

Children Know Reality From Fiction

Parents who fear their children are being brainwashed by television may be underrating their powers of discrimination, a researcher said.

Younger children may believe in Santa Claus, but they sniff at the suggestion that Superman can really fly, said Maire Messenger Davies of the London Institute.

Messenger Davies questioned children aged between six and 11 from two U.S. schools about everyday myths, like Santa Claus and what they saw on television, she told the annual conference of the British Psychological Society.

More than three-quarters of six to seven year olds dismissed the suggestion that "The Cosby Show" took place in a real home, but 31 percent were convinced Santa was real.

Among 11-year-olds, 86.5 percent said "The Cosby Show" was staged while just four percent believed in Santa.

None of the children believed Superman could really fly.

Messenger Davies also found that girls were more likely than boys to make moral judgements about what they saw on television.

More than 60 percent of girls said they thought it was wrong to make toys and sweets look more appealing so that children would want to buy them.

Forty-two percent of boys thought this was wrong.

"The study suggests that children...can demonstrate extensive knowledge and critical insights about the workings of the medium (television)," said Messenger Davies.

Runaways Gain New Resource

At a time when families and friends are reuniting for the holidays, Greyhound is offering runaways a chance to do the same through its Home Free program. And with the assistance of the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS), a free ride home for runaway youth on Greyhound is now just a toll-free phone call away.

Greyhound today announced that it is joining with the NRS, one of the nation's leading runaway agencies, to enhance the company's Home Free program which provides a free ride home for runaway children between the ages of 12 and 18.

"It's heart wrenching to think that hundreds of thousands of runaway children are living on the street, especially during the holiday season when most of us are with family and friends," said Craig Lentzsch, Greyhound's president and CEO. "We believe our partnership with the NRS will increase awareness of the Home Free program and enable us to better assist runaways across the country."

Lora Thomas, executive director of the NRS, said the runaway problem continues to grow. Officials estimate there are 1.3 million runaways on the streets of U.S. cities, and that each year, about 5,000 of them die from assault, illness or suicide. Because state and federal funding has not kept pace with the growth, private sector programs must fill in the gaps.

"We're delighted to work with Greyhound to expand its very successful Home Free program," said Thomas. "Greyhound has stepped forward to help reunite runaway children with their families. Through Home Free, we can help runaways who want to return home but just don't have the means to do so."

The alliance between Greyhound and the NRS significantly expands the scope and impact of Home Free, which has been helping children return to their families since 1984.

Previously, a runaway had to go to a local police department to gain Home Free assistance. Now, police officers, social ser-

vice agencies, parents or the runaways themselves can start the process by calling the NRS at 1-800-621-4000.

The NRS is the largest runaway assistance center and information helpline in the country. It provides round-the-clock crisis intervention, community-based referrals and other services for runaways and their families. Through its national 800 number, the NRS will act as the initial point of contact for the Home Free program. Trained volunteers will first make sure that the child has been listed as a runaway in his or her home community and then will contact the family and Greyhound to arrange the trip home.

Home Free began in 1984 as a program offered by Trailways Bus Lines in conjunction with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Greyhound continued the program in 1987 when it purchased most of the assets of Trailways. Since its inception, the program has helped an estimated 30,000 runaways. The IACP has remained a partner in the program.

Police News Homicide Investigation

9300 Block Of S.E. Ramona St.

Portland Police Homicide Detectives are investigating a Wednesday morning (12-20) shooting that fatally wounded a Southeast Portland man.

At about 8:00 a.m. East Precinct officers responded to an apartment complex in the 9300 block of S.E. Ramona St. shortly after receiving a call from a woman there saying that a man had been shot.

Darrin Ezell, DOB 09-01-71, was transported to Oregon Health Sciences University where he died

of gunshot wounds.

Reportedly, Ezell lived with a 25-year-old woman and her two children at the apartment. The woman allegedly left the home about 7:20 a.m. to go to work, and was confronted by several suspects who blocked her vehicle.

Reportedly, one of the suspects got into the woman's car and at gunpoint took her apartment key and gave it to the other suspects.

The man then forced the woman to drive him around the area, until he

got out of her car about 8:00 a.m.

The woman then returned to her apartment where she found Ezell had been shot. The two children, ages three and six, were found in another part of the apartment unharmed.

There are no suspects in custody at this time. While the motive has not been determined, detectives do not believe this to be a random incident.

Detectives Kerry Taylor and Craig Yost are the investigators.

