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# Youth Truth



Official 'Zine of Americans for a Society Free from Age Restrictions [www.asfar.org](http://www.asfar.org)

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## Police-State Parenthood

*Sandra Buckley*

One Saturday evening, Charlotte Chavez dropped off her son Donnie at an amusement park in downtown Denver, as she'd done several times before, this summer. Donnie would meet some friends there and spend a few hours enjoying the rides. She would pick him up at 10 pm.

But this time, Donnie wasn't there when she returned. After waiting and looking for him for two hours, Charlotte Chavez went home and phoned the police to report her son missing.

The next day, Donnie was found. He'd spent the night at the home of one of his friends. We might guess that his mom was mad at him after a night of worrying. Perhaps he'd tried to phone home while she was out looking for him. Or maybe he'd left with his friend because his mother didn't show up on time. We don't know all the details, but the mother and son certainly worked it all out on their own. No harm done, really. A scary incident for a mother, an inconsiderate action by a son—pretty run-of-the-mill stuff. An incident that might happen in any family, hardly worth mentioning, once it's over.

But the authorities didn't drop the matter. The next day, after police realized that Donnie was 11 years old, they charged Charlotte Chavez with "wrongs to minors," a violation of Denver's municipal code that can carry a penalty of up to a year in jail and a fine of nearly \$1000. A police spokesman was quoted: "It is important for parents to realize that they must be responsible for their children at all times and not just feel that they can drop their kids off at such a young age with no adult supervision."

The story became newsworthy. Some versions can be seen at [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040720\\_411.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040720_411.html) and <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/3548264/detail.html>. The latter of these two online articles included a survey of readers asking whether the charge against Chavez was justified; at last count, 45% of respondents said it was.

Charlotte Chavez isn't the first parent to run into this kind of interference with her parenting decisions. Judges and social service agencies have threatened parents with loss of custody if they don't force their children to take psychotropic drugs to control their behavior.<sup>1</sup> In another case, a judge ordered an autistic girl to be taken from her caring parents and placed in a group home after an agency testified that she'd be safer there.<sup>2</sup>

Parents today worry that any minor accident that happens to their child may be interpreted as abuse or neglect. Such cases, while pretty rare (like most dangers), do add to parents' fears. Most everyone would agree with sociologist Frank Furedi that intervention by authorities "should be confined to those exceptional instances in which a child faces real harm."<sup>3</sup> But the opinion poll about Charlotte Chavez in Denver indicates that a quite a few people thought *her* case was just such an instance! Activities seen as harmless fun in one's own childhood might now be condemned as dangerous ... and no one will tell parents *which* activities those are until after the fact, when they are pronounced guilty. For example, failing to treat one's child with drugs may have been considered a hazard last year; next year it might be *giving* them the drugs. How can one ensure safety if the "safe" route is unmarked, and keeps changing?

Our standards have certainly changed, here in the United States, about what young people are capable of doing, and how much freedom they should have. For example, in 1810, David Farragut served as a midshipman in the Navy at the age of 11; by the age of 12 he was given his first command of a vessel. In 1859, at the age of 12, Thomas Edison left home, selling candy and newspapers on the Grand Trunk Railroad to pay for his experiments and a printing press; at 14 he was publishing his own newspaper. These two individuals were unusual for their success and celebrity, but not so uncommon in terms of the independence and autonomy they enjoyed.

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# Buzz

## Voting Age Protests!

The Boston voting age protest scheduled for August 21 was postponed one day due to rain. Even so, the protest, held on Sunday August 22, was a great success. People stopped to discuss the issue and were receptive to what protesters had to say. The event also attracted media coverage by the *Boston Globe* at <[http://www.boston.com/news/politics/president/articles/2004/08/23/protesters\\_call\\_for\\_lowering\\_of\\_voting\\_age/](http://www.boston.com/news/politics/president/articles/2004/08/23/protesters_call_for_lowering_of_voting_age/)>, the *Daily News Tribune* at <<http://www.dailynewstribune.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=3940>>, and the *MetroWest Daily News* at <<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/columnists/view.bg?articleid=77268>>. Photos are at <<http://www.asfar.org/voting/protests/boston>>.

The Chicago voting age protest took place on schedule on Saturday August 21 under beautiful blue skies. NYRA member Keith Mandell joined ASFAR member Susan Wishnetsky to hand out flyers and talk to passersby in a downtown park.

More and bigger protests around the country are planned for Saturday, October 30 and Tuesday, November 2 (election day). See <<http://www.asfar.org/voting/protests/>> for a location near you or to organize a protest yourself!

## Radio Interviews!

On Wednesday, August 25, David Schneider-Joseph, ASFAR's president, was a guest on Paul Giammarco's *Information Highway* on WSAR 1480 AM in Fall River, Massachusetts. The audio of the interview, reproduced with permission, is online at <<http://www.asfar.org/voting/protests/boston/wsar.php>>. Sadly, some of the audio was irretrievably damaged, including a one-minute section about two minutes into the interview.

And on Friday, September 17, David Schneider-Joseph was a guest on Doug Stephan's nationally-syndicated *Good Day* show to discuss ASFAR and the voting age; the audio of that interview is at <<http://www.asfar.org/dougstephan.php>>.

# Contest

## Essay Contest!

ASFAR hereby announces a *Youth Truth* submission contest, with prizes for best persuasive paper on a youth rights topic. Submissions of any length will be reviewed by a three-person panel, and the winners will receive:

First place	\$50
Second place	\$25
Third place	\$25

Send your submission(s) to <[editor@asfar.org](mailto:editor@asfar.org)>. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2004. Good luck everyone!

