

Babysitters deserve own special day of honour

It started with Mother's Day, then Father's Day, was added when being a dad finally achieved official status a few years back. Eventually, grandparents, secretaries, bosses, firefighters and lefthanded widget makers were all being given their day to put their feet up and let others bring them cards, coffee and chocolates.

But there is still one noticeable void in terms of unique categories of people deserving of honour because of the indispensable role they play.

Babysitters, those teenaged tickets to temporary respite from the non-stop demands of parenting youngsters after a long day at work, are yet to be awarded their own special date on the calendar. And what better time of year than the Christmas holidays to pay homage to these sisters (and brothers, on occasion) of

mercy. For without them, those of us chained to the relentless routine of get up, dress and feed the kids, get the kids off to day care, go to work, come home, feed and entertain the kids, keep the kids from killing each other, put the kids to bed, collapse and go to bed, would have even less of a life than we do already.

While Susan and I have in the past been dependent upon referrals from other parents who are often reluctant to divulge their sitters names out of self interest, that's all changed. Since she began teaching here in town, we've suddenly found ourselves privy to the most promising kiddie keepers available. Teaching kids has to be the best means of ferreting out potential sitters. You get to observe their work habits,

how they get along with others, and their overall sense of dedication to the cause at hand.

Consequently, Susan feels like the pirate who just dug up the buried treasure. With Grade 7 and 8 girls everywhere she looks, she simply must walk through the halls at lunch time calling out "Who wants to baby sit?" and she's inundated with offers. A quick check with the other teachers on staff and she's able to differentiate between the blue chip candidates and those likely to use your kids as science experiments.

With the endless Christmas functions of late, we've had no less than three situations arise where previously arranged sitters had to cancel for various reasons. No problem. Susan simply hoisted her "Sitter Wanted" sign onto her should-

der and walked the school halls. Voila! Within minutes she'd bagged her limit.

And the beauty of 13 and 14 year old sitters is that they are yet to discover the distractions that so often render teens of more advanced age unavailable for baby sitting. Many have even taken courses in baby sitting, showing up at the door with assorted lists of responsibilities for sitter and parents to fill out.

The timing couldn't be better. Our most trusted, reliable sitter of several years is getting a little long in the tooth by teen standards. She has a part time job with ever-increasing hours and it's time for us to realize we're going to soon have to cut the cord and groom a replacement. But with the recently discovered crop of up and comers at Susan's school, we could open

up our own sitter placement service!

But about that proposal for a special day to acknowledge baby sitters, we best make it on a Monday. After all, that's the day we're least likely to require their individual services.



From
Where
I Live

Bruce Stapley

Red Rose Garden

Famous For Chinese Food
Since 1972

Would like to express their sincerest gratitude for your continued patronage & wish you a **Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

We will be open every day during the holiday, except Christmas Day.

A complimentary Chinese Calendar will be available per order.

Red Rose Garden
5460 Hwy. 7, Markham 294-6565

CARNEGIE PLACE

Steak & Seafood ~ Fine Dining

Reserve now for
New Year's
(or any other day)

We specialize in fine dining
Romantic Dinners ~ Great Food

For reservations call Tommy
475-1510
8375 Woodbine Ave.
(Just South of Hwy. #7)

CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE

JAKE'S STYLE
RESERVATIONS (905) 470-6955

THE MENU

To Start: Caesar Salad

Appetizer: Deep Fried Camembert

Mains: Prime Rib of Beef au jus served with roasted potatoes and mixed vegetables
OR
Grilled Breast of Chicken topped with Black Forest Ham & Swiss cheese in a Dijon Cream sauce. Served with roasted potatoes and mixed vegetables
OR
Seafood Pescatore Marinara with Shrimp, Crabmeat & Calaman served with garlic bread.

To Finish: Arul's "justly famous" Tiramisu and Coffee or Tea

Plus: Door Prizes, Party Favours, Champagne at Midnight & Live D.J.

\$31.00 PER PERSON (TAXES AND GRATUITY ADDITIONAL)

NO PAYMENTS
Until Spring 1998

LEASE or FINANCE

ALL NEW CARS & TRUCKS

\$285/mo.

1998 NISSAN ALTIMA

- 2.4L, 16-valve, 150-hp engine
- Dual airbags
- Cruise control
- Power windows with driver-side auto-down
- Child-safety rear door locks
- AM/FM cassette stereo with 4 speakers
- 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive

HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION

- CFC-free air conditioning
- 60/40 split-fold rear seat
- Power door locks
- 24-hour roadside assistance and much more

THE ALL NEW 1998 NISSAN ALTIMA

\$349/mo.

1998 NISSAN MAXIMA

- 3.0L, DOHC 190-hp V6 engine
- Dual airbags
- Front & rear disc brakes
- Heated power mirrors
- Power windows and door locks
- 4-speed automatic transmission
- Automatic climate control A/C
- AM/FM/CD with cassette
- 8-way power driver's seat
- Keyless remote entry system

LIMITED TIME OFFER

- Security system
- 24-hour roadside assistance and much more

THE NEW 1998 NISSAN MAXIMA

Life is a journey. Enjoy the ride.

4600 Hwy. #7
at Kennedy Rd. by pass,
Markham

VILLAGE
NISSAN

(905)
477-3337

Ask us about Nissan's "No-Nonsense Leasing". Limited time offers: *36 month leases on '98 Altima GXE (T4RG78 AE00), A.L.R. 6.8% \$285 a month, Maxima GXE (U4RG78 CK00), A.L.R. 5.8% \$349 a month with down payment (Altima \$1,645, Maxima \$2,949) or equivalent trade. 1st payment & security deposit due at lease signing. Option to buy at lease end. O.A.C. and excludes freight, P.D.I., licence, insurance, and taxes. *Must be combined with \$30 package. Offer ends Jan. 5/98. Must take delivery on or before Jan. 8/98. Applies to all lease or finance. See Dealer for details.