

# Opinions

## Put life back in fathers

**by Lucien Coleman**  
Presumably, fathers have been around for a long time. But Fathers Day wasn't accorded official status until 1972, when President Richard M. Nixon signed a Congressional resolution designating the third Sunday in June as a national holiday.

Even though it helps merchants sell a good many shirts, ties, and socks, Fathers Day doesn't attract much attention in most quarters. Actually, the ancient Romans put on a bigger celebration in honor of their dead fathers than we do in honor of our live ones.

In their annual Paternalia feast, the Romans gathered to "appease the souls of your fathers," to quote the words of Ovid the poet. This yearly event was actually a family reunion. In addition to

### Things That Matter

feasting and whooping it up, family members offered wine, honey, oil, and water at the flower-decorated graves of their departed fathers and other relatives.

Now, personally, I'd rather have my honey, oil, ties, and socks while I'm living. (In case you're wondering about the wine, I've always been a teetotaler). But I do wish we could put a little more life into Fathers Day.

Come to think of it, maybe we ought to put a little more life into fathers. Adlai Stevenson had a point when he said to the National Father's Day Committee, back in 1961, "fatherhood is no longer the sacred duty it was once held to be. There are, today, far too many

absentee fathers, fathers in name only."

He went on to point out that absentee fathers are, in some cases, "men whose ability, sense of responsibility, and moral integrity outside the home are of the first order." But, inside the home, they were washouts.

Raising the level of his rhetoric, Stevenson added:

"There is absolutely no excuse for a parent to abdicate his most important duty -- the proper raising of his children. No father should be allowed to get away with the cowardly logic which concludes that his only job in the family is to pay for the bacon."

Tough words. But true. A father shouldn't get so busy making a living that he doesn't have time to show his children how to make a life.

## Buy milk, it's dairy month

**By John Sledge**  
**N.C. Farm Bureau Federation**  
June Dairy Month was launched in 1937 to promote the sale of milk and milk products. Over the years, it has become a national campaign to remind consumers of the importance of dairy foods in the family diet.

June Dairy Month in 1983 is more important than ever because of the surplus milk situation throughout the country.

Basically, the cause is simply that production has continued to

increase in the number of cows nationwide, as well as increased production per cow. Ironically, these factors result from the overall increased efficiency of dairy-farm operations.

Unfortunately, when production outstrips sales, herds of dairy cattle are unlike production processes in other industries which can be slowed or temporarily shut down. The cows continue to produce milk, regardless of what is happening at the supermarket dairy case. And, the dairy farmer must continue to feed his herd, operate

machinery and run his business--all of which cost money.

In short, the nature of a dairy farm operation makes it impossible to vary production with short-term rises and falls in product demand.

June and every month is a good time for consumers to be reminded that one of the best ways to provide a healthy, but varied, diet is with milk and milk products.

For food value received, fresh wholesome milk continues as one of the best buys to be found.

## Your Child Could Be A Liability

If you are a parent, you have probably worried many times about possible harm coming to your child or children. It is so easy for a person to be hurt, and parents often worry whether their children will be able to stay out of harm's way.

Suppose, however, that your child is in no way harmed, but instead has harmed somebody or something else. For example, imagine that your child goes back to

### Law For Laypersons

the local school after school hours and throws rocks through the windows. Are you liable for the damage the child has done?

The North Carolina General Assembly has passed a law which will make you as a parent strictly liable for damages done by your child in certain circumstances. General Statutes § 1-538.1 provides that a parent of a minor child may be liable for an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars if that child maliciously or willfully in-

jured a person or destroys real or personal property of that person.

If the court has taken custody of the child away from you, as frequently happens in a divorce proceeding, the law specifically provides that you will not be responsible for your child's actions.

The same is also true if you have given up custody of your child by a contract such as a separation agreement with an ex-spouse. If, however, you have custody of your child and your child does the damage maliciously or willfully, you will be held liable for the damage up to one thousand dollars.

