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## The Politics of Parenting

Whether or not to have kids has never been a real question in our society. Having kids was something everybody did when they grew up. In fact, we've felt sorry for women who couldn't have children, and knew that, had they only been able (physically and/or emotionally), they would have had their 3.5 or 2.1 along with the rest of society.

We've never worried that some people might not be good parents. We've always assumed that everyone would love their kids and do their best to raise them right.

Historically, we have been a very pronatalist country. We have given tax breaks to large families; our governmental, economic, religious and educational leaders have glorified the institution of Motherhood (Mother's Day, Apple pie and Motherhood). Our media has been full of articles on "The Miracles of Birth" and "The Fulfillment of Motherhood." Large families buy more products--everything from more baby food, more schools and more houses, to more stereos and more alcohol. Having children has been a political and

economic policy of our society.

But now a growing number of people are questioning whether to have children, whether it's to have none, one, or more. The concern with over-population and limited resources, in conjunction with the growing emphasis on expanding role options for women, has made this decision one of the most important we will ever make. And since having children has become a decision rather than an inevitable act, it has become political. When we begin to see relationships, roles and institutions as a result of human choice, we realize that these choices are subject to change.

And the change is coming. Much of the data now available from studies of the American family challenges the old pronatalist rationale. Studies have shown that childless couples report a higher rate of marital satisfaction than couples with children. It has been demonstrated that a woman's status in marriage often declines with the birth of a child and her subsequent assignment to the role of mother. And some people simply are not good parents. From a national survey in

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1965, it was estimated that the incidence of child abuse that year was 2.5-4 million cases.

While the proportion of young women who say they want no children is still small, it has increased dramatically in the last few years. The largest change, though, has come in the increase in the number of women who say they want two or fewer children. The steady drop in U.S. fertility reflects this change.

The National Organization for Nonparents (NON) was organized in the early 70's to end "pronatalist pressures and conditioning and make the childfree alternative a truly viable option." NON points out that children are an incredible investment of time, energy and money that not everyone wants to make.

So having children becomes a political

decision--particularly for women, since it is still they who invest a major part of their time in child-rearing. It is becoming important to consider how children will affect your life--your goals, your relationships, your society and your world.

This issue of the Montana Women's Resource considers individual women's decisions, the factors that influence them and their feelings about those decisions.

References:

Bernard, Jesse, Women, Wives, Mothers, 1975  
Journal of Marriage and Family, Nov. 1971  
NON, 806 Reistertown Rd., Baltimore, MD 21208

--Judy Smith

## A Hard Choice

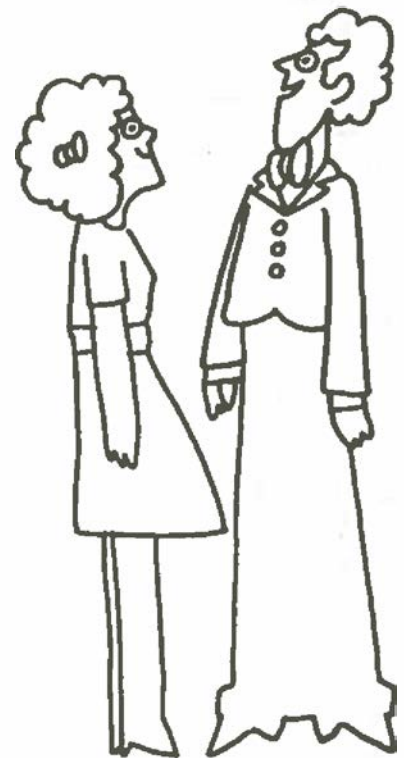
When I was a girl it seemed predetermined that the pattern of my life would be a continuum of my mother's, grandmother's and great grandmother's lives. I would marry, have my own home and raise a family. No one ever sat me down and told me that I must marry or that I must have children. However, it was assumed that this was the normal course of events--it was the formula for a happy life--and anything else that I might do would be incidental. A career for a woman was a stopgap; teaching and secretarial work were what a woman did while waiting for a husband, home and children--or if her husband was not a good provider.

When my husband and I married we did not want to have children (for at least a while). Six years later we still do not feel ready.

I have come to like children more and more as an adult.

