

# Students' divorce reactions examined

BY DIANE ASMUS

Students whose parents get divorced face a lower standard of living and role confusion, according to research completed at Creighton University.

Students who were between the ages of 14 and 22 when their parents were divorced were the subjects of a research project conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Dahl of the Creighton University psychology department.

Fifty-two students consented to a personal interview and completed an objective questionnaire.

At the Fifth National Symposium on Building Family Strengths, held May 26 through May 28 at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Ms. Dahl presented these research results:

Several students moved to neighborhoods

where the people had a lower standard of living because of the divorce of the students' parents. Funds tightened just as expenses increased.

Students who could remain in the family home adjusted to the divorce better because friends were already established in the familiar neighborhood.

### Money problems for college

Several students lost money to attend college. Even though divorce settlements provided for college funds, payments were late or lost. Some students reported that their mothers encouraged them not to pay tuition bills so the courts would force their fathers to pay. But the financial office at the university demanded tuition payments for the students to stay in school.

Many students worked outside the home and took on additional chores at home. Several students cared for younger brothers and sisters. Role clarity was lacking for all children and made the discipline of younger children hard to maintain.

Because of these problems, females had lower self-confidence and males had hostile feelings toward their parents, Ms. Dahl said.

### More cautious about marriage

"I developed competencies but not competency feelings," one student said.

Students became wary of long term relationships with the opposite sex. They reported doubts about getting married. Several said they would be more careful if they did get married.

All students in the sample said more communication between family members could solve problems, but that it might be idealistic to think so, Ms. Dahl said. Families communicate but messages may not be accepted.

Students sought counseling voluntarily from persons they felt close to before the divorce. They reported the first year was the worst and friends were the most helpful advisers. Talking with others facing the same problems seemed to be the most effective.

Most counseling from other sources was directed toward parents, not the family, Ms. Dahl said.

Ms. Dahl submitted her research to the Journal of Marriage and Family. Publication is pending.



Photo by Kathy Graff

"Gee Mom, I can see myself in this plate!" Jesse Johnson of 1117 N. 37 St., chooses plate over pacifier at a recent neighborhood picnic sponsored by the Apple Core Club.

## Guide for preserving parasites published

A guide for non-specialists in the field of preserving animal parasites has been published by the University of Nebraska-Press.

"The Collection and Preservation of Animal Parasites" was written by co-authors Mary H. Pritchard, professor of life sciences and museum, and Dr. Gunther O.W. Kruse, a former graduate student teaching in Germany.

Mrs. Pritchard said the purpose for collecting and preserving animal parasites may identify for diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

The book includes all parasite groups, the initial removal from the host through permanent mounting, electron microscopy, and dried-out or damaged specimens.

## Proper storage cuts loss of big bale hay

Proper storage cuts down on loss of big bale hay, said John Ward, ruminant nutritionist at the University of Nebraska.

Ward said some farmers are not careful when they select a storage area. Tight bales should be placed in a well-drained area to cut down on spoilage.

Bales should also be stored one-to-two-feet apart to allow the bales to dry.

## LAP cheese giveaway runs out of supplies

Lincoln Action Program workers had given away a total of 12,750 pounds of surplus cheese when the supply ran out at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, said LAP program director Stephanie Bryan.

The American process cheese was supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA purchased the surplus cheese from American dairy farmers to help support the farmers, Ms. Bryan said.

The USDA had been storing the cheese, but ran out of storage space, Ms. Bryan said. She said that if the cheese had not been given away, it would have ended up in the garbage or else stored until it rotted.

The 5-pound packages of cheese were given to low-income families, Ms. Bryan said. She said that persons picking up the cheese were required to show some kind of identification so that families would not get more than one package. Although people were not required to bring written statements of their income with them, they were required to fill out state forms, including a self-declaration of income, Ms. Bryan said.

The cheese giveaway, which ran Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until the supply was exhausted, took place at the LAP community cannery, 1908 S St.

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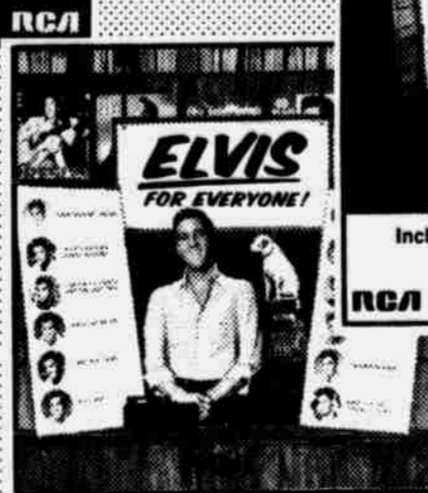
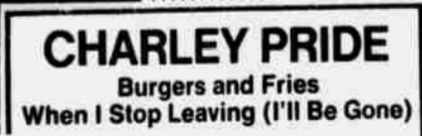
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