



OVER A CENTURY OF EUCHRE PLAYING

123 years of Euchre playing is represented at this table Friday at the Lions' Club Euchre party. Seated from left to right are Clare Wilson, who has played Euchre for 63

years, Anne Norton, who has played for 40 years, Viola Izzard and Ethel Kaiser who have both played for 60 years.

Group sees no child-raising training

There is no training for the most difficult job in the world—raising your children—a panel of three women and two men told 16 mothers at the YM-YWCA in Georgetown Wednesday.

"We are supposed to be absolutely marvelous," said panelist Theresa Howard, mother of five and consultant to the Etobicoke Board of Education. "But no job on earth asks more than being a parent."

Each panelist as well as having practical experience raising his or her own children was in favor of a particular approach to childrearing.

Mrs. Howard, for instance, recommended Dr. Rudolph Driekus, author of *Children: The Challenge*, among other books. Driekus says few parents are fully equipped to let children grow to full potential, Mrs. Howard said.

Panelist and principal of Howard Wrigglesworth School, Eric Balkind, said that by the time a youngster is in kindergarten, "the most important things in a child's life have already happened."

Many educators and child rearing experts believe the first three years of a child's life are critical, Balkind said, adding that the child's first nine months of life are not to be overlooked.

Although the average family has the resources to do the job, Balkind said, courses in how to be a parent would help parents to not feel inadequate.

"Parenting needs patience, love, stamina and some basic knowledge," Balkind said. Only one child in ten gets a good start, he told the audience.

Balkind said he was trying to convince the board of education that parenting skills should be taught in high schools. "The two most important jobs in the world need no training," Balkind said, "... parenting and politicians."

Often throughout the two hour meeting laughter broke up the group as one or other of the panelists parodied the kind of frustrated behaviour parents exhibit when children misbehave.

Panelist Audrey Shine, mother of five and operator of Montessori schools in Halton Hills and Brampton stressed to the audience the effectiveness of democratic family councils and of allowing children independence.

"Never do anything for the child he can do himself," Mrs. Shine said. The Montessori practice is to help the child do things by himself and very young children become discouraged if they must all the time ask if they can do something, Mrs. Shine said.

"Children are trying to be well behaved," Mrs. Shine said. "They will be better behaved as they have more self responsibility."

She said parents who have set up elaborate rules in the home should re-examine the rules.

"About 90 per cent of them could be thrown out," she said. Those that remain should be agreed upon by all family members.

Panelist Peter Marks, father of three and family counsellor with the Addiction Research Foundation stressed the Adlerian approach to childrearing as opposed to the Freudian approach.

Whereas Freud's approach is based on the parent as an authoritarian Adler believed each member of the family should be treated as an equal and a child's behaviour was goal oriented, Mr. Marks said. "Ask yourself what could the child be getting out of this behavior," Marks recommended. A pattern of behavior upon analysis could reveal the child's goals, he said.

Children misbehave with one or more of four goals in mind, Mr. Marks said. A child who wants the parent's attention will misbehave to get the attention even if it is negative, such as a licking, said Marks.

Another goal is power, he said. "Most teenage misbehavior is from a power struggle... but avoid them," Mr. Marks added. "Two people always lose (in a power struggle)."

A child who is extremely discouraged and breaking things has revenge as his goal, Marks said. This symptom is more common now than when large families were the norm, he added.

"But give them a purpose or a meaning in the family, if they feel they don't belong and make the child feel helpful and wanted," said Mr. Marks.

The child who has withdrawn has used withdrawal as the goal from a sense of personal inadequacy, Mr. Marks said. The child's behavior may require no discipline but such a child may be "very discouraged" and "may need institutional help."

Elaborating on the power struggle in response to questions later from parents, Mr. Marks said the major clue to tell parents that a power struggle is underway is when the parents say to himself: "Child, I will make you do this."

"Avoid it (power struggling) at all costs," Mr. Marks said, "by getting the child thinking why he has taken that position."

Like Mrs. Shine and others on the panel, Marks was in favor of family councils once or twice a week where ground rules would be established before edicts were laid down.

Panelist and mother of two Barbara Halsall told parents she follows the Parent Effectiveness Training (PET) book authored by Dr. Thomas Gordon. Stressing the importance of the child's concept of self, Mrs. Halsall said the PET program is based on three steps involving "eye messages."

"The first step is to listen to the child 'so you hear the child's feelings behind the words.' Next, if the child causes you a problem, 'tell them in such a way that you don't damage their self-esteem.'"

Finally, use a democratic method of problem solving, where the needs of all in the problem are determined and as many solutions as possible are listed, written down and modified until everyone is satisfied with the solution. In the final step a date in the future should be set to re-evaluate the situation.

