

Program brings home realities of parenthood

Baby Think It Over. No, that's not a line from the latest Jackson Browne tune, but rather another effort on the part of School District 509-J to lower the incidence of teen pregnancy within the district.

Baby Think It Over is actually a robot which realistically emulates many of the actions of a newborn baby, from the cutest cooing to wailing up in the middle of the night and wailing louder than Joe Cocker at a Woodstock reunion.

It is about the same size as a month-old infant with many of the same mannerisms, such as needing its neck reinforced, needing to be fed, crying at odd moments. In fact, it was the lack of crying which caused its creator to come up with the robot.

Rick Jurmain and his wife Mary were watching a television program where teens were carrying eggs and sacks of flour to simulate caring for babies when Rick Jurmain wondered where the crying and middle of the night feedings were in this simulation.

And the idea for Baby Think It Over was born.

Just as real babies, the robot requires attention for different lengths of time. The length of care needed to satisfy the doll depends upon the types of care a real infant may need, such as feeding, burping, diapering, bathing, or comforting. When the baby is satisfied it lets the student know by cooing.

The electronics in the doll are sensitive to the way the baby is held and

can come with different temperaments: easy, normal and cranky. A mini-computer inside the doll allows for electronic monitoring and evaluation of the students' performances showing the level of head support, any rough handling, neglect of and total minutes the doll cried.

Because teens don't usually think of the inconvenience of all the equipment involved with childcare, the student is provided with a diaper bag, car seat, and other equipment.

School District 509-J found out about the program, did some research and made the move to incorporate it into curriculum here.

Culver High School had the program, but 509-J felt there was a need to get the program into earlier grades, so this program is given to students at Jefferson County Middle School.

Lola Hagman who oversees the program was sent materials on Baby Think It Over by Lisbet Hornung, who works with teen parents at Madras High School.

"Since we had two eighth graders who have had babies, we thought we needed to start with the middle school students," Hagman explained.

The dolls cost almost \$300 each. The eight dolls used in the program were purchased through grants obtained from both the Jefferson County and the Crook-Deschutes Education Service Districts.

The students get the doll for 24 hours and must take it with them from class to class, to any sporting events in which they participate, to the dinner table, even to bed with

them. A diary is kept by the student outlining when the baby cried and what they did when it cried.

Prior to being assigned the doll, a student must read text and pass a quiz dealing with AIDS, shaken baby syndrome, and car seat care. When the student thinks she/he is ready, a readiness test is taken and if that is passed, then the parents of the student must sign a consent form. The student must keep a diary during the time Baby is being cared for and upon return an evaluation takes place. Even the parents of the student evaluate performance.

Hagman says a change occurs in the student between the time the doll is checked out and the time it is returned.

"They all want to hold it and love it when they take it," she said. "When they return their emotions are mixed. They are proud they have done a good job. Some are happy to be rid of it. They are all surprised at how demanding they are and how often they wake up."

"A lot of times friends will spend time together with their babies to support each other. Some of the girls bring outfits to dress them in from when they were babies."

Hagman said the teachers in other classes in which the student must take the baby all think this is a good program, so she has heard no complaints.

Eighth grader Brian Burgess found dealing with the infant stressful. He was involved in track when he had childcare duties and had to

have the team manager babysit while he participated in events, but the rest of the time he was in the role of father during the track meet.

"Lots of people were staring at me, but it didn't bother me. I have a little brother and I'm used to changing diapers. But if you're planning on having a baby soon, you should try it to see how much stress it would be. My parents think most kids should do this program."

Jason Shaver, also eighth grade, thinks the program is a good one that

helps young students to understand what parenting is really all about, how babies affect one's free time, and how annoying they can be.

"It cries unexpectedly, like when you're in the shower. I had to sleep with it and it cried eight times throughout the night. It woke me up. The amount it cried was surprising. It required a lot of attention, more than I was sometimes willing to give. It bothered me to have to quit doing homework to take care of it."

"It cried while I was waiting for the bus and I had to wait for it stop crying and then I had to get it and all my stuff on the bus."