I enjoy the time I spend with the children I know (mostly children of close friends). I feel confident that I would be a good parent; I am more patient with children than when I was younger. I have a sincere interest in child-adult interaction. I often feel a desire to conceive, carry, give birth and to hold and nurse a baby of my own. Being pregnant and giving birth has always appealed to me as one of life's great experiences. I am not sure that I want to miss it.

I am an artist and am working toward a successful career--that is, working steadily and supporting myself, at least in part, by selling my work. I have the professional woman's fears that children would interfere with my work. I also fear that I would not have the time and energy to combine a profession and a family. I am aware how much of a moth-



er's energies--physical and mental--children take, even with childcare.

My husband's profession requires him to work out of town during the week. He has little desire to have children, but if I really desired a child he probably would agree--if I took responsibility for the major amount of childcare, so his career would not be inter-

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ferred with. Fair enough.

However, I doubt that I would be able to keep up my end of the bargain for long. And he would probably end up feeling guilty for leaving me with the major burden of child-rearing.

Since we have been undecided about having children we have observed the dynamic of family relationships among our acquaintances. It seems the introduction of a child to a couple's life creates a profound change in their relationship. In our eyes, this change is generally for the worst. The woman fares the worst. (See Judy Smith's article). She loses her freedom, her mobility and her autonomy. Although neither my husband nor I believe these conditions are unavoidable, our observations have made us skeptical as to whether they can be overcome.

How normal is a childless marriage? It seems quite unusual. I often wonder how one fulfills the need for family if one does not raise children? Will we have anyone to turn to for help and company when we grow old? With whom will we share the holidays? What functions do children really serve in a person's life?

We all know that there are risks in having children. What risks are involved in not having children? Why does a life without children seem an uncharted course?

Although child-bearing and care appear attractive at times, we have as a couple, determined that our present situation leaves us free to pursue our individual careers and to enjoy our relationship,

unfettered by the burdens and responsibilities of children.

What interests me about the question of having children is our ambivalence. Perhaps this ambivalence is because my image of what life should be is still, in part, the image my parents designed for me. However, it is gradually being replaced by my own design, based on who I am and what my life is. My choice will be the result of keeping my options open.

--Kathy White

## Satisfied Mother

Many women today are facing the question "Should I have children or not?"

Some of today's mothers did not consider the option of not having children.

One woman, a mother of



two, said she did not consider a childless marriage when she married 14 years ago. However, she is content with her living situation and is happy with her children.

She said having a family still allowed her the time needed to pursue her own interests.

Her husband, she said, supports her in having a life of her own. He does housework, helps with child care and, she said, "Almost pushes me out the door." She and her husband do not believe that "the household will fall apart" without her.

An elementary education teacher, she is presently taking time away from teaching to attend U of M in order to become certified to teach special education.

She described her family's relationships as "good, open relationships." The family "really likes doing things together," she said.

Another reason she finds satisfaction with her living situation is that she and her husband plan their schedule so they "have a lot of time together." One way they accomplish this is by taking turns with their neighbors in caring for each other's children.

This mother views her relationship with her children as "another good relationship." She does not see her 9- and 11-year-olds as "extensions" of herself.

Sometimes, as most parents do, she asks herself why she had children. Raising children, she said, involves adjustments by parents in many areas: activities and

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work are interrupted and parents must answer numerous questions that their children ask. The responsibility of raising children is at times "frightening," she said.

Despite these adjustments, if given a choice, she would still have had children. However, children are not for everyone. She believes parenting should not be forced upon adults and that women should not feel that they are achieving true womanhood only if they bear children.

She advised that a woman have "some sense of her self," of her own worth and of her temperament before she becomes involved in parenting. It is necessary for a woman to find the kind of a lifestyle that she really wants.

--Eileen Gallagher

## Motherhood

### --Kim Williams

Today, due to women's changing role in society and more effective methods of birth control, women are beginning to ask themselves whether they want children. Until recently, womanhood was equated with maternity. Few women challenged that role, reinforced since childhood. Some, however, did dare to deviate from the norm.

Kim Williams, author of the recently published book, Eating Wild Plants, was one woman who chose not to have children.