## WIC, A Program Of Cooperation

The cooperation of local food stores and pharmacies allow the WIC Program, a special supplemental food program for Women, Infants, and Children, to operate through the retail marketing system.

WIC Vendors assure that participants receive full benefit from the program by assisting them in using their WIC Food Instruments and purchasing allowable WIC foods.

To become a WIC Vendor, food retailers and pharmacies must:

- (1) Maintain the required minimum inventory of WIC Approved Foods. For food retailers, these are milk, eggs, natural cheese, cereal, 100% pure fruit juice, infant formula, infant

cereal, infant juice. Pharmacies are needed for ordering special infant formula.

(2) Sign a WIC Vendor Agreement with the local WIC Agency.

(3) Attend annual Vendor training meetings. This year's meeting for Hoke County WIC Vendors will be held at the Hoke County Health Department on Thursday, June 16 at 10 a.m.

WIC Vendors wishing to renew their Vendor Agreement are required to attend.

Any retailers or pharmacies interested in becoming a WIC Vendor are encouraged to contact Rebecca Edwards at the Hoke County Health Department, 875-3717, before June 16.



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## Breed Dogs During 2nd Season

**DEAR DOCTOR:** At what age should a female be bred for the first time? We would like to breed our shepherd-husky with our male shepherd. This will be the second time she will be ready to breed. Also, the male weighs 80 pounds, the female 45 pounds. Would the weight difference create a hardship on her? Finally, after whelping should the male be confined to an area away from the pups and mother?

**ANSWER:** Your female dog should be ready to breed once she comes into her second season. You were wise not to breed her on her first heat as her reproductive tract needed time to mature. As a general rule, breed on the second heat or later. The time of the first heat varies with the breed, the individual dog, her overall health and nutritional status, as well as other factors. Often, the smaller breeds mature more quickly.

The weight difference creates no problems with delivery of the

### You And Your Pet

pups. Your veterinarian can quickly tell you if she is physically developed, recommend a proper diet and view vaginal cells microscopically to determine the best times for breeding.

The mother's environment should be kept as stress-free as possible before and after whelping. It is advisable to keep the male away.

If the mother is in hard labor for longer than two hours with no results, you should call your veterinarian. The day after delivery she should be examined and given antibiotic and hormone injections if necessary.

Enjoy your new puppies!

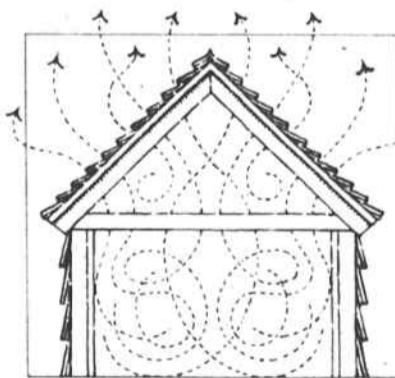
**DEAR DOCTOR:** What can I do for a three-month-old puppy that eats her own bowel waste? I have to watch her very closely.

**ANSWER:** Removing her feces immediately after voiding will obviously stop the problem, but it is important to find the cause. Pica, which is eating any non-food material, can be caused by improper digestion, diet and boredom. Pica is most often common in puppies.

To rule out improper digestion, have your veterinarian examine a fresh stool sample to check for worms, enzyme deficiencies and other causes of inadequate digestion. He or she may suggest food additives to make the feces less desirable. Also, make sure your puppy is receiving a nutritionally complete commercial dog food. Both young and old pets often require vitamin and mineral supplementation.

Boredom can be due to lack of attention. If your pet is confined alone for a long period of time, another pet can help fill the empty hours. Playing the radio while you are away may also entertain her.

# HOW YOU CAN STOP YOUR COOLING DOLLARS FROM GOING THROUGH THE ROOF.



Up to 23% of the cooling you pay for could be going through the roof, because of a poorly insulated attic.

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