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## JERRY CAMMARATA IS SUPERPOP

### On fighting for human equality

**S**Ocial justice and individual rights have been a concern of homo sapiens throughout their phylogenetic development. Countless milleniums and human minds have been part of a system to rid mankind of favoritism among races, sexes and the like. And yet, today, we live on the face of the earth, truly, embarrassed and disgraced for not having provisions in our social matrix for human beings to create and share in the activities of daily living.

A social revolution is now upon us and we are becoming acutely aware of our human frailty and readjusting our attitudes about the way we will treat each other in the future. In order to do this, we must understand some basic truths about our capabilities.

For example, research has revealed to us in no uncertain terms that the father is very capable of providing nurturing skills that will insure a normal growth pattern of a child. It is a myth, therefore, that the mother has an exclusive bond with the child, negating any opportunities for the father to assume major parenting responsibilities. Knowing this, it would seem absolutely vital that we undergo a dramatic change in our legal system

when it pertains to child custody: The movie, "Kramer vs Kramer," makes an interesting point in this regard and gave those of us who saw it some good thought.

#### Don't feel guilty, Mom

With your husband established as a co-provider of parenting skills and the full knowledge that it is imperative you participate in the offerings of society, you can now begin the journey of a career and share the job market with your husband. Remember, you are *not* doing a disservice to your children. Simply, the quality of time you spend with your children is all that matters; I can tell you stories about moms that live in my neighborhood and are home all day, not giving to their children, rather, sitting in front of the television watching the soap operas and game shows. Remember, also, one half of the households in America today need two paychecks and one half of all mothers are working. I do not believe one half of our children are suffering for this. For one thing, the children are not being subjected as much to the old-fashioned role models of life—men do certain jobs and women do other kinds of jobs.

I can remember an incident in my house just last year that highlighted

the concept of human equality. While sitting in the living room one night reading the latest issue of parents magazine, I heard hammering sounds coming from the hallway where the bedrooms are. I looked at my wife, she at me and we tried to think to ourselves what was going on. I guess my wife had a little more energy than I for she got up from the couch and proceeded to investigate the source of the noise. The conversation I over heard went as follows:

*Margaret:* Elizabeth, where are you?

*Elizabeth:* I'm in my room.

*Margaret:* What are you doing?

*Elizabeth:* I'm putting up some pictures on the wall.

*Margaret:* Let daddy do it, dear.

*Elizabeth:* But mom, I thought we were liberated?

*Margaret:* That's right. I'll hold the picture up while you hammer.

#### Leave the job at work

Now, don't let your newly acquired equality go to your head. Although it is important to share the experiences of your job, good and bad, with the family members, don't let your career ruin your home life. There must be a place for each. May I suggest the following for consideration:

- As you do the household chores, such as food shopping, cleaning, gardening and the like, seek support from the family and use the chores as a means of getting together to share each other's skills and thoughts.

- Zero in on at least one hour a day with the kids, pursuing their

interests, providing support and leadership in fulfilling their homework assignments and follow this up with a strong involvement in the PTA.

- As your children find enjoyment in scouting or Y programs, you also should take the initiative to become involved.

- Don't let one week go by without spending one night exclusively with your loved one. There are those conversations that moms and dads need to have by themselves. Believe me, if you are on top of the first three points, the children will push you and your spouse out of the house so you may have a good time together.

- Let the evening meal be a place where each member of the household can speak his mind in confidence and respect and enjoy the give and take of productive social interaction. If the evening meal must be on a split schedule, find time about one half hour before the children go to bed to sit in the living room and chat.

Let moms and dads stand equal and proud over their very special gift to procreate and add continuity to the human race.

Let no parent feel compelled to dramatically change his or her life style in the name of some social edict, rather, let every parent understand the significance and implication of change, the effects it can and will have on future generations and the need to discuss change openly and fairly.

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