In an interview, Kim said she and her husband had been "happily married" for 25 years. Asked why they decided not to have children, Kim said:

"Well, I never really thought about having children...I'm an independent person...I wanted to travel and do some writing. My husband said before we were married that he wasn't too interested in raising a family...maybe subconsciously that's one reason why I chose him."

Shortly after the Williamses married they moved to South America. Mr. Williams worked and Kim stayed at home. Kim said that the South Americans told her it was a shame that she did not have children. Many felt sorry for her.

Kim defended herself: "We had plenty of time to raise kids; it was just that we simply were not children-oriented."

"I did go through a period of psychosomatic illnesses, though," Kim said. "I was in a position where I wasn't doing what most women in my position were doing--namely, having children. I was living in a foreign country...I had no career...so I wrote a book. My energies went into writing, talking, lecturing and teaching in Chile at the university in 1966. All that took the place of raising children..."

Did the Williamses ever regret not having children? "Nope, never," Kim declared. "Once we were going to adopt a child, but we never got excited enough to go through with it."

"I got pregnant once--by accident. We decided to have the child, but I had a mis-



carriage. I'm a great believer in fate and we just felt it was not meant for us to have children."

After her miscarriage, Kim did not use any method of birth control except rhythm.

"It's not a good method," she said, "but it worked for us."

Asked how family and friends felt about the Williams' decision not to have children, Kim responded:

"Both of our parents had grandchildren by their other children--my husband's brothers and sisters and mine all had kids--so there wasn't much pressure there."

Kim said that sometimes adults have children for "odd" reasons. She wondered whether adults had children because they had "nothing else to do."

Kim believes that her abilities extend beyond childbearing. She raised the question: is having children the extent of a woman's ability?

--Kay M. Sagmiller



# Equal Opportunity Parenting?

## --as reported by a father

Once upon a time there were two children who lived with Mother and Father in a mountain valley, near a small town in a big world. The youngest of the two was a girl. She was petite, witty and carefree. This endeared her to Father and worried Mother. Mother knew that pretty little girls often get trapped by their own charms. Father was trapped by Daughter's disarming smile.

The other child was a boy, just a year older than his sister. He was sturdy, handsome and already worried about achieving, though he was only 5½ years from his birth. Mother shared with Son the enjoyment of card games and a competitive disposition. Mother shared with Dad a concern about Son's need to win, to be reassured.

One day while Dad was away on a business trip, Mom told the kids that she had to go to a meeting after her graduate school classes. Daughter asked, "Mommy, can I go with you?" Mommy said, "No." Daughter cried. Mommy felt guilty. Son whined, "But you said you would play with me tonight." Frustrated by her inability to reach their young minds with adult explanations, she felt anger as she wished her husband was there to be their father when she needed to be somewhere else being a person. By the time she left the house she was feeling better about the kids because they liked their babysitter and seemed contented by her promise to bring home a surprise (con-

solation) for them after her meeting. But Mom's anger at Dad had settled into resentment.

Meanwhile, over the mountains, Dad was negotiating a contract. By the time he began his trip home, he was eager to be with just family, after several days away. He wanted to play with the children, to talk to Mom about his negotiations and was sure feeling ready to make some love with his wife-person.

Son and Daughter were elated to see Dad and gave him excited hugs and kisses. When gifts had been bestowed and the children were engaged in playing, Dad talked with



Mom about his trip. She made remarks that helped him clarify in his own mind some implications of his recent negotiations. But he also felt a little defensive--her comments seemed to be a critique of his work performance. More disturbing than that, she had shown little sign of affection since he got home... "Didn't she miss me?" he wondered. At first hurt, then angry, husband unpacked while wife-trying-to-study was interrupted by two phone calls.

At 3:15 in the morning, Daughter woke Dad to change her wet pants. After doing so, he tucked her back into bed. He went back to his bed, with his mind and emotions focused on the strain with Wife that had kept him awake until 12:30 AM. Wife turned over in her sleep, put her arm around him; husband's anxiety subsided and he fell asleep.

