

Parenthood class questions old assumptions

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situation depends a great deal on what they had expected," she said.

Because parenting is such hard work, care should be taken in choosing the right time and situation in which to have children.

Why and when?

So what is a good reason to have a child, and when is the right time?

"Wanting to be in a relationship with a child is the best reason for having one," Harris said. "You should enjoy being with kids and having an idea of what children are like in a 24-hours-a-day situation."

"People should not become parents because other people want them to, or have children to save a marriage," Harris said. "And often people become parents because they are not feeling sure of their self-identity. They think that being someone's mother or father gives them a respectable identity."

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She suggested that prospective parents should be able to play as grownups, have fun, and still be flexible.

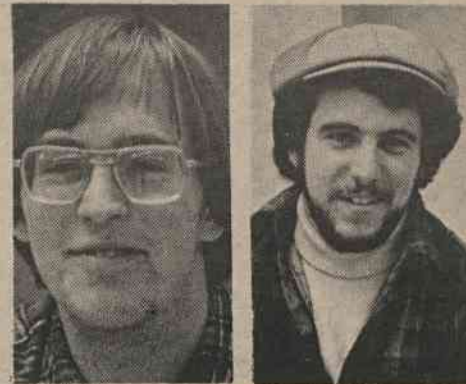
And about-to-be parents should avoid major changes in living patterns right before their child is expected. Support systems such as family and friends are needed during the initial adaptation period of early parenthood. Expectant parents who relocate just prior to a child's

birth will face major readjustments to a new locale and a new family member.

Harris cautioned that parents should choose low-stress situations in which to have children.

For example, a couple who consider joint male-female child-rearing of special importance would probably not plan to have a baby at the same time that the husband is embarking on a new job.

And if becoming a physician is the most important aspect of a young woman's life, she might do well to delay childbearing until her medical education has been finished.



ROB RINGLE

BOB KOLIN

"I thought the course would help me think about it (parenthood) more before I actually decided whether or not I wanted to be a parent," he explained.

"The assumption that normal people grow up, marry and have children as a matter of course is still prevalent," Harris said. "Students are challenged to question this assumption. There are choices now. People should think about whether they want to be parents."



TEACHING PARENTHOOD—Parenthood course instructor Betty Harris, RN, is shown here talking with students in her fall semester parenthood seminar. The course is designed to give Duke undergraduates a look at what parenting is all about. The course has become so popular with Duke students that another section has been added to the spring semester curriculum. (Photo by Parker Herring)

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The parenthood course is successful, so successful in fact that another section is being offered to spring semester students.

"It's one of those 'relevant courses,'" Harris quipped.

Bob Kolin, a student enrolled in the fall semester of the parenthood course said, "It was easy for me to relate to the course because I have been a child....I took the course because I thought parenthood was a large responsibility and it was important for me to think about it."

Another fall semester student, Rob Ringle, said he took the course to give himself a psychological and sociological base from which to judge parenthood.

Correction

Volunteers are being sought for the testing of a new, safe treatment for acne.

The phone number to call for further information was misprinted previously in *Intercom*. The correct number is 684-4176. Potential volunteers also can call 684-3432, and ask for Dr. Tharp.

Here's how to multiply grocery store prices

By Paul Harvey

(The following article was presented on Paul Harvey News, Sept. 19, 1977.)

There is a way to make grocery store prices much higher than they are.

As is, food is one of the consumer's best bargains. The cost-of-living would be much higher than it is except for comparatively reasonable food prices.

But there is a way to skyrocket those grocery store prices if you want to.

If you want to multiply the prices of everything you buy at the grocery store, here's how:

Records and still more records

Subject your grocer to the same regulations under which hospitals are required to operate. That means:

The grocer would have to keep a record of the total number of customers served, broken down by employer.

He would have to record the precise number of minutes each customer was in the store.

The record must show which customers purchased only meat and nothing else, which customers purchased only bread and nothing else, which customers bought both bread and meat.

Who bought what

Separately the grocer's report must state which customers bought meat and milk. Also the number of customers who came in for one item and purchased more than one.

Further, the grocery store is required to give away

fifty thousand dollars worth of groceries each year and signs must be posted in the store in three languages telling customers that the store is required to do this. Records must be maintained on all customers and all groceries given away under this plan.

Further, for one half of the customers the store is not allowed to set prices. Government will determine those prices — and if those prices are arbitrarily held down to "no more than last year's prices" then the store owner

must pay his higher expenses by charging higher prices to the other half of his customers.

But for that half, the store cannot collect cash from the customer, but must send a bill to the customer's employer.

Must plan customer's meals

Further, the store manager is responsible for planning each customer's meals. If he errs in judging what's best, the customer may sue him.

Also, the store must keep careful records of each can of peas sold, by brand name, size, customer age and employer of customer.

Similar reports are required on each product sold.

The store must certify in writing that each customer needs groceries before permitting him to enter the store.

Shopping time limit

The store must have a committee to establish a "shopping time limit" for each customer. Any customer permitted to shop longer than the pre-established time may not be required to pay for his or her groceries.

The store must have the written approval of government authorities before adding or deleting any product or brand.

The store manager must have a master's degree in marketing.

There are many more regulations to which hospitals are subject, but this is enough to help you to understand why the costs of medical care have gone up faster and higher than the price of groceries.