# Letters

Regarding the subject of this issue's cover story:

I'm not sure how young, but I'm certain I was much younger than 11 when I spent hours alone in the woods near our house, collecting leopard frogs and garter snakes. For goodness sakes, I walked alone the two blocks to and from kindergarten when I was 5! I carried a 12-gauge shotgun on my bicycle to shoot quail in the woods when I was just 14. But nobody worried. After all, I was an Eagle Scout. I spent the same summer at Scout Camp as a junior leader teaching knot-tying to the younger boys. Back then, I guess we grew up faster, or maybe time took longer. I would suspect most 11-year-olds are ready to be left alone. They're certainly old enough to be Boy Scouts and camp in the mountains. The parents should know and make those kinds of decisions. I might involve the law if the child was really irresponsible or mentally impaired. In my culture, I was taught that I was old enough to be responsible for myself when I was 8. I suspect that's a reasonable minimum legal age for being alone after dark, unless you're just going home after a party in the neighborhood. I'm lucky the society in which I grew up was less paranoid. Ken

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Questions regarding the electronic version may be directed to <[editor@asfar.org](mailto:editor@asfar.org)>. Questions about or requests for subscriptions to the print version may be directed to <[swishnets@aol.com](mailto:swishnets@aol.com)> or to *Youth Truth*, P.O. Box 11358, Chicago, Illinois 60611-0358.

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# Redirect

When asked what's wrong with a curfew that allows streets to be "kept clear for ordinary people to get on with their lives," Carlyne Willow of the Children's Rights Alliance of England replies that "children are ordinary people." At [http://sydney.indymedia.org/front.php3?article\\_id=45747&group=webcast](http://sydney.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=45747&group=webcast) Ms. Willow takes on the recent anti-youth policies in England.

Children need to know that "the most powerful authority stems from the power of one's heart and mind, rather than the size of one's biceps," says Dr. Darshak Sanghavi; see his editorial at [http://www.boston.com/news/globe/health\\_science/articles/2004/09/14/though\\_widely\\_used\\_corporal\\_punishment\\_is\\_an\\_unproven\\_treatment\\_for\\_misbehavior](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/health_science/articles/2004/09/14/though_widely_used_corporal_punishment_is_an_unproven_treatment_for_misbehavior).

Responding to the Boston protest, columnist Julia Spitz gives the matter some thought at <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/columnists/view.bg?articleid=77268&format=>>, and decides that anyone under 18 who can pass the same citizenship test taken by immigrants should be allowed to vote.

Worthy or inferior? Public school or private product? Serving students from failing public schools, or designed for lifelong homeschoolers? An article at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=43Edgrant.h23> describes the controversy over federal funding of the Arkansas Virtual School, created by former Education Secretary William Bennett's company, K12.

A letter to the editor by an ordinary person, appearing at [http://166.70.44.66/2004/Jul/07142004/public\\_f/public\\_f.asp](http://166.70.44.66/2004/Jul/07142004/public_f/public_f.asp), points out the unfair restrictions on driver's licenses for Utah residents under 21. Anyone can write a letter like this. Read it. Then, next time you hear of an age restriction that makes you mad, write one yourself and send it to your local paper.

# News Links

## Coors Triumphs Over Attacks

Despite his opponent's campaign of attacking Pete Coors' for supporting a lowered drinking age, Mr. Coors, a Republican, won his Colorado primary battle on August 10 with 61% of the vote, says [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Politics/ap20040811\\_31.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Politics/ap20040811_31.html). Coors, heir to the Coors Brewery company, says that lowering the drinking age would help teach responsibility.

Editors' note about the print edition of *Youth Truth*: following our recent mass mailing of issues, several readers sent some very good suggestions to improve the appearance and readability of our official 'zine. The suggestions have not yet been instituted, but some certainly will be, most likely with the first issue of our next volume. Thanks to everyone who took the time to write.

# Redirect

Is your school even *covering* the material included in your high school exit exam? You won't find out until you take the test, says an August report by the Center on Education Policy, in PDF format at <http://www.ctredpol.org/>.

A professor who gave academic advice to college students admits, at <http://chronicle.com/jobs/2004/07/2004071901c.htm>, to a truth that applies at all levels: people who give you guidance often don't know what they're talking about.

# Letters

Regarding Julia Spitz's column:

It's great that you covered the topic [of the voting age], and the Boston demonstration by ASFAR. Generally, your positions make sense. But if you propose to require a test of younger citizens such as that given to foreigners wanting to become citizens, then let's do so for *all* potential voters. That is, NO AGE DISCRIMINATION—if you pass the test, you can vote.

Do you really think more than 20% of adults who can now vote would be able to pass that test? I doubt it. But those who really want to vote can attend some classes at the local "adult school" to learn or refresh their civics knowledge and thus *earn* the right to vote in the same way you propose for younger citizens.

By the way, I am an older adult, and I would have to pass the test under my suggestion also. Jim

Voting, as defined by the constitution, is a right. It's a right that people automatically get by being citizens, not a privilege, which is something a person has to earn. Requiring a test for voting would make voting a privilege, and it would do away with a fundamental constitution right, so I would be against any sort of test required for voting. Chris

Regarding Pete Coors' victory:

Facing fellow Republican ads ridiculing his support for a lower drinking age, Peter Coors wins his party's primary by a large margin, proving that supporting a lowered age is *not* political suicide in a U.S. Senate campaign! Is it possible that his stance on this issue actually *increased* his support? Dare I say yes? YES, I DO! Too bad he doesn't mention it on his "issues" page, <http://www.petecoorsforsenate.com/issues.htm>. Daniel

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# News Links

## **California Charter Chain Collapses**

Trustees of California Charter Academy voted in August to close all 60 of its schools. Articles at <http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/living/education/9407224.htm> and <http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/mcherald/2004/08/16/news/state/9407559.htm> tell of hundreds of teachers and other employees left suddenly jobless, while thousands of parents scrambled to enroll their kids elsewhere.

## **Charter Schools Examined**

Better, worse, or about the same as public schools? or maybe all of the above? California's charter schools are covered at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/09/16/MNG0T8PNMP1.DTL>; those in Arizona and other states are discussed at <http://www.azcentral.com/arizona-republic/local/articles/0819charters19.html>. As for federal data, less of it will be available from now on. According to <http://www.indystar.com/articles/2/174156-3102-010.html>, the U.S. Department of Education will now collect data on only a random sample of about 10% of the nation's charter schools.

## **Missouri Charter, District Battle for Control**

As of September 9, the Kansas City School District is in charge of Westport Academy, accused of short-changing students' education and failing to account for \$1.6 million in funding. The "related articles" listed at <http://www.thekansas-citychannel.com/education/3715773/detail.html> show the back-and-forth battle between the school and the district.