At breakfast the oatmeal got cold while Brother and Sister perched on their chairs and bickered over who got the bowl with the wide stripe. Dad, who had been trying to sandwich in another task during the kids' breakfast, returned from the garage just in time to grab the unwanted bowl from the precipice of the table edge. "All right, you two," he said, "if you don't stop fighting, I will make you sit there on chairs for awhile." He pushed one bowl in front of each child, plunked spoons into the not-so-hot cereal and strode out of the kitchen on his way to another wedged-in task. Out of the room, but not out of hear-

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ing, he heard Brother say to Sister in a puzzled tone, "We are already sitting on chairs."

Happy is the moment of Mom's return. Kids jump to her with hugs and kisses. She sits down to enjoy them. Soon the day's pressures overtake her mind and she is telling Husband developments in her outside world. Kids clamor for attention; Dad splits his attention, not wanting to abandon the conversation with Wife. But he wants Mother to satisfy children.

This dilemma leads to discussion. Some glimpses of this discussion are gained from the following excerpts:

Dad: "I think we should hold our visiting until the kids have had more of your time and attention."

Mom: "They had lots of my time and attention while you were gone."

Mom: "I want to take the children to the movies on Saturday. Do you want to come along?"

Dad: "Yes, but I don't want to commit myself now, until I see how much of my work I get done before that."

Mom: "What should we do about our son's attempts to control his sister?"

Dad: "Let's try to cut down on our demands on him and also switch to playing some non-competitive games with him."

Wife: "I had the house picked up, but you've let it get messed up again."

Husband: "By the time I worked on the car and split wood I didn't have much time for housework. Sharing res-

pensibilities is O.K., but there is still a need for specialization. It's more than adding up all the tasks and dividing by two."

Wife: "It just seems that I'm not getting the support for school and study time that I need."

Man: "I'd like to take some time this evening just for us, to talk about how each of us is feeling and how we are seeing things."

Woman: "I just told you about one of my feelings, that I need time and support for study. Talking can take up so much time and your expecting it right now is a demand I don't appreciate."

To be continued...not in this newsletter, but in a mountain valley, near a small town in a big world.

(The incidents related are true. There has been no attempt to protect the innocent because none of us are.)



## Single Adoptive Parents

Can a single person become an adoptive parent?

Although there is no legal ruling in the state of Montana on this issue, each adoption agency has a policy to deal with this question.

In Montana there are four adoption agencies: Lutheran Social Services, Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS), Catholic Charities and Montana Children's Home and Hospital.

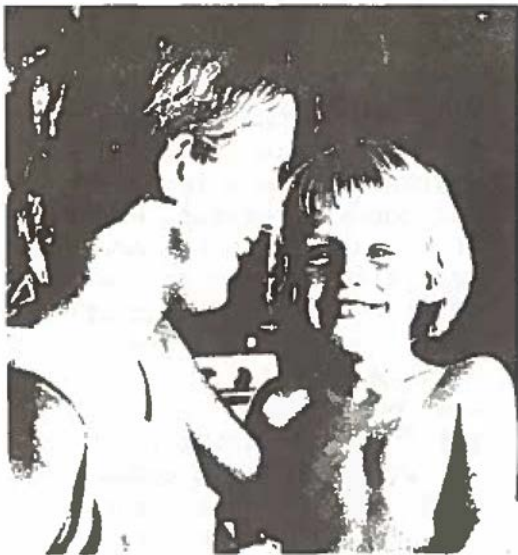
After speaking with all four agencies, I found a difference in the policies of each about this question. Lutheran Social Services sees single-parenting as a viable option. The agency has placed one child with a single person. But Catholic Charities does not support this kind of adoption. It believes that two parents are better than one. Although the other two agencies accept applications of single parents, they said the number of children being placed is fewer than the number of applications filed by persons wanting to adopt.

The Montana Adoption Agencies most often place infants. However, Jean Arnold of SRS says one way singles can become adoptive parents is through foster homes. Often, children placed in these homes become eligible for placement. It is not impossible for the homes foster parent then to apply for legal adoption. By this time the child and the adult have built a strong under-

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# Lesbian Mother



standing and friendship. It is pointed out that it is important for one parent of an adopted pre-schooler to be in the home, and it is not beneficial for the child to be placed in a day care center immediately. The number of changes (orphanage, home to day-care) could become very disruptive to the child. With older children, it is more important to act as a guidance figure, rather than as someone to replace natural parents.

