

## B

Section

## LIFE

Religion 8B

## Left-handed students say they learn to adjust

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINOT, N.D. — Left-handed youngsters say they have to get used to living in a right-handed world.

"I can throw a ball right-handed," said Danielle Bloms, a left-handed fifth-grader at Minot's Edison Elementary School — though she said she can't throw it as far as with her left hand.

"When you drive a car, it feels like you need to put your left foot on the brake," said left-handed fifth-grader Brian Bloms, who has driven a tractor in a relative's field.

Left-handed fifth-graders Owen Kusick and Kali Sivertson said they sometimes find it frustrating to use a computer mouse, which is usually on the right hand side of the computer.

None of the children said they had trouble learning how to write, but Brian said he's frustrated because the way he holds a pen or pencil means he sometimes leaves ink smears on the paper or his hand.

And all of the children know what it's like to have to maneuver at a dinner table, either eating with their right hands or sitting on the left, outside edge so they don't bump a right-handed family member while they're eating.

Lee Ellis, a sociology professor at Minot State University, has done studies on left-handedness.

"Left-handedness is always a minority," Ellis said. He knows of no society in which right-handers were not a majority.

Statistics show that about 10 percent of the population is naturally left-handed, with more men being left-handed than women. Ellis said more male left-handers are "mixed-handers" with an ability to use their right hand for some tasks, too.

First-grader Derek Bartsch, at St. Leo's Catholic school, said he writes with his right hand but prefers to use his left hand in sports.

Seven-year-old Kasey Chorlton, a second-grader at St. Leo's, is left-handed, while her fraternal twin sister Breanne is right-handed. Some studies suggest that twins may prefer to use different hands because they developed on different sides of their mother's womb.

Genetics may also have something to do with it.

"There's a lot of evidence that handedness runs in the family," Ellis said.

Two of the left-handed Edison fifth-graders also have a left-handed parent. Kali's mother is also left-handed and so is Danielle's father. The Chorlton twins said their mother is left-handed, while their father is right-handed. One of their two brothers is right-handed and the other is another lefty.

With both right-handed and left-handed members in a family, some adaptations are needed.

The Chorlton twins said their seats are assigned more to keep them from squabbling or watching cartoons while eating. If left-handed Kasey accidentally bumps her right-handed twin while eating, Breanne said she will bump her back. Breanne eats only with her right hand, but Kasey sometimes eats with her right as well as her left, depending on the food.

"When I eat chicken, I eat with both hands," Kasey said.

Some teachers years ago were known for forcing left-handed

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/WADE NASH

Point out that cheatin' man and tell his next victim "don't date him girl." At [www.dontdatehimgirl.com](http://www.dontdatehimgirl.com), women are forewarned about his cheating heart.

## Catch a cad, go online

Web site alerts women to boyfriends who cheat

By Cheris F. Hodges

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Ever meet a man and wonder: Is my heart safe with him? Will he cheat on me?

At [www.dontdatehimgirl.com](http://www.dontdatehimgirl.com), you can verify if he's a cheater.

Though the site can't tell you if your new man is crazy, deranged or a stalker, it will let you know if he's a cheater.

Tasha Joseph, founder of the web site, said she and her girlfriends were sitting around talking about relationships and men and thought, "wouldn't it be great to see if a guy was a cheater," she said.

Joseph picked up the ball and ran with it. She and her girls kicked around a name for the site and "Don't date him girl" stuck.

"This is a forum for women to talk about dating and that has

never been done before," she said.

The site works this way: It's free for women to join and post about exes. It's free to browse, too. To post about a cheating man, a woman sends an e-mail with all of his vital statistics and a picture if she has one.

Joseph said in order to protect herself from lawsuits, women who use the site have to attest that what they are saying is true.

There are about 225 men on the site, Joseph said. And in the name of fairness, she offers men a chance to rebut what their ex-girlfriends have said about them.

In this lawsuit-happy society, Joseph said she has been threatened with a lawsuit but the guy

never followed through.

"I have one guy who called and said he was going to sue, but he never disputed that he was a cheater," she said.

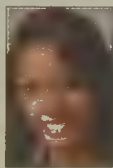
Joseph, who splits her time between Los Angeles and Miami, said that since the site has been online, it receives about 2,500 hits a day.

She's been featured in the New York Times and her site shows up in e-mails forwarded to girlfriends across the country.

Of the men on the site, only one is from Charlotte. Eric Benet, Halle Berry's ex, is listed and so is Jude Law, the actor who slept with his nanny.

"Dontdatehimgirl.com is revolutionizing the dating game for women," Joseph said.

On the Net:  
[www.dontdatehimgirl.com](http://www.dontdatehimgirl.com)



Joseph

## Oprah revisits feud with Paris boutique

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Oprah Winfrey didn't waste any time in the new season of her syndicated TV show to revisit her summer feud with luxury store Hermes.

Halfway through Monday's premiere of "The Oprah Winfrey Show," the talk-show host addressed the incident in June when she was turned away from Hermes' Paris boutique. Winfrey was denied entry after arriving at the posh store 15 minutes after closing time—even though others continued shopping inside.