## **Texas Family Indicted in Charter Racket**

On July 1 the Department of Justice formally indicted Harold Wilcox and several of his family members for defrauding the state of Texas out of millions of dollars in funding for his chain of charter schools, some of which apparently didn't even exist. The announcement of the indictments appears at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/invtreports/tx072004.html>. A column at <http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/002352.html> mentions that while Wilcox was being paid a salary of \$200,000, students at one of his schools sat on the floor because there were no desks or chairs in the school.

## **Governor's Plan About As Good As Possible**

Seldom does this publication find anything good to say about an education reform plan, but from the article at <http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20040909-095943-1629r.htm>, it sounds like Virginia governor Mark Warner's ideas are on the right track. Warner—if the articles can be believed—respects the opinions and judgment of students and wants high schools to increase choices to satisfy the diverse needs of individuals.

## **Colorado, Florida Lose Voucher Cases**

On June 28, the Colorado Supreme Court found that the state's voucher program violated its own constitution's requirement that locally-funded schools be controlled by local school districts, an article at <http://www.heartland.org/Article.cfm?artId=15590> informs us. And a Florida appeals court ruled on August 16 that taxpayer funds cannot be used to pay for kids' education in religious schools, as its state voucher program did; an article at <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/news.aspx?id=13872> says that an appeal is planned.

## **Judge Slaps Texas School Funding Scheme**

On September 15, Judge John Dietz gave Texas lawmakers a year to come up with a new way to fund the state's schools, declaring that the current system of property taxation violated the state's constitution. The ruling, described at <http://www.borderlandnews.com/stories/borderland/20040916-169632.shtml>, was applauded by wealthy Texans, whose high taxes subsidize the system, as well as by poor residents and school officials, whose districts have suffered a widening funding gap. However, the state's Attorney General plans to appeal.

## **Chicago Kids Shun After-School Programs**

A study of Chicago students found only 27% were involved in any structured school, community, or religious activities after school, reports <http://www.catalyst-chicago.org/06-04/0604research.htm>. Most preferred to do homework, hang out informally with friends, or even sleep. And who wouldn't?

## **Love of Literature Lost**

On July 8, the National Endowment of Arts announced its findings that the number of adults who read "literature"—fiction, poetry or drama—has dropped from 56.9% to 46.7% over the past 20 years. The steepest declines were found in the 18-24 age group. A brief article appears at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38033-2004Jul8.html>; a lengthy discussion is found at <http://chronicle.com/free/2004/07/2004070901n.htm>.

## **Is Uniformity Attainable?**

On July 8, British Secretary of State for Education Charles Clarke released a 5-year plan for the nation's public schools. Among the details, described at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/07/09/nskool09.xml>, <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,5500,1257449,00.html>, and <http://education.independent.co.uk/schools/story.jsp?story=550386>, is the recommendation that all schools adopt school uniforms to "give pupils pride in their school." In September, says <http://education.independent.co.uk/news/story.jsp?story=558358>, Clarke turned his attention to students' diet and fitness, aiming to reduce fat in school lunches and increase students' physical activity.

## **Goose Creek Incident A Learning Experience**

South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster announced on July 2 that he would not file any charges in connection with last November's failed drug raid at Goose Creek's Stratford High School (in which police terrorized over 100 students at gunpoint), since the intentions of police and school officials were "pure," says <<http://www.thestate.com/mld/state/2004/07/03/news/local/9074584.htm>>. McMaster also sees a silver lining in this dark incident: the videotape will prove useful as a police academy training tool that "everyone can learn from." The response of the state's NAACP is reported at <<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/9128253.htm>>.

## **Drug-Dog-In-A-Can**

An aerosol spray that reveals residues of various illegal drugs on backpacks or other surfaces is being used by schools in Florida's Palm Beach County, and is now being considered by the Broward County school board, reports <<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v04/n936/a03.html?99380>>.

## **Town Name Taken For Drug Reference**

On August 23, Georgia high school student Terrell Jones was sent home because of his t-shirt. Naturally, to a school official, "Hempstead NY" can't possibly be anything but a reference to marijuana. According to <<http://www.cannabisnews.com/news/thread19397.shtml>>, officials allowed Terrell to return—with the shirt—after he persuaded them to look up the web site of Hempstead, New York, his former home town.

## **Anne Frank Too Hot for High School**

Teacher Sara McCleary thought she was safe in assigning *The Diary of Anne Frank*—heavily censored by the author's father before it was ever published—to her very first class of ninth-graders in Fowler, Colorado. Now, says <[http://www.ncac.org/cen\\_news/cn94long\\_short.htm](http://www.ncac.org/cen_news/cn94long_short.htm)>, she's out of a job.

## **Drug Testing Suit Dropped**

A Twin Falls, Idaho family had a pretty good angle for fighting drug testing. Joe Stanzak claimed his daughter's grade in her band class was hurt by her refusal to sign the drug testing consent form, required for extracurricular band activities. But on July 9, says <<http://www.magicvalley.com/news/local/state/index.asp?StoryID=11954>>, Mr. Stanzak dropped his lawsuit against the school, saying he had no time to pursue it.

## **U.S. Government Funding Anti-Drug Vaccine Trials**

Xenova, a British pharmaceutical firm, is testing a vaccine to prevent tobacco and drug use, which could be administered to "at-risk" children. According to <<http://www.emediawire.com/releases/2004/7/emw144816.htm>>, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a U.S. government agency, has allocated \$12 million of our tax dollars to fund Xenova's research.

## **WWASPS Kicked Out of Another Country**

It's about time for the Utah-based World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASPS) to face the fact: no other country will tolerate the gulag schools it operates. Last summer its Dundee Ranch in Costa Rica was shut down by local officials, horrified by the abuses they witnessed. This year, according to <<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=domesticNews&storyID=6210718>>, Mexican authorities who discovered the maltreatment of kids in three WWASPS programs there used immigration violations as a pretext to evict them. So, WWASPS, give up your foreign ventures and get yourselves a new acronym. Only the United States will put up with your brand of behavior modification.

## **Bully Ignored, Victim Sent Home**

After a disabled Denver, Colorado girl was attacked last May by a boy who threatened her with a knife and set her hair on fire, a school official told her not to come back to school, but took no action against the bully, says <<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/3348196/detail.html>>.

