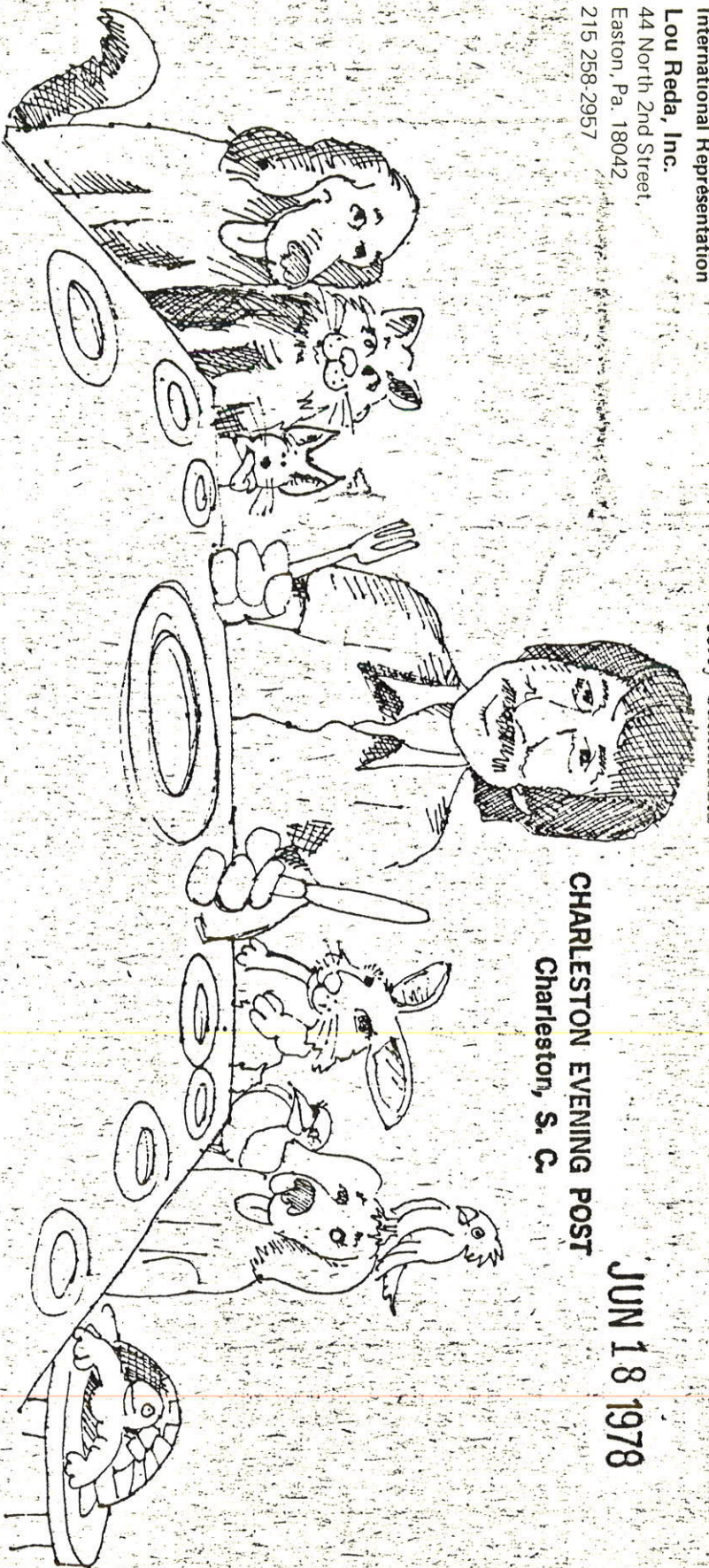


International Representation  
Lou Reda, Inc.  
44 North 2nd Street,  
Easton, Pa. 18042  
215 258-2957

Jerry Cammarata

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## Call Of Wild Lures Dad To Childrearing Jungle

By CHRISTINE RANDALL  
Staff Reporter

After reading every child psychology book on the market, are you more confused than ever about how to raise your youngsters?

Then why not take a tip from "The Fun Book of Fatherhood: Or, How the Animal Kingdom Is Helping to Raise the Wild Kids at Our House," by Jerry Cammarata with Frances Spatz Leighton.

Cammarata, a speech pathologist for the New York City

School System, made headlines when he became the first man to be granted a four-year paternity leave. His book, just published by Corwin Books, relates his experiences as a full-time father in the animal kingdom.

In the foreword, the author says, "I feel like a rhino rushing through the forest — I have no idea where I'm going until I get the scent and, zingo, then I know where I'm going and what to do. All parents are a little like rhinos — absolutely at a loss. In the raising of kids, I always say it's good to know whatever we try,

somewhere in the animal kingdom someone else has tried it first!"

Cammarata's first rule is to enjoy parenthood and not get stuck in a rut trying to provide the "storybook ideal home with Mother at its helm." Instead, just do what comes naturally and let your children develop at their own pace regardless of what little Johnny down the street is doing. You supply the love and, unless something is seriously wrong, a child will get around to the proper stage when

his biological clock is good and ready.

