



september 2007 issue number 508

the ups and downs of emotional intelligence...

by
**Thomas
Hally**

Would you believe a person who told you that his or her IQ was 160, and their EQ was 90? In a hospital psychiatric ward situation you just might, but in the outside world it is a fairly uncommon situation, except of course in Hi-IQland. Emotional intelligence usually correlates closely with academic intelligence, but there are notable exceptions to this rule.

In 1920, E.L. Thorndike used the term “social intelligence” to describe the skill of getting along well with other people, but the term “emotional intelligence” seems to have originated with Charles Darwin in 1872; he more broadly applied it to survival and adaptation in humans, which is, in that sense, social intelligence.

Briefly, emotional intelligence can be viewed as the ability to understand, perceive and manage one’s feelings and the ability to perceive and understand the feelings of one’s fellow humans. Psychologist Daniel Goleman popularized the term in 1995, and published books and articles about the application of emotional intelligence to business.

Being endowed with a good memory and good problem-solving abilities does not mean that one has the capability of dealing with their emotions or is self-motivated. Sometimes the social skills necessary to “get along” must be acquired in later years, after a child has reached his or her maturity. This is particularly true of people with Asperger’s syndrome, or the highly creative schizophrenic or bi-polar adult. In Goleman’s book, *When Smart is Dumb: Why it can matter more than IQ*,¹ he cites examples of high IQ’ers who are not high achievers. “Academic intelligence has little to do with emotional life...people with high IQs can be stunningly poor pilots of their private lives.” Goleman shows how the traditionally

successful person is he or she who deals with his emotions within the norm and mores of their culture. He defines success in social terms in a narrow way that may or may not be acceptable to the gifted person. A gifted individual is undoubtedly apt at learning a list of socially acceptable rules and reactions, but authority figures in the lives of the gifted child or adult are repeatedly challenged.

Having examined the list of acceptable behaviours and rules, the gifted person often decides they are unjust or wrong. “But these kinds of rules are self-reinforcing and highly resistant to change”².

It is nevertheless essential that a gifted child learns to “fit in”. It may sometimes be the traditional bitter pill to swallow if done later in life for some of the artistically inclined or the creative poet, the writer, or those who thrive in a topsy-turvy state of mind or mood. It seems that when they are sad they are happy, and when they are manic they are productive. The acceptance of John Forbes Nash’s eccentricities enabled the 1994 Nobel Prize winning mathematician to leave medications behind, despite his paranoid schizophrenia. He thrives. One in an almost similar mental situation as Nash, but not so lucky, was impressionist painter, Vincent van Gough. Beat Generation author and poet Jack Kerouac was too emotionally impaired to lead a “normal life”. But he most certainly made his mark in life. Was he a failure because of low emotional intelligence or a “howling” success like his friend, poet Alan Ginsberg?

Moderate to high emotional intelligence facilitates good choices, defers gratification, helps achieve long-term goals, and aids in effective relations with one’s fellow

(continued on p06)



(cont. from p05)



John Nash

employees or employer. Those with low EI are at risk of social problems, regardless of IQ level. They tend to eschew social gatherings like parties and outings. They are ill-equipped for such close person to person contact with the “normals” who are not able to tolerate their weirdness or erratic behaviour. Social skills can be learned at any age. On the extreme right side of the Gaussian Curve, those youngsters with very high levels of emotional intelligence sometimes feel overwhelmed by their emotions and the complexities of managing their feelings. These children, as oxymoronic as it seems,

are unlikely to develop into emotionally mature adults without close parental guidance or counselling, though the odds are better for them than for the low EI children.

There are various EQ tests on the Internet. Those Mensans whose EQ closely correlates with their IQ should congratulate themselves and then make a hefty contribution to the mental health organization of their choice. It couldn't hurt!

