

A Message From A Friend

By Jamie Marie Whitty

Guilt, self-pity, inadequacies seem to be the reoccurring themes in the daily routine of my school life.

It is hard to leave an active three-year-old son every Tuesday and Thursday in the early hours of the morning knowing I will be away from him for a ten hour period. The other days are interrupted many times by visits to the library, meetings or necessary school reading.

Logically and intellectually, I know what I'm doing is best for him and his future. But reality does not always stay with a person-emotions enter in. I perceive myself as a very complex individual. I am sensible, of average intelligence and quite liberated. But then I am sometimes withdrawn, sensitive, compassionate and emotional. So I find myself, with books in arms, driving off to school with tears in my eyes looking at him standing there waving goodbye and calling "hurry home".

I have started to notice his dislike for "text" books, and he is vehement in stating his feelings that school is not for him. He will ask why I don't stay home like Karen's mommy and bake cookies and ride a bike all day. I hate to cook and bake cookies, and my legs are too out of tune to go bike riding all day.

The psychologist said the quality of the time I spend with him is more important than the quantity of time, that independence at a young age is healthier for a child and will help the child to adapt more quickly to society. He explains I am having far more time now than when I become a working mother.

But there are other statistics to prove how children can turn out without the mother or father in the home during the day. And, by God's help, I don't want my son to be a bad statistic.

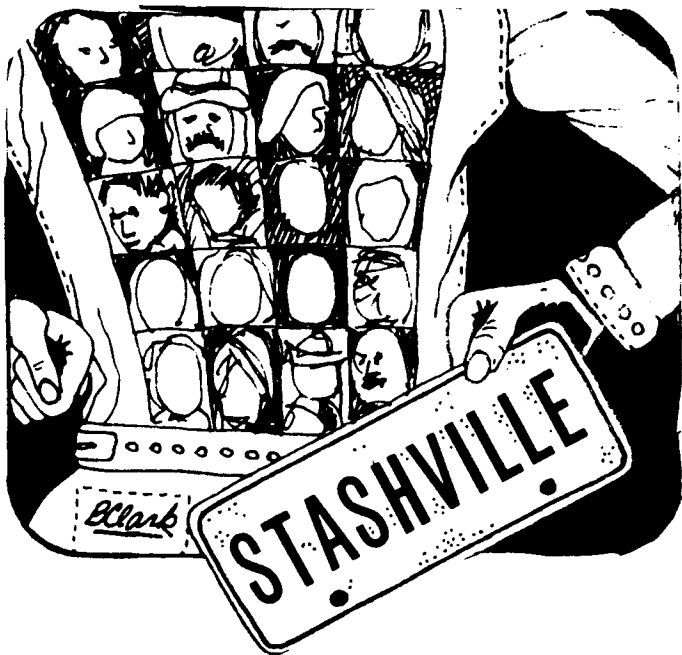
So what do I do? I spend an extra ten dollars a term on little surprises to ease my conscience--if that be possible!

I try to have an intelligent conversation with myself--that what I am doing, I am doing for him. I spend half of my free time with my son trying to make absences easier for him. The other half of the time I spend in self pity and in being angry with myself for being so immature.

I have always been taught that books are your best friends (they never talk back, need a bruise kissed, have to be told that school is fun and he will love it or have a dog that barks to go out at 3:00 a.m.) but you can't cuddle a book, snuggle under the covers with one or even laugh or cry with one.

When that mood hits, I wonder if I perhaps need a good friend that talks "bad"; skip considering that school is good, buy a cookbook, get my legs in shape and just stay home. But could this result in the perfect mother--or frustration.

I am sure there must be other parents who are experiencing these or similar feelings. There are many other related subjects to be dealt with concerning today's world, women, men and their changing roles. You can have the chance to explore these areas and many others. You will have the opportunity to open up and talk with others freely. Give NOW a chance. Attend the first NOW meeting on Monday, October 13th.



Repayment Of Med Grants Possible

By Diane Auerbach

(CPS)--Students graduating from professional health schools may be hit with bills totaling as much as \$40,000 if Congress passes controversial legislation.