## **Destroying Bible A Bad Idea**

Karen Christenson, the Idaho teacher who tore up a Bible to make a point about censorship, was lucky—although a few parents complained, her students and school administrators were pretty cool about the incident. According to <<http://www.magicvalley.com/news/localstate/index.asp?StoryID=11928>>, the disciplinary action taken against her has "not disrupted her class schedule."

## **Supreme Court Unanimously Avoids Pledge Question**

On June 14, the Supreme Court voted 8-0 to dismiss the case of Michael Newdow, the man who didn't want his daughter to be forced to recite or listen to the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Justice Antonin Scalia had recused himself from the case.) The court ruled that Newdow, who does not currently have custody of his daughter, didn't have the legal standing to speak on her behalf. A full report is at <<http://www.cnn.com/2004/LAW/06/14/scotus.pledge/>>.

## **Pledge-Protection Bill Introduced**

With the phrase "under God" still safe and sound within the Pledge of Allegiance, members of the House of Representatives want to make sure it stays that way. On September 15 the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill prohibiting federal courts from messing with the pledge ever again. Democrats call the bill a political ploy and a "court stripping measure." An article at <<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=politicsNews&storyID=6247290>> provides more details.

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# Obituaries

## Lilian Moore, children's book author and editor

On July 24, 2004, Lilian Moore, author of dozens of children's books of fiction and poetry, died at the age of 95 in Seattle, Washington. In addition to her writing, Moore is known for two accomplishments which changed the world of children's literature. In 1957, while an editor at Scholastic Books, Moore became aware that the high prices of hardcover books put them out of the reach of poor families. After convincing her bosses of the problem, she was allowed to form the Arrow Book Club and the Lucky Book Club, providing mail-order paperback versions of children's books. Moore also visited other major publishers of popular children's titles, persuading them to give the paperback rights to Scholastic Books' clubs. In the early 60s, Moore became aware of the lack of racial diversity in children's reading and helped found the Council on Interracial Books for Children—an organization much needed at the time, but which may have contributed to later trends of censorship in the name of "political correctness." One article on the life of Lilian Moore appears at [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/183430\\_mooreobit24.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/183430_mooreobit24.html).

## Irvin Yeaworth, film director, designer of theme parks

On July 19, 2004, Irvin Shortess Yeaworth died in a car crash in the nation of Jordan at the age of 74. The son of a Presbyterian minister, Yeaworth set out to create educational Christian films that would be entertaining to young people. He was happily and successfully pursuing that career when, in the late 50s, he was offered an opportunity to direct a horror film, *The Blob*, featuring up-and-coming star Steve McQueen. Both McQueen and Yeaworth would later poke fun at the film, released in 1958, but the movie became a classic, due to the talent of its director as well as its lead actor. The sympathy of the film's portrayal of its young heroes, disbelieved and mistrusted as they tried to save their town, contributed to its popularity among young viewers. The film is also notable for one early scene which lingers upon the suffering of an old man attacked by the creature; the director's refusal to cut away seemed to reflect an honesty unusual for a youth-oriented film of its time. Yeaworth directed two more horror features before returning to Christian filmmaking. A biography of Yeaworth is at <http://film.guardian.co.uk/news/story/0,12589,1288878,00.html>.

# News Links

## Friendly Mouse Doesn't Like You Anymore

That restaurant that once welcomed your birthday party will turn you away once you get too old to come with your parents. Chuck E. Cheese has had a "no unaccompanied minors" policy for years—at least since late 2000, when a letter in *Youth Truth* reported it (vol. 1, issue 6, Nov./Dec. 2000). A group of teens in Michigan has now noticed the restriction and started a protest against the chain, says <http://www.thetimesherald.com/news/stories/20040825/localnews/1112807.html>.

## Anti-Drinking Bill Introduced

Representative Tom Osborne of Nebraska is *shocked* that 70% of young Americans have tasted alcohol before they graduate from high school, and he's taking action. In July, he introduced an utterly nonsensical bill with the acronym of STOP, which stands for Sober Truth On Preventing Underage Drinking (shouldn't that be STOPUD?) to combat what he thinks is a "growing problem." The bill, described at [http://www.theindependent.com/stories/072204/new\\_stop22.shtml](http://www.theindependent.com/stories/072204/new_stop22.shtml), sounds like it won't do much—new ad campaigns, new studies, and the creation of a new "interagency coordinating committee." The bill also *encourages* college sports teams to reject advertising from alcoholic beverage companies.

## Video Games Win

A Washington state law restricting the sale of certain violent video games to anyone under 17 was ruled unconstitutional in July by a U.S. District Judge, says <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=technologyNews&storyID=5686029>.

## Sloppy Reporting on Mall Curfews

A recent article at [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040917\\_230.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040917_230.html) finds mall "curfews" for unaccompanied youth a success, for stores as well as customers. The article provides little information, but does convey some *misinformation* when it states that some mall curfews start "as early as" 6 pm. Two Michigan malls, in fact, have curfews starting at 5 pm, and the curfew at the Dayton Mall in Ohio starts at 4 pm.

## Lower Drinking Age, Says Ex-College President

In his *New York Times* op-ed piece published on September 13, John McCardell Jr., who retired as president of Vermont's Middlebury College in June, called the drinking age of 21 "bad social policy and terrible law," pushing alcohol "behind closed doors and underground" and encouraging binge drinking. His remarks are summarized at [http://www.boston.com/dailynews/257/region/Former\\_Middlebury\\_president\\_ca:.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailynews/257/region/Former_Middlebury_president_ca:.shtml) and <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=2293401>.

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## A Frustrating Fantasy World

by Emily

Does anyone else remember getting upset and angry while reading children's books? The authors always think kids will love reading about other kids who have great adventures. But those books just filled me with envy and rage.

I never had any adventures. I'd come home from school and get asked about my day, and I could only shrug my shoulders. Nothing happened. I had nothing worth telling. (Or if I did tell a story, like if someone played a nasty joke on me, or I got hurt in gym, my parents thought the only reason I told them was because I wanted them to do something about it.)

But the kids in books had all kinds of stories. Even Little Red Riding Hood—all she did was walk through the woods and get eaten by a wolf, but people remember her story. If I suddenly died, nobody would have anything to remember about me. She talked, she walked, she got taken to school and other classes, went to the doctor and to a few parties, and back home again. She did her homework and went on the computer and watched TV. Nobody would care about that story.