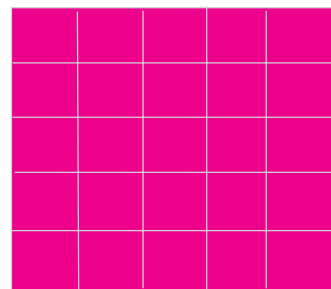
1. Goleman, D. (1995) *When Smart is Dumb: Emotional Intelligence. Why it Can Matter More Than IQ.* Bantam Books, New York, N.Y.

2. Postman, W. and Weingarten, C. (1969) *Teaching English as a Subversive Activity.* Dell Publishing Company Inc, New York, N.Y.

Cryptosquare. The five words read the same down as across and the clues are, as the name would suggest, cryptic.

(answers on p08)

- Space shuffles - walks?
- A ball about love?
- Ruined a crop of coconut.
- Mistake or mistake.
- Base arsenal containing parts of firing mechanisms.



kn

books...

Tom Elliott

JOINT VENTURE: The Paces of Jamestown by Anthony Dellaira (2007, 103 pp., pb.; publ. iUniverse, Lincoln NE 68512, ISBN 978-0-595-41779-5; also available in cloth). What a perfectly timed release, as the Colony at Jamestown celebrates its 300th anniversary this year with a visit from Queen Elizabeth and all. What's really interesting is that, although a

work of fiction, the book is based on the 'real' Richard and Isabella Pace, who settled in Jamestown in 1610, and the author is their 12th generation descendent. The story traces the young couple as they travel through London, meeting Shakespeare and Ben Johnson on the way, and join the Great Resupply Fleet. Traveling across the ocean on separate

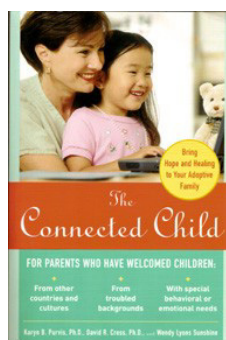


books continued...

Tom Elliott is a marketing director, talent agent, and writer who is a member of the Boston chapter of US Mensa.

vessels, the pregnant Isabella reaches the colony safely, but Richard’s ship runs aground off Bermuda. Isabella lives through the Starving Time, but meets and is befriended by Pocahontas. Richard eventually arrives, accompanied by John Rolfe, and they all engage in tobacco farming, which is not successful until they trade provisions for a boatload of slaves brought to their shores by Dutch seamen. They prosper, but relationships between the planters and natives deteriorate, which leads to the Good Friday massacre.

THE CONNECTED CHILD: Bringing Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family



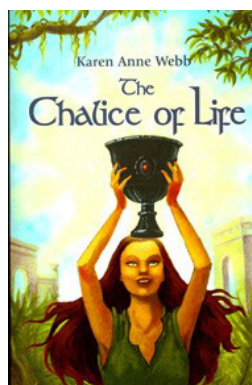
by Wendy Lyons Purvis, Ph.D, and David Cross, Ph.D (2007, 264, pp., illustrations, index, diagram, charts, references and resources, pb.; publ. McGraw-Hill, New York NY 10121, ISBN 978-0-07-147500-6). Based on

over 10 years of research by two noted child development psychologists, this book gives parents the tools they’ll need to forge positive family connections with children from “hard places” – orphanages, foster care, foreign countries and cultures, or troubled backgrounds (which probably covers the majority of placements) – where they may have encountered hardship, sexual abuse, medical problems, and the like. Such children are likely to exhibit fear, distrust, uncooperation, and outright defiance, and you’re taught how to confront these behaviors in a positive way and nurture the child emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Actually, this book could also be useful to parents of special needs children, natural or adopted, too.

