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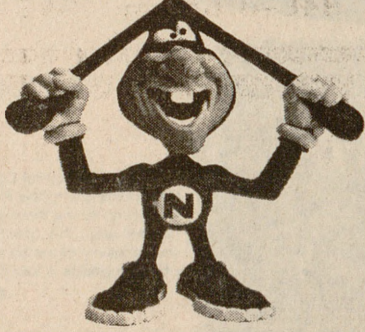
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Teachers say leaving children alone causes school problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most public school teachers in a national survey rated the widespread practice of leaving children on their own after school as the biggest cause of youngsters' difficulties in school.

Parents questioned separately for the Louis Harris and Associates survey also expressed concern about the latchkey child phenomenon, which has spread as more and more parents take jobs outside the home.

Forty-one percent of the 2,000 parents surveyed said they leave their children on their own between the end of school and 5:30 p.m. at least once a week. Almost a quarter left them alone every day.

The survey, sponsored by Metro-

politan Life Insurance Co., was released Wednesday at the National Press Club.

The poll found morale on the upswing among the 1,000 teachers surveyed, with younger instructors saying they are less tempted to defect from careers in the classroom.

The percentage of teachers saying they were satisfied with their jobs rose in the past year from 81 percent to 85 percent, while the proportion indicating they were likely to leave the profession within five years fell from 27 percent to 22 percent.

Only 20 percent of those with less than five years' experience said they expected to switch careers, down from 39 percent in a 1986 Harris

survey. The survey report said higher salaries and "the sheer amount of attention given in the past couple years to the state of education" may explain why teachers are feeling better about their jobs.

Harris surveyed teachers and parents at random by telephone. The poll has a 2-to-3 point standard margin of error.

When asked to rank seven possible causes of students' difficulties in school, 51 percent of teachers picked "children who are left on their own after school." Poverty at home was cited by 47 percent; automatic promotion by 44 percent; teachers' failure to adapt to individual student

needs by 43 percent; single-parent families by 42 percent; "boring" curriculum by 34 percent and "families where both parents work full-time" by 25 percent.

Both parents and teachers were asked their views on some common criticisms of parents.

Sixty-two percent of teachers said 59 percent of parents agreed to leave their children alone after school; 51 percent of parents and 58 percent of teachers said the mothers and fathers fail to discipline their children. About half of each group faulted parents for neglecting to make sure homework is done and for not showing interest in their children's education.

Old-fashioned pharmacy still contains soda fountain

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — It's almost noon at Eby's Pharmacy, so nearly all seven of the red-cushioned stools at the soda counter are occupied by people sipping milkshakes and munching on egg salad sandwiches.

It's definitely summer. The customers say things like, "Hot enough for you?" and "Who ordered this heat?"

But the year? That's a bit more difficult to pinpoint. Inside the store on Columbia Avenue, it could be any year during the 1920s, '30s, '40s or '50s, any year before lunching out turned into trips to fast-food driveways, and family-owned neighborhood stores turned into all-night chain operations.

At the soda counter at Eby's, sandwiches are served on white bread.

Food is served up by women named Bea and Janet and sodas are jerked by boys whose voices haven't changed. The employees know the names of their customers and their customers' parents and kids. You can order a lime rickey or a chocolate Coke, but you won't find a yuppie pasta salad or gourmet burger in the place.

Established in 1923 by the late Maurice H. Eby, the pharmacy and soda counter are now run by Eby's son and daughter, pharmacists Paul and Marguerite "Peg" Eby.

During the World War II years,

when the then-nearby Hamilton and Slaymaker plants were working overtime to meet war demands, the Ebys served hot meals.

They don't serve hot meals anymore, but the soda counter remains a place where customers can sip 35-

"It's always been this way. We're just an old drugstore that never really changed."

— Paul Eby, pharmacist

cent cups of coffee while they wait for prescriptions to be filled.

"A lot of people cut out their soda counters because it's a lot of work," said Paul Eby, a portly, bespectacled man in dark slacks and white shirt who was born the same year as the pharmacy. "And it is a lot of work. But we've been very fortunate in that the people who have worked for us have been very good people."

"It's always been this way. We're just an old drugstore that never really changed."

In February 1952, a photograph of an unnamed drugstore with a brand-new tile floor appeared in an Armstrong Corp. advertisement in

the Saturday Evening Post. The drugstore was Eby's. The ad's slogan read, "Nothing is changed but the floor."

A sepia-toned photograph taken in 1930 and now hanging on a wall behind an old Schrafft's Chocolates rack shows that nothing had changed at the pharmacy between the '30s and '50s. A visit to Eby's today shows that little has changed since the 1950s.

Eight-sided, glass-covered wooden tables and tri-cornered wooden chairs sit near an ice cream freezer that holds 10-cent single-stick pops and 20-cent Fudjos.

A pay telephone is tucked in a cherrywood cabinet built in 1923 because Maurice Eby thought it would be in poor taste to have a pay phone more prominently displayed.

On the other side of the room, a cherrywood-and-glass counter holds penny candy. Next to the candy counter is the chrome-and-linoleum soda counter, the gem of the 64-year-old store.

Bea — Beatrice Mack — is the queen of the soda counter. She's been running it for the Ebys since 1959.

Working with Bea is Janet Steffish, a wavy-haired grandmother who lives "across the alley" from the pharmacy on the same block where she grew up. She used to come here for ice cream and penny candy when she was a kid; now her grandchildren do the same thing.

Fisherman turns hobby into business

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The first fishing lure Bob Folder invented was just a pipe cleaner wound around a hook. He caught fish on it.

"When I was a kid," he says, "I used to fish Lake Springfield every day. I was fishing once on Sixth Street Bridge, and I saw a school of bluegill in the water. They wouldn't bite on anything I wrapped a piece of pipe cleaner around a hook and dropped there just to try it. I started catching bluegills."

Things aren't so simple as that. Folder has turned his childhood hobby into a very good business. His hottest current features streamers made of pipe cleaner but he couldn't just pull them from his Christmas tree. Folder developed a special alloy — how is a secret — and manufactures it himself.

This isn't nickel-dime, but a safety pin and string fishing lure. There is big money involved. Nick Creme Sr., the inventor of the plastic worm lure, was worth \$58 million when he died.

Bob Folder Lures, on East Lane in Springfield, isn't in a league, and Folder says doesn't intend to get that big.

"We just don't want to make big thing out of it," he says. "If we get too big, I'd get so tied up I couldn't do anything else."

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