

USER LOGIN

Username: *

Password: *

Log in

Create new account
Request new password



SECTIONS

- NEWS + OPINIONS
- DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT
- DIVERSIONS

CONTACT

- MASTHEAD
- SUBMISSIONS
- ABOUT
- ADVERTISE

Bartenders/Servers needed \$100-\$300 CASH Daily
Restaurant bartenders needed. We currently have part-time and full-time bartending shifts available. No experience is required for these positions. Training will be provided. As a bartender you will earn income...

Guaranteed Auto Financing
Guaranteed Auto Financing Bad Credit - Poor Credit - No Credit WE CAN HELP! 3 EASY STEPS Apply in 60 Seconds APPLY NOW! Register to win a FREE Apple iPod...

Homes for Sale in Ossipee Lake, Ossipee, New Hampshire, \$250,000
Details Photo Gallery View Rooms 03814-Ossipee (Ossipee Lake) FOR SALE \$250,000 Exit Realty Leaders SCOTT MERROW Email SCOTT type of contact: number repeating for each-->Work: 603-539-9595 Cel 1: 603-986-6260 Fax: 603-539-8686 More Photos (14) Indian Mound Beach Association...

Landscape GENERAL LANDSCAPE CALL 508-8169041 URL www.rmlandscapi ng.us...

A sample of gifts from AM



We listen to every last squeaking, groaning second of it for you. You're welcome.



HUMOR, NEWS, + NIGHTLIFE

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2008
Overcast, light rain 46.4 °F
76% Humidity

[View All | Post Flyer]

- FEATURES
- BLOGS
- DIGTIONARY
- GEAR

[soapbox]

SHE'S A BABY, NOT A PURSE

By Julie Bogart

print | email | 1 Comments

del.icio.us | digg it! | reddit!



I recently had to watch in discomfort as my friends' three-month-old daughter was passed around the room at a party like a new iPhone. Her mother had left for a moment, placing her child in the hands of a friendly acquaintance. When she returned, her baby was perched on the knee of a total stranger. Other unknown partygoers pawed at the kid as if she were a good-luck charm.

Have people always found it appropriate to ask to hold a stranger's child, the way they might pet somebody's dog while passing it on the street? (I wouldn't ask to drive a stranger's car, let alone hold his baby.)

While my friend was not comfortable with people she didn't know bouncing and caressing her daughter, she felt powerless to stop them. New to motherhood, she didn't want to seem like an uptight mom, yanking her baby out of someone's arms for fear of contamination. Eventually, as my anxiety escalated with hers—we didn't know these people, we couldn't trust them—I walked across the room and retrieved the unfazed child. Did they know that the baby's favorite spot is her changing table, or that she loves to stare at ceiling fans? Did they even know her name? Why did they think they had the right to hold her? Why is this behavior socially acceptable?

It's no secret that Hollywood now treats babies like accessories, things to be used and flaunted. Popular magazines have replaced celebrity fashion reports with "baby bump" sightings, substituting one fad for another. But I assumed that here in the land of real folk, where we shop at Target and eat bread products, a baby isn't a cuddly toy. In our world, babies are people with personalities, attached to parents and family and friends, all of whom would give an arm to ensure the child's happiness and well-being. Or so I thought.

What if a man approached a mother and her five-year-old at the park: "Mind if I take your little girl for a walk?" No one would dispute the inappropriateness of such a question, and the mother would have no qualms telling that man where to stick it. Why, then, should baby etiquette be any different?

Unlike the five-year-old, who, though still innocent and easily swayed, knows he shouldn't talk to strangers, an infant has no such prowess. In the case of my friends' three-month-old, though she was held and touched by just about everyone at the party that night, she didn't fuss. Her little heart is open to all comers, a quality that makes protection even more essential. A mother shouldn't be made to feel impolite by choosing to protect her children, even the tiniest of them. If a person is going to ask a rude question—may I hold your baby?—he should expect a rude answer, the right answer—no.

COMMENTS

Oh, please.

You know, I don't even like kids all that much and really wouldn't want to hold some stranger's baby, but geez, are you an uptight suburban twit -- and, yes, your friend *is* an "uptight mom." Passing a baby around at parties is common, nay, traditional behavior -- I remember my parents doing that with my baby brother, some 35 years ago. And unless the baby's crying, it's not really a big deal.

Of course you wouldn't let some strange guy in a park take your 5-year-old for a walk. A little different than letting somebody you've invited into your house dandle your baby on his or her knee in full view of you, isn't it?

Let me guess: When you spawn, you're going to prevent the little darlings from playing out in the yard because OMG some Chester might come along and snatch them. You're going to want to dictate what's shown on television, what's "allowed" on the internet, what billboards can and can't be put up, and what your local library can and can't shelve because it might teach them something you don't want them to learn.

May I suggest you get a job wringing your hands in print for the *Globe*? I'm sure that Eileen MacNamara or Bella English would be glad to take you under their sanctimommious wings and teach you how to sound like an even more perfectly clueless minivan-driving waste of skin.

SEARCH

Search



FEATURED BLOGS

RRRRRRRRUMBLE

By dayvidday on Wed, Apr 9, 2008 8:13 pm

As you have probably heard, there's a rumble going on at Harpers Ferry. And no, it's not an earthquake or Vince Wilfork's stomach, it's the 30th Annual WBCN Rock & Roll Rumble. The talent at each night is awesome, but having been to two nights already, I can also say the crowd is quite excellent, too.

ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK

By dayvidday on Tue, Apr 8, 2008 6:49 pm

As a former Kansas Jayhawk student, I can tell you the city of Lawrence is one of the finest college towns in the US. There are only a few hippies, the art scene is fully funded and the gutter punks always



Apparently, some people think that just because they can read, they can write.



HUMOR, NEWS, + NIGHTLIFE