

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Testimonials from parents re: students of Dr. Litow (46 pages)	02/20/90	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Correspondence)
OA/Box Number: 17603

FOLDER TITLE:

[Correspondence from 1993]: L [2]

2013-0359-S

ry1311

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 8, 1993

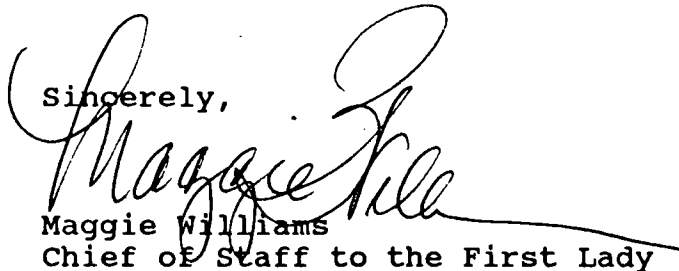
Mr. Michael Litow
The Education Center
7300 Randolph
Forest Park, IL 60130

Dear Mr. Litow:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter. The Clinton Administration has initiated a number of events at the White House to honor teachers. I am sure that we will continue to call attention to the great service teachers render to our children and our community.

Thank you again for your support of the Administration. I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maggie Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maggie Williams
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Dear Mrs. Williams,

Please share the enclosed information
with Mrs. Hillary Rodman Clinton.

The Center strives to keep kids
away from gangs, drugs and
becoming drop-outs.

I also work for the Chicago
Bd of Education on their Inclusive
Schools Project.

Public education certainly has
problems, but there are still
good things going on. When in
the last time a public school
teacher was honored at the
White House?

My wife Maria is behind the
President and Mrs. Clinton 100%!
We hope to meet them one day.
We both worked on this campaign.

Thank you for your help!

Sincerely yours,

708-416-9158 — Mike L'Esau

Mike Titow
The Education Center
7300 Randolph
Forest Park, IL 60130

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Nice ltr from Mike
Litrow - wife is
public school teacher |
he's Director "Education
| Center" When's last
time pub. school
teacher honored
at WH?



My beautiful family

Mama

Vincent

&

David Lister

THE EDUCATION CENTER

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS WHO ENCOUNTER THOSE WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE MEMBERS OF A DELINQUENT GANG

PARENTS

1. Don't Panic.
2. Establish whether activity is normal adolescent parental conflict or part of serious criminal drug or sexual abuse.
3. Get to know your children's friends.
4. Get to know the parents of your children's friends.
5. Let kids be kids. Don't share parental concerns about finance or spouse.
6. Get to know your child and share a little about yourself, include the bad parts and the difficult times.
7. Despite the size or economic level of your family make sure each child gets time with both parents and is both told and shown he is loved frequently.
8. Work with child to plan his free time with community, church or constructive activities. A hobby or musical instrument will help.
9. Assume control of your family. Don't defer any parental responsibilities. If you lose control, seek help from a minister, community agency or psychologist.

TEACHERS

1. Create an identity and respect for authority. Call the students by name and maintain control of the class.
2. Be flexible, learn the child's learning style. Many children are diagnosed as learning disabled because they don't have the conventional learning patterns.
3. Have the family meet with the school counselor and if there is no response, urge the family to seek therapy with a minister, community organization or psychologist.
4. Create a sense of optimism and hope for both parent and child. This can be done by helping both establish meaningful recognizable goals that can begin with school, providing opportunities for success.
5. Draw your limits. Don't take on the responsibilities of the family. If you care too much or try too hard, you limit the child's opportunity for growth.
6. Try not to internalize the child or family's failures as your own. Do your best, but allow the child and his family to succeed or fail.
7. Maintain the posture, "I care" and "I'm available as a resource," but "you" (the child and family) are ultimately responsible for your lives."

Remember. The Most effective gang deterrent is the individual child's belief in himself and his future. If the child feels he can get the skills he needs to compete in life, at home or school, he will provide his own positive solutions to any gang recruitment and peer pressure.

Among adolescents, delinquent behavior is directly related to positive adult input. The more positive the input the less the likelihood for disaster. And vice versa.

WHAT IS THE EDUCATION CENTER?

Operating since, 1979, *THE EDUCATION CENTER* is a counseling and referral center open to all young people ages four through twenty with problems, both family and school related, with particular emphasis on the student who underachieves, has emotional problems or has special education needs.

WHAT MAKES THE EDUCATION CENTER UNIQUE?

Dr. Michael Litow, Director, not only relies on his own creative skills to motivate young people to succeed at home and school but calls upon resources in sports, politics, business and entertainment to work with these young people. By talking with professionals in these areas, young people can learn what skills they will need to develop to attain their goals in life.

WHO CAN THE EDUCATION CENTER HELP?

Young people who have one or more of the following problems:

- Failing grades
- Lack of organization
- Inability to complete assignments
- Lack of motivation
- Poor peer relationships

WHO IS THE EDUCATION CENTER?

Dr. Michael Litow, Director of *THE EDUCATION CENTER* is a nationally recognized and acclaimed educator and counselor who helps troubled adolescents. He is a 19 year teaching veteran, a former assistant principal and currently an education specialist with the Chicago Public School System. His unique, part motivational, part "street-tough" style with youth has won him awards from the Chicago Field Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa as the "Educator of the Year, 1986", the Illinois Office of Education, the Illinois House of Representatives, the Chicago Jaycees, the Chicago Area Law Enforcement Agencies, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Dr. Litow is also available for radio and television appearances and presentations before groups. Dr. Litow hosts a cable television show entitled, "TEEN CONCERNS". Several special education teachers also work with *THE EDUCATION CENTER*.

Curt Johnson, M.A., has specialized in working with problem students for the past nine years of his private practice. He has cultivated hundreds of thinking and learning exercises, drawing from his many hobbies such as juggling, magic, cartooning, science fiction writing, woodworking, and computer programming. Employing the whole brain in learning is the key to Mr. Johnson's success in teaching children not only to master their subjects but to enjoy the process. Mr. Johnson is a certified practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming and author of the book, "Turning On to Learning."

Shirley Johnson, M.S., has specialized in working with teenage girls for the past eight years of private practice. Mrs. Johnson has developed an effective program for training students to overcome test anxiety and school phobia and to develop confidence and self-esteem.



WHAT SERVICES DOES THE EDUCATION CENTER OFFER?

- Diagnostic testing and referrals to determine specific learning problems
- Preventative alcohol and drug abuse counseling
- Academic tutoring
- Teaching auditory and comprehensive skills
- Individual and group counseling for youths and their families

HOW DO YOU REFER SOMEONE?

Call 800-448-7086, 24 hours a day to set up an appointment. **708-420-7807**

A good way to learn more about the approaches taken in developing students at *THE EDUCATION CENTER* is to order a copy of the book, "Turning On to Learning". This book is packed with hundreds of ideas parents can use in working with their children. Just contact us for more information. Appointments are made for evenings and Saturdays.

Fees are determined by the nature and duration of the assistance.

THE EDUCATION CENTER HELPS KIDS BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES

Getting kids to believe in themselves and helping them to achieve realistic goals is the philosophy behind The Education Center, according to its founder and director Dr. Michael Litow.

Who Is The Education Center? Dr. Michael Litow is a nationally recognized and acclaimed educator and counselor who helps troubled adolescents. He is a 20-year teaching veteran, a former assistant principal and currently an education specialist with the Chicago Public School System. His unique, part motivational, part "street-tough" style with youth has won him numerous awards. Operating since 1979, The Education Center, with offices in Naperville and Oak Park, is a counseling and referral center open to all young people ages four through twenty with problems, both family and school related, with particular emphasis on the student who underachieves, has emotional problems or has special education needs.

What makes the center so unique is that Dr. Litow not only relies on his own creative skills to motivate young people to succeed at home and school but calls upon resources in sports, politics, business and entertainment to work with these young people. By talking with professionals in these areas, young people can learn what skills they will need to develop to attain their goals in life. His interaction

with the young people who come to the center stresses building on their strengths and interests and using as many community resources as possible. Litow arranged for one student who had an interest in the stock market to have lunch with the president of the Chicago Board of Trade and see it in action. Another student was interested in athletics and Litow had him meet with a professional athlete to learn the reality behind the lifestyle.

Litow looks at a total picture of the child, why he is not functioning well in school, family life, and in the community. He talks with parents and teachers as well. He then works in a supportive capacity to aid the child in developing skills needed to go back and function in school and in life.

The services at the center help the underachiever, the special education student, or the problem teenager, with individual and group counseling, diagnostic testing and referrals, and academic tutoring.

