



Who's afraid of a big, bad storm?

Those who braved Saturday's storm know what it was like. For most, it wasn't a pleasant experience. However, Melissa Austin, 10, (left), of Commercial Street and Angie Byer, 12, of Tenth Line South, Stouffville, considered it fun.

They were stopped by The Tribune cameraman en route to the Town Park with a sleigh-full of dolls.

—Jim Thomas

The right size family?

By MARGARET FOTH

No one can decide for anyone else what size is the right size for a family.

No children or a dozen children, the choice is personal.

It's a totally subjective question. Parents with three children won't tell you they wish they had only two. That would mean "No Johnny", and Johnny's a joy to behold.

A mom and dad with two children, can't really speak to whether four would be better, never having been there. And so we each speak out of our own subjective experiences.

I know of a young couple struggling very hard with the question of whether to have a second child. They feel pressure to "have a companion" for the first, so he won't be spoiled, lonely or whatever label is handy.

I don't think it's helpful when grandparents or friends issue ultimatums about "an only child will lead a lonely life" or "if you have more than two children you're selfish and don't care about overpopulation."

My friend Marni was somewhat surprised when her obstetrician brought up the topic of sterilization early in her third pregnancy. Marni and her husband HAD been planning that this child would be their last, but, she thought, "what if we had been wanting four or more children." Even if the doctor was only concerned about the fact she was getting older, the implication was that three kids were enough for any couple.

What are some questions to consider in deciding something so important as family size?

As Mitch Finley, father of three notes in "Marriage and Family Living", it's something you probably can't be realistic about until after you've started your family. As newly marrieds discuss their ideal family size, they may think romantically of a large family. Then, they find out how much No.

1 alters their life and decide to stop at two. Some thoughtful questions to ask are: Overall, do I enjoy a child just for himself or herself?

Do we have the long-term financial resources to manage?

Is our marriage stable?

Will I be able to work out job commitments?

Will I be able to give time to another child?

Do we choose the swirl of activity and complex relationships which comes as family size increases?

Helen says she expected the work to double when her second child was born. "I was wrong. There was ten times more work," she recalls, because, along with diapers, she was trying to balance the needs and wishes of the toddler. "But when we had a third child, I didn't notice the work so much," she said. "I think once you have a third child, you could go on and have a dozen!"

Helen may have been exaggerating to make her point, but it's true, the older siblings can be a lot of help in bringing up younger ones.

Longer ago, of course, people didn't spend much time thinking about family size. Infant mortality rates meant that many did not live to be adults. So it wasn't unusual for couples to have six, eight or twelve babies. Or for mother to die at childbirth. Having choices today about family size can mean happier children—happier families.

There are many advantages to growing up with brothers and sisters, such as learning ways to negotiate, how to share, giving and receiving love among peers. Each child adds many new and immeasurable gifts to a family. And those brother-sister relationships are important from the earliest days. You can help your child feel, that no matter how large or small, her family is just the RIGHT size!

Markham's Club 134

For girl-watchers

By ERKKI POHJOLAINEN

What type of men get their 'kicks' out of watching women, wearing nothing but high-heels and jewellery, prance around a stage?

I went looking for the answer, Wednesday—and found it.

Seemingly, all kinds visit such establishments. On this particular afternoon, about 35 men, some in three-piece business suits and others in grease-stained work-shirts had ring-side seats at Markham's Studio 134. They ogled a harem of striptease artists as the ladies strutted their stuff, one after another, explicitly revealing their gender.

During brief intervals, a voice boomed over the public address system. "Table dancers, three for \$10 until 6 o'clock."

As the girls completed their three-song show, they moved off the stage into the audience. Each carried a two-foot square stand to use as a personal and portable platform.

Meanwhile, waiters kept bringing patrons pricey drinks (a Coke and a bottle of beer, five dollars).

The ear-pounding music never stopped, nor did the hundreds of flashing lights. And the dancers kept on coming.

The black ceiling, black lights, darkened mirrors and all absence of windows gave one the feeling of being miles below the surface of the earth.

The club's atmosphere is thus established. Most patrons are interested in only one thing—titillation. And the dancers provide it, winking and smiling at the men while going through their routines. At the conclusion of each act, the dancers glide from the stage leaving nothing to the imagination.

One spectator who wished to remain anonymous, told me he found the show "a bore". Said his companion, "when you've seen one, you've seen 'em all."

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