

The Battalion

Thursday, February 16, 1984

Children of divorce wary of marriage, study shows

United Press International

BERKELEY, Calif. — Children of divorce look back on their childhood with lingering sorrow and are extra cautious before marriage and childbearing, a 10-year study shows.

"Although the greater majority of those young people today are economically self-supporting or still enrolled in educational programs and are law-abiding as well as relatively stable in their choice of residence, a significant number share the sense that their childhood and adolescence were significantly burdened by the parental divorce," says Judith Wallerstein, visiting senior lecturer in the University of California at Berkeley's School of Social Welfare.

In a recent lecture based on her study, Wallerstein said she found their feelings of anger at their parents had abated since she last interviewed the 100 young people five years ago.

Most of the respondents are from white, middle-class homes in northern California.

"Overall, these youngsters emerged as young adults that take economic responsibility for themselves," she said. "Of those still in school, a significant number are working at part-time or full-time jobs to support their way. Some youngsters with very wealthy fathers are working their way through the university by a combination of part-time jobs."

Wallerstein interviewed the subjects at several intervals after their parents' divorces.

Her research at the 18-month interval revealed a split between the sexes, with young boys feeling more vulnerable and troubled than the girls in their behavior at school, on the playground and at home.

In her latest study, she said, a

new pattern was emerging among the young women, many of whom left home after high school graduation to live with older men.

"These young women are attractive, intelligent and, in some instances, highly talented. Yet they are worried, even despairing, fearful of being rejected in their search for a man who would care for them and burdened by an anxiety, which they related directly to their parents' divorce," she said.

"A few among them were consumed with the anxiety that relationships could not be trusted from minute to minute," Wallerstein said.

The study did not focus on the significance of who initiated

the divorce or how that variable might affect boys and girls differently.

Most of those surveyed were eager for monogamous, lasting relationships, but the majority agreed marriage should not be entered into early or hastily.

"These young people remained critical of their parents for having made the mistake of a misguided or foolish marriage," the sociologist said. "They were especially critical of their parents for not having rectified or recognized the mistake before the children were born."

As a result, the young adults favored living with a lover for several years prior to marriage, then waiting a few more years before having children, Wallerstein said.



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United Press International
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Houston Industries attributed the earnings increase to the after-tax write-off of \$168 million for the Allens Creek Nuclear Project which was cancelled in December 1982.

Earnings for 1983 totaled \$394 million.

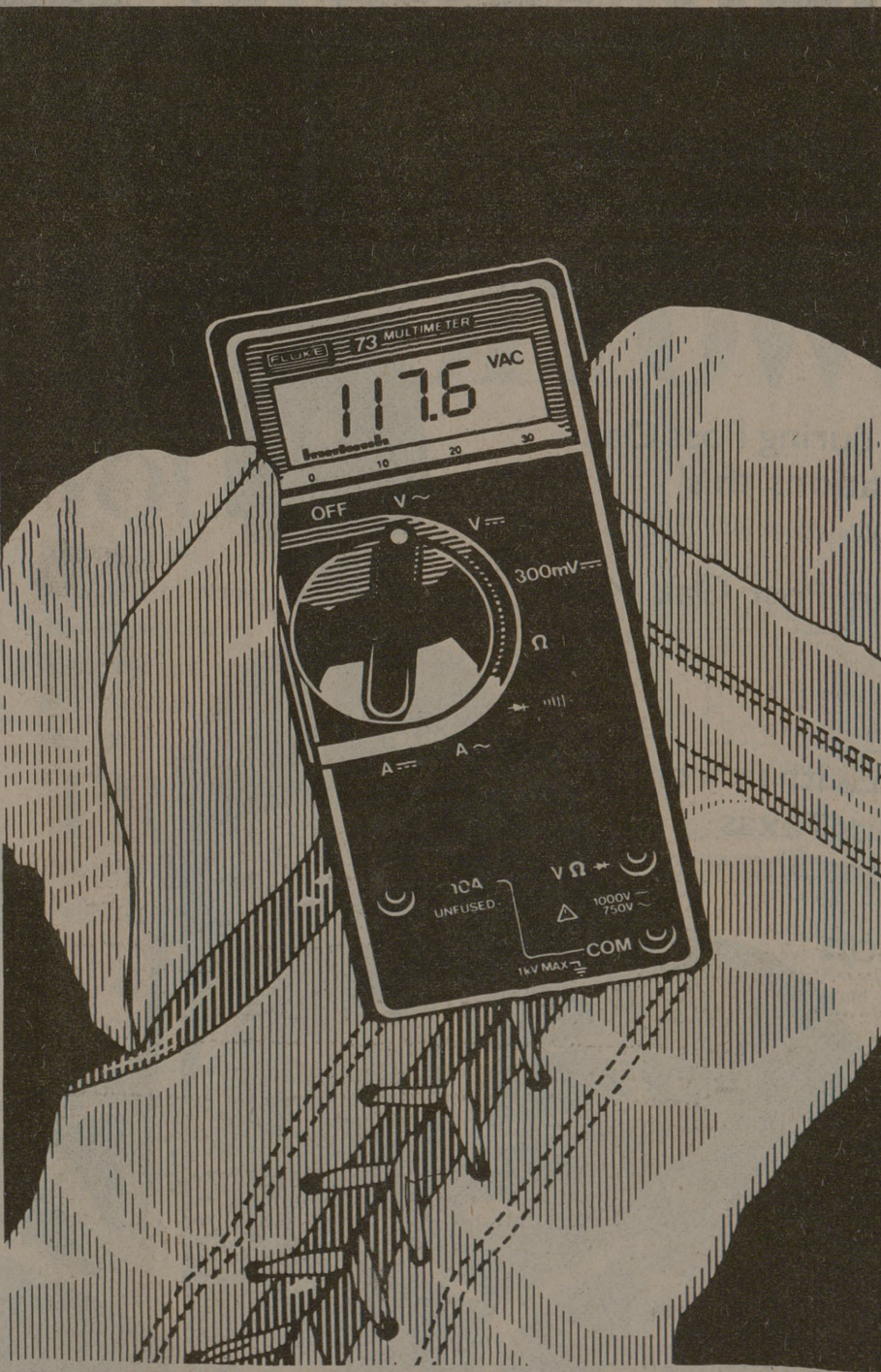
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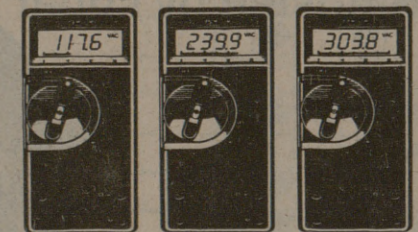
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