It must be stressed that each agency has a unique method of screening that is used in making observations and recommendations. Although it is not a much-used option, it is possible for individuals to adopt children.

--C. Allison Lombard

Every parent has a unique and hopefully deep and loving relationship with his or her child. And every mother has her own personal lifestyle. I am no exception. But I am a lesbian and a mother and to some the two seem incompatible. But being a lesbian doesn't make being a mother all that different.

My little boy was born while I was living with his father and he and his father developed a close and loving relationship. We have always felt that children need lots of love and acceptance. When our child was about two his father and I were forced to accept that we weren't happy living together and we separated.

About six months later I fell in love with a woman... a lifestyle that I was familiar with but my little boy was not. The situation seemed strange at first but soon I came to realize that my little boy did not care that I loved a woman. He simply



had the normal jealousy of a child whose mother's affection wasn't being directed totally to him anymore. The jealousy was short-term and the woman soon became an important part of both our lives. She and I both helped each other through hard times in our lives but were not long in staying together.

This puts many doubts in my mind about being a mother because of the instability of my relationships, especially since my relationships are most likely to be gay.

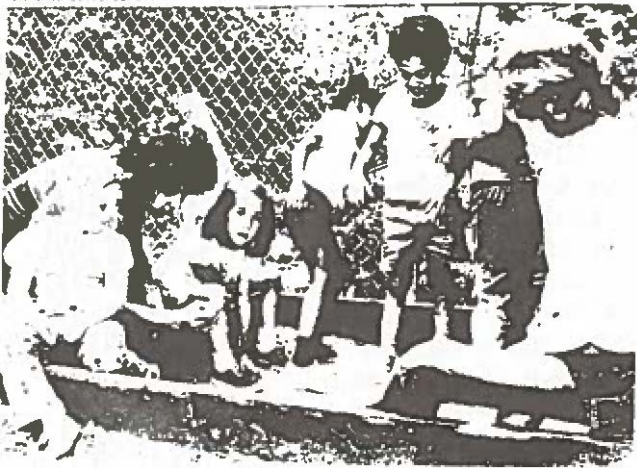
I had some good talks with my little boy's father and we decided that instable, gay or whatever, my little boy and I are good for each other right now. We love and need each other. He is physically and mentally a strong, healthy, gentle little boy. If the time comes where having a lesbian mother is not a good thing for him, his father says they can live together and I agree. We have a new person in our lives right now, a beautiful lady who was a friend of my little boy before she and I became lovers. She's quiet and patient, which helps a lot when it comes to dealing with a two-year-old child.

Right now this mother and child are doing what all mother and children are doing...just growing and loving and coping with each other. Potty training is coming along fine. He has a good daddy who sees him often and a mother who is living her life in the most satisfying manner for her.

Being a lesbian and a mother are certainly compatible.



# Collective Parenting



Our offspring are vulnerable for many years. Thus, they need continual care. Parenting becomes an important issue for women who, by biological definition, are involved physically for nine months and by social definition, carry this responsibility for many years (woman's prime living years). But, "the term mother no longer means simply that you have given birth to others, but that you are responsible for the child and everything that happens to him/her, as well as anything she causes to happen to something or someone else. This functional definition is spelled out in the law and reinforced by social sanction" (Cynthia Washington).

Women work for economic reasons or to explore their potential. Whatever the reasons, women are leaving their strict role when their children are very young and are returning to the work world.

As women cease to just be mothers, their traditional

role ceases. If both parents work to support the nuclear family situation, a breakdown of the nuclear ideal occurs. Other members of society begin to take some part in the parenting role.

Many people have come to the paradoxical point where they have decided not to bear children, but still have desires to work with them. To prevent loss of stability which comes from lost, neglected children, who find themselves in a world of television and eight-hour Day Care circus arenas, we must acknowledge our alter natives, for our children are human beings with rights and unique personalities. They need the stability provided through concerned parenting. We are all parents in our responsibility toward human society. All adults are responsible for giving all children and not only to those to whom they are tied by blood.

Collective parenting is

our mutual consent to regard all children as equally deserving of our love, attention and respect. We are in transition today and many alternatives are developing to parenting strictly according to blood ties.

