

Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions

Dr. James C. Dobson, Ph.D.



Q. What answer do you have for those who say being a mother and a housewife is boring and monotonous?

A. They are right - but we should recognize that every other occupation is boring, too. How exciting is the work of a telephone operator who plugs and unplugs switchboard connections all day long? Or a medical pathologist who examines microscopic slides and bacterial cultures from morning to night? Or a dentist who spends his or her lifetime drilling and filling? Or an attorney who reads dusty books in secluded libraries? Or an author who writes page after page?

Few of us enjoy heart-thumping excitement each moment of our professional lives. On a trip to Washington, D.C., my hotel was located next to the room of a famous cellist who was in the city to give a classical concert that evening. I could hear him through the walls as he practiced hour after hour.

He did not play beautiful symphonic

renditions; he repeated scales and runs and exercises over and over and over. The practice began early in the morning (believe me!) and continued until the time of his concert. As he strolled on the stage that evening, I'm sure many individuals in the audience thought to themselves, "What a glamorous life." Some glamour.

I happen to know that he spent the entire day in his lonely room in the company of his cello. Musical instruments, as you know, are terrible conversationalists.

No, I doubt if the job of a housewife and mother is much more boring than most other jobs, particularly if the woman refuses to be isolated from adult contact. But as far as the importance of the assignment is concerned, no job can compete with the responsibility of shaping and molding a new human being.

May I remind mothers of one more important consideration: you will not always be saddled with the responsibility you now hold. Your children will be with you for a few brief years and the obligations you now shoulder will be nothing more than dim memories.

Enjoy every moment of these days - even the difficult times - and indulge yourself in the satisfaction of having done an essential job right!

Q. Some parents feel guilty about demanding respect from their children because it could be an underhanded way of making themselves feel powerful and important. What do you think?

A. I disagree. It is important that a child respect his parents because that relationship provides the basis for his attitude toward other people.

His view of parental authority becomes the cornerstone for his latter outlook on school authority, police and the law, the people with whom he will eventually live and work, and for society in general.

Another equally important reason for maintaining parental respect is that if you want your child to accept your values when he reaches his teen years, then you must be worthy of his respect during his younger years.

When a child can successfully defy his parents during his first 15 years, laughing in their faces and stubbornly flaunting their authority, he develops a natural contempt for them.

"Stupid old Mom and Dad! I've got them wound around my little finger. Sure, they love me, but I really think they're afraid of me."

A child may not utter these words, but

he feels them each time he outsmarts his adult companions and wins the confrontations and battles. Later, he is likely to demonstrate his disrespect in a more open manner. His parents are not deserving of his respect, and he does not want to identify with anything they represent. He rejects every vestige of their philosophy.

Parents must first sell themselves. If they are not worthy of respect, then neither is their country, their morals, their governments, their religion or any of their values. This becomes the "generation gap" at its most basic level.

These questions and answers are excerpted from the book *Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions*. Dr. James Dobson is a psychologist, author and president of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home. Correspondence to Dr. Dobson should be addressed to: Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903. (c), 1982, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

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Bodley Bulletins

Sonyth Goodsell

Hi again everybody! Are you surprised to hear from me again this week? Well, last weekend, I was going to write all about graduation and baccalaureate, and have that be my last column. But it turned out that I was so busy with my graduation party Saturday, and then I was so tired from that, I slept until about noon Sunday, and, well, there sometimes just isn't enough time to do everything! So anyhow, here's what (basically) happened at graduation and baccalaureate.

Baccalaureate service was held Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church across the street from the Junior high. It was a very moving and emotional service, performed by Pastor Mark Kimpland of the church, and Pastor Cramer, who is the father of Heather Cramer, one of the girls in our graduating class. Afterward, there was a very nice reception provided in the church parish hall with a beautiful (and yummy!) cake decorated in our school colors, and punch.

Also Friday, graduation practice was held at 11 a.m. in the high school auditorium, but it could not have prepared us for what was to happen at the real ceremony the next day - actually, it was more than a bit comical. For about the first half of the ceremony, we had no sound system, so the speakers had to yell in order to make themselves heard. Finally, Mr. Preske and Mr. Peacock, the custodian, along with some help from some junior class members on hand for the occasion, were able to get the loudspeakers working. Mr. Peacock went up onto the stage and set a microphone in front of Ms. Kinsella, which startled her right in the middle of her speech, but it still wasn't working. So Mr. Peacock and Mr. Preske did some more work behind the stage while Ms. Kinsella continued speaking, and then, while she was having to continue to yell to make herself heard to the entire crowd packing the community center, the microphone suddenly came on without warning, and Ms. Kinsella's voice boomed through the building, accompanied by an ear-splitting screech from the microphone!

Next on the list of graduation bloopers was Mr. Egan's congratulatory speech to the class of 1996 - but he kept saying the class of 1966!

(I think it might have been the year-book theme that did that - it was the edition commemorating 30 years of our school being in operation from 1966 to 1996.) But it was still funny - almost the entire audience and the graduates were laughing, but poor Mr. Egan didn't have a clue that he had just addressed the graduating class of



thirty years ago, instead of this year's graduating class!

Finally, one of the most unusual graduation ceremonies in years came to an end, and the lawn in back of the community center was a mob scene. One thing is for sure - it certainly was memorable! Then everybody took off for graduation parties and we were officially high school graduates.

Well, since school is now over, and I will be leaving for St. Lawrence University Aug. 26, this is my last column. That means that *The Valley News* will be needing someone new at GRB to write this column next school year. If you're interested, you can give *The Valley News* a call at 598-6397 and tell them you're interested in the position for next year, or stop in the office on the corner of Second and Oneida Streets weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Finally, I just want to say thank you to everybody who has told me over the past months how much they've enjoyed my column, and those whom I have never met, but I know you are out there in Fulton somewhere. The knowledge that you all were out there supporting me and loving my work every week kept me going at this job through some pretty rough and frustrating times. There were times when the pressure of trying to get enough information for a column and write it every week while still trying to get homework, studying, and a million and one other things done, plus have some time for fun proved very hard and frustrating.

I was tempted to give up the job, but I didn't because I felt that you were counting on me to bring you GRB's news (with a side of humor) every week.

By now, when I sit down to write this column, I feel almost as if I'm not writing a column to be published in the town newspaper, but a letter to friends. Again, I thank you all so much for reading every week, and for being so supportive of me, and I never thought I'd say this, but I'm actually going to miss writing to you every week. But you haven't heard the last of me - not by a long shot! I'll be back! So long for now!

Editor's note: We at The Valley News congratulate Sonyth on her graduation and wish her the best of luck at college. As she mentioned in her column, students interested in writing Bodley Bulletins next year are asked to call or stop by the newspaper office.

Colling named to president's list

Karen Colling, daughter of Burton and Constance Colling of Mexico, has been named to the 1996 Spring semester's president's list at Oswego State.

As a sophomore, she achieved a 3.8 grade point average. Karen is a 1994 graduate of Mexico High School and is majoring in both education and Spanish.

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