"I just want to say shame on anybody for thinking that I was upset for not being able to get into a clothes store and buy a purse," said Winfrey. "Please, please." "Everybody who's ever been snubbed because you were not chic enough or the right class or the right color

or whatever—I don't know what it was—you know that that is very humiliating and that is exactly what happened to me."

"I would like to say we're really sorry," said Robert Chavez, the chief executive officer of Hermes USA, who was a guest on Winfrey's show. "You did meet up with one very, very rigid staff person."

"Rigid or rude?" Winfrey challenged.

"Rigid and rude, I'm sure," Chavez replied.

Winfrey said she wasn't playing "the celebrity card" and that she knew "the difference between the store being closed and the store being closed to me."

Nevertheless, Winfrey complimented Hermes on its handling of the incident (including "sensitivity training" for employees), and urged viewers to again buy Hermes products.

On the Net:  
[www.oprah.com](http://www.oprah.com)

## Duke doctor studies heart to fight cancer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The tumors looked like five large mosquito bites dotting Alison Williams' chest. The cancer that already had cost Williams her breasts was back again, this time in the wall of her chest, an ominously hard-to-treat spot.

Her doctor tried an experiment, beaming microwaves onto the North Carolina woman's chest to heat it to about 109 degrees. The hope: that the heat would help radiation treatment attack the tumors — and they disappeared.

Scientists have long thought that simple heat could increase the effectiveness of some cancer

therapies. But just how much to cook the tumor, and which cancers are susceptible, have stymied the field. Now, backed by tantalizing new evidence, a growing number of studies are enrolling patients in hopes of finally settling whether it's time to turn up the heat.

"We need to keep pushing ahead on this," says Dr. Ellen Jones of Duke University, who recently published research that showed heat significantly helped patients like Williams and has a major study under way to test its effects against cervical cancer as well.

Hyperthermia involves gradually raising the temperature of cancer-riddled

tissue to anywhere from 105 to 113 degrees—not enough to burn, but like there's a high fever in that body part. There are different methods: beaming microwaves or ultrasound onto tumors near the skin's surface, inserting probes that emit microwaves or radio waves into the tumor itself or the affected organ, or even using a giant heating machine to raise the entire body temperature.

Here's the quandary: Some studies have found hyperthermia could help certain patients with breast, cervical, head and neck cancers or melanoma. But others show no effect.

Jones, a radiation oncol-

ogist, thinks the problem is in consistently getting the tumor's temperature high enough, for long enough.

"The body does not want to be heated. It fights the heating process," agrees William Straube, a physicist at Washington University in St. Louis, which, like Duke, has a major research program on cancer hyperthermia.

Jones set out to determine a prescription-level dose of heat, inserting temperature probes to prove the degree. She gave more than 100 patients with recurrent, incurable cancer—mostly painful breast cancer sores on the chest wall—either radia-

Please see DUKE/2B



## Weight loss precedes memory lapses

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Unexplained weight loss in older people might be an early signal of Alzheimer's disease, appearing several years before the memory lapses that define the illness, according to an intriguing but unproven new theory.

Researchers at Chicago's Rush University Medical Center base the theory on their study of 820 Roman Catholic priests, nuns and brothers aged 75 on average who were followed for up to 10 years.

Otherwise healthy participants whose body-mass index fell the most were the most likely to develop Alzheimer's disease.

Study co-author Dr. David Bennett, director of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, says the results raise the possibility that the disease attacks brain regions involved in regulating food intake and metabolism, as well as memory, and that weight loss is an early symptom.

Weight loss frequently occurs after an Alzheimer's diagnosis and has been attributed partly to memory lapses or lifestyle changes associated with becoming infirm. But it might be that brain changes that start well before diagnosis are another reason, Bennett said.

The results appear in the Sept. 27 edition of the journal *Neurology*.

Dr. Peter Rabins, an Alzheimer's researcher and professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, said the research fits with an increasingly popular belief that Alzheimer's abnormalities "really are present for at least 10 years before there are any symptoms."

"The idea that something would start before it became clinically obvious no longer seems that far-fetched," Rabins said.

However, Rabins said he thinks it's likely that gradual weight loss stems from subtle behavior changes such as loss of initiative, which could result in less snacking or eating out, than in brain changes affecting metabolism.

Those behavior changes, involving parts of the brain associated with Alzheimer's, often precede the diagnosis, but "because it's a subtle thing, it's often not recognized except in retrospect," Rabins said.

Dallas Anderson of the dementias of aging branch at the National Institute on Aging, which funded the research, said the results are intriguing but that the theory needs further testing in a more diverse group.

When the study began, participants' average BMI was 27.4, in the overweight zone, and none had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. By study's end, 151 had been diagnosed with the disease.

Those whose BMI dropped a point each year faced a 35 percent increased risk of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's later on, compared with those whose BMI remained stable.

Dr. Deborah Blacker, director of gerontology research at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, said depres-

Please see UNEXPECTED/2B