

# Three generations of payback

"One day you're gonna have kids, and you'll get yours. Just you wait and see." I don't believe I can count the number of times I have heard versions of that old chestnut from various mothers, grandmothers, and other parents I've known over the years, including my own.

As I've said before, my mother should be canonized in her own time for surviving my childhood. Regular readers of this column undoubtedly agree that being my parent would probably give the average person apoplexy. And when I think about the mischief and mayhem caused by my erstwhile friends and me collectively, it's a wonder any of the parents in my neighborhood managed to keep their sanity.

Sometimes, however, I believe our parents overreacted to things we did that were a bit different from the norm. It was probably because there were so many in-



**You can't beat a system you can't understand**

By Sam Bari

cidents that were, shall we say, questionable, that preceded the last act before they just lost it. Like when Pookie Grossberg's mom called his father at the office and told him they needed to consult a doctor because she thought we were mentally and emotionally disturbed. The incident that sent her over the edge was quite harmless.

Pookie's mom heard voices in their upstairs bathroom behind a closed door. I have no idea why this made her so suspicious. Anyway, she was absolutely convinced we were up to no good,

so she burst in to surprise us and catch us in the act, red-handed, at whatever dastardly deed she thought we were doing.

All she found was Pookie, stretched out on the floor using the bathroom scale for a pillow, and Kinky Boswell and I were watching. I cannot imagine why she thought that was odd. She actually accused us of lying when we told her that Pookie was just trying to weigh his head. And that was the truth.

"For this we should be punished?" Pookie asked. "Mom, we were just trying to make a little headway," he pleaded, in a mild attempt to make light of the moment. She was not amused.

Because of Mrs. Grossberg's irrational behavior over such a small act of curiosity, I gave my son, Roman, some slack when I got "the call" at the office when he was not quite 3 years old. If my memory serves me correctly, I be-

lieve he managed to push all the furniture in his second-story bedroom to one end of the room – the end with the door. The furniture included his bed, a small chest of drawers, a table, a chair and a toy box. To this day, I have no idea why he did this.

The problem was that the furniture was wedged between the door, which opened into the room, and the opposite wall. The furniture was jammed so tight that the door wouldn't open so much as an inch.

Somehow, he was strong enough to push everything to one end of the room, but he wasn't strong enough to pull anything back so we could open the door. Did I mention that he did this on a day that we had ten inches of snow? No. Apparently, I did not. Well . . . that's when it happened.

The night before, ten inches of the cool white stuff covered everything that wasn't under a roof. I might also mention that blowing snow has a tendency to drift. So — I had to bring an extension ladder up from the basement, carry it through ten- inches of snow and shovel a four- foot drift so I could lean the ladder against a wall and break into a second-story window

where his room was located. I was not pleased.

Now, fast forward to last week. I received a frantic phone call from my now-grown son who was watching his children while his wife was out running errands. In the background, I hear giggling and squealing. It seems that Roman walked into his bedroom to find his 4-year-old boy, Kalani, perched atop a six-foot armoire ready to leap onto the bed. Why? Because he wanted to see if he could fly.

At the same time, Kiana, my adorable little 2-year-old granddaughter was poised at the top of the stairs, ten feet away, on her Big Wheel tricycle. She wanted to see if she could ride down the stairs. Roman was in the middle, unable to reach both children at the same time. So — Kalani jumped, Kiana rode, and Roman freaked. The kids thought it was great fun and emerged unscathed. All my son could say was, "Dad - how did you ever survive parenthood?"

I couldn't help myself. I laughed. I laughed so hard I could not answer him. Finally, after all these years, something made sense in this system that I absolutely cannot understand.

## Keiser: town should forfeit any claim to Beavertail Lighthouse ownership

By Tom Shevlin

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser has recommended that the town forfeit its claim over licensed use of Beavertail Lighthouse and allow the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to enter into a final agreement over the management of the 151 year old light.