Hagman is keeping statistics on the students' experiences to see if the program is effective at lowering the district's teen pregnancy rate. But she has a vision on how to make it even more effective.

"I would like to have the baby carried for 24 hours at the freshman level, and 72 hours when the high school student does the third level of health."



Brian Burgess, left, and Jessie Flores participated last year in the Baby Think It Over program.

Warm Springs Baptist Church welcomes new Pastor



Cliff and Mary Billings.

The Warm Springs Baptist Church has been without a Pastor for approximately two years when Reuben Kinney moved away. You may have noticed that the parsonage has been occupied recently by the new Pastor, Cliff Billings and his wife Mary.

The Billings' come to Warm Springs from the Yakama Reservation where they were living before arriving in Warm Springs.

Billings is a missionary with the Southern Baptist Convention and a new church starter, church planter. They go to different areas in the Northwest and find a town that doesn't have a church and start a church there. Mr. and Mrs. Billings have been doing this for quite some time.

Billings also does cowboy ministry. Typically they would start bible studies on ranches, in the homes, around campfires. Cowboys who shoe horses, train horse and round them up for branding would have bible study afterward around the campfire and later direct that into some fellowships. These fellowships would hold bible studies five to six times a week in different homes. Eventually these fellowships are brought together to form church. Then a calling for a Pastor is done, church is going well and strong. The Billings will move on to another area.

"It's been real exciting and a real experience. It's been helpful to be an experienced horseshoer, professional carrier, horse trainer, cowboy and journeyman carpenter," says Billings.

Eleven years ago while at the Yakama Reservation Cliff got into a horse wreck and was jerked down, shattering his pelvis. He was laid up for a while. Eventually the situation had gotten worse and he was told to

quit riding rough stock.

Billings said he was praying to find direction and was lead to call on the elders of the Warm Springs Baptist Church where he preached a few times already. When he called he found out that they had been without a Pastor for a couple years. "It didn't take very long for me to find out that God was speaking in my heart concerning Warm Springs."

Billings was called to preach in Warm Springs.

He plans to continue preaching and starting new churches at the request of other reservations. "We can work on other reservations, do cowboy ministry or any kind of ministry that we have the desire to do."

Billings was saved at age 26 in 1974 in Hoopa, California. He began teaching bible study and had a strong sense that he was being led to teach and preach.

Being raised in alcoholic home, he turned alcoholic himself. He was at the end of himself when he found Christ. At that time he felt like he wanted to end his life. That life didn't have a purpose for him.

Accepting Jesus as his Savior has had a tremendous impact on himself. He has looked onto that and never lost it. "I have a purpose and meaning in life and I want to share that truth with other people."

"I believe God called me here. My wife and I are excited to be here."

Mary has a real heart and desire to work with youth. She is currently working at the Albertsons in Bend five days a week.

The Billings' look forward to a lot of years working with the Church and making a difference in the community.

Indian land consolidation symposium set for September 20-23, 1999

The Indian Land Working Group is pleased to announce the 9th annual Indian Land Consolidation Symposium to be hosted by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, located in Palm Springs, CA.

The symposium will take place from September 20-23, 1999. The event will include a day of workshop sessions scheduled for Monday, September 20, followed by three days of General Sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 21-23.

Workshop topics include ILWG Legislation to address fractionated trust land, Fee-to-Trust Regulations, Current Status, Impacting change, Developing and implementing a Tribal Inheritance code, TAAMS (Trust Asset and Accounting Management System), Developing a Reservation-wide Land Consolidation Plan.

General Sessions will include Codes to preserve the Trust Status of Indian land, Controlling development with a uniform code, Public lands- Impacting exchanges and transfers, Land data systems- Tribal models at work, Land use- importance of zoning, Amendments to HR4325- The "Indians Trust Estate Planning and Land Title Management Act", Keeping Indian land Indian- impact on Taxation and jurisdiction, Land Consolidation- using disclaimers, Return of 2% interests- Status, legal action, Making law in Indian country.

To accommodate the number of persons attending the symposium, the sessions will be held at two hotels. The workshop sessions scheduled for September 20 will be held at the Spa Hotel & Casino, which is owned and operated by the Agua Caliente Tribe.