For further information on services offered by Litow and his staff, call the center at 420-7807. Free Consultation Session.

Quality, not quantity

In the three years since he opened his education center, Michael Litow still believes parents should listen more and berate less

By TOM GANZ

There are two lasting gifts we can give our children — one is roots, the other is wings.

The poster which contains that saying hangs in the office of Michael Litow, who three years ago opened the doors at The Education Center Inc., 6525 W. North Av., Oak Park ("He just might be in pictures" Dec. 27, 1980, *Weekend World*). Although "business" has grown, Litow said he wishes it didn't, for then he wouldn't have to rely on the friendship and commitment of such people as Johnny Morris, Mr. T and other notables in helping out other people's children.

But there is always someone waiting. The current list is two weeks long at the center, which specializes in helping troubled youngsters and their families straighten out their lives and environment.

"All we offer, all we've ever offered, is a supportive environment," said Litow, who during the day is an assistant principal at Wescott Elementary School on Chicago's south side. "Kids need extra help.

"I'm not a mechanic. I believe a kid grows in an environment where he or she is made to feel a part of the home. Kids have to be prepared to deal with reality. If there's no discussion, no communication, then of course you will have parents saying, 'He doesn't listen,' or a son saying, 'My father doesn't understand me.'"

"What needs to be done is to set aside some quality time, even if it's only at the dinner table. It gives parents a chance to talk to the kids. Rarely do people sit down at a supper table and ask, 'How was your day?' Or 'How was school?'"

"I've seen a lot of single parents who are doing a great job. That's because they understand it isn't quantity, the amount of time spent with the child, but quality."

"Make a kid feel good about what he can do. Don't badger him about what he can't do. Everybody has a talent. Urge them to do their best. You'd be surprised at how they react."

— Michael Litow

Some have learning problems; some have behavioral problems. Others suffer from peer pressure."

ALTHOUGH QUITE DIFFERENT from the Toughlove philosophy — in which unacceptable teenage behavior is firmly dealt with — Litow looks at his method, and at Toughlove's, as simply different approaches to basically the same problem.

"It's not a panacea," he said. "It's an alternative, just another approach to a problem. The bottom line is that what works best in one situation may not work best in another."

Litow has angered area bureaucrats whom he claims mislead parents, or at least misinform them.

"I had one instance of a woman whose child needed a special class," said Litow, 36. "The school district told her they didn't have the class and to come here. I told her that, by law, the district had to provide the course. It was a lack of communication. The district eventually complied, although they were upset with me."

BUT FOR THOSE who are upset with

Litow, there are those who sing his praises. Assistant state's attorneys, U.S. District Court Judge Abraham Marovitz, and Cook County Circuit Court Judge Earl J. Strayhorn are but a few of the people who have commended Litow for his work, particularly with young people being wooed, or coerced, into membership by street gangs.

Among the honors bestowed on the Oak Park resident are the Chicago Jaycees Outstanding Young Citizen Award and an honor by the Illinois Office of Education for his work with inner city children. Litow has also testified before the U.S. Senate subcommittees on juvenile delinquency, and at Chicago City Council Hearings on television violence.

His background is just as varied. Upon graduation from the University of Miami, Litow returned and taught at two west side elementary schools. He soon became disillusioned with the system and turned his attention to Operation Impact, a program to get dropouts back into school. A cutback in funds resulted in the program's demise, and from there Litow counseled children

(Continued on page 14)

who had been made wards of the state.

He worked at another program, which also suffered a setback of funds, before being named assistant principal at Wescott and founding The Education Center.

THROUGH IT ALL, Litow has learned that communication is very important. But it's lack of communication that Litow said seems to be rooted in a majority of the problem children he sees.

"Instant gratification is the problem," said Litow. "Everyone — parents, children, school officials, the whole human race — wants it now. If there's a problem, find the answer now. If you want to buy something, buy it now."

"Don't work out your problems. Don't wait and save up until you can buy something. That's the problem. The result is that kids fail to learn life's coping skills, skills like learning to live with success, failure, rejection."

"Everything on television is solved within minutes. All the problems are worked out in an hour, with three breaks for the good life."

"I'M NOT A mechanic. I believe a kid grows in an environment, where he or she is made to feel a part of the home. Kids have to be prepared to deal with reality. If there's no discussion, no communication, then of course you will have parents saying, 'He doesn't listen,' or a son saying, 'My father doesn't understand me.'"

Litow believes children, from toddlers to teens, need and want guidelines. And he quickly adds that when such guidelines aren't set, trouble tends to follow.

"The faster you acknowledge a problem, the faster it can be solved," he said. "There are a lot of parents who come in and say the kid is at fault. In a lot of instances, it's a little of both."

Character assassination is probably the biggest crime committed today by parents.

"Deal with the problem, not with the child's character," Litow said. "All children are different. The capabilities of one child may be completely different from the next."

"FOR EXAMPLE, a parent will say 'If you get all A's, I'll buy you a new bike.' That is setting an unreasonable goal because maybe the child isn't strong in math, or English, or history. The child doesn't get all A's, and thinks he is a failure."

"A kid goes to pour a glass of milk and spills some and the mother screams, 'You dummy, can't you do anything right?' All the kid wants to do is help, yet he is made to feel inadequate."

"A parent is talking politics and a teenager says, 'Well, I think so-and-so's platform is pretty good. The parent says 'You're a punk. You don't know anything. Get outta here.' The kids goes away thinking his dad is right, that he never has anything worthwhile to say."

If it sounds as if Litow is attacking the so-called "nuclear family" it's because he is.

"IT'S A DEFINITE factor," he said. "Kids are more on their own today. Mom and dad both work, in some cases because it's a necessity, and the kid has to grow up a whole lot quicker."

"Then, on the other hand, you have the family where dad works 9 to 5 and mom stays home. But one kid is in one room with the stereo headphones on; another kid is in his bedroom watching television; a third is in his room playing the latest electronic video game; dad's in the den watching a football game; and mom is in the living room listening to records. Everybody's home, but no one is communicating."

"I've seen a lot of single parents who are doing a great job. That's because they understand it isn't quantity, the amount of time spent with the child, but quality."



Oak Park teacher uses offbeat tactics on problem students

By Pan Demetrakakes

Michael Litow has been dealing with troubled children who did poorly in school all his life — going back to the days when he was a problem student.

In 1978, 26 years after flunking fourth grade, Litow turned down a \$10,000-a-month offer to teach in Saudi Arabia in favor of starting the Education Center, an Oak Park-based counseling service. Previous to that, he rejected an offer to be a consultant to the Ford administration.

Litow, who also is an assistant principal of an elementary school on Chicago's West Side, has been interviewed at least half-a-dozen times, appearing on A.M. Chicago, Noonbreak and several radio talk shows. A television network has expressed interest in doing a TV movie of his life, he said. "I guess I'm the white Marva Collins," Litow said with a grin, referring to the celebrated Chicago teacher.

Similarities exist between Litow and Collins, a black woman who runs Westside Prep, a much-acclaimed private elementary school in Chicago — and whose life will soon be portrayed in a TV movie. Both specialize in getting results out of students who couldn't make it in the public-school system. Both break rules, and both are less than fond of some school-system administrators.

However, while Collins left the system in disgust, Litow chose to remain. Collins is a classroom teacher, while Litow does more one-on-one counseling. And while Collins works almost exclusively with inner-city black children, Litow sees children from all economic strata.

The Education Center recently celebrated its second anniversary. Litow sees about 20 children a week, and currently has a three-week waiting list. The Oak Park resident specializes in helping children who, for whatever reason, aren't doing as well as they should in school.

The parents of children Litow has helped sing his praises. "Personally, I think the guy's great," said Ron Damato of Melrose Park, whose son — Ron Jr., now 11 — saw Litow for 1½ years. "Professionally, I think he's one of the great untapped resources of the Chicago school system."

Ron Jr. was hyperactive. He couldn't concentrate in school and talked back to his parents. "You'd tell him to do something, and he'd give you 50 reasons why it couldn't be done," his father said.

Damato decided Litow might be the ticket after hearing him on a radio talk show. Litow, talking to the boy, determined that he was insecure, in part because he was better in the classroom than in sports.

He also had the parents visit the Oak Park center and got them to modify the way they treated their son. "Basically now, instead of being the tyrannical parent saying, 'You do this because I told you,' I don't let small things bother me," Damato said. "I see that it's his way of trying to tell me something (when he acts up)."