AFTERLIFE AND OTHER STORIES by Ed Krizak (2004, 165 pp., pb.; publ. Xlibris,

Philadelphia PA 19113-1513, ISBN 1-4134-4002-9). No, it’s not about ghosts. It’s a collection of 21 “moving, poignant, and exciting” vignettes of life set in the Philadelphia area and written over a period of 15 years. All have offbeat plots along with a surprise twist at the end, as good short stories should. As Ed writes, “Anyone who has experienced the magic and heartbreak of living with hope in desperate times will find these stories appealing.” Besides the title story, selections include Memories Lost, Boy’s Night Out, The Yellow Cab Man, Demolition, Trading Up, and One Winter’s Eve.

THE CHALICE OF LIFE (Book 1 of Adventurers of the Carotian Union) by Karen Anne Webb (2006, 320 pp., pb.; publ. Dragon Moon Press, Canada, www.dragoonmoonpress.com, ISBN 1-896944-33-7). Another one for you fantasy lovers, the story includes witty dialogue, puzzles (think Zork), and intelligent humor, suitable for all ages. Thalás, a world within the Carotian Union, is on the brink of civil



war. Not a biggie in most circumstances, but the Union is a living entity that reacts powerfully to psychic energy, and the potential hostility could blow up the whole shebang. Fear not, Mistra bas Cathranas, a Carotian princess, is told in a vision that Eliander, the Lost Prince of Thalás who was magically sent to a place outside normal space and time, can prevent his world from being destroyed. But to reach him, Mistra must travel through seven mystical portals, each more challenging and threatening than the last.

All books reviewed in this column are by Mensan authors.



supplementally science

John Blinke

Dino Dog Paddle

ScienceNOW Daily News, 24 May 2007.

Dinosaurs Charge Upstream.

Scientists have wondered if theropod dinosaurs could swim. Judging from a 125 million year old fossil track found in Spain, they could do it pretty well. The track shows just the nail marks the creature left as it swam upstream against a current in water about three meters deep. It's not clear which kind of dinosaur left the tracks, but it could have been an 8 meter long Neovenator, which is known to have lived in that part of the world.

What Happened to Otzie?

Science, 1 June 2007, p. 1261. *Iceman's Last Hours.*(Quaternary Science Reviews.)

Otzie, the 5,000 year old Tyrollean ice man, was found frozen in a glacier in 1991 by hikers. Forensic examination of the intestinal content of Otzie's body has allowed scientists to put together a plausible picture of his last days of life. Pollen grains recovered from different parts of his intestines show that, in the 33 hours preceding his death, he ate a meal in an alpine area, then moved upland to the glacier where he was shot in the back with an arrow. This is consistent with the idea that he got into some kind of trouble, perhaps in his own village, and fled to the glacier where his killer caught up with him.

Stem Cells On Demand

NYTimes.com, 6 June 2007. *Biologists Make Skin Cells Work Like Stem Cells.*

A new development in biology could spell the end of the bitter embryonic stem cell debate. Scientists at Kyoto University have found that, by inserting four genes into

mouse skin cells, they can cause the skin cells to regress into stem cells that seem indistinguishable from embryonic stem cells. Researchers have not yet tried the procedure with human cells. When they do, they expect a few more difficulties than they had with the mouse experiments. For one thing, some of the inserted genes can cause cancer. For another, the insertion technique uses a virus to transfer the genes. These are not expected to be insurmountable difficulties.

Pretty Smart Babies

MSNBC, 24 May 2007. *Infants stun scientists with 'amazing' insights.*

(Science, 25 May)

Considering the amount of stuff they have to learn in a short time, infants have to be rather smart by our standards. But, their full range of abilities is surprising. For example, five month old infants can read lips to discern certain vowel sounds. Just by watching, they can tell whether a speaker is talking the baby's own language, or a foreign language — though most adults cannot do this. Infants can match the calls of monkeys with the monkeys' faces, though adults cannot even see the differences between monkeys' faces. Such super learning abilities are lost by the age of six or eight months, when babies learn to ignore things that are not of immediate relevance.

Many thanks, John for your wonderful contribution to the IJ for the last 10 years. Please keep sending Supplementally for the next 10!
Ed.