According to Keiser, the DEM, which is responsible for the man-

agement of Beavertail State Park, has expressed an interest in operating the light since Coast Guard officials began its license review process. The Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association (BLMA), which runs the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum, has also expressed an interest in the site. The town's decision to forfeit its claim would make way for the final disposition of ownership and allow necessary improvements to the light to move forward. Because the license review process allows any organization to apply for control, Keiser said that he didn't see a reason for the town to enter into a process which would put it in competition with the DEM or BLMA.

"I don't see a role for the town" Keiser said. The town has had an interest in the light in the past as affordable housing. However, in April, the Coast Guard denied the town's request to continue the use of the light's caretaker quarters for affordable housing.

In a letter dated April 11, J. J. Metcalf, commander of the USCG

Civil Engineering Unit Providence, based in Warwick, wrote "we will not be permitting residential occupancy at Beavertail Lighthouse since this type of occupancy is not directly related to the maintenance of the property."

In May, DEM Assistant Director Larry Mouradjian had indicated that the town, DEM, and BLMA had plans to enter a three-party agreement that would define the future use of the property once DEM had petitioned for ownership from the current owner, the state General Services Administration.

A meeting between the town's Beavertail Acquisition Committee (BAC) and BLMA had previously been set to discuss the matter further for Oct. 17, at 3 p.m.

## Used kayaks on sale in Wickford

The Kayak Centre will hold their annual used kayak and gear sale on Oct. 6, 7, and 8 at the store at 9 Phillips St. in Wickford.

The sale will include used single and double kayaks of all types, as well as paddles and accessories. Everything will be marked from 25- to 50- percent off the retail price.

A complete list of sale items will be on the Web site at [www.kayak-centre.com](http://www.kayak-centre.com) beginning Oct. 1.

Call 295-4400 for more information.

Seen our new Linen clothing ?

Just arrived !  
Tapestries  
Door beads  
Chandeliers  
Wall Art

Tara★  
*twinkle, twinkle, little star*

Clothing, Jewelry, Candles, Crystals, Suncatchers  
Bags, Tapestries, Frames, Incense, Oils, Aromaburners  
Soaps, Lotions, Bath salts and bath stuff  
Egyptian Goddess Oils always in stock  
593 Kingstown Rd. Wakefield, R.I.  
Mon - Sat. 10am - 5 pm. (Open Sundays from Thanksgiving thru Christmas and Summer)

# ELLEN WINSOR

## Independent for Town Council



ELLEN will support endeavors to design a village which preserves the unique character that we know and love as Jamestown.

ELLEN will listen and share the concerns of the business community. Their economic viability and the services and products they provide are vital to a vibrant, thriving village.

ELLEN is adamant about protecting our open landscapes with their visual allure, and the peaceful vistas offered by farmland, bay and ocean.

ELLEN says "help determine the destiny of our village TONIGHT." Please attend the Town's Vision Workshop, 7 PM to 9 PM, at the Recreation Center. Architects will be present to listen to YOU. Present your ideas. Shape Jamestown's future.

**VOTE for Ellen Winsor, November 6**  
Share Your Thoughts at [ellenwinsor@cox.net](mailto:ellenwinsor@cox.net)

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Ellen Winsor, Treasurer Jane Koster

Ready, Set, Play with Cindy offers

A new Kindermusik program  
With Jamestown Parks and Recreation

"ABC and ME" Mondays 10:30 am starting Oct. 1  
at Wellspring Studio, 32 Pemberton Avenue  
For children ages two to four  
(Parents/caregivers need not attend)

For details or to register  
Call: Cindy Olsen, Kindermusik educator, at 608-2022  
Email: [readysset-playwithcindy@usa.net](mailto:readysset-playwithcindy@usa.net)  
[www.readyssetplaywithcindy.kindermusik.net](http://www.readyssetplaywithcindy.kindermusik.net)

Kindermusik Family Time for parents with newborn to age 5  
Mondays at 9 a.m. at St. Matthew's Church