

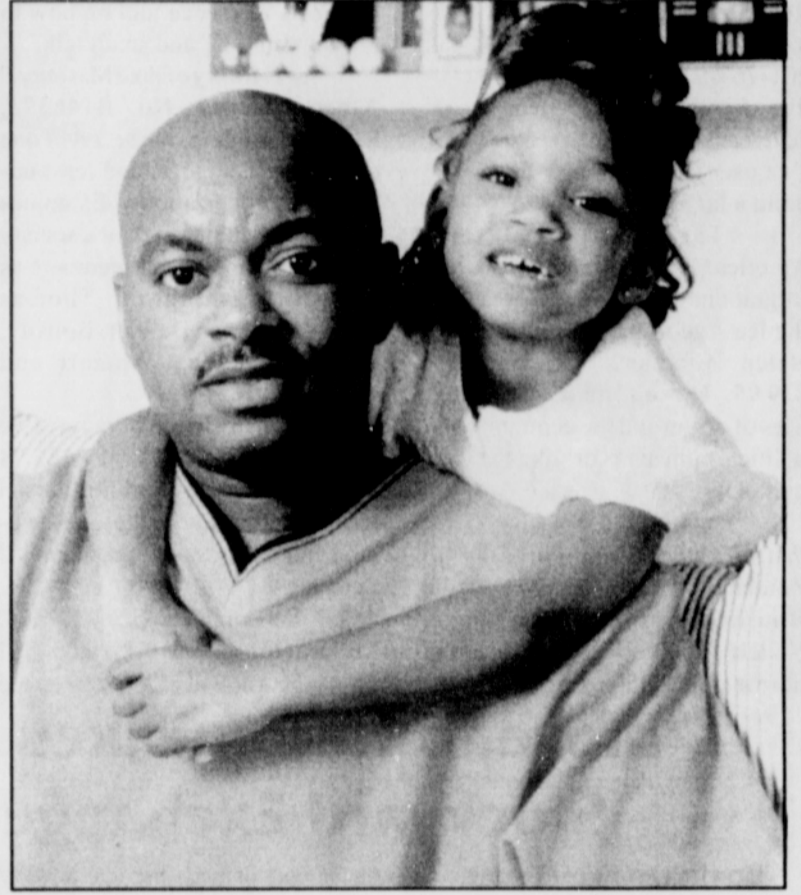
# Happy Father's Day

## Single Fathers Are Great Dads And Make Great Romantic Dates

Walter George III, Eric Becoats and Don B. Walker are among Black single fathers who talk about how to successfully juggle parenthood and romance.

Walter George of Atlanta says, "Dating makes me feel like someone out there wants me around." Eric Becoats of Baltimore, Maryland says his 3 year old son Braxton is his top priority and he looks at his dates as friends. These men make up 10% of Black single parent households throughout the country. They juggle the ballet recital and the happy hour, the birthday party and the bachelor party, the Boy Scout troop and the out of town weekend excursion with a lady friend. "It is possible to date, be a single father and have a great life, but it has to be done cautiously, so that no one gets hurt," says Don S. Walker of Dallas, Texas.

Jeffrey Mitchell of Houston is also a romantic single father and says it took him more than two years to start dating after the death of his wife. "It was a little awkward to get back to that," says Mitchell. "But after awhile you have to do it for your own sanity." Experts agree that dating and being a dad is a struggle full of compromises, but by prioritizing and planning dads are finding out they can be a great date, a great parent, and produce a great child.



## Workshops On Effective Fatherhood

Fatherhood beyond the stereotypes of deadbeat dads

FATHERHOOD USA, a two-part documentary exploring fatherhood beyond the stereotypes of deadbeat dads and Mr. Mons, airs on PBS this month (check local listing). The first program, "Dedicated, Not Deadbeat," looks at fathers in Baltimore and Boston who are finding community support in trying to be good fathers. The second program, "Juggling Family and Work," focuses on three men, in intact families, who confront the daily dilemma of being a dad and handling the pressures of a workplace that isn't always "father-friendly." The documentary is hosted by former U.S. senator Bill Bradley. Actor Yaphet Kotto narrates the first program and actor John Shea narrates the second program.

\* "Dedicated, Not Deadbeat" Absent fathers, unmarried fathers, deadbeat dads - negative depictions of fathers have become a media staple. But what about men struggling to stay involved with their kids despite a legacy of fatherlessness, poverty or incarceration? What does it take to keep men connected to their families? This program looks beyond the stereotypes at what happens when men in fragile families find an environment that support their importance as fathers.