Litow insists that parents participate in therapy. "I've had people say to me, 'I'll drop my kid off so you can fix him,'" he said. "I tell them, 'What do you think I am, a mechanic?'"

He works longer hours than most mechanics do. The mother of a 13-year-old girl who was caught breaking into a neighbor's home, stealing two boxes of cake mix and some change, praised Litow for the extra time he put in with her daughter and son.

"He was very different from school counselors," said the mother, an Oak Park resident who asked to remain anonymous. "He'd take them out for a cup of hot chocolate and talk to them over the table. Once he took her horseback riding. He didn't just sit there and say, 'Why did you do this and why did you do that?'"

Students and parents praise Litow for his ability of making pupils see things his way. Ron DeAngelis Jr. of Melrose Park, who turned 17 earlier this month, was sent to Litow after missing most of one year of high school.

"I used to think of ways to make him look wrong, and he'd



Michael Litow says he turned down a \$120,000-a-year offer to teach in Saudi Arabia so he could counsel children in Oak Park. Litow has drawn praise from the parents of troubled children he has helped at the Education Center, now going on its third year.

Photography Sweden

always come up being right," DeAngelis said. "He'd say, 'School is good for you,' and I'd say, 'Why? It's boring and I don't like the people there.' But he'd talk about responsibility. He'd stick it in my head and it started to make sense." DeAngelis now is making progress in PROVE, a school for behavior-disordered students in Northlake.

Litow remembers that he once was a "problem" child who found school boring. Born in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, he was classified incorrigible and learning-disabled. He flunked the fourth grade.

"I grew up between two groups," Litow said. "I went through that Fonzie stage, where I wore a leather jacket and had grease in my hair."

In the end, the influence of the other group, composed of more serious children, won out. After graduating from Mather High School, Litow studied marketing in Florida at the University of Miami. While in college, he began working with youth groups and found that he liked the experience. When he graduated in 1968, he got a job at Melody Elementary School on the West Side.

During his four years at Melody, and subsequently at another West Side elementary school named Jefferson, Litow became disillusioned with the public-school system.

"You go in there with very altruistic ideas that you're going to save humanity, educate all the youngsters, and you have to deal with bureaucracy," he said. "You have to deal with teachers who are not there for the same reason you are."

Litow quickly got a reputation for being unorthodox. One of his methods was to "pay" his students with credits that could be redeemed for toys at an auction.

Early on, Litow gravitated toward troubled children. He served as academic director of Operation Impact, a counseling program to get dropouts back in school, from 1970 to 1974. The loss of funding for Impact still rankles him. He also worked for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, counseling children who had been made wards of the state.

A few years after Impact was shut down, Litow got two interesting job offers, one from the Ford administration, as a consultant to the Department of Education, and another from Northeastern Illinois University. The university wanted him to be assistant superintendent at the Residential School for Boys, a live-in school for chronic truants. He chose the Northeastern job, but one week before he was to start work, he again was the victim of a funds cutoff.

He continued his career in the Chicago public schools, becoming assistant principal of Westcott Elementary School in 1978. Meanwhile, he was getting his doctorate in education, writing his thesis on school systems around the world. Litow sent a request for information to a group of Saudi Arabian businessmen, and they tried to hire him for two years at \$120,000 a year, he said.

Although he said he "had to think about it" before turning the Arab offer down, it came at about the time when he was starting the Education Center. He doesn't regret the decision.

"The independence that I have here, to do what I want and do it my way, is priceless," he said.

City suburbs

A street-wise educator wins the kids' respect

By George Papajohn



Tribune photo by Chuck Berman
Michael Litow in his Oak Park office. "A kid should feel good about what he can do, not anxious about what he can't do."

TO PARENTS at Westcott Elementary School on Chicago's South Side, the names of the neighborhood streets—Harvard, Yale, Princeton—are rarely associated with their children's future.

More real are the gang symbols on the school, faded from scrubbing but still permanent reminders of the forces that can influence their children.

But thanks to Michael Litow, Westcott's assistant principal, they worry a little less about gangs these days. According to parents at the school, because they know Litow is always willing to sit and listen, they feel a little better about their children's futures.

"I've come in to his office feeling low as a roach and come out feeling like a queen," said one Westcott mother who is raising three children alone. Her 4th grade son, after counseling from Litow, is fighting less and improving his grades.

In the office of Litow's Education Center in Oak Park, an hour's drive

from his day job at Westcott, the youngster waiting for help in the evening is just as likely to be from the North Shore as the South Side.

IN WHAT IS often seen as the comfortable setting of suburbia, the problems seem as likely to come from too much luxury as too much hardship.

"There are some vast differences, but there are some similarities—they don't get enough attention, they don't get enough love," said the 36-year-old Litow, comparing his two jobs.

Litow opened the clinic in 1979 to moonlight with his own brand of counseling, a style that he says is part motivational and part street tough. The clinic helps youngsters from 4 to 20 with learning, family and other problems.

Litow refers youngsters to specialists for such problems as a reading disability or drug or alcohol abuse. But, in essence, the clinic is a one-man operation, and it is Litow's creativity and drive that account for its success.

A stern letter from the late Chicago Bears owner George Halas and a phone call from former Bear Johnny Morris—both arranged by Litow—convinced one suburban teenager struggling in school to worry about more than football.

"YOU DO WHAT you need to do" to help a youngster, says Litow, who has a law degree and a master's in special education.

"The thing is, a kid should feel good about what he can do, not anxious about what he can't do. . . . I tell a kid, 'Don't even concentrate on grades. Approach school like you approach life—put your best foot forward.'"

The center always has a waiting list, with Litow limiting his personal counseling to 20 youngsters at a time.

When one teenager, a troublemaker at home and in school but timid in front of other adults, went looking for a part-time job, Litow drove him to interviews and encouraged him.

"His companions weren't always the best," the teen's mother said. Litow, never one to fall back on educational jargon, described the teen's problems as "smokin' and ditchin'."

SINCE SHE brought her son to Litow, though, the mother has witnessed a minor miracle, she said. She reports that her son is attending classes and will graduate if he can pass English.

Says Litow, "I'll go to the wall for a kid."

He knows their language. He knows the street lingo. He's a peer as opposed to a teacher," said Wil Jean Leslie, a county corrections official who works with juveniles, who refers some parolees to the Education Center. Often, she said, Litow "is our last hope."

At Westcott, 409 W. 80th St., teachers as well as parents rely on Litow, and students know there is someone they can talk to who cares.

As Litow patrols the playground during the lunch hour, little girls hang on his arm and vie to carry his umbrella. Tissues in his coat pocket are available for any child with a runny nose or teary eyes.

He ignores the students wrestling playfully on mats beneath vandalized swing sets.

"There are gang members in this neighborhood, but they know not to come around," Litow says.

The school is Litow's turf. He is not afraid to confront trespassers or to call local police. In addition, as Litow's reputation in the neighborhood has spread, a grudging respect has developed.

THAT WASN'T always the case. Bob Martin, Westcott's security guard, remembers when he and Litow broke up a fight on the hard-top after school, only to find 40 gang members running toward them.

Martin and Litow found safety in the school and called police, who scared off some of the gang members and made a couple of arrests.

"If he left," Martin says, "I think I'd put in for a transfer, too."

Litow, a 15 year veteran of the Chicago school system on the West and South Sides, has no such intentions.

LITOW'S WORK with troubled youth has earned him recognition from the Illinois Board of Education and praise from U.S. District Judge Abraham Marovitz.

Lawrence Tero, who found fame as Mr. T, also is among Litow's friends, having worked with him in the early 1970s in Operation Impact, a Chicago Board of Education program for dropouts on the South Side.

The Education Center, in a way, is an expanded version of Operation Impact, only Litow does not have to worry about the loss of funding that doomed that project or about the red tape of the educational bureaucracy. He says clients pay what they can afford for his services.

"It's a way to do my thing without being restricted," Litow says. "I'm accountable to myself."

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

MAYER, BROWN & PLATT

WASHINGTON
LONDON
NEW YORK
DENVER
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LOS ANGELES

190 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603

312-782-0600
TELEX 190404
FACSIMILE
312-701-7711

GEORGE MUÑOZ

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER
312-701-7113

FILE NUMBER

October 22, 1988

Mr. Irving Harris
120 S. LaSalle
Suite 1330
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Irving:

I have run across an individual who I think you should meet. Mike Litow is more than a teacher. He started the Education Center to address the problems of youth (ages 4 through 20) who are underachievers, or who have special emotional problems. His success rate is phenomenal.

