



The Plain Dealer/William A. Wynne

Jerry Cammarata thinks animals are better parents than people.

**CLEVELAND** *Animals are author's model parents*  
THE PLAIN DEALER

## Lesson in 'pop' psychology

By Richard C. Widman

"I'm a combination of seagull and termite," said Jerry Cammarata, who visited Cleveland yesterday in connection with publication of his book which, he says, will teach parents how to be a "Super Pop" or a "Super Mom."

The elaborately titled book is "The Fun Book of Fatherhood: Or, How the Animal Kingdom is Helping to Raise the Wild Kids at Our House." Cammarata wrote the book with Frances Spatz Leighton.

Although Cammarata claims the dual identity of seagull and termite, he reasonably could lay claim to being a hound of the publicity variety.

He proudly displayed a New York Times article which disclosed that Cammarata, a New York City teacher, was the first person in the nation to win a paternity leave.

Then there was the time Cammarata, described in his promotional literature as "the zany, funny, hilarious 'Super Pop' of the '70s," established a new mark in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest, recorded solo singing marathon.

He sang for 75 hours while bathing, sans water, in a bathtub in the New York City streets.

A speech therapist and audiologist, Cammarata said breaking a record was not his only purpose. He also was testing his vocal cords and proving to his children that per-

severance pays.

He also claimed another Guinness record when he composed a 52-minute production of total silence, which was released in a phonograph album that, he says, teaches children how to listen carefully.

Cammarata said the best thing a father can give his children is himself, which explains why he fought for and won the five-year paternity leave from his teaching job.

"In addition to my full-time teaching job, I was teaching part-time and working part-time in a hospital and conducting a private practice on weekends, all for the sake of money," the author recalled.

So he gave it all up to go home with the kids.

He sold the family home and with that, and some savings, the Cammaratas survived for two years. Another thing that helped was that the family moved in with Mrs. Cammarata's parents.

That explains the termite part of his self-identity.

"Termites respect their senior citizens," the author said. "I'm helping care for my in-laws."

A couple of years ago, Cammarata took a part-time job to meet the family bills.

The seagull part of his animal identity?

"A seagull would literally rip the feathers off its back to feather its nest," the author explained. "I would do anything to support my family."

He also would not spare the rod.

"I believe in spanking," Cammarata said.

One must purchase his book to obtain specific information on how to raise children properly. But here is some free advice from the author:

"Put aside the Dr. Spocks and everybody else who is sterile in their approach.

"Pattern your lives after the animals and live more instinctively. If we do that, I believe we will be better parents, because animals are better parents than people. Choose the right animal to pattern yourself after."

His five-year leave is up in September, and Cammarata will be returning to his teaching job.

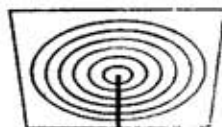
"It's been charged that I wrote this book so I won't have to go back to work," Cammarata said. "But that's not true. People don't realize that writing is hard work, too."

Whether or not the book is a best-seller, Cammarata has something else going for him, he believes.

A screenplay based on the book is in the hands of a major film studio for consideration as an upcoming production.

Already in the Cammarata typewriter, he said, are the beginnings of a new book on consumerism for children.

It will teach kids how to make the best buys in bubble gum and other juvenile necessities.



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