### Youngies Go Home, Says London

A 9 pm curfew instituted in June which covers certain areas of London allows police to pick up people under 16 who are alone and "vulnerable" or in groups of two or more that might cause "alarm, harassment, or distress." (*Anyone* under 16, in other words.) An upbeat article at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/england/london/3937191.stm> assures readers that police will use discretion and that kids will be taken home, not to jail. But in September, after 13 arrests and over 200 citations issued under the new law, a civil rights group announced that it was ready to challenge the curfew. According to the follow-up at <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/articles/12994538?source=Evening%20Standard>, even the police are grumbling about the law making them into a "taxi service."

### COPA, State Anti-Porn Law Lose in Court

On June 29 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court that blocked the enforcement of the Children's Online Protection Act (COPA), reports <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA443938>. And on September 10, District Judge Jan E. DuBois overturned Pennsylvania's 2002 law requiring internet service providers to block all content illegal under state laws; the huge problems caused by that law are described at <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/politics/9630111.htm>.

## Perspective

The books don't even *mention* that it's unusual for kids to run around on their own having adventures. One book I liked better than most was *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, because at least the kids in it appreciated their freedom. For a moment, reading it, I felt like maybe I wasn't the only one.

TV was the same way. When I would watch *The Simpsons*, it was all I could notice. Marge was a real mothering mom, and worried a lot, like mine, but even so, Lisa and Bart, only 8 and 10 years old, got to walk and ride their bikes (or skateboard) all over town, to the Quik-E-Mart, or the comic book store, all by themselves, as if it were normal.

Maybe it *was* normal. Maybe all the other kids did do all that stuff. I hardly ever saw them outside of school. Sometimes I wanted to ask them. The first time I heard a girl say she was grounded, I wanted to ask what she was grounded *from*. But I didn't know how to ask. And I was afraid to ask.

God, it was depressing. Am I the only one who felt that way?

## News Links

### Hiring of Young Inspector Presumed Political

When well-known Chicago reporter Carol Marin learned that Andy Ryan, the 19-year-old son of a carpenter's union officer, had gotten a good job with the city as a building inspector, with health benefits and a starting salary of \$49,548, she smelled a scandal. After her expose ran in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the city's Building Commissioner defended the hiring and denied favoritism. Ryan, only one of many inspectors recently hired, *did* meet the qualifications for the job, he insisted at <http://www.nbc5.com/politics/3733360/detail.html?z=dp&dpswid=2265994&dppid=65192>. Few applicants, no matter how experienced, possessed the specific knowledge and skills to inspect buildings for hazards or city code violations; all had to undergo training after being hired. But for Mayor Daley, whose 2003 campaign had received \$84,000 in donations from the carpenter's union, the appearance of impropriety was enough. The next day, says [http://cbs2chicago.com/politics/local\\_story\\_260173102.html](http://cbs2chicago.com/politics/local_story_260173102.html), Andy was again jobless. And the Building Commissioner was in disgrace for expressing the belief that a young man could handle an important job. Did Andy Ryan lie on his resume? Who cares? To the media, Ryan's only qualification was his last name—which qualified him to serve as the scapegoat in a political scandal.

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# News Links

## **Young Scientist Pursuing Genetic Treatments**

Akrit Jaswal, age 11, is searching for treatments for cancer and AIDS at the Tata Cancer Institute in India. According to <<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2004/20040615/main7.htm>>, Jaswal completed the minimum academic requirements to allow his work to be patented; he seems to be uninterested in further education, preferring his work in the laboratory.

## **Antidepressants to Carry Strong Warnings**

On August 20 the Food and Drug Administration revealed that it planned to update warning labels for Prozac and similar antidepressants to reflect the risk of suicide in young patients, according to <<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=6032442>>. And on September 16, reports <<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=13508>>, the FDA advisory panel recommended a “black box” warning—the strongest warning used on drug inserts—that the drugs may produce suicidal thoughts in patients under 18. Neglected in all the recent coverage is the evidence that these drugs have caused violence and suicide in *adults* as well. When 60-year-old Daniel Schell killed his wife, daughter, and granddaughter before committing suicide, after only two days of antidepressant therapy, a jury agreed that the drug was to blame; see <<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/living/dailynews/paxil010606.html>>. “Trouble in Prozac Nation” published in *The Nation* in January 2004 and reproduced at <<http://adbusters.org/metaps/psycho/prozacspotlight/lillywatch/prozacnation.html>>, gives more examples of adults who seem to have been harmed by these drugs.

## **Car Safety Measures May Cause Car Deaths**

According to <<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/science/20030910-0500-life-children.html>>, 37 children died in the United States this year from being left in overheated vehicles. The president of the child safety group Kids and Cars believes that rear-facing child safety seats, designed for the back seats of vehicles, have made sleeping infants virtually invisible and increased the likelihood of parents forgetting about them.

## **Court to Consider Youth Death Penalty**

The case of *Roper v. Simmons*, involving a 17-year-old death row inmate, will soon come before the Supreme Court. Many groups are calling for an end to sentencing minors to death; sadly, many use arguments like those given at <<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2004/08/23/gvsc0823.htm>>, focusing on the presumed incompetence and immaturity of people under 18. Couldn't one argue, instead, for the injustice of imposing such penalties on people who have never been allowed to share in the rights and benefits of their society?

## **Navajo Nation Won't Vote On Voting Age**

From the July 22 minutes of the Navajo Nation Council at <<http://www.navajonationcouncil.org/072204-nnc-day-four.htm>>: the Council defeated the ballot proposal to lower the voting age to 16. A *Navajo Times* article about American Indian delegates to the Democratic National Convention, at <<http://www.thenavajotimes.com/20042907/News/dnc.html>>, also briefly mentions the Council's decision.

## **Voting Competency Test Proposed For Elderly**

A nine-member panel of medical, ethical and legal experts has published its recommendations on the issue of voting by impaired elderly voters or people in nursing homes in the September 15 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*; a discussion appears at <<http://news.tbo.com/news/MGBMP66C6ZD.html>>.

## **Voting Made Difficult At Colleges**

Why don't more college students vote? Maybe because their colleges and towns make it so difficult for them to do so. An article at <<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/content/shared/news/politics/stories/09/14politics.html>> addresses the failure of many colleges to comply with the requirement of the 1998 Higher Education Act to make registration forms easily available, on campus, to students. Another, at <<http://www.cnn.com/2004/EDUCATION/08/30/college.town.voting.ap/>>, describes college towns that consider students “temporary” residents, ineligible to register where they currently live.