I know that you have made great strides in the education of our youth, especially inner-city youngsters. I think it would be good for Mike to know about your efforts and for you to know about his. I took the liberty of giving your name and number to Mike knowing that you will be happy to meet him. He should be calling you.

Sincerely,

George Munoz

GM/mc

enclosures

bcc: Dr. Mike Litow

*Farmers President -
Chicago Bd. of Ed.*

ALAN J. DIXON
HJ-C-4

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 11, 1985

Dr. Michael Litow
The Education Center
6525 West North Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302

Dear Dr. Litow:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the numerous contributions you have made to the students, teachers and parents during your years of work at the Westcott Elementary School and the Education Center.

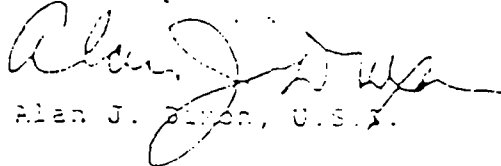
Your outstanding commitment to education is surely to be commended. Your extensive involvement in the community has certainly earned you the respect of all who have witnessed or heard of your work.

I salute you and share your pride of accomplishment. I am certain that you will continue and expand upon the excellent work you have already performed.

Best wishes for much happiness in the future, and I hope that you always feel free to call on me whenever you believe I may be of service.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,


Alan J. Dixon, U.S.S.

the Melody School on the West Side, auctions off auto as part of his plan to spark students' interest in school. The hap winner, Keith Rogers, 12, grins, modification program.

Paid to study and they love it

By Donna Joy Newman

MICHAEL LITOW'S inner-city sixth graders hardly noticed that the clock was edging toward Friday afternoon dismissal time. Litow was about to auction off a bright red Panasonic radio to the highest bidder and pupils were doublechecking their funds to make sure they were ready for a piece of the action.

The money was there. At the rate of \$25 a day for coming to school, \$25 for doing homework, and up to \$200 for a perfect score on a test, a pupil can accumulate quite a lot in just a few weeks. And most of the youngsters had been saving up since the beginning of the school year.

The "money" wasn't real. It existed only on paper. But in the Melody School on the West Side it bought real things. Nice things. Things that a black child with parents at or near the poverty level isn't likely to be able to go out and buy for himself. And the money to supply these things came right out of Litow's pocket.

For this year, he has auctioned half a dozen items, from a record album to an envelope with \$5 in it, and has spent about \$20 for them.

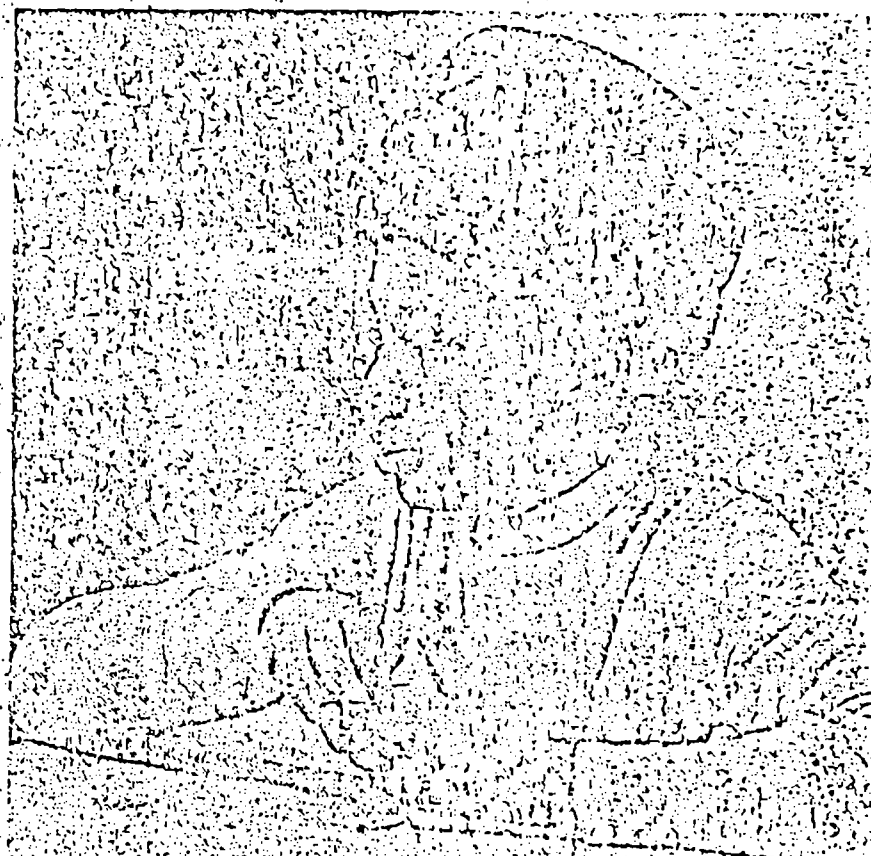
It's all part of Litow's self-styled behavior modification program, which he initiated last year at the school when his class consisted of 25 boys aged 13 to 15, "the meanest and the baddest" in the school.

Litow, a native Chicagoan, is just three years out of the University of Miami and last year was his second at Melody. "I had three girls in the group when I started last year, but I asked to exchange them for boys. I thought I could handle the group better that way," explains Litow, who likes to work with behavior-problem children because he relates to them well.

"I DREW PARTLY on my own back-ground," says Litow. "I was bored to death in my grammar school days, and I thought maybe I had the expertise to talk to those kids. I felt my main job was to motivate them to learn in school and to change their attitude toward school in general.

"I devised this auction idea myself. I knew the rewards had to be things that were important to them or the plan wouldn't work."

By the end of the school year, he had



"HOW MUCH should I bid?" Pupils are keenly interested in the auction and they all want a piece of the action. — CHICAGO TODAY-PRESS/JOE VERRY/STAFF

★ Please turn to page 31

'\$25' for coming to school

★ From page 27

auctioned off \$500 worth of prizes—radios, watches, footballs, record albums, and finally a minibike—all paid for with the "money" pupils earned by being neat, industrious and regular in attendance.

Discipline problems subsided, attendance was up, five of the boys raised their reading level by two years, and the class began to function as a team, Litow says. They had matching tee-shirts and called themselves the "301 guys," drawing the name from their room number.

THIS YEAR'S CLASS isn't filled with problem children, and it has the normal distribution of girls and boys, but Litow finds the reward system still works well to give students a positive attitude. The auction also gives practice in handling numbers. Some pupils already have accumulated thousands of dollars in reward money, and they have to be on their toes to keep up in a fast-paced auction.

Pleasure was obvious in the face of 12-

year-old Keith Rogers as he "paid" \$10,500 as the highest bidder for the red radio.

"We have a big one at home, but I can carry this one around," he said shyly as he turned it over in his hands. "I like to listen to WVON [black music and community news station]."

BIDDING STARTED at \$200 for the radio and accelerated fast as hands shot into the air to raise the amount offered. First it went up \$100 at a time, and then, as the really serious competitors dug in, several hundred or a thousand dollars at a time. Half a dozen bids sent the offered price from \$2,000 to \$8,000 and then came a leap to \$10,000, with a see-saw in \$100 segments between two pupils finally bringing the prize to Keith.

Some pupils didn't bid at all, eagerly keeping their money banked at 10 per cent interest, and waiting for that big prize promised at the end of the year.

Like good poker players with their cards close to the chest, the pupils keep closely guarded the secret of how much money they

have. Anyone who becomes "wealthy" may find himself being bid up on an item to erode his funds.

BUT IT'S FRIENDLY competition. Bulletin boards are filled with confidence and image building materials. Snapshots of the class appear under a heading, "The Cool Set," and well-done tests are displayed under a sign reading, "Brain Power."

"I believe in teaching them useful things," says Litow of his pragmatic approach. "I teach math concepts by relating to things like the cost of two cans of something in a store. And I think it's more important for them to learn how to fill out an employment application than to learn how the people in the Netherlands make wooden shoes."

Not everybody thinks behavior modification is a good way to teach, and Litow agrees it is not a panacea for problems of teaching in the inner city. "We have to exhaust all avenues, and behavior modification might not work in all situations," said Litow. "But it works here so I use it."

CHICAGO CHAPTER • PHI DELTA KAPPA



March 12, 1986

Dr. Michael H. Litow
Westcott Elementary School
409 West 80th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60620

Dear Dr. Litow:

On behalf of the general membership of the Chicago Field Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, I congratulate you on your selection as Educator of the Year for 1986. You have received this award from your professional colleagues as a result of your dedicated and distinguished efforts in service to students at Westcott Elementary School.

