

ethical connections

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ETHICS

Report Helps Schools Build Ethical Climate

A commission cochaired by Rushworth Kidder and organized by Maine's Department of Education has released a report entitled *Taking Responsibility: Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior in Maine Schools and Communities*. Developed under a mandate from the state's legislature, the report includes a call to action and a number of specific suggestions for schools and communities that want to create a more ethical climate. Sections on core values, ethical standards, learning results, and best practices offer tools that schools can use to implement the report's recommendations.

Copies of the report may be requested from Susan Corrente, Esq., State of Maine Department of Education (207-624-6660, susan.corrente@state.me.us), or see a summary on the Web at www.state.me.us/education/cep/cep_reports.htm.

Trainer Translates Ethical Fitness™ Seminars to Serve Police Agencies

Certified trainer Alan Goodman has taken the principles of the Institute's Ethical Fitness Seminar one step further. Goodman, a former New York police officer, has created a version entitled "Street-Smart Ethics Seminar for Criminal Justice Professionals." Goodman's idea is to extend the Ethical Fitness analogy from physical fitness to tactical readiness for criminal justice practitioners. Police professionals are trained to employ positive and reflexive responses to the challenges they face in crime fighting. However, Goodman feels they are not trained to develop a similar response to the ethical challenges they face. In many cases, police officials talk about ethics but provide no structured practice in ethical decision making. Goodman decided to develop his program to help criminal justice personnel make the best possible ethical decisions in any situation.

Goodman feels that this is just the first step in ethics training for police agencies. "I also am trying to get criminal justice organizations to see that they must add a 'values orientation' to their ethics control programs," says Goodman. Most agencies and organizations have a compliance-oriented program with coercive rules and punishment for violations. He is coaching managers to emphasize the idea of obeying the unenforceable—doing the right thing simply because it is part of an individual's and an organization's code of values. Says Goodman, "The Ethical Fitness idea, if supported by top management, can create that values orientation and standardize behavior more effectively than a compliance orientation alone." For further



"The Ethical Fitness idea, if supported by top management, can . . . standardize behavior more effectively than a compliance orientation alone."

—Alan Goodman, trainer

information, Alan Goodman can be reached at EthicsGood@aol.com.

What's New?

■ Ethical Fitness™ Seminars for Politicians

As part of an initiative by the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, the Institute for Global Ethics has developed an ethics component for the Sorensen Institute's training program for first-time political candidates. The Sorensen Institute is a nonpartisan center that provides training for emerging political leaders on how to be responsible participants in the political process. The project brings a bipartisan group of candidates together for a weekend to learn best practices in political campaigning—not only how to win, but how to win ethically. The program is a modification of the Institute's Ethical Fitness Seminar, and feedback from participants has been enthusiastic. Now nearing the end of its Virginia-based test phase, the Sorensen Institute plans to roll out the program in other states over the next year. The next training session is scheduled for June.

■ Focus Group Research Done; Guidebook Available

Under contract with the Kettering Foundation, the Institute for Global Ethics has conducted focus groups in California, Ohio, and Washington, to examine the relationship among and between citizens, officeholders, and the media. Members of all three groups, as well as candidates, lobbyists, nonprofit directors, and political party officials, took part in the meetings, which studied the reasons that political campaigns today do not seem to foster citizen participation. The results of this qualitative study

will be presented in a major report later this year.

As a part of this effort, the Institute developed the popular *Bridging The Divide in U.S. Political Life*, a free guide designed to help citizens engage in dialogue about the current state of politics and government in the United States. To request a copy, call the Institute toll free at 800-729-2615 (U.S. and Canada only), or download a free copy of the guide from the Public Policy Web site at www.campaignconduct.org.

Tidbits

The Institute's West Coast Outpost

Nearing the midpoint of his six-month West Coast stint, Institute program associate Wayne Saucier continues to cement relations within Washington State's civic reform community. Local groups have demonstrated a solid interest in the Public Policy Program's work in civic engagement. The free guide, *Bridging The Divide in U.S. Political Life*, as well as the research undertaken through the Institute's Project on Campaign Conduct, is being disseminated broadly and effectively through these local groups. Members hailing from the Pacific Northwest are encouraged to contact Wayne at 206-622-8961 for in-person updates on these and other Institute activities.

Canada

This past season has been an active one at the Institute's office in Canada.

Three Ethical Fitness™ Seminars were organized and held by Institute Canada executive director Doug Bryden. Bryden says the seminar sponsored by Rector Foods Limited of Ontario is already paying dividends. A second seminar held in Toronto was open to the public and drew a range of participants, including investment bankers, ministers, real estate executives, social activists, marketers, and insurance agents. Rushworth Kidder presented a third seminar to a group of teachers from four private schools in the Vancouver area. Bryden is planning several other events to take place during the summer and fall months.

Peer-to-Peer Learning

Marisa Benoit, a 12th-grader at the George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill,



Maine, designed and completed an alternative course in ethics. Ms. Benoit then presented her findings to a ninth-grade social science class.

As Ms. Benoit explains, "I chose to further my study of ethics after doing an independent study with the Institute's Education Department. During that period, I became familiar with the Institute's mission and teaching materials and attended an Ethical Fitness Seminar. I started planning my own classes and also obtained materials from which I could design my own curriculum." Marisa is now an advocate of this type of peer-to-peer model for introducing ethics in schools.

