

# B

## Section

# LIFE

## Motherless mothers remember role models

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than 1,300 "motherless mothers" participated in an online survey between October 2002 and June 2005 for Hope Edelman's book of the same name, published by HarperCollins.

Eighty percent were younger than 24 when they became motherless and the largest group—23 percent—were younger than 6. Eighty-six percent of respondents lost mothers to death, while others lost their mothers to mental illness, alcoholism or drug dependency, physical abandonment, emotional unavailability and divorce.

Some of the findings:

- When asked to recall their mother's parenting style, 65 percent described her as very engaged, 19 percent as somewhat engaged, 9 percent somewhat disengaged and 7 percent as very disengaged.

- As for fathers, only 15 percent were considered to be very engaged before the mothers' deaths or departures; 31 percent as somewhat engaged, 23 percent as somewhat disengaged and 20 percent as very disengaged. (Another 12 percent reported their father deceased or physically absent.)

But even after the mothers' deaths or departures, fathers' interest in parenting didn't change much, with 18 percent very engaged, 27 percent somewhat engaged, 17 percent somewhat disengaged and 23 percent very disengaged.

Thirty-four percent of respondents called their dad a positive role model while 34 percent called him negative, and other 31 percent called him neutral.

- Many women said their opinion of their mother improved once they had their own children.

Sixty-one percent reported more admiration, compared to 5 percent with less admiration; 47 percent had more sympathy for their mother, 3 percent had less; 66 percent were more aware of how their mothers must have loved them; 14 percent were more aware of how they should've loved them; and 8 percent said their opinion didn't change.

- Without their own mothers to turn to, 65 percent said they seek parenting advice from friends; 56 percent use books or magazines; 55 percent ask their spouse; 24 percent ask a sibling; 23 percent a paid professional; 12 percent their mother-in-law; and 9 percent their father. Twenty-four percent said they rely only on themselves. (Respondents could choose more than one source of advice.)

- Forty-three percent of children of motherless mothers started asking about their grandmother's absence when they were 2-6; 2 percent asked when they were younger than 2; 13 percent between 6-12; and 2 percent between 12-18. Of the 38 percent who had children that never asked, many likely were too young to ask.



THE STOCK MARKET

## The grandest moms

More grandmothers take on child-rearing for second generation

By Cheris F. Hodges  
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Some times, grandma is momma.

Especially in the African American community.

The number of grandmothers who are living with and raising grandchildren in households that do not include either of the grandchild's parents continues to rise and is among the fastest growing type of household since 1990.

In 2000, there were 2.3 million grandparent caregivers in the United States. Historically, black and white grandmothers have played different roles within families, with black grandmothers playing a more central role in holding kin networks together, and less likely than white grandmothers to embrace noninterference, the researchers observed. Charlotte resident Hattie Anthony knows this fact because she raised her granddaughter, Ebony Moore-Roach from the time she was 10.

"I was in my early '30s (when Ebony) came to live with me," Anthony said. "Miss Ebony got all the attention and love and the benefit of my maturity. I had the opportunity to have some experiences in life and mature. Ebony was the benefit of all of that."

Black grandmothers who are primary caregivers find the role less psychologically burdensome than their white counterparts, according to a recent study of



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Ebony Moore-Roach and her grandmother Hattie Anthony share a bond that runs deeper than the grandchild and grandmother.

American grandmothers by Boston College researchers.

The study by Initiatives On Aging Director Rachel A. Pruchno and project director Dorothy McKenney, published in the September issue of *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*,

examined the psychological well-being of 867 grandmothers raising grandchildren in households that did not include either of the grandchild's parents.

"As the number of grandmothers who

Please see **MOTHER'S DAY/2B**

## Seminar urges greater parental involvement

By Aisha Lide  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Even adults can use help with parenting skills.

On Monday, Children in Crisis Network presented "The Importance of Fathers in Education," a workshop to inform parents—especially fathers—about the importance of supporting children throughout life. The workshop included speakers who talked about growing up fatherless and ended with

an open forum of parent advocate representatives from Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

"I am praying that we get fathers in and show them the importance of the father figure in a child's life in education," said Russell Alexander, founder and director of the network.

The workshop was the first for Children in Crisis Network, which Alexander started because of his older

brother, who is HIV-positive. Alexander and his brother grew up in the same household, same parents, and same opportunities but their lives turned out totally different. By the time Alexander's brother was 27, he'd been in prison three times. He is now 45. Alexander says all while trying to find answers to the reason why they ended up totally different he interviewed his brother and he

said the reason for everything was because he did not have a man in his life. "I did not want a man in my life."