The Chicago Field Chapter would like you and an individual of your choice to be our guests at the Educator of the Year Awards Dinner which will be held at the Westin Hotel, located at 909 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on Thursday, April 10. The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. Additional reservations may be made at \$28 per person through Mrs. Frances Anderson who may be reached at 821-2609 during the day or 723-7776 in the evening. Payment for additional reservations must be received by April 8, 1986.

Once again, on behalf of the Chicago Field Chapter, I would like to congratulate you on your selection as Educator of the Year. We look forward to seeing you on April 10.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Thiel

WLT:sb

President

Walter L. Thiel, Ph.D.
Government Funded Programs
1819 West Pershing Road
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Vice President, Membership

Dorothy Wadley
District 4 Office
6333 West Bloomingdale Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60639

Vice President, Program

Frances Anderson
Julian High School
10330 South Elizabeth Street
Chicago, Illinois 60643

Treasurer

Audrey B. Gilliam
Woodson North Elementary School
4414 South Evans Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Secretary

Dorothy Flynn
Franklin Fine Arts Center
225 West Evergreen Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Assistant Secretary

Rachelle Burch
Turner-Drew Language Academy
3000 South Princeton Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60620

Historian

Belkis M. Santos
Kanon Magnet School
2233 South Kedzie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Newsletter Editor

Juris Graudins
District 3 Office
2021 North Burling Avenue
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Past President

Birdie M. Miller, Ed D
Reavis Elementary School
834 East 50th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60615

Delegate

John A. Kent
District 13 Office
4934 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615

Research Representative

Frederick A. Schuster, Ed D.
Research and Evaluation
1819 West Pershing Road
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Foundation Representative

Consuelo Williams
Special Education Programs
1819 West Pershing Road
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Advisor

Siegfried G. Mueller, Ph.D
Pupil Personnel Services
1819 West Pershing Road
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Research Committee Chairwoman

Carmel Arvia
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Service Committee Chairwoman

Margaret G. Bourgeois
Special Education Programs
1819 West Pershing Road
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Leadership Committee Chairwoman

Nancy Hershenhouse
District 8 Office
4250 South Rockwell Street
Chicago, Illinois 60632



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ILLINOIS OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Joseph M. Cronin
State Superintendent of Education

November 10, 1976

Mr. Michael Litow
2901 South Michigan
Apartment 606
Chicago, Illinois 60616

Dear Mr. Litow:

Congratulations!

We are pleased to inform you that the selection committee has chosen you as one of the finalists who will receive some form of recognition at our awards banquet on December 3, 1976.

The State Board of Education and Illinois Office of Education will recognize and honor individual contributions made by outstanding parents, students, teachers, administrators, and school board members at our third annual "Those Who Excel" educational awards program. Those individuals selected for recognition will be presented with an award at a banquet to be held on December 3, 1976, at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn East in Springfield.

I hope you find it possible to accept this invitation to attend the banquet at which time you will be honored. A reservation form is enclosed. In the past, honorees have enjoyed the evening by sharing the occasion with family and friends.

I regret that we do not have funds to defray your travel, lodging, and meal expenses.

If you have any questions, please write to Eleanor Buehrig, Community Relations Coordinator, Springfield office, or contact her by phone at 217/782-1829.

We look forward to your presence at this happy occasion.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Cronin
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosure



**Illinois
State Board of
Education**

EDUCATION IS EVERYONE'S FUTURE



100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777
217/782-4321

Walter W. Naumer, Jr., Chairman
Illinois State Board of Education

Donald G. Gill
State Superintendent of Education

M I C H A E L L I T O W

City of Chicago School District #299
Wescott Elementary School

The Illinois State Board of Education commends you for your efforts toward excellence in education.

In recognition of your contributions to education, the Illinois State Board of Education awards you:

H O N O R A R Y M E N T I O N

This award conveyed at the Tenth Annual "Those Who Excel" Educational Awards Ceremony, October 28, 1983.

Walter W. Naumer, Jr.
Chairman
Illinois State Board of Education

Donald G. Gill
State Superintendent of Education

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REGION COOK COUNTY

33 West Grand Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60610



(312) 443-5000

DR. RICHARD J. MARTWICK
Regional Superintendent of
Schools - Cook County

November 7, 1983

Mr. Michael Litow
Westcott School
409 W. 80th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60620

Dear Mr. Litow:

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to you on the occasion of your being chosen as a recipient of the 1983-84 Those Who Excel Educational Award. Your years of hard work and dedication to area schoolchildren have been exemplary and an inspiration for all educators.

To further honor you, and to express my personal recognition and gratitude for your outstanding contributions and many achievements, I present you with this Certificate of Achievement.

Please accept my best wishes for your success in all future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Martwick
Superintendent

RJM/amo

Enclosure



Chicago Public Schools • 1819 West Pershing Road • Chicago, Illinois 60609

Ruth B. Love
General Superintendent of Schools

March 16, 1984

Dr. Michael H. Litow
Assistant Principal
Westcott Elementary School

Dear Dr. Litow:

We are in receipt of a Superior Public Service Award nomination submitted by Mrs. Evelyn Wells, a parent, recognizing your outstanding performance as Assistant Principal of Westcott Elementary School. It is always gratifying to have the excellent contributions of Board of Education employees called to our attention.

The nominees for the Superior Public Service Awards in the city and county go through three separate screening procedures with the 12 winners and 24 finalists recognized at a luncheon to be held on June 21, 1984, at the Palmer House.

The Chicago public school employees who are selected as winners and finalists will be notified as soon as this information is made available to us.

May I personally congratulate you for this special recognition and also extend my best wishes to you.

Very truly yours,

Ross E. Taylor
Associate Superintendent - Personnel

RET:ig

CHICAGO CHAPTER • PHI DELTA KAPPA



March 12, 1986

Dr. Michael H. Litow
Westcott Elementary School
409 West 80th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60620

Dear Dr. Litow:

On behalf of the general membership of the Chicago Field Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, I congratulate you on your selection as Educator of the Year for 1986. You have received this award from your professional colleagues as a result of your dedicated and distinguished efforts in service to students at Westcott Elementary School.

The Chicago Field Chapter would like you and an individual of your choice to be our guests at the Educator of the Year Awards Dinner which will be held at the Westin Hotel, located at 909 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on Thursday, April 10. The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. Additional reservations may be made at \$28 per person through Mrs. Frances Anderson who may be reached at 821-2609 during the day or 723-7776 in the evening. Payment for additional reservations must be received by April 8, 1986.

Once again, on behalf of the Chicago Field Chapter, I would like to congratulate you on your selection as Educator of the Year. We look forward to seeing you on April 10.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Thiel

WLT:sb

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Leadership Committee Chairwoman
Nancy Hershenhouse
District 8 Office
4250 South Rockwell Street
Chicago, Illinois 60632

THE EDUCATION CENTER

DR. MICHAEL LITOW
Director

6525 West North Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
(312) 848-3848

DR. MICHAEL LITOW TO MODERATE WORKSHOP AT MALCOLM X COLLEGE!!!

Dr. Mike Litow, Oak Park resident and Director of the Education Center, will take part in the Institute for Safety in Schools (I.S.I.S.) to be held at Malcolm X College on December 6-7 in Chicago. Dr. Litow was asked by Mrs. Mary Wilson, mother of the slain high school basketball star, Benjamin Wilson, to moderate a panel of Chicago public school students, because of her admiration for Litow's work both with the Education Center and as the Assistant Principal of Westcott School on Chicago's south side.

The two-day seminar, a presentation of the City of Chicago Symposium on the Prevention of Crime and Violence, in cooperation with the National School Safety Center, is being co-sponsored by several area organizations from both the public and private sectors.

The Institute will feature workshops and guest speakers connected with safety in the schools. Areas to be covered will include: alcohol and drug abuse, gangs, high school drop-out prevention, policing the schools, truancy, vandalism and discipline.

I.S.I.S. is a program designed to promote national and regional partnerships to improve school safety. Participants in the program will include educators, law enforcement officials, attorneys, judges, school board members and criminal justice providers.

Anyone interested in attending the seminar should call Mildred Lovett at the Department of Human Services at 744-1754.



NEWS

CHICAGO JAYCEE

release

Chicago Junior Association of Commerce and Industry (Chicago Jaycees)
not affiliated with Illinois or U.S. Jaycees

122 South Michigan Avenue Suite 864 Chicago Illinois 60603

For Release After 8:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 1981

Date May 7, 1981

Contact Barbara Arnold

Phone 294-3004 (8:00-4:45)

NOTED EDUCATIONAL COUNSELOR NAMED CHICAGO JAYCEES OUTSTANDING YOUNG CITIZEN

CHICAGO -- Michael Litow, 35, of Oak Park, has been named one of the Chicago Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Citizens for 1981. The awards program annually recognizes 10 young leaders who have made exceptional contributions to their profession and community.