## **Prepaid Plans May Help Only Wealthiest**

Families with incomes under \$125,000 should stay away from prepaid college tuition plans. A recent report, in PDF format at <<http://www.luminafoundation.org/publications/>>, says the plans reduce students' eligibility for financial aid, and may not even provide any tax relief to lower income families. (Wealthier families don't qualify for this financial aid anyway.)

## **Court Sides With College Press**

A 1996 Pennsylvania law banning alcohol advertising in college student newspapers and on student-run broadcasts was ruled unconstitutional on July 29 by a panel of circuit court judges. The law, according to <<http://www.thepenn.org/vnews/display.v/ART/2004/08/11/411a64441702f>>, has cost college papers thousands of dollars in advertising revenue.

## **“Jury of Peers” Loses Funding**

A privately-funded Teen Court program in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, which handled 25-30 misdemeanor and status offense cases a year at an annual cost of about \$30,000, will cease operating as of October 1 due to lack of funding, reports <[http://www.wisinfo.com/heraldtimes/news/archive/local\\_17792493.shtml](http://www.wisinfo.com/heraldtimes/news/archive/local_17792493.shtml)>.

## **Brits May Beat A Bit**

On July 5, the British House of Lords, after soundly rejecting a total ban on corporal punishment, voted 226-91 in favor of a bill to limit parents to “mild smacking” of their kids. The bill, says [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk\\_politics/3868561.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/3868561.stm), outlaws any punishment that causes “bruises, reddening of the skin, or mental harm.”

## **Another Hoosier Town Ends School Violence**

The Merrillville, Indiana school board voted unanimously on September 7 to ban corporal punishment in its schools, says [http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2004/09/08/news/lake\\_county/fde68a8c40b4759886256f09001654bd.txt](http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2004/09/08/news/lake_county/fde68a8c40b4759886256f09001654bd.txt). The decision follows a similar move this year by Indianapolis.

## **New Study Slams Spanking**

“Even minimal amounts of spanking can lead to an increased likelihood of antisocial behavior,” says Andrew Grogan-Kaylor, a professor of social work at the University of Michigan. His study, published in the September issue of *Social Work*, is described at <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=4687>.

## **Boy Divorces Father**

Patrick Holland, 14, sought to terminate the parental rights of his father, now in prison for the murder of Patrick’s mother six years ago. On July 26, in a Massachusetts family law court, Patrick succeeded, reports <http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/rock/07302004/news/29623.htm>. Patrick is living in New Hampshire with friends of his mother, who plan to adopt him.

## **Cute Phone Tracks Kids**

Colorful cell phones with ear-shaped antennas and global-positioning satellite technology to help parents keep tabs on kids are now available from a South Korean company. The tracking system, says <http://www.reuters.com/news/Article.jhtml?type=technologyNews&storyID=5795201>, operates even when the phone is turned off.

## **Arizona Pledges Change For Youth Prisons**

Suicides, abuse, and other troubles in Arizona’s juvenile detention facilities prompted the U.S. Department of Justice to take legal action against the state’s Department of Juvenile Corrections earlier this year. On September 15, the department vowed to improve conditions for inmates, and the case was dismissed. An article at [http://www.azcentral.com/arizona\\_republic/local/articles/0916juvenile16.html](http://www.azcentral.com/arizona_republic/local/articles/0916juvenile16.html) indicates that the state is taking its commitment seriously—actions already taken include the firing or resignation of 38 employees. But another article at [http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/breaking/091504\\_youth\\_prisons.html](http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/breaking/091504_youth_prisons.html) tells of a similar promise the department made, under similar pressure, eleven years ago. Once the heat is off, will it all go to hell again?

## **Judge Nixes Funding of Religious Programs**

Three AmeriCorps programs that place volunteers in Catholic schools to engage in religious as well as non-religious activities may no longer be federally-funded, ruled District Judge Gladys Kessler on July 6. Articles at [http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2004/07/07/us\\_judge\\_faults\\_ameriCorps\\_funding/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2004/07/07/us_judge_faults_ameriCorps_funding/) and <http://www.ombwatch.org/article/articleview/2271/1/226/?TopicID=2> say the ruling may affect other “faith-based” programs receiving federal funding.

## **Still Teaching That Old Time Religion**

After 51 consecutive years of offering Bible study classes in its public schools, the Rhea County, Tennessee school district was told by a federal appeals court that they’d better knock it off, already, according to <http://www.tampabaylive.com/stories/2004/06/040608bible.shtml>. Rhea County was the site of the famous “monkey trial” in which schoolteacher John Scopes stood accused of teaching his students evolution.

## **Getting God Into Public Schools, Legally**

Teachers or school-sponsored speakers can’t preach in public schools, but kids can—it’s just free speech. An article at <http://www.au.org/targetingschools> tells of churches enlisting young children as missionaries to convert their classmates.

## **Prayers Imposed On Senior Citizen**

Maryland retiree Margaret Sayre wrote to her legislator asking if he knew anything she could do to stop the overtly Christian prayers before luncheons at her publicly-funded senior citizen center. Her legislator, Don Dwyer, Jr., was not sympathetic. He replied that she should build her own “atheist Senior Center where you won’t have to hear any prayers but LEAVE MY PEOPLE ALONE.” Feeling unwanted and outnumbered, Sayre dropped out of the center’s activities. (At least *she* was *allowed* to drop out!) One version of this underreported story is at <http://www.cfimetry.org/news.html#noLunch>.

## **“Victim” Plans to Marry Abuser**

On August 5, Vili Fualaau, now 21, whose relationship with his former teacher Mary Kay Letourneau when he was 13 years old landed the teacher in jail for seven years, spoke to NBC’s Matt Lauer about his planned reunion with Letourneau, who is also the mother of his child. At <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/ID/5612275/>, Fualaau spoke of his attempts to date other women, and his uncertainty about whether he and Letourneau could have a future together. But in an interview after the two saw one another again, at [http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/09/14/earlyshow/main\\_643467.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/09/14/earlyshow/main_643467.shtml), Fualaau said he no longer had any doubt that he and Mary were truly in love.