The general sessions scheduled for September 21-23, will take place in the Ballroom of the Hilton Resort, located directly across the street from the Spa Hotel.

The reserve a room at the Spa call 1-800-854-1279; or the Hilton, call 1-800-522-6900. Be sure to mention that you will be attending the ILWG Land Symposium to receive the following special rates at both hotels: single-\$79, double-\$89, Suites-\$129, Hilton Plaza Suite-\$139-Spa Jr. Suite. Both hotels provide free shuttle service from the Palm Springs Airport.

Pre-registration fee is \$125 and on-site registration fee is \$150. If you would like to receive a packet to register you may contact one of the following persons. Theresa Carmody (505) 668-9013, George Russell 1-800-835-7220, Dore Bietz (209) 588-9772, Del LeCompte (701) 854-7478, Blaine Small (406) 638-2601, Diane Stevens (907) 457-2762.

You may also contact their website for updated information on the symposium and additional information on the ILWG at: <http://www.indianlands.com>

School starts September 7th

Tribal member named 'Entertainer Of The Year'

Meda Miller, a 12-year-old member of the Confederated Tribes was named the Grand National Entertainer Of The Year at the Miss America Starlet Pageant contest in Palm Springs, California.

Miller is the daughter of Avex (Stoney) Miller, of Warm Springs. She lives with her mother, Dolores Brinkoetter, and her step-father Mark Brinkoetter, in Nampa, Idaho, where she is a 7th grader at South Jr. High.

The talented young lady, who also plays the fiddle, has been invited along with the group she plays with, to be a part of the opening ceremonies for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

To win 'Entertainer Of The Year' award in Palm Springs, Meda had to showcase three talents. She performed "In The Mood" with her fiddle, Irish Step-Danced and sang "Turn It Loose."

She also performed "Kidnapped," a comic monologue. Before attending the pageant in Palm Springs, Meda won two other competitions. She is the '1999 Miss Idaho Gem State Young Miss Queen' and won the 'Idaho National Teen-Ager Jr. division.' In both pageants, she also won the talent competition.



Meda Miller with her trophies and jacket she has won this year.

What this young tribal member has accomplished is amazing. She has been chosen for a small part in a

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TICKETS for sale @ the WSCC office:

\$15 advanced/\$20 @ the door

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Limited amount of tickets for sale!!

NOTE: 217 tickets must be sold by August 25 for the event to happen. So buy your tickets now. . . .

Indian Head Casino grand prize quad cab pick-up

There's always a winner and you could be the next grand prize winner of a 1999 Dodge Ram Quad cab Laramie SLT 4x4 Pickup on September 25 at 10:00 p.m.

Also starting in September on: Thursday Slot Tournaments return to Indian Head. Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 9 and Thursday, September 23.

All Tournaments start at 7:00 p.m. Registration opens one half hour before at 6:30 p.m.

The buy in is \$20 a person. 100% of the buy in is paid out in prizes to the top three places, and the person with the lowest score receives a booby prize.

Come on in and enjoy an evening of excitement, fun and winning.

another small part in an Industrial Video for the National Inter-Agency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

This gifted young lady was presented the President's Award for outstanding academic achievement when she graduated from the 6th grade last spring. She was also recognized last fall by the Nampa, Idaho Chamber of Commerce as an Outstanding student. She scored a 'Superior' at vocal recital, and had a perfect attendance during the school year.

This past week, Meda tried out for "Tommy Hilfiger-All-American Girl Modeling Search" in Boise.

Meda's mother, Dolores, was happy to welcome her home after her trip to Palm Springs. Dolores couldn't attend the pageant until the following Friday since she had to do Meda's chores. In her daughter's absence, Dolores was stung by hornets, got scratched by barbed wire, and waded into the irrigation ditch in her good shoes. "Boy did I miss her," says Mom. "And so did her animals. I guess she's the better farmer too."

Meda Miller is the granddaughter of the late Avex and Dale Miller of Warm Springs.

by Bob Medina

movie to be filmed in Idaho. Rope The Moon will be filmed in the Spring of 2000. Ms. Miller will also play