As director of the Education Center in Oak Park, Litow oversees a clinic that provides counseling for children age four through 20 who suffer from severe learning disabilities, including physical and emotional problems, and drug dependence. His clinic offers a full range of services designed to pinpoint not only remedial results but the causes that lead to learning problems.

Litow has been recognized by numerous groups and agencies for his outstanding contributions to young people. The Illinois Office of Education honored him for his work with inner city children. Former Chicago Schools Superintendent Joseph Hannon applied many of Litow's ideas in the city's public school system. He has testified before U.S. Senate subcommittees on juvenile delinquency and at Chicago City Council hearings on television violence.

A member of B'nai B'rith and the Chicago Urban League, Litow has served as director of Operation Impact, a program aimed at reducing the dropout rate in Chicago's public schools and as a consultant for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Litow also works as an assistant principal of Chicago's Westcott Elementary School. He holds a law degree in addition to a doctorate in educational psychology.

A native of Chicago, Litow is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Litow. He lives in Oak Park with his wife, Marva, and their son.

- more -

**Illinois
State Board of
Education**



100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777
217/782-4321

Edward Copeland, Chairman
Illinois State Board of Education

Donald G. Gill
State Superintendent of Education

September 28, 1983

Dr. Michael Litow
827 Woodbine
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Dear Dr. Litow:

Annually, the "Those Who Excel" Educational Awards Program is offered by the Illinois State Board of Education to recognize and honor people who have made outstanding contributions to the educational community.

We received a nomination in your behalf.

The "Those Who Excel" Selection Committee, comprised of twenty-four members representing fourteen educational and community organizations, met in July to review yours and other nominations.

The committee awarded your entry a Honorary Mention.

You will be honored by the Illinois State Board of Education at the "Those Who Excel" Educational Awards Banquet on Friday evening, October 28, 1983, at the Americana Congress Hotel, 520 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago. You are cordially invited to attend. In the past, honorees have enjoyed the evening by sharing the occasion with family and friends.

A reservation form is enclosed. Further information is provided in the enclosed announcement sheet. I regret that we do not have funds to defray your travel, lodging and meal expenses.

Your nominator and respective school officials have been notified of the honor that you will receive. A banquet announcement and reservation form have been sent to them also.

We look forward to your presence at this festive occasion.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Gill
State Superintendent
of Education

Enclosure

0163L



APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE R. EUGENE PINCHAM

RICHARD J. DALRY CENTER
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
(312) 105-5425

April 10, 1986

Mr. Michael H. Litow
Assistant Principal
Westcott Elementary School
409 West 80th Street
Chicago, IL 60620

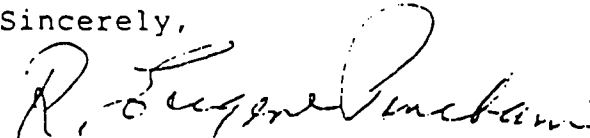
Dear Mr. Litow:

I truly enjoyed addressing the students of Westcott in the Career Program. It is my reverent hope that my remarks were of some motivation, inspiration, information and direction to them. Thanks again for inviting me.

Again, I invite you, the faculty and students to visit me in my chambers and each courtroom on a field trip. You need only to let my secretary know the expected time of your arrival and we will make all of the other arrangements.

I would like to compliment you on the wonderful and masterful job that is being done at Westcott. I could feel the temper of academic excellence, achievement and strict conduct discipline the moment I drove into the parking lot and it became gloriously magnified upon my entering the physical plant. You are doing a yeoman's job and you are to be complimented and commended.

Sincerely,


Justice R. Eugene Pincham

REP/ah

14400000
GERALD L. SBARBORO

201 Peace Street, Suite 101

Chicago, Illinois 60601

263-3008

April 17, 1976

Illinois Office of Education
Community Relations Section
Springfield, Illinois

Gentlemen:

It is my understanding that Michael Litow is a nominee for one of the Outstanding Teachers of Illinois awards. Mike's abilities and services to the Chicago Board of Education and his community work should be recognized and rewarded.

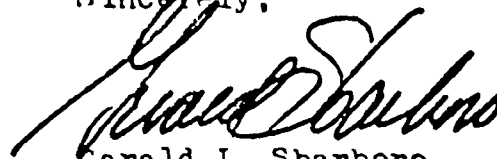
I had the privilege of meeting Mike in the early 1970's while serving as a member of the Chicago Board of Education. Mike first came to my attention because of his involvement with one of our ESEA Title III programs - Operation Impact. He was appointed Director of Academics. This was a dropout prevention program for seventh and eighth grade boys. Mike contributed greatly to the success of the program.

I found him to be an innovative and totally committed teacher. His ability to relate to inner city students and the enthusiasm he brings to his teaching are laudatory attributes for the urban school district.

His philosophy that "almost every kid can be helped" and total dedication to the teaching profession make him stand out in our school system of over 27,000 teachers.

I am indeed pleased to add my recommendation for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Gerald L. Sbarboro
Former Member of the
Chicago Board of Education

GLS:as

Clinic puts troubled youths on right track

By Curtis Austin

Fumbling in school and in life, the troubled teenager was sent to Michael Litow's clinic as a last resort. But the 13-year-old cared only about football. So Litow brought out the Chicago Bears.

"He wanted to be a football star but he didn't want to study," recalled Litow, director of the Education Center Inc. He got Bears' owner George Halas to write the youth and former player Johnny Morris to telephone him.

Halas and Morris told the youngster that success meant hard work. They told him he needed an education. And the youngster's grades perked up.

Litow has applied his offbeat tactics to help children with severe learning problems since the clinic, at 6525 W. North Ave., Oak Park, opened about four years ago.

"I work everybody," Litow said, recalling how he enlisted the aid of Halas and Morris to help the 13-year-old fan.

But Litow's efforts to touch hard-to-reach kids aren't limited to celebrities' letters and phone calls. Using what

he calls "reality therapy," he tries to build a support system for his clients.

"We want the students to be able to function in their own environment," said Litow, who has a doctorate in child psychology. "We try to develop self-confidence."

Litow, an assistant principal at Wescott Elementary Center on the South Side, puts in about 20 hours a week at the center after school.

He said he has practiced his reality therapy on about 300 youths, ages 4 to 20, with problems such as drug abuse and gang membership.

He said no client is turned away. "They pay what they're able to afford."

Harvette Grey, clinical psychologist and executive director of Chicago's STEP School, or School for the Treatment of Emotional Problems in Children, 6740 S. South Shore Dr., says Litow's unusual methods seem to be successful.

"We're both mavericks, because it works," Grey said. He said Litow's approach with the disinterested youth worked because it gave him "something to hold on to."

Chicago Sun-Times

10-26-83

Why local teacher passed up a \$10,000-a-month job

By Chip Magnus

"Being my own man" is important to Mike Litow, so important that it cost him \$240,000 and a job with the Ford administration.

Litow recently turned down \$10,000 a month offered by a group of Saudi Arabian businessmen to teach their children for two years, as reported in Kup's column in Monday's Sun-Times. Litow said he preferred to earn his doctorate degree and establish a diagnostic clinic in Chicago to help emotionally disturbed and socially maladjusted children.

In 1975, he declined a Ford administration offer to become an educational consultant in favor of a position with Northeastern Illinois University's School for Boys.

HE REGRETS neither decision, nor does he regret others that would have led him from the path he has followed since his college years: Working with children who need help. His methods have sometimes been unorthodox. While teaching a special education class in the Jefferson Elementary School, he encouraged his students by "paying" them, at



Sun-Times Photo

MIKE LITOW

No regrets, says teacher

least on paper. Periodically, he held auctions, and the children could "spend" their credits to attend sporting events or "save" them at 10-per cent interest toward buying a bicycle or some other cherished item.

Litow won recognition. The Illinois Office of Education problems. "I became so enthusiastic, it became my life."

ONCE HE HAD decided on his career, Litow earned a master's degree in special education, honored him, and Chicago

Schools Supt. Joseph P. Hanlon incorporated some of his ideas into the Access to Excellence plan. He testified before Senate subcommittee hearings on juvenile delinquency and City Council hearings on violent television.

HE ALSO stepped on some toes.

