



Pat Bordman

## Teaching child value in sharing belongings

"It's mine." "Give it back, that belongs to me." These common childhood phrases carry the frustrations of both the parent trying to teach the concept of sharing, and the child trying to protect what he sees as his.

The child's unwillingness to share comes not from selfishness, but from an entirely different perspective of property. The young child has difficulty separating items from things. His newly emerging sense of self is not yet ready to stand alone. Toys and other possessions are seen as extensions of this self.

Forced sharing involves the public loss of ownership. To the child, it is like giving away a part of himself. The job at hand is to help the child keep intact his sense of self while helping him move from an investment in things to an investment in people.

One simple solution to the conflict over objects is to place a name tag on the object to be shared. Though someone else may be using the object, it is obvious that possession of that object is only temporary.

Working out some of these feelings is important for the child. Puppets are a good means of expressing some of these confusions. All that's needed are several old tennis balls, an equal number of paper toweling rolls, a knife, material scraps, yarn, and markers.



Using the knife, cut a hole in the tennis ball about two inches in diameter. Push the toweling tube into the hole in the tennis ball. This should be a snug fit. You now have the puppet's head and trunk.

Add facial features with either markers or glued-on material scraps. Glue on yarn for the hair. The trunk can be left as is or clothing can be designed from material.

This puppet is very sturdy and life-like. It's weight makes it easy for a child to handle and will make it a very desired object. Don't forget to identify ownership.

Patricia Bordman has a master's degree in early childhood education. She has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures. Write her c/o the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150. \*PATRICIA BORDMAN

# Acid rain result of burning fossil fuel

What causes acid rain? I'm doing a report on air pollution and I need information.

JAMIE L. Livonia

## consumer mailbag

For more detailed information about acid rain, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

I'm trying to think spring by planting my garden and landscaping changes now. Several years ago I purchased tree seedlings for my yard and would like to do that again, but I don't

remember where they came from. Do you have that information?  
ROBERT T. Jr., Birmingham

The Oakland County Soil and Water Conservation District in Pontiac has a tree order blank and price list that tells of seedlings available now for spring delivery. Among those offered are red, white and Scotch pine and Norway, Colorado blue and white spruce. Also available are flowering dogwood, autumn olive, white birch, honeysuckle and mountain ash.

Prices vary according to size and variety, but all are a good value. For an order blank, write to Oakland County

Soil and Water Conservation District, 8326 Highland Road, Pontiac 48054, or call 666-2232.

ECO-TIP: Orange, lemon and grapefruit rinds cut into small thin strips and mixed with white clove leaves make an excellent air freshener for rooms closed to fresh air because of cold winter winds. Just place dishes of this combination on your cocktail table and enjoy the fresh aroma.

Questions Mailbag answers your questions on environmental issues. Address mail to Concern Inc., Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068.

## Housing worries stressful to elderly

The No. 1 problem of the elderly, according to John Keeler, is housing, not just the availability of units but the quality of life in a high-rise communal living situation.

Keeler, a therapist and supervisor for Oakland County Catholic Social Services, spoke on the topic recently at the winter conference of the state National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officers in Plymouth.

"We receive at least three calls a day about housing," said Keeler. "We have 24 high-rises in Oakland serving 5,000 elderly persons. But there are 100,000 persons in the county over 60 years of age. And we have 1,500-2,000 on the waiting lists for each high-rise."

Calls, Keeler said, come not only from prospective tenants but also from resident managers of housing facilities who are confronted with people accustomed to a way of life and finding that lifestyle altered drastically.

He said it was normal for a new tenant to be anxious and confused. "For some, it is the first new place they ever had, the first high-rise. Many are excited and happy."

There are some who continue to talk about their old home and wish to return there. He suggested therapy if this confusion continues for six or eight months.

"Be alert, don't shy away from it. What is the problem? Is this a cry for help?"

KEELER SAID that older tenants are not hard on the physical plant, "but the ideal tenant may not be that well off. The resident who begins to withdraw may have a serious problem. Friends and relatives die. As they lose friends, they make no attempt to make new friends."

"They have a narrow view of reality, and as reality shrinks, they develop a tunnel vision. They hear things, believe people are talking about them. They need interaction and the contacts necessary to bring reality into their lives."

"They all need support and they need to develop new friendships."

Keeler cited illness as another concern of the residents, who feel they will be forced out if they become ill.

"When they moved in, they signed a paper saying they were physically sound. When they become ill, they try to hide it. They don't want it known that they are having problems because they might have to leave."

This is another case when a therapist can ease their worries, said Keeler.

WHEN ASKED to comment on the failure on the part of the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 318, Keeler said, "Bill 318 will be re-introduced and ground rules will be established to protect adults who need a guardianship. I have a theory about why there has been leg-

islation to protect children from abuse, but none to protect the adult, the elderly."

"Here's my theory: Either in fantasy or reality, as children we all believed that at some time or other we received abusive treatment. People can relate to that. So the child abuse legislation was passed. They can't relate to abuse of the elderly, they haven't been there."

Fran Yoakam, moderator of the program, speaking for the housing directors, said, "We do become involved in human services. A great amount of our effort and energy is expended in human services and that should be included in our job descriptions."

"But when HUD audits, our evaluations are based on our paper work. They do not address the human side."

Norman K. Blackie, coordinator for the National Policy Center on Housing and Living Arrangements for Older Americans at the University of Michigan, responded with a series of graphs illustrating the progress made in the area in the last 10 years.

He said the primary goal of the federal government is decent homes in suitable living environments for its elderly and that \$1 billion allotted was being channeled through 98 programs.

The center at U-M may be reached by calling 763-1275.

## volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

RECREATIONAL ASSISTANT — Volunteers are needed by the Boy's Club of Auburn Heights to teach simple arts and crafts to children between the ages of 7 and 13. Craft programs may be scheduled at the volunteer's convenience during late afternoons, evenings, or Saturdays.

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE — You could be a friend, a guide in developing daily living skills, and an advocate for a person with a developmental disability. Volunteers are currently being recruited by the Association for Retarded Citizens-Oakland County. Training and ongoing guidance is provided.

FRIENDS — The Wing Lake Developmental Center has volunteer opportunities in working with retarded children in a variety of recreational activities. The time commitment asked is flexible.

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