Homicide Investigation: Shooting

4500 Block Of NE 14th Place

Portland Police Homicide Detectives are investigating a Tuesday shooting that fatally wounded a 20-year-old man. Northeast Precinct Officers responded to the report of shots heard in the area of NE 15th Avenue and Prescott Street at

about 9:48 p.m. En route, they received another call regarding a man down in the street in the 4500 block of NE 14th Place.

The man, suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the abdomen, was taken to Emanuel Hospital

where he later died.

No suspects are in custody at this time. The identity of the deceased is pending notification of relatives. Detectives Kent Perry and Cheryl Kanzler are the investigators.

Observing Vancouver

City Starts New Fitness Classes At New Year

Start the new year on a healthy note by choosing one or more of the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department's five new classes.

• Intro Step Class - 4 classes. Learn basic steps and terminology. All moves performed in one-half time. Build confidence, get fit and have fun. Meets Sundays, 1 to 2 p.m. at Bagley Center, 4100 Plomondon. Fee is \$12 for four classes.

• Mommy and Me - Pre/post natal for moms and infants one month to one year old. Fun movements to music performed at a walking level. Enhance cardiovascular

endurance, muscle strength, coordination and improve general health. Bring baby packs and/or strollers. Monday and Wednesday, 6:10 to 7:10 p.m. at Bagley Center. Fee is \$25 or \$21 for city residents.

• Evening Yoga - Relieve stress, build strength and flexibility. Monday and Wednesday, 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. at Bagley Center. \$25 or \$21 for city residents.

• Fitness for Developmentally Disabled - low level, slow-paced, unstructured, emphasis on good fitness and nutrition habits. Meets Tuesday and Thursday, 7:15 to 8 p.m. at Bagley Center. Fee is \$25 or \$21 for

city residents.

• Kaiser's Freedom from Fat - 16 sessions with four follow-up classes. Weekly support group, positive lifestyle changes, guest speakers.

Tuesdays: noon to 1 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers, 210 E. 13th Street. Starts Jan. 9.

Wednesdays: 12:30 p.m. Bagley Center. Starts Jan. 10.

Wednesdays: 6 to 7 p.m. Bagley Center. Starts Jan. 10.

Fee is \$165 or \$140 for city residents.

Register for classes at Bagley Center or call 696-8219.

Last Chance To Make A Big Splash

The city's Water Resources Education Center has room for a few more student projects for its grand opening scheduled Feb. 24 and 25. The deadline for project completion is Jan. 15.

The Water Center has invited students to produce a product (music, art, video, quilt, etc.) about water in our region, to be showcased at the grand opening. Work projects can be produced individually or as a group.

Depending on the product, these items may be displayed, produced or demonstrated throughout the opening year of the Center.

For information call 696-8478 or fax 693-8878.

Mayor Vera Katz Delivers Holiday Message

The following is Mayor Vera Katz's annual holiday message to the citizens of Portland.

"During the holiday season, we step back from our day-to-day concerns and take a more thoughtful look at our lives and relationships with others. In the past few weeks, we have weathered many storms together and I believe it was, in large part, the strength of this community, that pulled us through. As John F. Kennedy once said, 'Human brotherhood is not just a goal, it is a condition on which our way of life depends.'

"In a world that is all too often divided, we in Portland can count many blessings. We are a city that works. We maintain a balance of natural beauty and urban vibrancy. Our economy is healthy, diverse and growing. We invest time and resources in our children—their education, their safety and their future.

"Certainly we have challenges, but how we address them is the key to how we overcome them, and why we have so much to be thankful for. We are a young and growing city, with the Oregon spirit of innovation and independence, but we also adhere to age-old values. What we share in common is so much greater than what divides us. I am very proud that we, as a community, apply our values every day to the needs of our neighborhoods, our schools, and our future. I am profoundly grateful to those who are working with me to address our community's needs.

"I hope we all take time this holiday season to reflect on how we can become even more caring, more involved and more committed to the life of our city and to each other. In that way, we can insure that we will have even more to be thankful for in the years to come.

God bless you, and have a healthy, happy New Year."

Happy Holidays!