Congratulations, Marisa, on a job well done! To learn more about the role you can play in bringing character education to your schools, or for more information on our Ethical Fitness Seminars, please contact Patricia Born at pbb@globalethics.org or 800-729-2615.

We're Listening!

Based on the results of our Fall 2000 Members' Survey, we've made some changes to member benefits. Benefits will include a new and improved *Ethical Connections*, with more topics, dilemmas, and interesting tidbits! We've eliminated the Members' Directory and ceased production of *Insights* in order to reduce confusion

among members about our various publications. But fear not! Rushworth Kidder's President's Letter, always at the forefront of ethics discussions, will continue to be offered three times each year.

A big "thank you" to all our members who responded to the survey. Please keep your suggestions coming! We're always here to listen. ■

Ethics in Action: Label Power!

Each time we name the ethical characteristics of what's going on, we are teaching those around us. "That's a *right versus right!*" "To me, you've got a *short-term versus long-term* dilemma." "But what's the *principle* of the thing?" Labels help the brain recognize and organize information. Opportunities to label ethics information increase as our awareness of ethics concepts grows. As our awareness and ability to label increase, so does the awareness of those around us.

Case in point: You're at the dinner table discussing the latest playground setback for your nine-year-old son.

"We can only play kickball twice a week now," he says. "We have to let the 'little kids' play kickball on Mondays and Wednesdays, and on Fridays it isn't allowed at all!"

The wise parent muses, "Hmm. . . . It sounds like you're questioning the *fairness* of your teachers' decision. I wonder why you can't just play all together every day of the week? Big

kids can teach little kids lots about kickball when they play together."

Your nine-year-old shakes his head. "We tried playing with them but it didn't work out. Everybody was arguing about who would get which little kid and nobody could agree on the rules. It was a big problem."

"Which is a bigger problem?" you ask. "Getting cut back to two days a week, or figuring out a way to play together? It sounds like your teachers gave you an opportunity to *self-regulate*. But now, instead of using your own *values* and common sense to get along, you've been landed with a kickball schedule."

This is a quick, little conversation that integrates just a few ethics concepts. For most of us, small, concise "doses" of ethics are 100 percent more effective than diatribes. It's always easy to fall into patterns that make ethics dull, especially with our own families. So be on the lookout for the "teachable moment," but try to keep things light and unpredictable. ■

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Staff Profile

■ Sim Khera

Research Assistant, UK Trust

Sim Khera, research assistant in the Institute's United Kingdom office, loves philosophy. "It's been a personal interest since I was 13," Sim notes. "I wanted to know what motivates people to act in certain ways, and what values underpin a coherent society."



With a B.A. (with honors) in English literature and philosophy and an M.A. in environmental ethics, she was looking for a position that would engage her personal values and interests. As she explains, "An agency put me in touch with the Institute, and I knew that this was definitely the job for me. Where else can a philosopher make a living as a philosopher!"

Working closely with U.K. director Sheila Bloom since March 2000, Sim is involved in all aspects of the UK Trust's programs. Her activities include organizing prominent conferences, marketing Ethical Fitness™ Seminars, responding to membership inquiries, and keeping projects running smoothly. In addition, Sim oversees a project to anglicize the Institute's school curriculum to meet new U.K. government requirements for teaching citizenship education in England. The newly edited curriculum will be launched in spring 2002.

When not in the office, Sim is on the board of two charities, the Child Poverty Action Group, which works to eradicate child poverty, and Journey of a Lifetime, which takes abused, disabled, and disadvantaged teenagers on challenging adventures. Yet Sim, like many 23-year-olds, finds plenty of time to hang out with friends. "When we go out, conversation inevitably turns to work," Sim explains. "My friends always want to talk about what I am doing at the Institute. Once you leave university you rarely get to debate the place of ethics within society." ■

Open Ethical Fitness™ Seminars

May 23, 2001, Toronto, Canada

June 20, 2001, Toronto, Canada

June 25, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.

July 4, 2001, London, England

July 17, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.

September 21, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.

October 16, 2001, Camden, Maine, U.S.A.

November 13, 2001, London, England

For U.S. seminar information, call 800-729-2615 (toll free).

For U.K. information, call 020-7486-1954. For Canada information, call 877-843-8315 (toll free).

Chapters—Southern California

A dynamic group of Institute members in southern California has been busy! Having formed a local chapter of the Institute for Global Ethics, they have held meetings on ethics-related topics, organized and led Ethical Fitness Seminars, and promoted the cause of ethics throughout the area. In a note sent to us in March, chapter contact Pat Nowak reported, "We had 20 people at our general meeting last Saturday (the 17th). The focus was on education and it was very well received." To get in touch with the chapter, contact Pat Nowak at 714-895-9446 or patnowak@prodigy.net.

Snapshots from the Institute...



Brad Rourke, vice president for public policy, conducts a discussion group in Seattle, Washington, focusing on civic engagement in U.S. politics. The effort is a part of research contracted by the Kettering Foundation.



In February, the Institute played host to a wonderful group of four students from Georges Valley High School in Thomaston, Maine. The students joined the Camden office for a week of job shadowing—seeing firsthand how Institute staff handle their day-to-day duties, including a staff meeting (pictured above). The students were (from left to right) Kirstin Cloutier, Kelly Flanagan, Sarah Payne, and Rob Paradis.

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