## Sue's Review

Susan Wishnetsky  
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Kralovec, Etta. *Schools that do too much :  
wasting time and money in schools  
and what we can all do about it.*  
Boston : Beacon Books, 2003.

In 2000, former teacher Etta Kralovec became known as co-author of a unique little volume, *The End of Homework* (reviewed in *Youth Truth*, volume 4, issue 5). With *Schools That Do Too Much*, she turns her attention to what goes on inside many schools, while they're in session.

Kralovec describes a typical day at an apparently well-funded suburban high school. The students are fortunate not to be faced with cameras, metal detectors, guards or backpack inspections as they arrive for their 7:30 A.M. first period class. The atmosphere of the school, although hurried, seems pretty tolerant and casual, with students and teachers all generally respectful toward each other.

But the students have only four minutes between classes. In that frantic four minutes, some students' futile attempts to use the overcrowded restrooms leave them with no time to retrieve homework and books from their lockers, so many arrive unprepared for their classes.

Unpacking of books, late arrivals and roll call begin each class. (In *first* period, the Pledge of Allegiance and loudspeaker announcements, including lists of students' birthdays, consumes 11 minutes.) The public-address system is used often during classes, giving schedule changes or summoning people to the principal's office. People barge into classrooms to distribute questionnaires unrelated to the subject of the class. Bells for various activities, affecting few students, are heard throughout the day. Students and teachers are lucky to have fifteen uninterrupted minutes to focus on class material. As soon as a good discussion gets going, the period invariably ends.

This is all very stupid. It reminded me of Kurt Vonnegut's short story "Harrison Bergeron," in which laws required smart people to wear earplugs that distracted them with intermittent noises, to eliminate their "unfair" intellectual advantage—"dumbing down" as public policy!

But it strikes me as trivial, compared to, say, forcing school attendance on kids who hate being there, who would benefit more from something *other* than sitting in classrooms (with or without interruptions). Trivial, compared to the outrage of strip searches, suspicionless urine tests, or having one's classroom invaded by policemen with scary attack dogs. Or compared to the ruined self-images and futures of kids labeled, punished, and flunked by our educational system.

The problems described could, I believe, be solved with two rather obvious and uncontroversial solutions. First, limit school-wide announcements to those affecting everyone—such as impending apocalypse. In a well-funded school, it should be possible to set up an intercom or pager system to convey (important) messages without disturbing *everybody*. Bells as reminders are insulting anyway, as if students aren't capable of remembering the times of their own classes and activities; replace bells with wall clocks (centrally-controlled to facilitate spring and fall time-changes).

Second, offer staggered class schedules to accommodate the differing needs of teachers and students (and parents, too). Flexible schedules would help late-risers arrive on time and alert, and allow students with after-school lessons or jobs to choose to finish early on certain days

of the week. Staggered break times would keep restrooms and hallways from being overwhelmed with too many students at once. Colleges have scheduled classes this way for years, so it's not unfeasible.

But for author Kralovec, the solution is not so easy. She believes that the trouble will persist until schools cut out all the "special interest" activities that should really be community-based, rather than school-sponsored. Sports, cheerleading, theater, band, volunteerism, fundraising, and AIDS awareness programs, she says, could all be eliminated from school time.

And she's right. People of all ages could enjoy these kinds of activities together, outside of school. For that matter, it would be much better if *schools* weren't age-based either—or compulsory. But since adult society insists on this kind of segregation, imposing curfews and senseless age requirements, schools are expected to provide what kids are denied elsewhere in the community.

The author doesn't believe that different kids (like people of all ages) have different needs. For instance, the high school starts "much too early .... research suggests that adolescents don't really wake up until around 9 A.M." But she gives no citations for this supposed research.

In the end, Kralovec presents her ideal, utopian version of the school day. The extracurricular "nonsense" is gone. Class times and the break times are longer, and there are no distractions. All the students are alert, engaged, focused, fulfilled. The school schedule is still the same for all of them. I suppose it could be possible ... if all the students were Etta Kralovec.

## Sue's Review

Susan Wishnetsky  
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Wolf, Alison. *Does education matter? myths about education and economic growth.*  
London : Penguin Books, 2002.

Even though long sections of this book are devoted to the educational system of the U.K. (filled with obscure acronyms that readers are assumed to understand in advance), even though much of it deals with *higher* education rather than the primary and secondary levels, this compact volume is worth the purchase price.

That's partly because it's an inexpensive book (available in paperback). But it's also packed with facts and arguments that I've longed to see presented by someone with the academic credentials and credibility of author Alison Wolf.

We've seen some of her arguments elsewhere, notably in the cover story of *Youth Truth*, volume 3, issue 1, which asserted that while more education does usually yield more job opportunities and higher salaries for those who pursue it, its benefits become "less certain and less impressive" as higher levels of education become more commonplace—and more graduates end up underemployed, or employed in jobs outside their fields of study. Ms. Wolf echoes this finding.

But is increased public funding for higher levels of education for all citizens a good deal for governments? Does it benefit their nations' economies? Comparing education expenditures in different countries and their subsequent economic growth, Wolf concludes that "countries which have done most to increase the education levels of their population have, on average, grown less fast than those which have devoted fewer resources to education." Further, national placement in international rankings of students' math and science competence, about which so many politicians and educators

worry, also turns out *not* to correlate with future economic growth of those nations.

Wolf challenges the view that more education promotes greater productivity by decreasing the on-the-job training needed for each employee. While this may be true for a few jobs in a few fields, Wolf sees no evidence that encouraging ever longer years of education—and pouring ever more money into it—is warranted.

When choosing among applicants, employers are inclined to hire people with more and higher education credentials. But, Wolf asks, is it the *skills* that the jobseekers have acquired from long years of study that are valuable to employers? Or is it rather the *ability* to learn, their aptitude, which is only *indicated* by their academic achievements—but which might have been present (and detectable) in these individuals without such a massive investment of years on their part, and dollars on the part of their government?

Suppose ... that everyone left school for good at fifteen, or even twelve, instead of the modern habit of staying on longer and longer. Suppose too that, before leaving, everyone took some exams that provided a clear ranking of the population. How much less productive would the economy, and most of these people, then be? Conversely, is all the money poured into education and training beyond that point really having a substantial effect on the sorts of skills that people have, and their usefulness to employers?

