

Family Living

The Portland Observer

Kids Suffer When Parents Argue Over Rearing Styles

"Parents who would 'rather fight than switch' their way of parenting are probably harming the very children they are trying to help," said David B. Larson, MD, President of the National Institute for Healthcare Research (NIHR).

This finding is based on a newly released NIHR summary of a study lead by a team of psychiatrists at the University of Michigan. The researchers found that marital conflicts over child rearing can damage children's mental health as well as

their ability to function in school with peers.

The researchers investigated the family environment of adolescents who were experiencing psychological problems.

Researchers found that adolescents who were brought up in homes with a great deal of marital conflict over child rearing and little marital satisfaction have more emotional and behavioral problems than adolescents who were brought up in a more harmonious environment.

Interestingly, a father's level of satisfaction with his marriage was found to directly impact his relationship with his children.

Fathers who reported a great deal of conflict in their marriage were found to be less involved and less affectionate with their children than fathers who reported being satisfied with their marriages.

The researchers suggested that it was difficult to determine whether it was marital conflict regarding child rearing that caused adolescent prob-

lems or whether the adolescent problems led to marital conflict.

For example, parents who disagree over how best to raise their children may parent ineffectively by failing to set consistent limits, expectations, and consequences--a parenting style that has been found to be associated with child behavior problems.

Conversely, adolescent behavioral problems may cause disagreements and marital conflict between parents about how best to handle or discipline a difficult child.

Whatever the relationship, the basic finding remains that children are negatively affected by conflict between their parents.

Larson concluded, "Given findings like these, it would be wise for parents to learn to negotiate on parenting styles rather than to argue about who is right."

The National Institute for Healthcare Research is a non-profit organization dedicated to conducting and disseminating research on the significance of spirituality to

health and well-being.

The organization produces educational materials, summarizes published research findings, hosts conferences to release ground breaking research data, sponsors speakers bureaus and lecture series for medical centers, awards grants to medical schools for educational courses on faith and medicine, and conducts a worldwide media outreach.

For a copy of the study, contact Dan Kauffman or Vicki Lovett at 301-231-7711.

Do you have a little extra time to help homebound senior citizens in your neighborhood?

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Portland, OR 97211

248-5211

Summer Drivers Needed

Concerts To Help Youth

Feed The Children, an international hunger relief organization, will collect non-perishable food at Garth Brooks' concerts at the Rose Garden, July 25-27.

Fans attending Brooks' concerts are being asked to bring non-perishable food items to the concerts for deposit at Feed The Children collection points located near entrances of the arena. Food collected will be distributed to Portland-area feeding agencies to help feed hungry children.

"Feed the Children has been fortunate to have a long-standing relationship with Garth Brooks," said Larry Jones, President of Feed The Children. "We appreciate Garth's commitment to feeding hungry children and we look forward to collecting food at his con-

certs." Through Feed The Children's work during the Brooks concert dates in Portland, Brooks' fans will have the opportunity to help those within their own community, explained Jones.

"It has been estimated that over 25 percent of children under twelve years of age in Oregon are either hungry or at-risk of hunger," said Jones. "Garth not only agree with Feed The Children that it's wrong for a child to go hungry, but he's joined with us to do something about it -- to feed hungry children."

Feed The Children has frequently collected non-perishable food during Brooks' past concerts, and Garth is once again encouraging fans to help feed America's hungry children.

"Waiting Children"



Daniel and Alicia, ages 9 and 8.

Brittany, age 6.

Around the United States, there are many children awaiting adoption.

In the state of Oregon alone, there are over 200 children in need. Single adults, both male and female, as well as couples are welcome to consider adoption.

To learn more contact The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at The Boys and Girls Aid Society, (503)222-9661.

Following are some examples of the special children looking for a loving home:

Daniel and Alicia, ages 9 and 8. These resilient Hispanic/Caucasian siblings are an extraordinary pair. Daniel is a gentle boy with a good sense of humor. He excels in science and finds dinosaurs intriguing. Alicia is a caring child who is reaching out to others. She enjoys playing with dolls and experimenting with arts and crafts. Doing well in school, she is also a strong reader. Daniel and Alicia really need a committed family to call their own.