\* If a father is unmarried and provides little financial support to his young son and daughter, can he still be a good family man? Paul Hope, 21, an unemployed father of two, seems poised to repeat the legacy of fatherlessness in which he grew up. Convicted of assault for a street fight, he may be sent to jail. He joins Baltimore Men's Services, part of a local Healthy Start Program, starts a job in a federally funded housing/work program, and is determined not to be an absent father.

\* Jeremy Stevens, 28, has five children, is unemployed, and has a criminal history. He seems likely to repeat the domestic abuse with which he grew up. Arrested for hitting his girlfriend, Vicki, he nearly lands in jail. But a judge orders him to join a program that aims to break the cycle of violence and train him to become the father he himself never had.

\* "Juggling Family and Work" This program looks at men from across the country as they confront the daily dilemma of being a working dad. It deals with one of the most important business issues of the future: creating a family-friendly workplace for mothers and fathers.

\* Shortly after a massive heart attack, Bart Morrison, 44, was downsized from his executive job. When Bart is home, unemployed, he takes responsibility for the care of his two small children while his wife works, and he unexpectedly discovers the importance of his role as a father.

\* Don Hicks is a factory worker on a rotating shift, with a schedule typical of hundreds of thousands of line workers today. Don and his wife Karen are on the verge of a divorce that will only further distance him from his two teenage daughters. He works to turn his life and marriage around, joins a fathering group and learns to take on his share of household responsibilities.

\* Al Franco, 35, works for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, one of the nation's best companies for working fathers. Al and his wife Sandra are juggling work and caring for three preschool children when their oldest girl comes down with what may be a serious disease. Al constantly leaves work to care for her and his co-workers give him a hard time for "being mommy," but the company's commitment to supporting dads helps him through this critical

period. How can men play a more active role in their children's lives? What can community agencies do to support the involvement of dads--regardless of their marital status? What can employers do to help fathers balance work and family life--for the benefit of families and the bottom line?

The four workshops cover 1) the Importance of Fathers, 2) Father-Mother Communication, 3) Juggling Work and Family and 4) Fathers and Social Support. Contact your local PBS station outreach or Ready to Learn department to find out if they are participating in this project. If no, copies of the two one-hour videos and workshop kits can be purchased by contacting Media Library at 800 343-5540.

For further information on PBS Outreach, contact Pat Dressler, SC ETV, 1 800 277-0829, email dressler@sctv.org or fax 803 737-3544.

## Study Volunteers Needed HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

African American volunteers are needed for a 30 week hypertension research medication study. If you are 18 years or older with high blood pressure and in general good health, you may qualify. Volunteers will be thoroughly screened by the research team and their private physicians consulted. Study medication, study-related clinic visits and testing will be provided at no charge for those who qualify. Reimbursement for travel will be given. For information call 228-3217, Mon.-Thur. 9 to 4, Fri. 9 to 1.

Clinical Research Group of Oregon  
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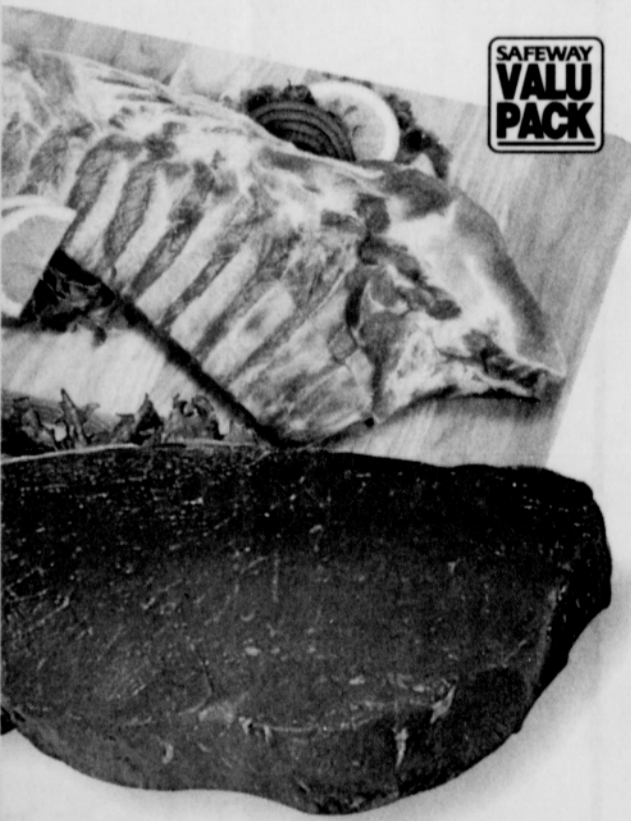
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# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



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