"I've been in trouble for a long time," he laughed. "Many people think some of my ideas, such as the 'pay' plan at Jefferson, were too unusual. And I've always spoken my mind, won a lot of battles but usually lost the war."

Teaching as a career never occurred to the Chicago-born Litow when he attended Mather High School and the University of Miami (Fla.). His field was marketing and finance, and he picked up a law degree as well.

But while in college, he began working with schoolchildren who had learning difficulties, emotional problems, drinking problems and drug addiction and became a qualified psychologist in emotional disorders. He taught in Chicago at the Melody School, Jeffer-

son University boys' school and in 1972 served as director of Operation Impact, a program to cut the dropout rate.

Since September, the 32-year-old Litow has been assistant principal of Westcott School, at 8023 S. Normal. As with all his assignments, it's a long drive from his Oak Park home, his wife, Marva, and their 13-month-old son, Vincent.

His doctoral work involves research on different educational systems around the

world. When he sent a request to Saudi Arabia for information, including his own experience and credentials, the Saudi businessmen were impressed to the point of offering him the teaching job.

"THE MONEY would have come in handy," Litow said, "but it would have delayed my getting the doctorate and opening the educational clinic, and it would have disrupted my family."

The clinic, which he hopes to open in six months on the

West Side or in Oak Park, is something worth more than \$240,000 to Litow. It represents what he's been able to accomplish in helping children who need help.

"When people hear about the Saudis' offer," he said, "they ask me why I turned it down. I'd rather they ask 'Who are you that they would offer you \$10,000 a month?' It's sufficient reward that they thought enough of me as a teacher to offer me that much."

THE WHITE HOUSE

May 26, 1983

Dear Dr. Litow:

Thank you so much for letting me know about your interest in helping to solve the terrible drug problem this country faces. I am especially concerned about the devastating effect drugs have on young people and their families.

An exciting endeavor in which I am currently involved is The Chemical People project. It involves parents, teachers, community leaders -- everyone who wants to get involved on the grassroots level to combat the use of drugs by our school-age children. I would be delighted if you would join us. If you write to the following address, you will receive information on how you can become a part of the project.

Ms. Ricki Wertz
The Chemical People
WQED TV
4802 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

You have my heartfelt thanks for your interest and best wishes for success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Dr. Michael Litow
The Education Center, Inc.
6525 West North Avenue, Route 209
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Staying put is looking better to employes

Jane Gregory

Moving up often means moving on in the world of work. A record as a job hopper, once a serious liability for a man or woman of ambition and drive, has become not only acceptable but a valued credential. In many businesses, staying in the same job or in the same place is regarded as a severe handicap.

Today, according to the U.S. Census, about 50 per cent of the households moving across state lines pull up stakes because of job transfers and looking for employment.

There are, however, signs that mobility is losing some of its charm. The Wall Street Journal recently reported a poll revealing that 70 per cent of 641 companies questioned said they were experiencing resistance to transfers.

THE INCREASING number of working women is one important factor in reluctance to follow the hopscotch path to bigger and better job opportunities. Problems in buying another home and disparity in the cost of living in various parts of the nation also are cited as reasons for hanging in rather than moving on. Finally, more and more men and women appear to be putting more value on continuity and stability in their personal lives.

"I just won't leave Chicago," says one executive. "In my business, relocation is routine, but I love it here. I've passed up a couple of offers that would have meant more money. My feeling is that if you can't make it here you can't make it."

Money was simply not enough for Michael Litow, either. A doctor of educational psychology and a nationally recognized authority on helping children with problems in school, Litow is an assistant principal of a Chicago public grammar school. Last year a



MICHAEL LITOW

wealthy Arabian industrialist heard of his reputation and offered him \$10,000 a month to teach children of various Arabian businessmen.

"I was tempted," Litow admits. "I declined the offer for the same reasons I've turned down other job offers I have had from private industry and on the federal level in government. Opening a clinic with counseling and therapy for children with severe problems of learning and social adjustment has always been my dream. If I had taken the job in Saudi Arabia it would have been two years out of my life. There are so many children in Chicago who need help."

ALTHOUGH \$240,000 for two years' work would have helped finance his dream project, he preferred to stay in Chicago. His dream is coming true this fall when he opens the Education Center, in Oak Park on Sept. 4. Litow will continue in his regular job and work at his clinic after regular school hours.

"Basically I'll be on a 12-to-16-hour-a-day schedule six days a week," he says cheerfully, "but I will be doing my own thing. I can work anywhere there are children but I have been working in Chicago for 10 years and I have learned the mechanics and the people here."

FEATURES

Dr. Michael Litow

Playing by his own rules... and winning

By TOM WOLFE

The students come in every size, shape and color and from all conceivable backgrounds. They come from the exclusive north shore suburbs of Highland Park and Kenilworth to the housing projects on Chicago's west and south sides. Some were raised in what most of us feel is the ideal environment: a big house, two parents, 2-3 children, a barking dog and a station wagon. Others, products of broken homes, are being raised by one parent or perhaps a relative. Their backgrounds and experiences run the gamut yet there is one common denominator: These students have difficulties in school and in life and they have come to Dr. Michael Litow's Education Center in Oak Park for help.

The center, located in the Fair Oaks Medical Building at 6525 W. North Avenue, was founded by Dr. Litow nearly two years ago to assist children with learning disabilities, social maladjustment, hyperactivity, and physical disabilities including autism, drug dependence, mental retardation and alcohol abuse. The center also creatively directs the energies and intellects of gifted children and provides private counseling sessions for parents and children.

"People are tired of going to these schools and agencies and getting tied up in the red tape and bureaucracy. People want someone to be concerned and deal directly with their problem."

"We can end the confusion and frustration parents feel when dealing with agencies and schools that are hampered by the volume of students seeking help, the limited training of their staffs and the public nature of their examinations which can be humiliating and embarrassing to the student and parents," said Dr. Litow. "People are tired of going to these schools and agencies and getting tied up in the red tape and bureaucracy. People want someone to be concerned and deal directly with their problem. In some of these places a kid will come in and pour his heart out for an hour, then come back two weeks later and have to start over because there's a new worker sitting in the chair."

Dr. Litow knows all about fighting red tape and bureaucracy. Throughout his career as a teacher and administrator in Chicago grammar schools Litow has bucked the system and played by his own rules.

"I try to do it my way," Litow said. Unfortunately, the system calls anything different, any alternative, an indictment of the system. You rock the boat, you hear about it."

Litow's unique approaches to education included "paying" his students at the Melody and Jefferson Elementary Schools with credits earned through hard work. From time to time he held auctions so the children could "spend" their credits to attend sporting events or use them toward the purchase of a bicycle, radio or football. Litow's techniques won him widespread recognition. So widespread in fact that an Arab industrialist offered him \$240,000 to teach his children for two years. Litow turned him down.

"I've had people tell me I was crazy to make that decision," Litow said, "but I just

tell them that the success we've had with these kids here at the center can't be described in terms of money. It's worth so much more than that."

The same recognition that brought the huge money offer, and, most recently, awards from the Chicago Jaycees and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, has brought a steady stream of students to the center seeking help. There are currently 35 youngsters, aged 4 to 20, attending weekly one-hour sessions. Most of the work is done one-on-one though there is some family and group therapy. Dr. Litow handles 20 of the students personally while the rest are helped by the center's three other staff members; a reading specialist, a social worker and an alcohol and drug abuse specialist. If the center does not have someone with the expertise to handle a student's problem, then the student will be put in touch with someone who can help.

On the first visit to the center, the student is interviewed alone and then together with his parents or guardians. Separate interviews with parents and guardians are then scheduled as necessary. In the student's first and second interviews, specific weaknesses and strengths are pinpointed by the center's staff and by Dr. Litow. Remedial counseling and other services are then tailored to each client's needs and problems. These services include: group therapy sessions involving direct verbal participation between the student and his parents; tutoring in areas in which the student demonstrates gross deficiency, particularly reading; center sponsorship of student involvement in community social groups; and center staff involvement in the student's personal and family life to help develop and maintain positive relationships with family members, peers and school mates.

Students' progress is measured monthly by checking classroom performance, relationships with parents and peers, and by eliciting direct confirmation of successes and failures from the student's school authorities.

"Most of the schools have been receptive to the center and we've been able to act in a supportive capacity. If the student's parents wish, we will act together with the school by sharing information and ideas," Litow said.

"We want the students to be able to function in their own environment. We try to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth."

"The whole object is to have a youngster come in here to find out what their problem might be. The faster we find the problem, the faster we can address ourselves to solving it. We want the students to be able to function in their own environment. We try to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth."

