Primitive fraternities

A BOOK ON PARENTS

DISTRACT

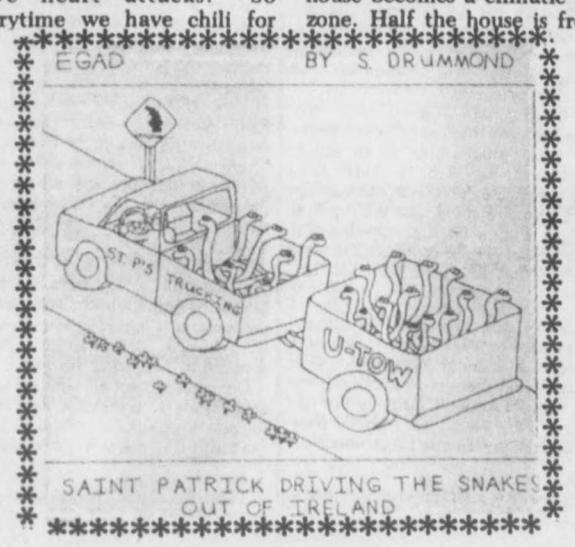
With the rise of interest in psychology today, there has also been a rise in the number of self-help and how-to manuals. There must be thousands of pamphlets on how to deal with children, such as "How to Make it Through Puberty", "There is Life After Acne", "Birds and Bees and You and Me", that sort of thing. Any parent can read these brochures to get some idea on how to deal with those strange beings living under their roof. What I want to know is why aren't there any books on "How to Deal with Parents, We are People Too". Doesn't anyone think we have any problems living with these weird creatures called parents.

You must realize that the average parent of a teenager is in his or her forties. Turning forty is a big milestone. My father spent the whole day walking around saying "Oh God my life is half over" and then proceeded to tell us that he would like to be cremated and have his ashes thrown to the four winds. Then come the medical journals and he goes around quoting statistics like "3 out of 10 men over forty have heart attacks." So everytime we have chili for supper we have to rush him to the hospital. The worst part is yet to come. You have heard of the terrible two's, well, forty is the year of the flash. For those of you who have not experienced this middle-aged phenomena, hot flashes are when your parents feel like they are on the Sahara Desert in the height of summer and you, the innocent victim, feel like you are in a bathing suit in the North Pole. Now don't get me wrong. I do like fresh air, but I can't deal with wearing my snow suit around the house. It is bad enough you have to deal with one parent in this condition, but remember that there is generally another on the wake of fortydom. Then the house becomes a climatic war zone. Half the house is freezing, the other half is stifling. Why can't they work on it and get these flashes in sinc? I'm getting tired of wearing my shorts under my parka. When my friends come over to visit and ask questions, I just say that they are over forty. No other explanation is needed. They have parents too.

You have lived with these people all of your life and in that time you come to believe that you know them. This all changes. Your mother who all of your life has worn stretch pants, now begins to buy Calvin Kleins and Levis and is borrowing your clothes. You can deal with this. it is generally seen as an improvement after all of these years of tender tootsies and bell bottoms. It is also hard to recognize your father in this stage. The man who yelled and complained about you fooling with your hair now spends hours fluffing his own. What really gets me is that he only has about thirty hairs on top. How much time could it really take? You have to understand, this is a man who could pay the barber by the hair and still have it cheaper than the set price.

Your parents made it through the terrible two's. Don't worry, you will make it through the year of the flash. Two kids were talking yesterday about how weird their parents were. I just went up to them and said "Just you wait until they're forty".

Margaret-Ann Sullivan



The *Laundrorat* Is Coming

Laun-dro-rat *(lon'dre rat')n.* ,Any of numerous students usually equipped with dirty laundry; can be found at various outlets of coin operated automatic washing machines; greatest in population during mid-week. (Latin Sp. Ratingus Laundromatis).

The *Laundrorat* is here!
The laundery bags cost $9.95
They can be purchased at D'Avary Hall R118

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