



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
USEFUL POINTERS FOR PARENTS	1
WARNING ON HOME EXPERIMENT	2

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1979

- 1 -

USEFUL POINTERS FOR PARENTS
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A 35-YEAR-OLD MONG KOK HOUSEWIFE IS A MUCH HAPPIER WOMAN TODAY BECAUSE SHE NOW KNOWS ALL THE DO'S AND DON'TS IN COMMUNICATING WITH HER SIX-YEAR-OLD SON WHO, IN HER OWN WORDS, +IS A SELFISH AND SELF-CENTRED CHILD+.

THIS ALL CAME ABOUT AFTER SHE VISITED THE +RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD EXHIBITION+ AT OCEAN TERMINAL LATE LAST YEAR DURING WHICH SHE DISCUSSED HER CHILD'S PROBLEM WITH THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION OFFICERS THERE AND OBTAINED ALL THE USEFUL POINTERS TO GUIDE HER CHILD AWAY FROM HIS BAD BEHAVIOUR.

THIS HOUSEWIFE IS JUST ONE OF MANY PARENTS WHO HAVE SOUGHT ADVICE ON THEIR +PROBLEM CHILDREN+ AT THE EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AS PART OF THE CURRENT FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

JUST HOW MANY SUCCESSFUL CASES RESULTED FROM THE EXHIBITION WOULD BE A PREMATURE ASSESSMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

BUT THE NEED FOR SUCH COUNSELLING CAN BE GAUGED BY THE FACT THAT THE EXHIBITION SUBSEQUENTLY HELD AT TWO OTHER LOCATIONS ATTRACTED MORE THAN 70,000 PEOPLE.

APART FROM THE EXHIBITION, THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ALSO EMBRACES A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER ACTIVITIES -- VARIETY SHOWS, CARNIVALS, CAMPS, PICNICS, ESSAY AND QUIZ CONTESTS.

DEBATES AND SEMINARS ARE ALSO REGULARLY HELD. TO DATE, THESE HAVE ATTRACTED WELL OVER 265,000 PEOPLE.

COMMENTING ON THE CAMPAIGN'S RESPONSE, THE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR, MRS. HENREITTA CHEN OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID IT HAD BEEN MOST ENCOURAGING.

+MORE PEOPLE ARE NOW AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS. THIS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE ARTICLES WRITTEN TO THE MEDIA BY PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND ALSO THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THEY HAVE DONATED TOWARDS THE CAMPAIGN,+ SHE SAID.

LAST YEAR, THE DONATION AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN \$40,000.

+FURTHERMORE, THE FILMS, SLIDES AND EXHIBITS PRODUCED BY OUR DEPARTMENT ARE IN GREAT DEMAND. THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN HEAVILY BOOKED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, SCHOOLS AND WELFARE ORGANISATIONS.

+TO PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS WITH MORE KNOWLEDGE ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF FAMILY LIFE AS WELL AS THE TECHNIQUES OF PROMOTING FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, PLANS ARE IN HAND TO ORGANISE COURSES FOR THEM,+ SHE SAID.

+LAST YEAR, A TRAINING COURSE WAS ARRANGED FOR ABOUT 80 VOLUNTARY WORKERS,+ SHE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT MORE THAN \$700,000 SINCE THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN STARTED LAST YEAR.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1979

- 2 -

WARNING ON HOME EXPERIMENT
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LEARNING SCIENCE IS NO LONGER CONFINED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CLASSROOM AND THE LABORATORY -- MANY YOUNG STUDENTS ARE CARRYING OUT SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS AT HOME.

BECAUSE OF THIS CHANGING TREND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS REMINDING STUDENTS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT PERFORM POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS EXPERIMENTS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL LABORATORY FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR OWN AS WELL AS PUBLIC SAFETY.

+THE ONLY PROPER PLACE FOR POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS EXPERIMENTS IS THE SCHOOL SCIENCE LABORATORY WITH QUALIFIED SUPERVISORY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

SCIENCE CURRICULA FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS HAVE UNDERGONE MANY CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS AND MUCH GREATER EMPHASIS IS NOW PLACED ON DEVELOPING A SPIRIT OF ENQUIRY AMONG STUDENTS.

+PUPILS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STUDY THE REAL WORLD AROUND THEM AND TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE THROUGH SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS FOR THEMSELVES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

BUT IF STUDENTS ARE TO CARRY OUT SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS ON THEIR OWN OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL THEY SHOULD FIRST ASK THEIR TEACHERS FOR ADVICE, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID TEACHERS MUST MAKE SURE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS EXPERIMENTS WHICH INVOLVE DANGEROUS CHEMICALS OR WHICH MAY GENERATE VIOLENT REACTION, SHOULD NOT BE PERFORMED BY STUDENTS AT HOME.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT EXPERIMENTS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL ARE MADE MORE COMMON BECAUSE MANY LABORATORY APPARATUS AND CHEMICALS CAN BE PURCHASED LOCALLY.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF MISHANDLED EXPERIMENTS AT HOME COULD BE DISASTROUS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TWO YOUTHS WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED LAST MONTH IN TWO EXPLOSIONS WHILE CARRYING OUT CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS AT HOME.

+SUCH YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY DOING HARM TO THEMSELVES. THEY MAY ALSO ENDANGER THE LIVES OF THEIR RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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