

# PERSPECTIVE

## My View

### Dealing with child abuse

By JANE WILLIAMS

Last week's editorial concerning the protection of your family through a will brought many favorable comments. As a result of these comments we have decided to feature a series of articles for the next few weeks discussing problems that relate to many families in our area.

Child abuse and neglect is a major problem in America today. It happens in poor, middle class, and well-to-do homes; rural areas, suburbs, all big cities, and it can involve one or both parents.

Child abuse, stated simply, is repeated mistreatment or neglect of a child by parent(s) or other guardian resulting in injury or harm. It can be physical—shaking, beating, burning, failure to provide the necessities of life (e.g. adequate food); or emotional—failure to provide warmth, attention, supervision; or verbal—excessive yelling, belittling, teasing; or sexual—incest, rape, or other sexual activity.

The effects of child abuse are horrifying. An abused child may become emotionally or physically handicapped, and

hundreds of children die annually from habitual abuse.

Estimates of the number of child abuse or neglect cases reach as many as a million per year, with parents as the most frequent child abusers; but other guardians (parents' friends, relatives, etc.) may also be involved. Child abuse is often a reaction to past or present problems or stresses that the parent(s) can't cope with.

Most abusive parents are normal people. Very few are criminally inclined or mentally unbalanced. Research indicates that every parent has the potential to abuse a child at some time.

It is important to know that child abuse is a symptom that can be treated successfully, but first more people have to understand the problem and care enough to help.

We must realize that child abuse is a tragedy that affects us all. Abused children often become social or legal burdens. Abused children often become social or legal burdens. Abused children need the help of neighbors and friends before their torture will stop.

You can help recognize child abuse and see that it's treated. Common signs of child abuse include: repeated injuries, neglected appearance, disruptive behavior, passive-withdrawal behavior, highly critical parents, and extremely isolated families.

Every parent makes errors in judgement and action at some time, but when it starts to become a pattern it's time for help.

If you see yourself falling into the pattern of a child abuser, or if you know of a family in this situation, there is help available.

Locally you can contact the county Social Services Department for direction and guidance and there is also a 24-hour crisis telephone line, Albemarle Hopeline, that offers information and help for abuse cases. The number for the crisis line is 338-3011.

Child abuse is a problem that affects us all. It is a problem that can be resolved. We have a moral responsibility to see that child abuse is reported to people who can help. We have a moral responsibility to the children.

### Raleigh's expedition neared goal in early July

Having obtained a royal patent authorizing him to claim and tame new lands, Walter Raleigh's swiftly began organizing an exploratory expedition.



Raleigh outfitted a bark (possibly the 200-ton "Bark Raleigh") and a pinnace (possibly the "Dorothy"). The larger vessel was placed under the command of Capt. Philip Amadas, a member of Raleigh's household, and the smaller under Capt. Arthur Barlowe, a soldier who had been with Raleigh in Ireland.

The expedition's pilot, responsible for guiding it to its destination, was Simon Fernandez. Born in the Azores, Fernandez had taken to English ways, and he was acquainted with the North American coast.

The chosen destination was an unclaimed area midway between already occupied Newfoundland and Florida. A pronounced eastward bend in the coastline facilitated a sailor's locating the area. It was believed the climate there was good, and it was hoped that rumor was correct in describing the area as a small strip of land washed by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Raleigh's preparations were soon ready. Barlowe chronicled the start of the voyage: "The 27 day of April, in the year of our redemption, 1584, we departed the west of England," probably from the ancient port of Plymouth, "well furnished with men and victuals...."

Much as he desired to, Raleigh could not sail with Amadas and Barlowe. While his men engaged in adventure and discovery, Raleigh would spend several months waiting and wondering.

Raleigh's vessels sailed the typical English route to the New World: southwest through the Atlantic to the Tropic of Cancer, west of the islands of the western Indies, then north and northeast along the mainland coast.

The route took advantage of the prevailing winds and currents, allowing nature to

carry vessels forward. It stayed near land for as long as possible, enabling vessels in danger or short of supplies to make for a heaven. Then, too, it carried the English into waters favored by Spanish treasure fleets, promising the fortunate mariner sudden wealth.

Barlowe reported: "The tenth of May, we arrived at the Canaries, and the tenth of June...we were fallen with the islands of the West Indies...."

Probably at Puerto Rico, the men refreshed themselves with "sweet water, and fresh victual." This was a welcome change after a sailor's daily diet of a pound of biscuit (increasingly weevil), a pound of salt beef or pork (increasingly wormy), a gallon of beer (increasingly flat), and a bit of cheese (increasingly moldy).

Sailing onward, the expedition neared its goal. Barlowe wrote: "The second of July, we found shoal water, which smelt so sweetly....as if we had been in the midst of some delicate garden...." Two days later they sighted the coast, which they then followed for 120 miles before spotting a suitable landing place. (Part three next week.)

### Put humor back into comics

Our favorite "downeast" paper (not the "Old Reliable") recently asked for reader opinion of comics, or as most of us refer to them, the funny papers.

**Point of View**  
by: **BILL NIXON**

I took a few minutes to respond to the survey and included an additional sheet of criticism on many of the individual strips.

The "funnies" are not funny anymore. Rather than offering simple entertainment, as comics should, we presented far too many strips that focus too much attention on changing the moral and social habits of readers. Very little effort is made to project simple entertainment.

