#### Today's kids are too honest,

Something is wrong with the kids of today. For one, they don't like chocolate with nuts in it, and for another, they've always got to be doing something.

another, they've always got to be doing something. For instance, my four-year-old son, who will drop cartoons in a heartbeat in exchange for an opportunity to do yard work. Or consider his three sisters, who will jump at the opportunity to clean house as part of a family team with the only reward being an opportunity to "crank" up their CD's. Today's kids are too honest as well. When I was a kid, if we did something wrong we had enough sense to hide until we got hungry. A close friend and I are often reduced to laughter when we ask, "Who broke that vase?" and one of our children answers on a pitiful sigh "It did..."m sorry."
We brusquely respond, "Well, clean it up... and next time what should you do?"
"Come tell you?"
"Well, yea, that too..." I attempt with a straight face, "but, how about being more careful as well?"
"O'K", the child usually answers meekly.
When I add something like,

meekly.

When I add something like,
"...and next, I guess you'll chop
down someone's cherry tree!"

I usually get a response of, "N
I promise to be more careful!"

Another example of the precociousness of today's kids is when
whyshad James recently agremy husband James recently agreed to let our son Jake's friend, four-year-old Hunter Patterson "hang out" with him until Jake was leased from pre-school. As they ulled into one of his job-sites,

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Hunter asked, "Why are we here

Well, Buddy," James replied, "I'm a landscape contractor, and this is one of the jobs we're work-

"Oh," said Hunter, "I'm going to be a paleontologist when I grow

up."

"A Wha...???" queried James.

"A paleontologist. That's the study of fossils." said Hunter.

"I'm going to study dinosaur

study of fossils." said Hunter.
"T'm going to study dinosaur
bones."
"Oh. I knew that." James
answered wittilly.
With more than a hint of reassurance in his voice, Hunter offered,
"That's all right, James."
On the other hand, when I was a
wee one, I couldn't understand
why my parents din't like it when
I walked off with the side of my
crib...or why, when I was fouryears-old, my too frequently
bathed, sponge-filled "baby" got
the blue measles (that my parents
ungraciously referred to as
mildew), or why I fell into a waterfilled ditch when I tried to catch
fish in a bucket; or even why the
hamster took off for the furnace
when I opened his cage door.
My son also seems to unintentionally render the same effect on
creatures
Today though, I'm proud to

creatures
Today though, I'm proud to
report that I'm much smarter than
my past would indicate. For one
thing, I've determined that the best
way to insure my stash of chocolate is to make sure that it has nuts

Roxanne Powers is a Morrisville resident who writes a monthly col-umn for The Morrisville & Preston

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Continued from page 1
together for the last two years.
"It would have been hard for us to
break up," Heather said. "We would
have had to quit our job and quit our
classes," she joked.

She said she identifies with her
mother's sense of loss, which she
says was more gradual.
"I used to call her twice a week,"
she said. "After I met him, I cut
down on the calls. It was not intentional, I just had him to confide in."
But when it came time for the wedding decisions, she told her mother,
"My maid of honor should be my
best friend, and that has to be you."
"I made a lot of friends in college,"
Heather said, "but no one's been
there for me like my mom."
Mrs. Hicks had Heather at a very
young age, and said the two grew up
together.
"I raised them (Heather and her

preached or told them they couldn't do something. I even partied with them through college."

Mrs. Hicks remarried and has two more children, Michael, 12, and Jenna, 9, and is still using the same philosophy. She also teaches piano lessons to many Preston residents and runs a part-time computer consulting business. And she is working on her MBA at Campbell College. Songwriting is not on her usual list of daily tasks, but she has one other copyrighted song, which she wrote for a friend who has terminal cancer. In the case of Heather's song, it took about 20 minutes to write. "It was like my heart was just pouring out on paper," she said.

Originally, she recorded the song on a cassette, but she wanted to have something more special to present to her daughter, so she went to Snow Hill Music Company in Orange County, a professional recording studio.

"I showed up with just the song in my head," she said. "I said do you

"I showed up with just the song in my head," she said. "I said do you

have a piano?"

They had a fancy digital piano and she and the director decided to add

Mother writes Heather's Song for daughter's wedding

sne and the director decided to add violin music to the recording.

"I was paying \$50 an hour, so I wanted to make sure I got it right," she said. First she played the music, and did not make one mistake. Then she sang while the music was pumped into earphones in the sound room.

room.
"I felt like Barbra Streisand for half an hour," she joked.
The end result was a gold compact disk with a white label that said, "Where did the Time Go?" and underneath, "Heather's Song," "It's one of the nicest things I have ever heard of a mother doing for her daughter on her wedding," said longtime friend and wedding director Linda Hewitt.

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Writing and playing the song was therapy for Mrs. Hicks as she got used to the idea of her daughter marrying and "leaving her."

As they headed through the whirl-wind of wedding plans, she often popped it in her car radio and listened to it and just cried.

"This has been difficult to get through, especially being her matron of honor," she said. "The song has helped me get through it."

# together. "I raised them (Heather and her older brother, Stephen, 25) with a different philosophy," she said. "I tried to be their best friend and at the same time guide them. I never Town budget increases 21 percent as Morrisville grows

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1 of the town's 38 full-time employees to get a 2.5 percent increase in salary. Funds are also included for implementation of a merit pay plan. Fee increases in parks and recreation and for building inspections and water and sewer tap on fees will also be included in the budget.

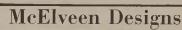
The fee increases will reflect the use of town services by non-taxnav-

use of town services by non-taxpay-ers and will become more consis-

tent with rates charged in nearby

towns.

Despite the new staff added, the Despite the new staff added, the budget reflects increased use of contractual services for areas such as grass mowing, utility billing and meter reading, so even more employees will not have to be added.



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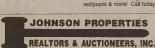
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