The proposed legislation would require health science students to work for a given period in parts of the country that are short of medical personnel or else pay back federal grants used to subsidize their education.

The "pay-back or serve" requirement has unleashed a barrage of opposition from many professional health groups. "It's involuntary servitude," said a spokesperson for the American Medical Association. "We don't believe in drafting students," echoed Marilyn Aycock, an official of the Association of American Medical Colleges. "It would introduce a degree of federal control heretofore unmatched in the annals of American medicine," said Rep. Phillip M. Crane (R-IL).

"Where I want to live and work is less important than the state of the nation's health care," said Laurie Cappa, president of the American Medical Student Association and a medical student at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio.

Yet proponents of the legislation argue that some measure is needed to alleviate the shortage of doctors and health personnel in rural and inner city areas. The problem could be solved, they say, by encouraging national service from the country's most heavily subsidized students--a group that can also expect to earn some of the highest salaries of any profession.

The proposed requirements are part of a health-manpower act that authorizes funds for educating students at schools of medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, public health, veterinary, medicine, podiatry, optometry and pharmacy.

During the summer, the House of Representatives passed a bill which would require health science students enrolling in freshman classes after June 30, 1976 to either repay grants which the federal government gives to health science schools on the basis of their enrollments, or serve in areas needing doctors for a period starting two years after graduating.

The price tag on each student's debt--about \$8000 for medical, dental and osteopathic students--would go beyond the costs of their tuition and personal expenses.

Although the Senate health subcommittee has yet to decide on a counterpart to the House-passed bill, indications are that the Senate bill may put even more demands on students. One of the six bills introduced in subcommittee, for instance, would grant all medical students a full scholarship and then require them to pay back as much as \$40,000--or twice their tuition costs plus interest--unless they agreed to serve for six months for every school year they received aid.

No one is making bets about the bill's outcome, however. Last year the Senate subcommittee passed a stringent provision that would have required all medical students to serve in under-staffed areas, if needed. Under intense lobbying efforts from the American Medical Association, the Senate defeated the bill.

Marijuana Penalties Reduced

In most parts of the country, a person caught with as little marijuana as one joint is still officially a "criminal", and will have a life-long criminal record to prove it. But efforts to decriminalize marijuana gained momentum this past summer with five states making major reforms in their marijuana laws.

Another state gave constitutional protection to persons who possess marijuana only in their homes and two major federal marijuana reform bills are awaiting action in congress.

Five states--Alaska, California, Colorado, Ohio and Maine--will now consider possession of small amount of pot a civil offense, dropping criminal records and jail sentences for possession. Instead, a maximum fine of \$100 (except in Maine, where the fine for possession of any amount of marijuana for personal use is \$200) will be imposed. The laws are patterned after the legislation of Oregon, which in 1973 became the first state to decriminalize pot.

In Alaska, laws against pot were weakened still further when the state Supreme Court ruled that possession of marijuana by adults in the home fell under the constitutionally protected right of privacy. The 5-0 landmark decision, based on the Alaska constitution and not the Federal Constitution, cannot be appealed to the US Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, two measures dealing with marijuana reform are awaiting action in the US Senate. One bill, sponsored by Jacob Javits (R-NY), Alan Cranston (D-CA) and others in a bi-partisan coalition, calls for the reduction of marijuana penalties to a civil offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100.

Speeding

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But it still leaves unanswered the question of how to curb the speeders driving the streets of Meade Heights. Chief Paul sees half of the solution as "intense enforcement and education." The other half seems to boil down to common sense driving and having the meade Heights community enforce their own rules.

Women Choose Engineering

(CPS)--More college women are choosing the lucrative and accessible career of engineering as students of both sexes turn away from the less promising humanities and social sciences, according to a survey conducted by the Stanford University Academic Information Center.

The survey, based on the preliminary academic interests of this fall's freshman class, also showed that the boom fields of law and medicine were declining in popularity this year while natural sciences, math and technology were attracting more interest.

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