Animal life, as seen in the Cammarata household, can provide both good and bad examples of behavior. For instance, his daughters, Elizabeth and Michelle, have memorized a list of table manners including:

— Sit up straight and hold your neck up tall like a giraffe.

— Pass things nicely and don't throw them like a monkey.

— Chew with your mouth closed and don't make noises like an otter.

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## ... Call Of Wild

(Continued From Page 1-F)

— Remember to use your fork and don't go feeding your face like a raccoon.

— Use your napkin to wipe your mouth and don't lick your paws or wash your face like a cat.

Creatures of the wild also furnish an interesting look at various means of self-protection. When Elizabeth refused to go outside because "there's a bad boy out there," she and her father studied animal behavior to find a solution.

Could she spit dye and dart away in the haze like an octopus? Could she punch the boy with her fists and tail like a kangaroo? Maybe she could hide in her shell like a snail or turtle until her tormentor disappeared.

None of these quite fit the bill, though. Finally Elizabeth decided, "I'm just going to be a dog. I think maybe a French poodle, and walk by very friendly and smile at him. But I won't stick out my tongue. I'm only half dog."

Now that he's tried it, Cammarata believes that paternity leave might well be the answer to crime in the streets.

"Human fathers are best able to provide leadership for their sons, just as fathers do among the lower species. All young male primates, from monkeys to great apes, take their direction from their fathers, the dominant male in their lives. They admire and fear this male figure and, in effect, hero worship him. Those young males who become juvenile delinquents are thrown out of the tribe and have a hard time surviving.

"If Congress really wants to do something about crime in the streets, I am more convinced than ever that paternity leave is the answer, not just when a child is born, but sporadically during the early impressionable years. A child of six or seven who has a daddy to pal around with isn't going to be impressed by the street gangs in the way that the lonely child who has no one else to look up to is."

Despite widespread use of the maxim "Do as I say, not as I do," Cammarata has learned the hard way that it just doesn't work. So he's come up with his own slogan — "Behavior is caught. It can't be taught."

Some of his methods may sound a little bizarre, but they seem to be working. What else could you expect from a man called Super Pop, who has been listed three times in the Guinness Book of World Records: once for a 75-hour singing marathon performed in a bathtub on the back of a truck; secondly, for a singing marathon in the New York City subways which lasted 96 hours, 5 minutes and 10 seconds; and lastly, for the world's longest silent musical composition on record, "Auditory Memory," a 52-minute, 10-second production of total silence.



LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
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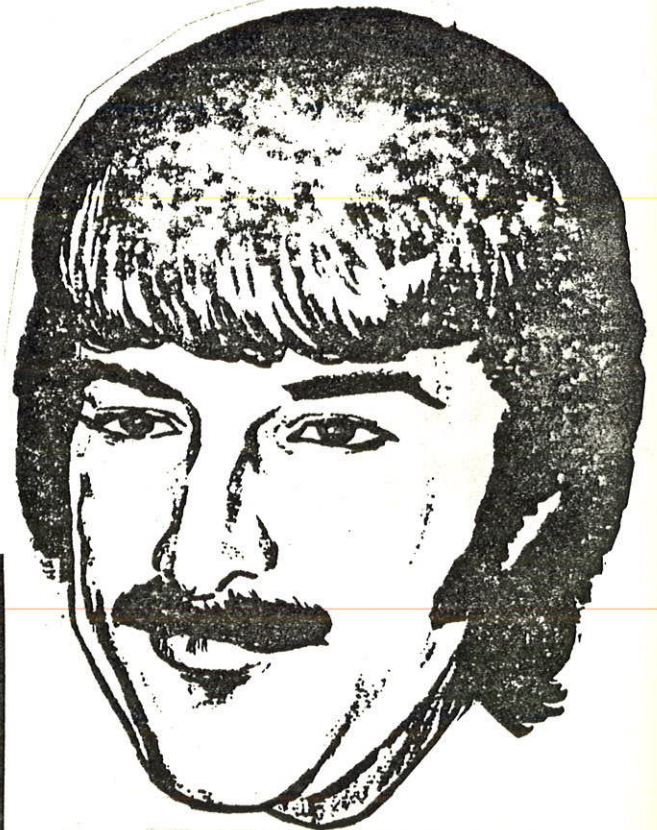
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## FAMILY BOOKS

**The Fun Book of Fatherhood, Or, How the Animal Kingdom Is Helping to Raise the Wild Kids at Our House** by Jerry Cammarata with Frances Spatz Leighton (Corwin Books, Los Angeles, presented in cooperation with Lou Reda Productions: hardcover: \$9.95)

This rollicking book is written by the man who went to court to become the first father ever to receive a four-year paternity leave. He studied animals to learn how they instinctively treat their young, and adapted these methods in caring for his two young daughters. A popular game is when the girls "think monkey" or "play snake." He also invited his in-laws to move into the top floor of the home, where they are visited only after a telephone call from the young family on the first floor, or vice versa. It's an original book, absolutely zany in spots, but spilling over with love of life and family. Reading it is as much fun as going to a three-ring circus.

—RUTH C. IKERMAN



**Super Pop**