It is important to Alexander for parents to become aware of what they need to do to make their children successful. "Our goal is to motivate parents, grandparents, and to motivate children," he said.

Edward Alexander, Please see **PARENTING/2B**

## Sunglasses bring coolness to summer wear

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Sunglasses are a favorite tool of the cool. They can hit just the right balance between calling attention to oneself and being incognito.

Your best chance of being mistaken for a celebrity is definitely wearing sunglasses, probably in a place you don't need them—like indoors.

Sunglasses do serve a fashion purpose, too:

They're a way to individualize a summertime look that might not be more than a T-shirt and shorts—not much room for expression there.

In fact, increasingly, people are building a "wardrobe" of sunglasses, just as they've done for shoes, handbags and watches, sometimes making accessories the essential part of an outfit that everything else aims to complement.

See **SUNGLASSES/2B**



PHOTO/THE STOCK MARKET

## After prison, woman graduates law school

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A nostalgic smile crosses Serena Nunn's face when she remembers the young man she fell in love with at age 19. But there was no happily-ever-after in that teen romance: Nunn's boyfriend was a drug dealer, and she ended up with a 15 1/2-year prison sentence for assisting in a drug conspiracy.

After serving a decade, Nunn walked out ahead of schedule with a commutation from President Clinton in July 2000 and quickly

made up for lost time. On Saturday, she'll fulfill a dream she's had since high school when she dons cap and gown to get her diploma from the University of Michigan Law School.

About 20 relatives, friends and supporters will be there to cheer Nunn on, but, you know, realistically it wouldn't matter if I was by myself, the 36-year-old Minneapolis native said this week with a laugh. "I'm walking across that stage and getting my degree."

While still in prison, Nunn became a poster child for the campaign for more

liberal sentencing for small-time drug offenders. Her high sentence was mandated by law, and the judge could not take into account her lack of a criminal record and the minor role she played in the conspiracy.

Today, Nunn, who says she wants to practice public interest law or criminal defense, remains active with the organization Families Against Mandatory Minimums. She said she hopes continued publicity of her case will lead to further changes in the sentencing system, which already has been

somewhat softened since she was sent to prison.

Nunn's odyssey began in 1988 when financial difficulties forced her to return home after her first semester at Morris Brown College, a historically black college in Atlanta. She was introduced to Ralph Lamont "Monte" Nunn. (The two coincidentally share the same last name.) Monte Nunn was a drug dealer, and his father was the leader of Minnesota's biggest cocaine ring.

Drugs and the drug trade were so commonplace at

See **WOMAN/3B**

The People's Clinic  
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## Seconds of prevention, a lifetime of good health

The Centers for Disease Control's Healthy People 2010 has identified immunizations as a major health disparity area in the United States. Did you know that approximately one third of African-American children do not receive the necessary vaccinations? The goal by 2010 for all children aged 19 to 35 months is a 90 percent immunization rate.

When and why should I vaccinate my children?

The most important time to begin to protect our children from these diseases is during infancy. Common preventable, infectious diseases among children that require vaccinations include: polio, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, influenza pneumonia, chickenpox and hepatitis B.

It is important to vaccinate children because the organisms that cause these diseases still exist and are always at risk for returning and causing severe illness and outbreaks. For this reason, it is important to vaccinate during infancy, continue immunizations until the child begins school, and re-vaccinate with appropriate boosters, thereafter. Usually several doses of a particular vaccine are necessary to confer protection against a particular disease.

Do all children need to be immunized?

You should always talk to your pediatrician about vaccinating your child. While most children should be vaccinated, there are exceptions and some children have special conditions that prevent them from following a routine vaccine schedule. "Our goal is to motivate parents, grandparents, and to motivate children," he said.

What vaccines should my child have, and when should he or she get them?

Vaccines against several diseases are often given together in a single immunization as follows: MMR = measles, mumps and rubella (German measles), DTP = diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. The dosing recommendation for adequate protection of children is generally referred to as "4:3:1:3:3". This means that your child should receive 4 or more doses of DTP, 3 or more doses of the poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of measles-containing vaccine (MMR), 3 or more doses of the influenza pneumonia vaccine (Hib), and 3 or more doses of the hepatitis B vaccine.

In addition, vaccination against chickenpox is recommended at age 1 year and pneumococcal vaccine for children at increased risk for pneumococcal infection. Several of these should be given at birth or as early as 1 month of age so check with your pediatrician early!

Advice for parents on vaccinations:

- Always make sure you keep your child's vaccination records up-to-date.

- It is common for children to have a low fever and some swelling in the area of the injection in the 24 hours following a vaccine. If your child has more serious adverse reactions (for

Please see **HEALTH/3B**