But the panelists were not unanimous on the subject of corporal punishment.

Theresa Howard said striking a child should be "used as a last resort in a dangerous situation."

School principal Eric Balkind told the audience he was in agreement with Mrs. Howard. "A spanking is better than getting knocked down by a motor car," Balkind said but stressed that corporal punishment should be used only rarely and with correct timing.

But panelist Marks did not agree with corporal punishment. "If you use corporal punishment, the child will find other avenues to display misbehavior," he said. Punishment of children could lead to neurotic or psychotic behavior in later life, he said. "Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't."

"If you can't stand grandma's favourite figurine being broken," Marks said, "it shouldn't be there."

The co-ordinators of the panel discussion were Valerie Griffin and Anne Ross of the "Y's" program committee.



JOYCE BEATON

You can tell her age

Times have changed, particularly in the gynecology department of the hospital. You can tell why a woman is on the ward by her age alone.

The 20-year-olds and under are across the hall having the babies. (Yes, the babies are still being born in spite of all the abortion statistics). The 30-year-olds are in the next bed to their older sisters.

At 30 it has become time for the tubal ligations (the tying of the tubes for birth control reasons). The 40-year-olds (my sorority) are having hysterectomies. Not for any one particular reason, but for a variety of complaints, unheard of in such proliferation a few years ago.

The 50-year-olds and over are wandering up and down the halls looking very tired of the whole routine and describing their complaints in generalized terms such as "repair work".

Whatever age, the experience can be a gross indignity. Women are poked and prodded, examined and re-examined, have blood taken out and put in, and in general feel like flesh and blood cadavers.

WOMEN ARE GREAT!

But women are wonderful. We take it all with such good grace, as if it were our natural lot in life. Not so much that we suffer in silence, but that we've learned this time around might not be as bad as what's waiting for us around the corner.

We're either trying to get pregnant or trying not to get pregnant, suffering from too many births or crying over a lost fetus.

My faith in women as professionals has been wonderfully strengthened during my hospitalization. There's just nothing to compare with a nurse who knows what she's about and who obviously administers to her sisters with compassion and understanding.

SHE'S WHO?

There's also nothing so great as being able to maintain a sense of humor when you're feeling lousy. Mine was tested while the intravenous was still in my arm and I was drifting dreamily in and out of the anaesthetic.

Two cleaning women entered my room and in whispers the following conversation ensued:

"There's supposed to be a woman in here who's a writer or something."

"What's her name?"

"I don't know, I'll look at the tag at the end of her bed."

She looked and went scurrying back to her cohort who was cleaning the bathroom. "It says Joyce Beaton. I never heard of her." To which the other replied as they left the room together, "She can't be very important. I never heard of her either."

That conversation did more than any one thing to shake me from my drowsiness and get me back on my feet!

First auxiliary meeting

First meeting of the 7:30 Joseph Gibbons School in Georgetown West Guild the Staff room. Auxiliary will be held Oct. 13 at

Introducing the greatest aid to litter prevention since the refillable pop bottle.

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On October 1, 1976 a new law went into effect. It says that within six months, retail vendors will be required to stock and display in refillable bottles any size, flavour and brand of soft drink they offer in non-refillable bottles.

In other words they have to offer you a choice. It also requires that retailers selling soft drinks in refillable bottles must now accept and refund cash deposits of at least 10¢ on small sizes and 20¢ on large sizes. And the amounts of these deposits must be shown separately from the actual price of the pop.

Your Ministry of the Environment thinks that a return to refillable bottles will save energy, help alleviate garbage disposal problems, and reduce the number of landfill sites. It will be a step toward a clean, uncluttered Ontario.



Ministry of the Environment Ontario
Hon. George A. Kerr, Q.C. Minister
Everett Biggs, Deputy Minister

Notice to Ontario Retailers

Effective October 1, 1976, you will be required to accept deposits on refillable soft drink containers of 10¢ on small sizes and 20¢ on large sizes. You will also be required to refund deposits in these amounts on all reasonably clean,

intact, refillable soft drink containers which you normally handle. This information is covered in a notice which must be displayed by soft drink retail vendors. These signs are provided by the Ministry of the Environment and are available at our offices in these locations: Barrie, Bellefonte, Cambridge, Cornwall,

Don Mills, Gravenhurst, Kenora, Kingston, London, North Bay, Oakville, Owen Sound, Ottawa, Peimbroke, Peterborough, Sarnia, Sault Ste. Marie, Stony Creek, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Welland and Windsor or by writing or phoning: Environment Ontario 135 St. Clair Ave., West Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5 Telephone: (416) 965-1658

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