

Bryant Loves Church, Choir

The Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) is trying to find a permanent home where Bryant can live in peace and love.

He is one of the hard to place children we call The Children Who Wait.

Bryant is featured in the pages of The CAP Book, a photo listing of more than 200 children across the state. This is Bryant's description from that book:

"Bryant is a handsome, personable, 7-year-old lad with a dark brown complexion and black kinky hair.

"He has experienced the trauma of four placements but has been in a foster home since April 1974 and has made remarkable strides. He needs attention and an improved self-image but gets along very well within his present family.

"He loves church and is in choir. He is anxious in school and so requires firm controls. Bryant's needs dictate that his adoptive family be of black heritage."



BRYANT

Children are considered hard to place for a variety of reasons. Some have mental, physical, and/or emotional problems, some are

older. The age range for The Children Who Wait runs from infancy through early teens. Some children are from a minority race and some are racially mixed. Some are siblings who should not be separated.

The one thing they all have in common is the need for an adoptive family.

In years past there was a great emphasis on placing healthy infants in adoptive homes. Today however, a special drive is underway to find loving and secure homes for children like Bryant.

Persons considering adoption of The Children Who Wait should know of the dramatic change in adoptive patterns in recent years. Today both couples with large families and singles are taking these children into their homes.

Children are being placed across religious and racial lines. Financial subsidies are available to ease the burden of adoption. The basic requirement is a loving, caring environment that can meet the needs of the children.

For general information about adoption, the following agencies should be contacted:

Catholic Family Center, 546-7220; Monroe County Department of Social Services, 442-4000; Northaven, Inc., 266-4330; the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP), 288-7989.

For further information about Bryant THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

HUNGER BANQUET

Honeoye Falls — St. Paul of the Cross parish will hold a World Hunger Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8. In charge are Jane Predmore, Marie Moffitt, Eleanor Meizenzahl, Jim Schnitter and Ed Moran. The guest speaker will be Steve Lane of the Hunger Task Force in Avon. New Life Style parish cookbooks will be on sale.

Between leaving the restaurant and going to the market I make a stop at the half price bookstore. I need lots of reading matter.

In the car they begin the plea bargaining. Since Daddy's away can they stay up an extra half-hour to keep me company.

I say, maybe — torn between the battle I envision the next morning getting them out of bed and the long hours that stretch ahead.

At the grocery they plead for dessert which had been denied them at the hamburger palace. I give in to some frozen delight, throwing in a bag of unsweetened, ice-packed, blackberries for me.

At home they want both the popsicles and the blackberries. I insist for only a second. It isn't worth the argument.

The oldest wants help typing a paper for class. The fifth grade now requires typed papers. The youngest wants to go out and play hopscotch in the dark. I growl negatively. Our son sits eating blackberries with his gloves on — so help me!

It is bedtime and the drivel continues from the unattended TV. I twist the channel selector searching for something light and bright. There is no such animal. I pick up the magazines and realize the quiet is not half bad.

The next day spins by and at supper I relent and eat half a piece of pizza, a sop for being without adult company. The night stretches out longer than the one before. I awake the next day, the first thought on the arrival home tonight.

I muddle through the morning, keep an appointment in mid-afternoon and return to find his flight was earlier than I'd thought and he is already home. The house seems fuller, somehow more alive and there is a reason now for getting things done — on time. Together we put a meal on, the kids sit down, everybody talks at once and the circle is once again complete.



Sarah Child

Our fifth grader reports that she has answered one of those quizzes at school whose purpose I don't want to guess.

The question: How does your home life differ when your father is away? (We live in a neighborhood of highly mobile parents.)

Our children's father is away very infrequently but she answered anyway. Her comment: "Our meals aren't as good and we kids have more fights."

Charitably she neglected to add: "And my mother gets very crabby."

When our children were a good deal younger and their father announced a trip I remember retorting that it had taken me a long time to make up my mind to spend my life in tandem and I hadn't taken the big step to sit home and keep the home fires burning while he widened his horizons.

I made no bones that I was envious. After all it had been only a few years before that I was the one taking the job-related trips — to Los Angeles, to New York. To paraphrase a cliché, it is harder to have flown and been grounded than never to have flown at all.

In the intervening years, however, I have mellowed somewhat. I do not like his being away any more than I did but I have found ways to keep myself busy and if the time does not fly at least it does not creep by in leaden shoes.

I let the kids plan the meals. We are to go to MacDonald's one night and stop at the supermarket to pick up a frozen pizza for the next.

I am not crazy about either suggestion. I consult my carbohydrate-calorie counter. A quarter pounder is 416 calories, 523 if you order it with cheese. I don't even bother looking up the pizza. Two nights of cottage cheese will be good for the soul as well as the waistline.

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