

Kids making decisions will learn money values

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind.— Children normally begin learning the value of money about age 6 — which is when parents should start teaching them how to handle it.

"It is then when a child learns to pass over a proffered, shiny, new penny for a dull, worn dime, that he demonstrates for the first time an early understanding of money — and how easy it is to come by," says a team of Purdue University experts.

"How that early understanding develops depends upon lessons, good and bad, learned from parents, friends, school, allowance and jobs. It is a case of realizing you can't have your cake and eat it, too."

Jan Armstrong, professor of consumer sciences and retailing, said parents should sit down and explain situations to their youngsters.

"If the child has his heart set on summer camp, agree to split the cost," she said. "Stick to the agreement, but be realistic. If there is a shortfall, give the child an opportunity to make up the difference."

"If your little girl wants a kitten, be certain she understands that the care and feeding of the pet are her responsibility. If she habitually fails, then get rid of the pet — a hard choice, but one that must be made."

Economics professor Marianne Talafuse said children of the Depression era assumed chances were highly unlikely they'd get "it" —

money, big Christmas presents or an ice cream soda.

"Today's children assume 'it' will be there and are surprised if 'it' isn't," she said. "It isn't so much a different conception of money but rather an assumption about money. They are confident the means will continue to be there, somehow."

Economics professor Dennis Weidenaar said an allowance shouldn't be canceled if a child breaks a window.

"Talk with the child and discuss ways the new window can be paid for," he said. "Let the child make the choice of giving up his allowance, returning part of it or taking on an additional chore."

"Children must be given opportunities to make choices."

The professors agreed children should be taught early about savings accounts and interest.

"If the savings are for a new bike, help the child celebrate when the great day comes, to instill a sense of accomplishment."

But the Purdue experts frown on rewarding a child with money for getting good grades in school.

"Grades are already a kind of contract between the child and his teacher and should be his own reward," they said.



He sure knows how to march. . .

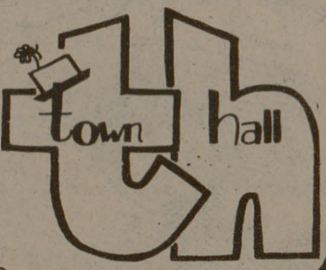
After four year in the U.S. Army, Charles Young (center) of Houston, fits right in with the marching Aggie Band. Young, a freshman, is shown preparing with the band for last Saturday's performance at the Astrodome.

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It's the last round-up

Wild horses regulated

CHEYENNE, Wyo.— For Paul Zancanella, the Bureau of Land Management's wild horse program is the last roundup.

Until 1971, when Congress passed the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act, ranchers in southwestern Wyoming would turn stallions loose on the range to roam with the wild herds, then stage roundups to "harvest" the progeny to break as saddle horses, much as inhabitants of the West have done since the Spaniards first introduced the horse to North America.

But the 1971 act changed that, and now the BLM is the only group authorized to round up the horses, making it the only game in town for wranglers and others who want to work with the free-running animals.

"It's the only way to be involved with wild horses," Zancanella, a veterinarian, said. "It's historic — it's the last roundup."

Zancanella's involvement comes at the midpoint of a horse's sudden transfer to domestic existence. By the time he deals with horses, BLM helicopters and wranglers have chased them through the mesas and buttes of the desert-like region into traps — a box canyon or, in flatter areas, a natural ravine augmented by portable corral fencing. From there the animals are trucked to the BLM wild horse center in Rock Springs.

Then Zancanella or another vet administers a series of vaccinations and a blood test while the horses are confined to chutes similar to those used for broncs in rodeos.

After they are treated by veterinarians, the horses become a part of the BLM's Adopt-A-Horse program, which, along with the "roundup" itself, has made the BLM the centerpiece of a controversy between ranchers and environmentalists.

Both groups are concerned about overgrazing in the West, but cannot agree on which animals to blame. Many ranchers accuse wild horses but environmentalists point to trespassing sheep and cattle. To make the squabble even more complicated, environmentalists cannot agree among themselves on whether the BLM figures showing that rangelands are overstocked with wild horses are correct.

At any rate, the last roundup is no danger of being over any time soon. The wild horse population began to increase rapidly after the 1971 federal law prevented private individuals or groups from capturing them on federal rangeland. There are now 20,000 to 30,000 excess horses on public land, according to a BLM report to Congress in 1977.

"They exceed the carrying capacity of the range, pose a threat to their own habitat, fish, wildlife, recreation, water and soil conservation, domestic livestock grazing and other rangeland value," the report said. The Rock Springs area has "between 6,000" wild horses, said Steinbrech, who heads the BLM roundup operation. No gathering of horse population was attempted from the time of passage of the act until 1977, he said, and 1,200 Wyoming horses that moved through the BLM central facility in Rock Springs on their way to homes in the last year are "barely enough" to keep up with the natural growth.

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