

# Opinion

## Parents - what a concept

by Stephani Veff  
Opinions Editor

For your kids:

### Summer vacation activities

Oh no, it's back. Not again. Why couldn't it skip one year just this once? What are we ever going to do with them this year?

Does this sound familiar? If not, it should. It's parents discussing the impending closure of summer vacation and what they are going to do with the children during those months.

Ah, summer vacation. Every kid dreams of it, every parent dreads it. It's hard enough keeping them occupied during those few hours after they come home from school and before bedtime. Of course, homework and after-school activities take care of part of this time, but there aren't any of these things during the summer. As parents you must then search for other forms of entertainment for your children.

Ideally summer camp is the number one choice, whether it is an overnight camp or just a day camp. The main objective is to keep the kids occupied for the majority of the time. Of course this isn't the parents' only objective, they would also like their children to be with other children: learning, exercising in the sunshine and enjoying life while they are still young and without responsibility.

If, for some reason, it isn't possible to send the kids to camp, you (the parents) can find lots of other ways to keep the kids occupied and happy. A summer

"story hour" at the library keeps the kids out of trouble and gives you enough time for a short shopping trip or nap. Swimming lessons at the local pool can fill another hour or two, while summer baseball/softball can take up to another three hours.

But there is one drawback to these solutions - you get to play "taxi service" all day long. Even so, there is a solution to this problem - carpooling. Just find some other desperate parents and trade days on which you take all the kids and they take all the kids.

If none of these solutions sound as if they will work in your situation this last one may be your "saviour" - hire a babysitter. By doing this you can work, take some classes for fun, exercise, go shopping or do whatever your heart desires and know that your kids are safe and sound and driving the babysitter crazy instead of you.

The ideal babysitter is one who will drive the kids to any of the activities mentioned in paragraph five. He/she will take the kids to the movies, museums, the zoo, the park, etc. He/she will also feed the kids, clean up after them and even do household chores for you. But most of all a good babysitter will care for your kids as you would care for them - firmly, but with lots of love.

Although these are just a few

solutions to an age old problem, they should be enough to get you started.

There is something I must add here though. For those of you who may be dreading the teenage years - don't. This is one of the problems that is solved when the kids reach their teens. You no longer have to find ways to keep them occupied during the summer. They will find many ways to entertain themselves with summer jobs, working endlessly on an "awesome" tan, and thinking up ways to get a date to their friend's summer barbeque.

I hope this column has been helpful; I enjoyed writing it, as I have enjoyed doing so all term. While this column was intended to be a humorous look at the ways in which parents deal with their most difficult job - raising their children, it is also a dedication to all the parents out there who have done, are doing, or will do for their children.

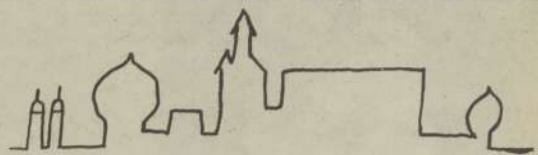
I would like to thank you for reading my column and I hope that you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Before closing, I have one last dedication to make: To Mom and Dad - Thanks for always being there for me and always supporting me in my endeavors. I couldn't have done this without you. I love you.



Jo Crisp

Younger children enjoy trips to the park. You may combine this with a visit of the LIBRARY for something different.



"Well, uh uh... Well we tracked the plane All the way from West Germany but, as you know it's beyond us to start an International Incident."

## The uncolumn

by Dean Grey  
Editor

Lunacy:

a step away from reality

The Lunatic is on the grass.  
The lunatic is on the grass.  
Remembering games and daisy chains and laughs.  
Got to keep the lunies on the path.  
The lunatic is in the hall.  
The lunatics are in my hall.  
The paper holds their folded faces to the floor.  
And everyday the paperboy brings more...

I took this from Eclipse, which is from Pink Floyd's The Dark Side of the Moon. The lunatic, not so much a person that we can all see and be afraid of, but so many disembodied people that appear daily in the newspapers, is someone or something that we all look out for but don't know where to look.

I bring this up for the purpose of showing a transition of life. How? Quite easily as we grow older we can more define what a lunatic is. As a child it may be a stranger or a monster or an aunt with a mustache, but with age comes experience and with experience comes a dreaded knowledge of the lunatic. Maybe in a too personal way.

The lunatic is in my head.  
The lunatic is in my head.  
You raise the blade, you make the change  
You rearrange me till I'm sane.  
You lock the door.  
Throw away the key.  
There's someone in my head but its not me.  
And if the cloud bursts, thunder in your ear.  
You shout and no one seems

to hear.  
And if the band your in starts playing different tunes.  
I'll see you on the dark side of the moon.

Older still, just out of college, just out of a job, just out of life, it doesn't matter. Sometime soon we will all feel that familiar line of sanity being crossed within ourselves. And who knows, some of us may choose to stay. Why? Because it's a comfortable way of life. It takes away all the responsibility that you once had.

Unless some catastrophic event takes place, it's rare that a child goes insane. However that may be because they have very little responsibility. We, as self-acclaimed adults, have an ever increasing amount of pressure to perform in an acceptable manner, a manner trained in the direction of achieving. If we stagnate we fail. Or so it is in the eyes of society.

If I may, and of course many will say I cannot, I would like to compare life to the centrifical force created by a spinning object. As you continue in life (God I use that word a lot) or as you start to spin, you have a comfortable surrounding. Kind of an eye of the tornado effect, calm yet not for long. As you spin faster, or the eye moves on, you are subjected to the storm, which equals an increase in responsibility, and a dislocation of friends and sometimes family.

At this time you either become self sufficient or you escape into the realm of the (what's the word?) crazy.

