

# Off-Center: In case of nuclear war, rinse

by Joseph J. Wheeler

Darlene May Sironen, publisher of a local magazine called "City Connections," ran a list of local nuclear fallout shelters in her last month's issue. Her comments were appropriate for a nuke blast.

"If you can get to a shelter, great, here they are," she said, but in case of a nuclear war, "Kiss your babe good-bye."

Among the listings was a "UNLV Complex."

Since Sironen had included the number of our local Office of Emergency Management as part of the list, I called them up to find out exactly what buildings would survive a 20-gazillion megaton blast and protect us from nuclear fallout afterwards. They invited me down to their office.

The place was nearly impossible to find. The Office of Emer-

gency Management is about as far away from the center of Las Vegas as you can get without calling collect. A small, squat building, surrounded by fences, with a sign reading "Beware of guard dogs," greets the occasional visitor.

The people in the Office of Emergency Management were very helpful, and provided me with all the information a good survivalist needs. Inside the UNLV fallout shelters, for instance, are supplies of survival foodstuff. Where this stuff is kept is anyone's guess, but the menu doesn't sound bad at all.

Carbohydrate. Biscuit/cracker. Water/bulger.

Yum. I'll take my bulger with water and biscuit, please. Hold the carbohydrate, I'm stuffed.

This led me to think of what it would really be like crowded

into the Humanities building hoping to live through a nuclear attack. To that end, I've added to the list of shelters the real information people need. I call it "A Survival Guide To Your Neighborhood Fallout Shelter."

Being in a fallout shelter is no fun. It's tight and cramped, so proper manners are very important. Please, no snoring. People hate snoring, even without nuclear war to make it worse. No hogging the bulger either. Bulger is a rich, nutritious weed that tastes like it sounds. Save some for the others. And remember, no opening the toxic waste barrels.

Since the air will be full of radioactive particles, hair conditioner will be a hot item. Some hair problems you should watch out for are: 1) peeling and flaking, 2) itchy scalp, and 3) falling

out in great clumps. When in doubt, shower and rinse until clean or your head dissolves, whichever comes first.

Boredom will be a concern, second only to a dwindling supply of deodorant. To combat boredom, every good shelter should have entertainers to keep people happy. Be creative! Invite an impressionist to join your shelter. It's like having all the other celebrities, but without the extra rations.

Teach your fellow survivors that never, ever are they to open the outside door. Sure, it could be only the Avon Lady, desperately trying to sell hair conditioner, but it could be scrungy mutants with bald spots.

For newlywed or engaged couples, I've invented the Official Fallout Shelter Compatibility Test. It's 65 questions, all pre-

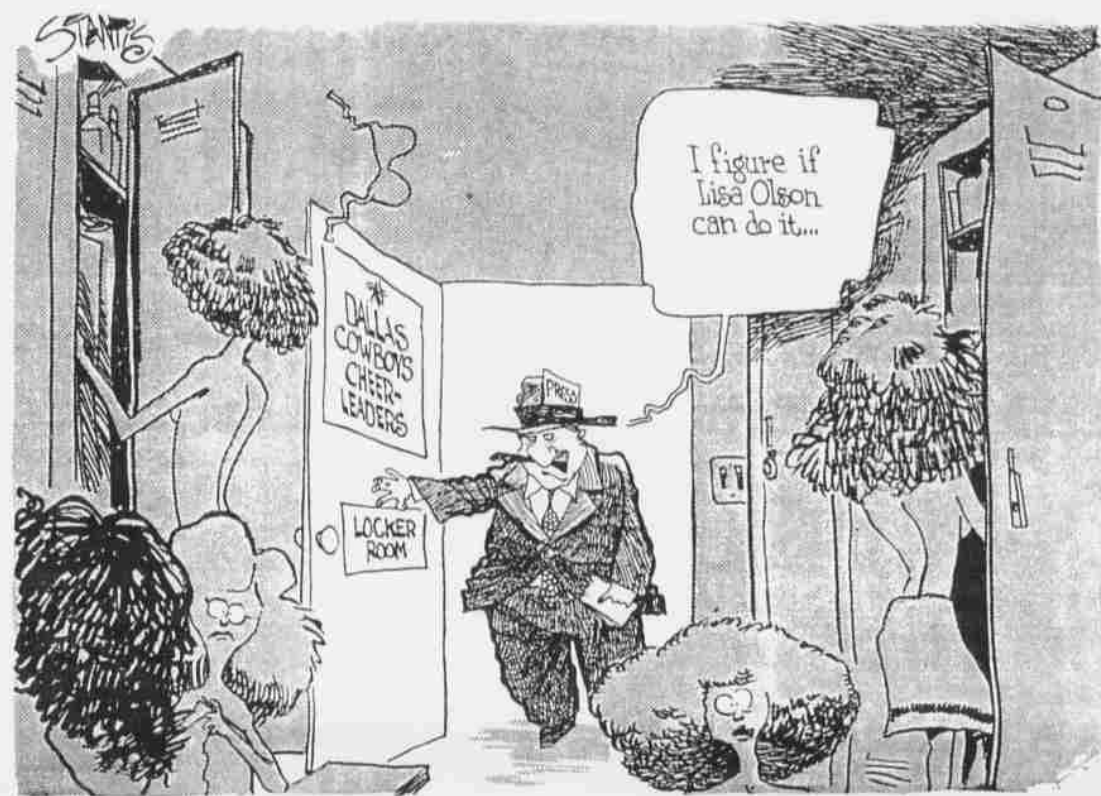
pared by ex-nuclear scientists.

"If you had a choice, who would you invite into your private, getaway bomb shelter—your best friend, your babe, or your dog?"

If you answered "Dog"—you're correct. You can eat the dog.

Another question might be, "My favorite bomb shelter hobbies are 1) recycling, 2) humming aimlessly, 3) community mutant bashing, and 4) pulling my hair out in great clumps."

I'm trying to convince the Office of Emergency Management to make my survival guide required reading for all adults over the age of twelve. So far, they haven't returned my phone calls. Of course, I'm calling collect.



# Parenting doesn't require licensing

by Kara Kelley

One can drive a car, fly a plane or go fishing but to do so legally, one needs a license. In order to obtain one, an applicant must meet certain requirements and, of course, pay the fees.

Yet, there is one profession that doesn't require licensing or training and it is continually being filled with unqualified people. What's frightening is that the products of this profession have a direct effect on American society. Because of this lack of knowledge and training, these people are turning out products that can't compete, and are sometimes even hazardous to society.

So what is this unregulated profession? The profession is parenthood; the product is children. Everyday, at least one child is born to unqualified parents: people who lack the training, knowledge, or conviction to raise a child.

Parenting has a profound effect on the success of a society.

Child abuse and neglect affect all of society's systems: criminal, educational, judicial, medical and legal. Because parenting is so crucial, licensing should be required for parenthood.

The point is, unless you learn to fly a plane, you can't fly one; unless you learn to drive a car, you can't drive one; unless you learn to fish, you may not be too successful at catching any; and unless you learn to be a parent, you shouldn't be one.

Our society needs to institute programs that teach people positive parenting techniques. Because unless people learn to be better parents, our society's hope for the future is dim.

A little far fetched, you say? Just remember all of the qualifications that are needed for less important jobs. What if these professions didn't need licensing?

And you thought plane rides were scary before?

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