Brittany, age 6. Brittany has an adorable scattering of freckles that enhances her strawberry-shortcake smile. She is a loving child who can be very sweet and caring. Playing in the water is one of her favorite pastimes, as is singing and watching movies. Brittany is waiting patiently for a home where she can be embraced by acceptance and love.

Portland Area Host Families Needed

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic program homestays, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) Executive Director, John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from a semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local high schools.

P.I.E. area representatives match students with host families by finding common interests and lifestyles through an informal in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it be a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a \$50.00 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

Portland area families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-800-631-1818.

The agency also had travel/study program opportunities available for American high school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.

Rose City Clowns Appear For Homeless Benefit

Fill your afternoon with lots of laughs at this celebration of International Clown week and support a worthy cause for the community.

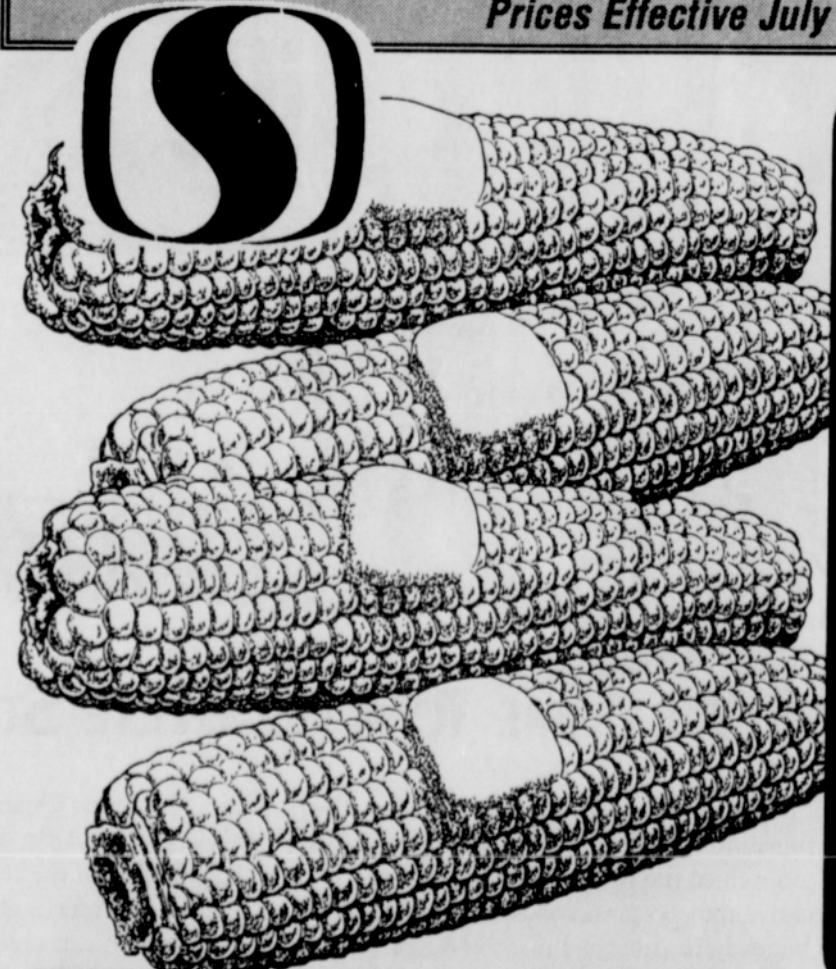
After the 90-minute show, join the clowns for face painting, balloon tying, autographs, prize drawings and just plain fun.

On Stage With Rose City Clowns will be held Saturday, Aug. 3 at Portland Community College's Performing Arts Center on the Sylvania Campus, 12000 S. W. 49th Ave. Tickets are \$9 adults, \$5 children 12 years and younger.

The family-oriented show, sponsored in part by PCC, is a benefit for Interfaith Outreach Services Residential Independence Training and Education (RITE) Center, a shelter to aid homeless children and adults on their journey to independence. Interfaith Outreach Services is based in Tigard.

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