In Missoula I found numerous examples of different forms of caring for children. One is a communal form where several adults and their children live in mutual concern for each other.

Another form of caring for children is Day Care. One type is government-run day care for children ages three and older. One such day-care that interests me was run by high school students in connection with their child-care classes at high school. In Missoula there is also an in-home day care program, an answer for mothers returning to work while their children are still less than three years old.

A single mother found another alternative parenting. As an alternative to paid babysitting she sends her six-year-old to a friend's house after school. After-school sharing of children is an excellent alternative for those with children who attend school but are too young to be left alone after school. In return, the mother babysits her friend's children one or two nights a week so her friend and her friend's husband have time to spend alone. The mother also has

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# A Complex Responsibility

Raising children today involves more than just routine daily parenting. Many philosophical issues must be considered by parents. Our complex society is forcing parents to make more complicated decisions than in the past.

One mother of two who attends U of M faced some hard, cold decisions after a recent divorce. She retained legal custody of her 8- and 11-year-old children but sent them to Germany to live with their father for several years. She needed more time to pursue her goals as a student and would not have been able to give them sufficient attention while at school. Another factor in this decision was that she wanted her children to have the best possible living situation. She said that although her children wanted to remain with her, she did not want them to grow up in a "totally female environment." She believes that being with their father will have a beneficial effect on them.

She does not know whether her children are happy living with their father and stepmother because she does not correspond with them. But she believes that children have an ability to accept a situation and to "deal with it." In fact, she said, children can cope "better than parents can." She thinks that her children have adjusted to their situation.

Her children are returning to spend several years

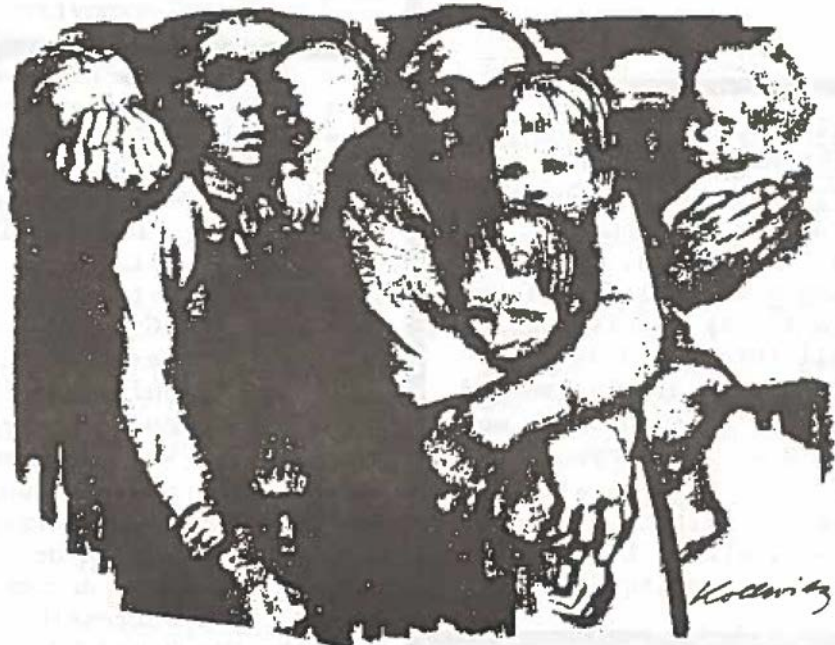
with her in August of this year. One of the hardest decisions she will face, she said, is determining when to let her children decide with whom they want to live on a permanent basis--her or their father. She and the children's father have very different values and lifestyles. He can offer them "material wealth." She cannot. She thinks that the children find material wealth very appealing and that it may influence who they decide to live with. She believes she can offer them a lifestyle uncluttered by conventional standards and restrictions. She wishes she and her ex-husband "could come to a better understanding" about raising their children.

Before the divorce her ex-husband did not "help with the children." But the divorce was not caused by

the children, she said. The split would have happened anyway because of interpersonal problems between her and her ex-husband.

Before the divorce she still had time for a life of her own. She said she made time to do more than "stay home and make beds." Although her husband did not support her desire to go to school, she audited classes at an eastern university where her husband was enrolled. Now she has the time to invest in a serious educational goal--a degree in Religious Studies.

