of our country.

AAGC Scholarship. The American Association for Gifted Children is offering scholarships through the Mary Jane & Jerome A. Straka Scholarship Fund. . . to high school students interested in pursuing a college career in the fields of business, mathematics or science. (Deadline for 1980 was May 15, but you may want to investigate for 1981.) Write: Gail B. Robinson, AAGC, 15 Gramercy Park, New York, NY 10003.

If you are not on the mailing list for this fine publication, write to Bobbie and Ted Kraver, 225 West Orchid, Phoenix, AZ 85021. Donations of $5 or $10 are requested to cover printing & mailing costs.

Action Needed:

(1) Write to any House and/or Senate member from your state (Charles Wilson, 1214 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20525; Jack Hightower, 120 Cannon House Office Bldg., 20215—both members of House Appropriations Committee.) Urge these HAC members to reconsider their Committee's recommendation in rescinding $55 million in Title IV-C monies in light of its impact upon gifted and talented children.

(2) Urge the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to continue their opposition to the House recommendation to cut $55 million in Title IV-C monies.
GSI Schedules First Day Camp

The GSI offered courses from June 16 to June 27, 1980. The schedule included workshops on creative writing, nature trails, par course, racquetball, tennis, golf, and swimming. The course was designed to develop skills in writing, interviewing, photography, design, and research through the production of a magazine of high quality.

Other GSI sessions still with openings are:
- Architecture and Creative Writing at Texas A & M Univ., Galveston.
- Creative Writing and Photography at Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- IF THEY COULD SEE ME NOW! CATS SUMMERSTARS, Arlington Grade 5-9.
- MADE FOR TELEVISION, --An Adventure in Thought, Fort Worth Grades 5-7.
- MANAGING SPACE SHIP EARTH--Environmental Education, Univ. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI Grades 7-9.

TAGT Affiliate Reports

During the coming issues, we hope to carry reports from every TAGT Affiliate. Please appoint a reporter and send your information to TAGT Tempo. The Editor.

RAGT Offers Summer Enrichment Courses

The Richardson Assn. for Gifted & Talented is sponsoring two courses during June 1980:

1) Computer--Instructor, John D'Angelo, Corporate Engineering Center, Texas Instruments Incorporated, and an RAGT member. Children age 10 and up will work three hours for three weeks in June on the Texas Instruments' mini-computers at Richland College.

2) Video Tape Production--Instructor, Charles Kinman, professional media consultant of Keller, TX. Students, age 10 and up, will work for 3 hours daily for four weeks in June. The course designed especially for gifted and talented youngsters, will include all aspects of television production: script writing, directing, producing, camera and video recorder operation, performance, set construction and graphics creations. Each participant will be involved in the creation of a video production.

RAGT is fortunate in having Texas Instruments Incorporated support this video course by furnishing the color video equipment. Creative Visions, a new area company, is furnishing the editing facilities.

Mr. Kinman recently completed the pilot program of this video tape production course at the Snow Heights Elementary School (Birdville ISD). The success with the fifth and sixth graders involved "the careful design of the instructional sequence and (Mr. Kinman's) ability to work with the group in production teams," according to Mrs. Peggy Cariker, teacher/facilitator.

During May, Youth Programs' Director Bobbi Wells arranged a tour of a local veterinarian clinic which provided 4-7-year-olds a most interesting and exciting event. For older students at the same clinic on two Friday afternoons, the opportunity of observing an operation in progress proved to be of particular value.

New officers for RAGT will be: Minnie Champ, President; Anne Weiss, First Vice President; Phillip Crabill, Second Vice President; Jennie Vahrencamp, Secretary, and Dean Vanderbilt, Treasurer. Directors: Jerry Wells, Bill Malcolm, Bobbi Wells, Lois Whiting, Elizabeth Michael, Terry Teeling, and Helen Hughes, newsletter editor.

DON'T JUST STUDY SPANISH--LIVE IT, Cuernavaca, Ages 14-18

Call or write the Institute: 611 Ryan Plaza Dr., Suite 1119, Arlington, TX 76011. (817) 265-7143.

June Cox
Academic Director