Wolf determines that in higher education, some specific skills acquired in particular fields, such as economics, mathematics,

engineering and science, do seem to be useful to employers (as well as financially beneficial to the students they hire). Whether those benefits are worth the costs to the students or the state that subsidizes them is difficult to answer.

Aside from these specific degrees, do any skills gained in formal education consistently correlate with successful careers (and, presumably, greater productivity)? From the U.K.'s National Child Development Study, a longitudinal study begun in 1958, it seems that there are indeed *two* such skills: proficiency in basic reading and math. (One might contend that most children who are skilled in these areas gained their proficiency not from school, but from innate proficiency, early exposure, and encouragement by parents.)

Wolf's very British language and style and all the unfamiliar acronyms for U.K. educational programs make this book a difficult one for U.S. readers. The index is disappointing, repeatedly letting me down when I tried to find certain topics or passages (maybe it too is "too British" for me). Occasionally I found the author too quick to form conclusions from incomplete evidence. But the arguments, the statistics, and the wonderful charts and graphs make a powerful case that increased education for all *doesn't* lead to increased prosperity for all.

Does education matter? Wolf says yes. But just because some education is good, and more education is good for some people, it doesn't follow that more of it is always better for everyone. The main value of education comes from "whether you have more than other people .... And *not everyone can be top.*"

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## Police-State Parenthood

continued from page 1

Such youthful exploits couldn't happen today :

In 1971, eight out of ten 8-year-olds were allowed to walk to school alone. Now it is fewer than one in ten. At age 11 almost every child used to walk, now it is down to 55 per cent and falling .... the Children's Play Council in 1997 argued that children had become virtual prisoners in their own homes.<sup>4</sup>

People will disagree about what's right for today's "average" 11-year-old. But at least *some* "experts" support the notion that constant supervision is not necessary for pre-teens:

During the preteen years (8 to 12), children become more independent and they start to wander away from their homes to explore their neighborhood .... However tempting it is to overprotect our children, it is unrealistic to think we can be at our children's side at all times.<sup>5</sup>

It's important to keep track of youth .... Here are ways parents can monitor their pre- and young teens: With your child, decide a few important rules—curfew times and off-limits places and activities. Ask your child to call or leave a note if plans change.<sup>6</sup>

... threats which all children face as they grow up can easily cause an anxious mother to overprotect her child. Her idea is: "If I keep him dependent upon me for as long as possible, I can better protect him from the cruel world." Therefore, she won't let him cross the street for several years after he could make it safely .... A few years later he will be an adolescent completely unprepared for freedom and responsibility.<sup>7</sup>

If you find yourself projecting ahead into the future, for example, worrying that your 10 year old will become a teenage delinquent if you allow him to walk to the mini-mart with his friends to buy candy, then that's a clue that your fear may be the biggest culprit in the struggle. In these situations, remember that your child deserves the chance to prove himself responsible before you deny the experience altogether.<sup>8</sup>

When adults organise children's activities, they inevitably transmit or impose their own values and rules. When children play on their own with peers, they have to evolve their own techniques and rules, a process that allows them to learn through practical experience how to make friends and manage disputes.<sup>9</sup>

Giving parents custody of and authority over the children they bear, or adopt, is not ideal. Parents *don't* always know what's best. They're not all child psychologists or pediatricians or "experts" of any kind (not that "experts" are always right either). Sometimes they make huge blunders, and some are so wrongheaded that they really do harm their kids.

But if there's an advantage to the system, it is that parents have made a commitment to stick with that young person, to be there for them, to maintain a relationship, usually for the rest of their lives. They know that child. They've been there for the child in the past, and they plan to be there in the future. And they *try* to do what's best for their child.

Even those of us who want corporal punishment by parents to be outlawed would probably not wish for criminal charges against every parent who slips and slaps. Even those of us who would like alternatives for kids who don't get along with their families would hardly wish for those alternatives to take the form of a regulated, state-run existence for children, in which the rules can never have any exceptions.

In one case of one child ordered to take Ritalin, the judge said he would reconsider if the parents found a doctor who said the child didn't need it. The parents succeeded.<sup>10</sup>

So, Charlotte Chavez, this column is for you. Show it to the judge as evidence that some "experts" are still on your side. You know your son better than the police do. Your decision to allow him some freedom on the basis of that knowledge, on the basis of your relationship with your son, deserves respect. And who knows, maybe next year those parents who *never* let their kids out of their sight, who would *never* allow them to be unsupervised, will be the ones accused of "wrongs to minors."

1. Many examples can be seen at <<http://ablechild.org/voices.htm>>.

2. "Autistic Girl Unsafe At Home, Judge Says." *Washington Post*, Aug. 27, 2001, p. B01 <<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A8375-2001Apr26.html>>

3. Frank Furedi *Paranoid Parenting: Why Ignoring the Experts May Be Best for Your Child* (Chicago Review Press, 2002), p. 195.

4. Web page adapted from Frank Furedi *Paranoid Parenting*, <[http://home.wanadoo.nl/ipce/library\\_two/files/paran\\_parent.htm](http://home.wanadoo.nl/ipce/library_two/files/paran_parent.htm)>

5. Dr. Luis Montes *Protecting Preteens from Injuries*, <<http://nydailynews.healthology.com/nydailynews/15346.htm>>

6. Virginia K. Molgaard, *Parenting: Keeping Young People Out of Trouble* (Iowa State University Extension publication), <<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1547H.pdf>>

7. Web page adapted from Dr. James Dobson *The New Hide or Seek*, <<http://www.focusonyourchild.com/develop/art1/A0000438.html>>

8. Web page adapted from Jan Faull *Unplugging Power Struggles*, <[http://www.parentingpress.com/t\\_010210.html](http://www.parentingpress.com/t_010210.html)>

9. Dr. Jenny Cunningham *Play On*, January 3, 2002, <<http://www.spiked-online.com/Printable/00000002D387.htm>>

10. "Judge orders parents to administer Ritalin to hyperactive child." *Legalbrief Today*, Aug. 22, 2000, <[http://www.legalbrief.co.za/view\\_1.php?artnum=581](http://www.legalbrief.co.za/view_1.php?artnum=581)>

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