Some advantages of having children, according to the 35-year-old mother, are that they "are nice to be around" because they have a very "positive outlook on life" and they "keep you young and creative." She said that she has enjoyed her children and that they have been an "en-





lightening experience."

Some advice she offers is to get an education before having children and not to "expect to fulfill your life through your children."

The biggest disadvantage with having children, she believes, is that one must bring them into a world with many social problems. Questions that those social problems pose are making parenting an increasingly complicated responsibility.

--Eileen Gallagher

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friends who invite her son to visit on weekends.

Alternative parenting is an area rich with potential for new and stimulating ways of caring for children. It is an area open to much creativity for caring adults.

--Eleanor Wend

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## Am I Parent Material?

The decision to have a child is one that you will live with for the rest of your life. These questions are designed to raise ideas that you may not have otherwise considered. There are no "right" answers. You do have a choice. Exercise that choice with knowledge and careful thought. Then do what seems right for you.

Am I ready to raise a child?

Do I like children?

Do I have enough love to give a child?

Can I express affection easily?

Would I have the patience to raise a child?

Can I tolerate noise and confusion?

Can I deal with disrupted schedules?

What if my decision to have a child turns out to have been wrong for me?

What do I expect to gain from the parenting experience?

Would I want my child to be a miniature version of myself?

Would I be willing to adopt a child?

Would I feel comfortable if my child had different ideas from mine?

Would I expect my child to fulfill my relationship with my partner?

Do I need parenthood to fulfill my role as a man or woman?

Would I feel strongly about wanting my child to be a boy or girl?

What if I didn't get the one I wanted?

Have I adequately discussed the parenting question with my partner?

Would both my partner and I contribute our fair shares in raising a child?

Would we be able to share each other with the child without jealousy?

--excerpted from "Am I Parent Material." National Organization for Nonparents, Baltimore, MD.

### MONTANA WOMEN'S RESOURCE

The Montana Women's Resource is published by the Women's Resource Center, U of M, Missoula, Mt. The Resource is published four times yearly and is available to all interested persons. Write us; we are interested in being informed about women's activities around the state. Resource staff: Eileen Gallagher, Allison Lombard, Kristi Lovick, Irene Lundquist and Kay Sagmiller.

Greyhound Lines, Inc., is looking for persons interested in careers as Greyhound bus drivers. Interested men and women of all racial groups are encouraged to contact their nearest Greyhound terminal. Prior experience not required. Requirements for positions as bus driver: Age: 24-35. Vision: Must meet federal vision requirements. Weight: Proportionate to height to be determined by the company doctor. Health: Must successfully pass the Greyhound pre-employment physical examination.

Other qualifications: Applicant must have no more than two moving violations and/or accidents in the last three years and no more than four moving violations and/or accidents in the last five years or one suspension or revocation within the last five years. Must meet all state and federal requirements. Must have an acceptable employment record and demonstrate mature judgement and good character. Must successfully complete the Greyhound Training Program.



# GOINGS ON

--The Spring Quarter Brown Bag topic will tentatively be "Marriage and The Family." The programs will be held at noon every Wednesday in the Montana Rooms at the University Center and will feature speakers on topics related to Marriage and The Family. Specific programs will be announced later. The Brown Bag programs are free and open to the public.

--A gay women's rap group meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM. in the WRC. The purpose of the group is to give women a chance to talk and share their feelings about being gay. The group is informal; any interested are invited to attend.

--The Montana Women's History Project is currently researching the history of women in Montana. Interviews with women who lived in Montana before WWI are being taped and preserved. The project will supplement current history text, a traveling exhibit and other educational materials will be produced. The WRC is currently selling posters and note cards to help raise money for the Montana Women's History Project. Persons wishing for more information about the History Project may call the WRC.

--Consciousness-Raising groups for women and men are being formed as people become interested. For more information on either group, call the WRC.

--A Conference on "Women and Power" will be held in Missoula, May 20, 21 and 22, 1977. For further information see this newsletter.

--A Divorce Survival handbook for women and men will

be available in April at the WRC. It is going to the printers the first of April.

