

ENGAGEMENTS

WILSON-RUSSELL

David and Linda Wilson of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Jennifer Lynn to Daniel John Russell, son of Joseph Russell of Rochester, N.Y., and Pat Bodenstein of Fairport, N.Y.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School and Michigan State University. She earned a JD from Loyola University School of Law and is employed as assistant state's attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in Chicago Ill.

The groom is a graduate of Michigan State University and earned a BA in criminal justice and an MS in educational administration. He is employed as a police officer with the Grand Rapids Police Department.

A November wedding is planned.



planned at the Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake.

MACDOUGALL-EVANS

Mr. and Mrs. John MacDougall of Farmington announce the engagement of their daughter Nancy Ann to Brian David Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Evans of Essexville, Mich.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Farmington High School and Michigan State University. She is employed as a systems engineer for EDS Corporation.

The groom is also a graduate of Michigan State University and is employed as an associate consultant for Numetrix Corporation.

A September wedding is planned at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington.



Submit your announcement

Residents can send their engagement, wedding, anniversary or birth information along with a photograph to: Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48335. Preprinted forms for your

announcement are available at the Farmington Observer office. People may also call a recorded message for information on submitting announcements. The phone number is (313) 953-2065.

Gilda group plans benefit Aug. 24

The Motor City Women of Comedy and a Few Good Men will debut the all new production of The Lion Laughs Tonight in a benefit performance for Gilda's Club, Metro Detroit on Sunday, Aug. 24 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

Featuring the talents of seven uproarious comedians, tickets for the show, sponsored by General

Motor, are \$75, \$50 and \$35. Tickets are available through Gilda's Club at 248-851-6557 or Ticketmaster.

Gilda's Club provides a free meeting place where people with cancer, their families and friends can join with others to build social and emotional support as a supplement to medical care.

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O'Donohue from page B1

my washer and dryer would be heard as a scant rustle in the distance. It's not fair!"

Whoever designed and built my laundry room was playing a cruel joke on the future homeowners. I can hear two construction guys conversing: "Hey Earl! Let's stick a tiny closet here and call it the first-floor laundry room!"

And Earl responds, "Great idea Chuck!"

In fact I would have a larger laundry room if I had the plumbing facility in some of my closets. (I dream of bigger closets, too, but that's another fantasy in itself.)

Some of my friends have suggested I am obsessed with laundry, and they may be right. I do know the laundromat expenditures on last year's vacation approached the down payment on a new car. I have so enjoyed the cabin our family has rented for the last four years, but let's face it, I need a place with a laundry room. I can get away from the television, phone, answering machine, microwave, and air conditioning without difficulty. But the prospect of spending zillions of dollars at those crazy places thinking I'm gaining some headway then still returning home with twenty loads to do, causes me great anxiety.

I've talked at family meetings about the need for us to pull together on this problem. My formula seems simple: Take ONE towel per body. Use it all day. When it gets wet, hang it to dry. When it is dry, re-use it! Easy enough I would think. My husband laughs; my kids grab more towels. I point out to him how those towels will take approximately five minutes to be trashed. He laughs again, and grabs a few fresh towels for himself.

I watch them romping in the lake. Hey—something must have sunk in! The towels are all nicely

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placed on the bench furniture! Wow, things aren't so bad after all, I chuckle to myself as I prepare dinner. Maybe I have been too hard on them.

Later we prepare to take in the sunset. I head out the back door to shake out a few floor rugs and—there are no less than fourteen towels, virtually unrecognizable, black as the night with dirt. But at least they remembered to hang them up.

Pediatrician escapades: All the pediatrician's office personnel know me by voice. Having five kids pretty much assures them I will be visiting at least once a week after Indian Summer. I have some sense of accomplishment, though; I see they have re-carpeted for the THIRD TIME, largely due to my steady stream of checks rolling in. The office always looks a tad leaner in the summer, during which time I may only see them once a month.

Sometimes I feel so guilty. I have a sick kid in the morning, so I call and schedule an appointment. The receptionist seems a bit nervous, but relaxes somewhat after I report a singular child as ill. (She's not aware of it, but I can sometimes hear a small sigh of relief.) Then—somehow—as the day progresses, a couple more little ones bite the dust, and before long, at least four share the identical symptoms. I call again in my most sheepish tone and they freak out: "FOUR OF THEM—hold on—THEY NEED US TO FIT IN FOUR OF THEM NOW!" Call out reinforcement! Call in

the National Guard! Get those thermometers at the ready! (I believe I sometimes hear trumpet strains of Revelry at this point.)

"Can you transport them at fourteen-hundred hours?" they ask.

"Yes, I'll have them there, thank you so—"

"Yes ma'am! We'll wait your arrival."

"The 'Well' Room. This is a newer concept I've seen. A small room off to the side of the other more populated room sits there usually looking quite forlorn. And empty! I have NEVER had the privilege of sitting in the well room. We are always in the other, or I suppose more correctly, 'not well' room. And what is the point? Even if we did manage to come in on some occasion for a 'well child' visit I haven't made one of those in YEARS—I'm sure at least a couple of my kids would escape and pick up any and all available germs from the not well room, thereby ruining our future chances of ever setting foot in the well room again."

Another funny thing about the "well room." The few families I have observed sitting in there stare out at us with apprehensive looks on their faces. I have also seen some of the sickies send glaring glances their way. There seems to be a lot of unstated hostility between the well room occupants (the few) and us sickies (the many).

One point of contention is the toys available to the "well room" loungers. The kids in there don't

like the meager trappings and constantly brave the doorway, entering into the sick zone. Then their parents go ballistic trying to find ways to coax inside it is really a lesson in human nature to watch the interchanges between the well and sick rooms. One could earn a psych degree in there!

Toddler talk: Here is another thing I don't understand. In answer to our pastor's recent inquiry of our young daughter as to how she is doing, why can she explain clearly to him that she is wearing training pants and proceed in detail their use in graphic family lingo? Yet at other times she makes earnest requests of us and no one can understand a word she says. Just the other day she asked me for what sounded like "Twinkies." Her anger and frustration mounting, I then asked in turn if she said, "blinky," "slinky," "drinky," "pinky." She walked away from me disgusted when I inquired in desperation if she was "slinky."

Her father, assuring me he could speak fluent toddler-ese, went through the exact list of possibilities as I had. Eventually one of her brothers interpreted her request as "slinking cheese." After all that, we didn't have a single string. That poor child: first no one understands her, then we don't even have the item she patiently requests.

Laundry room envy, pediatrician adventures and indelible toddler talk: all part of parenting that older—and presumably wiser—parents tell me. I will someday look back on wistfully. Right now, though, I'm in the trenches...and waiting.

Parents, I would love feedback on similar parenting pitfalls and family foibles you have encountered. Please address your experiences to me via the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.

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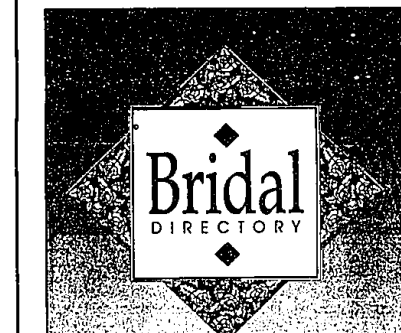
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