The majority of the students are referred to the center through schools or agencies such as the Department of Children and Family Services. All clients are accepted on a no-charge basis with the referring school or agency determining eligibility. The center also sub-contracts specialized services such as optometric, auditory and psychiatric which may be deemed necessary by the staff for the success of each client's program.

Dr. Litow thinks a lot of the center's



Superteacher Mike Litow

success stems from the close one-to-one relationship between the staff and students.

"We're all on a first name basis here," Litow said. "The kids know I'm their friend and I'm on call 24 hours a day. If a kid has a problem, if his world's falling apart, and he calls me, I'm not going to tell him to wait until his appointment at 11:00 a.m. Saturday. We talk about it then and there."

Though Dr. Litow finds his full-time day job as the assistant principal of the Westcott Elementary School on Chicago's south side rewarding, it doesn't match the satisfaction he gets from captaining his own ship at the Education Center.

"It seems more and more rare these days but I actually enjoy what I do," Litow said. "I think I've made a lot of contributions and I've been able to do it my way. Here I don't have to answer to the bosses downtown. I'm the boss. I can hire people I respect and use methods that I've proven are successful."

"I'm on call 24 hours a day. If a kid has a problem, if his world's falling apart, and he calls me, I'm not going to tell him to wait until his appointment at 11:00 a.m. Saturday. We talk about it then and there."

Dr. Litow does not plan to stop with the small offices which now house the Education Center. In the next few years he hopes to

build what would amount to a super-community center with facilities for sports, academic and craft classes and, of course, small conference rooms. Litow hopes to build his dream center right here in Oak Park.

"I think it's a good central location as far as transportation in the area goes. If people want help, they'll come."

In the last year, Litow has expanded his field of treatment to help grammar and high school teachers suffering from "burn-out" and other emotional stresses caused by their jobs.

"We'll help anyone that comes to us for help," Litow said. "We aren't in the business of turning people away or passing them on to ten different agencies. We're here to help."

The Education Center's hours of operation are arranged for the convenience of students. Sessions take place between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The center's telephone is 848-3848. Counseling is done by appointment only and Dr. Litow invites anyone with any problems to call.

"You can't believe how gratifying it is to see someone turn around and start doing creative and successful work. That's what it's all about. Unfortunately, there's never a shortage of troubled people."

Esquire

PHILLIP MOFFITT
Editor-in-Chief/President
(212) 561-8100

June 18, 1985

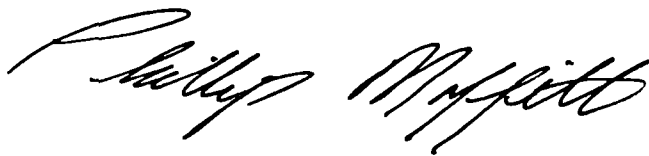
Mr. Michael Litow
The Education Center, Inc.
827 Woodfine
Oak Park, IL 60302

Dear Mr. Litow:

The editors of Esquire are pleased to inform you that you have again been nominated for inclusion in the Esquire Register. To appear this December, the 1985 Register is the second in a series of special issues that will honor a select number of American men and women who are under 40 years of age and who have made significant contributions to their respective fields of endeavor.

Our editorial board is now considering some 4000 nominees in order to determine the final selections, and a writer or editor may contact you if further information is needed. Esquire and its editors salute you as part of a generation unmatched in idealism, energy, and accomplishment. Congratulations on your nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Phillip Moffitt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Phillip Moffitt".



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

presented to

Michael Litow, Ph.D.

*In appreciation of your outstanding contribution to the
Illinois Department of Corrections
Training Academy's
instructional program throughout 1985-1986.*

June 30, 1986

DATE

[Signature]

SUPERINTENDENT



STATE OF ILLINOIS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
PHILIP J. ROCK
PRESIDENT

February 28, 1985

Honorable Michael Holewinski
Room 507 City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mike:

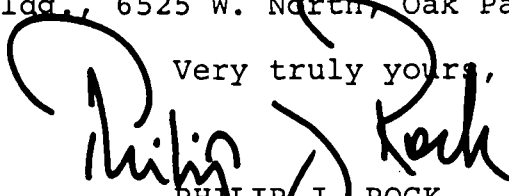
I urge your consideration of Dr. Michael Litow to be a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Gangs.

Dr. Litow is an educational counselor and a teacher with 15 years experience in the Chicago public schools. He is the founder of the Education Center, Inc. which is a confidential counseling and referral service for children from age 4 through 20 who suffer from severe learning difficulties resulting from physical, emotional or drug-related problems and alcohol abuse.

Dr. Litow has been nationally recognized for his abilities to help children by President Ford's administration and by the Chicago Public School Board and Chicago-area law enforcement agencies.

I believe that Dr. Litow would make an excellent member of the Mayor's Task Force and urge your favorable consideration of his appointment. He can be reached at Fair Oaks Medical Bldg., 6525 W. North, Oak Park.

Very truly yours,


PHILIP J. ROCK
President

db

cc - Dr. Michael Litow ✓



House of Representatives

presents

MICHAEL LITOW

with this certificate of recognition
for

Your Dedication and Outstanding Service to Youth in the Field of Education


George H. Ryan

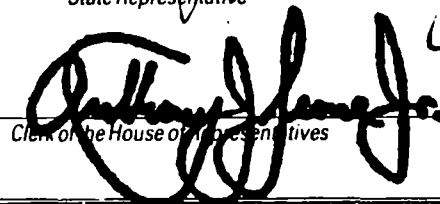
Speaker of the House of Representatives


State Representative


Michael J. Madigan

Minority Leader of the House of Representatives

ATTEST:


Clerk of the House of Representatives

SERVICE OFFICE:
2810 W. FULLERTON
CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60647
312/772-2727

STATE CAPITOL:
2113 STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217/732-8087

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



ALFRED G. RONAN
State Representative - 12th District

February 11, 1985

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Motor Vehicles

Member, Human Services
Labor & Commerce
Urban Redevelopment

COMMISSIONS:

Chairman: Data Information
Systems Commission

Vice-Chairman: Health Assistance
Programs Commission

Member: Tollway Advisory Board
Commission on Mental Health
& Developmental Disabilities
Gang Crime Study Commission

Mr. Michael Holewinski
Assistant to the Mayor
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Michael:

I am writing this letter to you to recommend a
Dr. Michael Litow for appointment to the Mayor's
Task Force on Gangs.

As director of the Education Center, Inc., Dr. Litow
has shown his impeccable adeptness with the innovative
techniques he has incorporated into assisting children
who need special attention. Dr. Litow's countless
honors and awards for his expertise, coupled with my
personal knowledge of this extraordinary individual,
only enhance my opinion of an effective educator. An
educator that would be an invaluable asset to the
Mayor's program.

Your serious consideration to this matter would be
greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred G. Ronan
State Representative
12th District

AGR:jas
cc: Michael Litow
Enclosure



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

RICHARD M. DALEY
STATE'S ATTORNEY

500 RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER
AREA 312-443-5365

STATE'S ATTORNEY RICHARD M. DALEY'S AWARD CEREMONY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1984

DALEY CENTER

P R O G R A M

OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.....RICHARD M. DALEY

SPECIAL GUEST.....SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, FRED RICE

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO:

DR. R. SAMUEL BRYANT	BY: ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY'S REBECCA DAVIDSON ROBERT LOEB
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JOSEPH DANZL, C.P.D. THOMAS LAHM, C.P.D.	BY: ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY KATHY MCGURY JOHN FARRELL
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LEO J. DUBOIS, CAPTAIN BEDFORD PK.P.D.	BY: ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY WILLIAM O'CONNOR
---	--

RICHARD KOPEIKIN, S.A.O. INV. WILLIAM TRUE, S.A.O. INV.	BY: ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY JOHN R. ROE
--	---

EDMUND KANTOR, C.P.D.	BY: ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY WILLIAM MERRITT
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SIMEON FROST, C.P.D. GEORGE PATTON, C.P.D. ROBERT WISER, C.P.D.	BY: ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY PEGGY FROSSARD
---	--

THOMAS O'CONNOR, C.P.D.	BY: ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY WILLIAM O'CONNOR
-------------------------	--

DWAIN HOWARD RAYNALDO HOWARD ANTHONY WHIRL	BY: ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY DALE WEIGAND RICHARD SCHWIND
--	---

SPECIAL WITNESS AWARDS TO:

JOHN J. FLOOD
DR. MICHAEL LITOW
VICTORIA M. SMITH

CLOSING REMARKS.....RICHARD M. DALEY