I'm not one of those that believe everything was so much better in the "good old days." It wasn't. But the funny papers were. Henry, who made a round head popular long before Charlie Brown, demanded your attention. Nancy and Sluggo were always at the top of the

reading list. On the serious side, one of my all-time favorites was Brenda Star. She never did marry Basil St-John. The many characters introduced by Dick Tracy made fighting crime a very exciting job. Scamp was fun mostly because of Walt Disney. Mut and Jeff were quite a pair, and Orphan Annie, before she became a stage star, was a very close friend of many children. And there were others, too many to mention, that brought us entertainment and laughter every Sunday.

Today we are insulted by the antics of a cat named Garfield. If spoiled children interest you, then you'll want to keep up with For Better or Worse. Then there's Bloom Country, which seems to be hung up on some character called "Bill the Cat." The Cat is supposed to be dead, but keeps coming back. It seems author Berke Breathed, an unbelievable name, can't find an idea to use from week to week.

Cathy, the story of the ups and downs of "modern" girls, could be funny if so much attention wasn't directed to the not-so-humorous lifestyle of many of today's young adults. If she isn't dating a man with several kids, she's off on a vacation with her some-times boyfriend.

There's Crock, a spin-off of the Wizard of Id, neither of which is

very funny. Shoe, a series featuring bird-like characters is an indication of an artist that can't draw people.

I'm also opposed to seeing the comics used as a medium for advertising. With a high readership by children, it's only natural that certain advertisers would jump at the opportunity to exploit this market, but that doesn't make it right. Nor should ads appear promoting sex-oriented movies. A recent Sunday edition had such an ad, advertising "Sheena," dressed in much-of-nothing, nothing she alone has the power to "save Paradise."

There are some features that are still entertaining. Probably everyone loves Charlie Brown and the Gang. Other than some slight changes in clothing, Blondie and Dagwood remain much as they have been decades.

The Phantom allows us to enjoy lots of action, with the good guy still a winner. Andy Capp continues to be the idol of many men, as does Snuffy Smith.

The main section of the paper gives us the news. The editorial pages allows us to share different opinions. The feature and entertainment pages keep us socially aware.

Why can't the funny pages be funny?



### Cucumbers and school

Last week's column on the abundance of cucumbers brought a response from several of you who found yourself in the same fix that I was in. Several of the calls did prove to be quite helpful in solving the problem of what to do with the excess though. You can freeze cucumbers.

**A Chat With Jane**  
By Jane Williams

One reader was generous enough to drop by an anonymously leave a bag of cucumbers for our enjoyment.

Shirley Perry was among the callers last week, and she offered the following recipe to delight all of the cucumber lovers in the county.

The recipe, given to Shirley by her sister-in-law follows:  
In a large bowl mix together—  
6 cups of unpeeled cucumbers, sliced paper-thin  
1 medium onion, sliced thin  
Add 1½ tablespoons of salt, and mix well.

Place the bowl in the refrigerator for two hours. After two hours remove the bowl from the refrigerator, and drain and squeeze the mixture thoroughly. DO NOT RINSE.

In a separate bowl mix ¼ cup of vinegar and 1 to 1½ cups of sugar (as desired). Stir until sugar is completely dissolved. Add this mixture to the

cucumbers, mix well and place in freezer bags.

Shirley says that the cukes are delightful when prepared this way. With all the cucumbers I've got at home I'm counting on it.

The final days of summer vacation have arrived. Many of the college students have already departed for school, and locally students will go back on Monday.

Many of you will be taking your little ones to school for the first time Monday. It will be an experience that neither you or your child will forget for a long time, if ever.

I still haven't forgotten my own very first day of school, and I'm not likely to forget the first days that I accompanied my own two children for this event.

Back in the "good old days" when I first enrolled in grammar school things were a little different from the way they are now. You didn't get a phone call from the teacher letting you know about your classroom assignment, nor did you read the assignment in the newspaper. You sat in the school's auditorium while the principal read each students' classroom assignment.

At six years old, sitting in an auditorium full of people, waiting for your name to be called out can be a terrifying experience. You're already self-conscious enough, and here's this strange man reading out your name over a microphone for the whole world to hear.

Then you had to leave the auditorium and go to your newly

found classroom and meet the person that you would be spending the majority of the next nine months with.

The first day of school is often a very traumatic experience. Remembrances of being there yourself is bad enough, but having little ones of your own is a totally different story.

You spend the first five or six years of their lives saying that you can't wait until it's time for them to go to school, and then when it's almost time for them to start you begin to get cold feet.

The nervousness you're experiencing is to be expected. Pre-wedding jitters are nothing in comparison to sending your little one to school for the first time.

Sweating palms, cold feet, nervous stomach...all are symptoms that will be experienced by every parent in the classroom that you enter. And just as a word of warning...there's always one child in every classroom that will be hanging on to his (or her) parents leg, screaming to the top of their lungs.

It is important to let your child know that this will happen, and that it's not because the teacher is going to eat them for breakfast as soon as mommy and daddy leave. Every pre-schooler looks forward to school until they have to go.

Reassure them, love them, and realize that after the first week or so you will be more than ready, after a long week-end, for Monday to roll around so that you can send them back into the loving arms of their teacher.

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