New & used books on Business, Music, & African-American Studies

POWELL'S CITY OF BOOKS

9 AM - 11 PM Monday through Saturday
9 AM - 9 PM Sundays

Used books bought every day till 8:30 PM
On the #20 Bus Line • One hour free parking

1005 West Burnside Street

228-4651

J  Y
MARKET

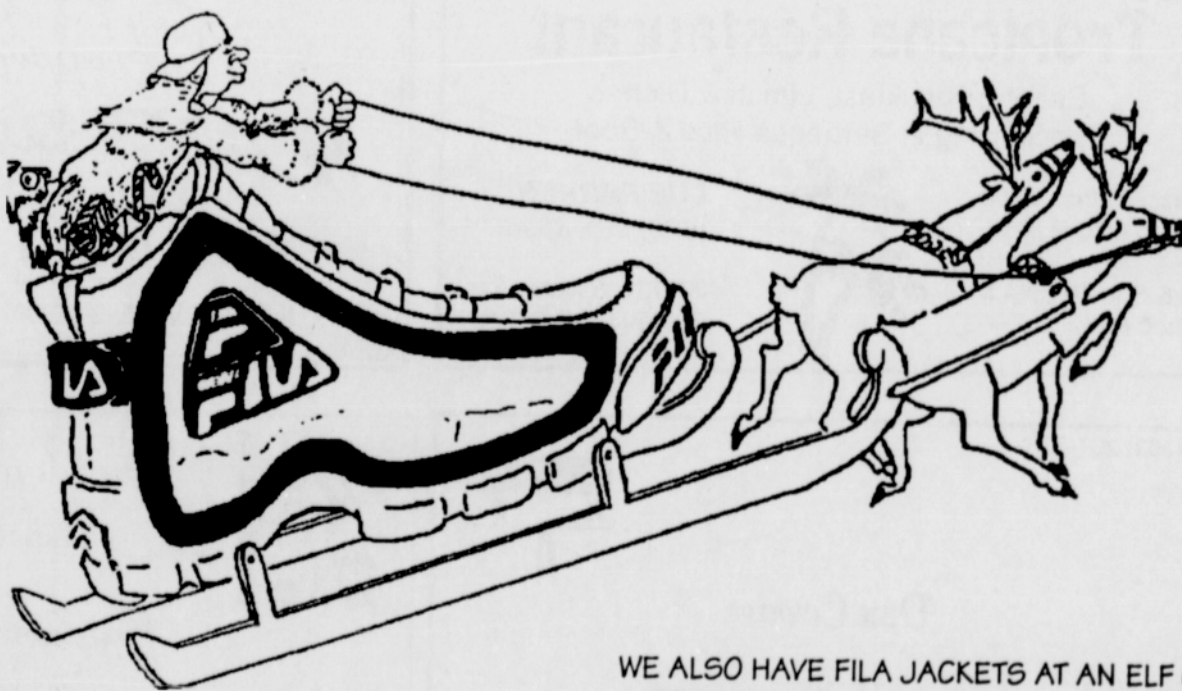
2334 N.E. Alberta Street 284-1198

WE FEATURE: GROCERIES
SODA POP/JUICES & MORE
ASSORTED FROZEN TREATS
HOT, DELICIOUS COFFEE
CIGARETTES/CIGARS
VARIETY GOODS
CANDY & SNACKS

ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, COME TASTE THE BEST "LOUISIANA" STYLE BBQ.

BBQ RIB DINNERS.....\$6.00/EACH
BBQ CHICKEN DINNERS.....\$5.00/EACH
BBQ RIB SANDWICHES.....\$4.00/EACH
BBQ CHICKEN SANDWICHES.....\$3.00/EACH
CREOLE GUMBO.....\$4.00/BOWL

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SERVE YOU!
"PRICES THAT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE"



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

JUST IN TIME FOR SANTA'S CHRISTMAS SALE AT MLK'S TENNA SHOES AND APPAREL. YOU HAVE TO COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. WE HAVE 30 TO 50 % OFF ON MOST MERCHANDISE IN STOCK. CONVERSE, PUMA AND VANNS AT A HOLIDAY RATE! "BUY ONE GET ONE FREE"

WE ALSO HAVE FILA JACKETS AT AN ELF OF A PRICE; REG. \$130.00 NOW \$99.00. A SALE SO GREAT ON BRAND NAME APPAREL IT WOULD MAKE RUDOLPH'S NOSE LIGHT UP, AND HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES: "GHETTO GEAR, AACA HOCKEY JERSEY, KNOCK OUT, PELLE PELLE, BOSS, KANGOL AND MUCH, MUCH MORE".

SALE STARTS DEC. 1, UNTIL CHRISTMAS EVE. SO COME ON DOWN AND GET A WHOLE LOT OF STOCKIN STUFFERS FOR A LITTLE BIT OF NOTHING. LOCATED: 3552A NE MLK JR. BLVD.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND REMEMBER, SUPPORT MINORITY OWNED BUSINESS.

MLK Ten 'Na Shoes

3532A NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Phone: 335-0905