

## Wisdom and Humor from a Pudding Peddler

By Michele Hart

According to Bill Cosby, author of *Fatherhood*, having children is "surely the most beautifully irrational act two people in love can commit." He should know, he and his wife committed the act five times. His book is an extension of his knowledge about children, filled with fourteen enjoyable chapters of anecdotes and stories about his role as father to four girls and one boy. Within the framework of each chapter Cosby not only entertains, he gives advice to parents and prospective.

The book begins at the beginning--the decision making process--to have or not to have children. He says he and his wife had kids because they were unable to project. They didn't realize just what they were in for. Not knowing, however, is universal. He compares raising children to being on a

### Book Review

dark continent where no one knows anything.

Cosby continues on the theme of not knowing how to raise kids by comparing what his father didn't know to what he doesn't know. He compares the "old" style of his father's day, to what he calls the "new" father of his time. He gives the reader snapshots of his own childhood intermingled with moments from his children's growing periods. Today's father, he says, are more than just the breadwinners and disciplinarians, now they take an active part in the raising of a child from birth, through adolescence, until the child moves away from home and then back again, with its

own children. Cosby takes the reader from the delivery room to adulthood with laughter and tears.

The laughter and tears flow naturally when reading this book because Cosby is a great storyteller. He skillfully combines the silly with the serious. The advice he gives in each chapter is subtle enough not to clash with the humor or sound too preachy.

In the section entitled "They Need Ventriloquists", Cosby describes the effects of puppy love on a 15 year-old boy. The boy will suddenly lose his concentration capabilities for anything else in the world, his mouth will always be half open, but no sound will come out. Cosby says it is too bad a string cannot be connected from the boy's mouth to the back of his head. In the very next sentence, when the reader's chuckles have subsided, Cosby says that

although children don't always pay attention, a parent must always pay attention, and give love from the very start of the child's life.

Each chapter of the book, with the blend of advice, observation, and humor makes the book thoroughly enjoyable. But the poignancy and the laughter are not the only elements that make the work good reading. *Fatherhood* gives the reader a glimpse into the private life of Dr. William H. Cosby EDD, writer, stand-up comedian, and television star. His love for his children and his family life are evident on every page.

Parents will find themselves smiling page after page as Cosby takes them through the life cycle of a child. Even people with no kids will enjoy this book.

## Last Month's Survey Results

by Michele Hart

Last month's survey on Air Waves and Vibes produced six interesting responses, and some good ideas for other issues that you want to see covered in the Capital Times.

Judging from the responses, radio seems to be an important part of our daily lives. No respondent owns less than two radios, including car radios, and one owns eight radios. You spend a fair amount of time listening to the radio according to your answers, anywhere from thirty minutes a day to five hours a day. In fact, one of you said that school and studying takes away from your time with the radio. You most often listen to the radio at home or in the car.

Although you did have a consensus on the importance of radio in your lives, musical tastes and favorite stations were greatly varied. Two of you favor current Top 40 formats such as WINK 104 FM, or WQXA Q106 FM. One of you cited WCMB 1460 AM as your favorite station because you grew up on the music of the 60s and 70s. Philadelphia stations are the favorites for another respondent because of the "music they play." The relaxing musical formats of WITF FM and WMSP FM appeal most to two of you.

Even if you all listen to different stations, you listen to the radio for basically the same reasons: To relax and to be informed and entertained. The two of you who listen to the stations with the softer formats listed relaxation first as a reason for listening to the radio. The rest of you listed the music as the most important reason for listening and then news, weather, and traffic updates. Only one of you didn't

mention the desire for news and information as a reason for listening to the radio.

You also feel that for the most part, radio satisfies your listening needs. For two of you radio helps you to hold onto your memories through the music. One of you, however, feels that radio programming is too mediocre and unadventurous, but you didn't really say why.

When asked what role radio plays in your lives, you all said it was a very important role. In fact, one of you really depends on radio each day. You said: "I've always loved music. I really get into it. I can live and die a thousand times in one day. It's a great way in and out of reality." For the rest of you radio's role seems to be to inform you and relax you.

The last question we asked you in last month's survey was what topics would you like to see this paper address? One of you would like to know more about sororities and one of you wants to know if there is any student interest in a ski club, what it takes to get students involved in things on campus, and how other students feel about using aborted fetuses for brain injections for people with radiation sickness. Four of you had nothing at all, according to the empty space you left next to that question, that you want the paper to address.

Thanks for taking the time to answer the survey and if you have time, fill out this month's survey.

## Grades, Teachers, and Attitudes

by Michele Hart

With enrollment topping the 3,000 mark this semester, and the initiation of a new plus/minus grading policy, its time to look around and discover how students and faculty are handling this term. For this month's survey we want to know how you feel about your classes, your teachers (students), and your evaluation of the new plus/minus policy.

1. What is the average size of most of your classes? Are they too big, too small, or fairly good? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you happy with your instructors/ students? Why or why not \_\_\_\_\_
3. As a student do you feel that assigned work loads are fair? Why or why not. \_\_\_\_\_
4. As a student do you feel your instructors are accessible and interested in your needs? \_\_\_\_\_
5. As an instructor do feel that you are accessible for your students and do you feel interested in your student's needs? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you support the new plus/ minus grading system? Why or why not. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Would you submit an unoriginal term paper (one you bought) if you thought you could get away with it? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Overall, what issues do you feel need to be addressed by the faculty, staff and students at this campus to make this a better institution? \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't forget to deposit surveys in the Capital Times box in the stairwell off the main lobby.**