--Assertiveness Training classes will be offered in April at the WRC. The classes, taught by the members of the Montana Assertiveness Training Collective for Women, are designed to assist people to respond assertively rather than passively or aggressively. The courses, which include Assertiveness Training for Women, Assertiveness Training II for Women (for women who have taken an Assertiveness course) and a mixed group for both women and men. Registration is required and there is a \$20 fee (\$15 for UM students) for the course. Great Falls--The Great Falls Women's Center will be sponsoring sexuality workshops starting in April. Support groups for parents with preschool and teenage children has begun. For more information call the Great Falls YMCA.

--On April 12, Ethel Smith will be speaking--"What is Assertiveness Training?"

--The center is now housing the Women's Political Caucus. Meetings will be every month.

--On-going groups in craft classes, Assertiveness Training and support groups for Women in Transition.

Butte--"Overeaters Anonymous" A clinic for those who wish to lose and to maintain weight loss. This program is patterned after A.A. For more information call the YMCA at 792-1266.

--A workshop starting in April--"Widows Being Aware"--will deal with problems widows face during this time. Topics to be discussed are:

Assertiveness Training and Manipulation of Families.

--Singles Clubs are being held.

People between the ages of 21-55 are invited to attend. Helena--The Helena Women's Center announces that Artemis Productions will be sponsoring a women's film festival. "Wallflower Order from Oregon," a women's dance ensemble, performs the first week in April.

--Art Collective is starting its first project in April. The project is with a local bookstore dealing with Quality Non-Sexist Children's Literature. There is a book hour every Saturday at 11:30.

-- Women's Art Festival will be held at the end of May. For more information call the Women's Resource Center at 443-5353.

WOMEN AND POWER CONFERENCE  
May 20-22, Missoula, Montana

Workshops, panels, music; speakers include Jo Freeman, author of The Politics of the Women's Liberation Movement; Nancy Henley, author of Body Politics; and Charlotte Bunch, editor of Quest: a Feminist Journal. Panels on "Redefining Power," "Strategies for Getting Power" and "Feminist Perspectives on Power"; workshops on Economic Power, Power Through Media, Personal Power, Power Through Knowledge, Power Through Access to Science and Technology, and Obstacles to Power. Sponsored by the Northwest Subregion Women's Studies Association and the Women's Resource Center. \$5 fee goes to N.W. Women's Studies Assoc. Contact the Women's Resource Center for more information and housing.



WOMAN: NEW DEFINITIONS, NEW DIRECTIONS



A two week intensive, interdisciplinary experience. Pre-registration Deadline:

The first week will focus on "Woman Changing Herself" and the second week on "Woman Changing Her World." Lectures, panels, discussions, workshops and films will present new information about the roles and status of women, promote an exchange of ideas about causes and consequences of traditional and contemporary women's roles, and examine the growing movement for change in traditional sex roles.

May 21 for Missoula.

June 15 for Glendive, Kalispell and Great Falls.  
It is important to pre-register! Without a minimum pre-registration the course will not be offered.

Faculty: Judy Smith, Ph.D., U.M. Faculty Affiliate, Women's Resource Center, teaches Women's Studies and Assertiveness Training

Diane Sands, M.A., Women's Resource Center, teaches Women's History, member of Montana Women's History Project

Kathy White, artist, expertise in women's art, member of Montana Women's History Project

MISSOULA: JUNE 13-24  
GLENDDIVE: JULY 11-22  
KALISPELL: JULY 25-Aug. 5  
GREAT FALLS: AUG. 8-19

Costs: Available for credit or noncredit

- a. Registration for 2 weeks: \$100  
Undergraduate and graduate credit is available; contact U M Center for Continuing Education for details.
- b. Registration for 1 week: \$50
- c. Registration per day: \$10

For more information, contact the U.M. Center for Continuing Education or the Women's Resource Center, Missoula, 59801.

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We need your help! The Montana Women's Resource has been sent out at no cost for more than a year. Our mailing list grows longer every issue and our budget is very limited. We estimate that each copy costs a little more than 25 cents to produce, so are asking that those who want to continue receiving the Resource send us at least \$1 for the next four issues. We are updating our mailing lists and if we do not hear from you, we will assume you are not interested in receiving the Montana Women's Resource.

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