

## North Coast Tutoring Services

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"The Education Problem-Solvers"

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## Prizes and Awards

While listening to one of those radio psychologists years ago, a woman called up from Kansas or Nebraska or one of the states in the western US. You could tell from her speech that she was a very modest, kind-hearted woman.

She explained to the radio-psychologist that she and her husband were fostering eight children and on that Friday all of the children were to be returned to their parents.

The psychologist then rudely interrupted the woman and went on a rant. Paraphrasing her, she said: "Oh I know what you're going to say. You're going to tell me that you don't think the kids should be returned to their parents on Friday. You think you and your husband can do a better job than the parents. That's what all of you foster families think. Well let me tell you..." and then she went on to berate the woman for five more minutes.

After the psychologist had run out of her vile

hot air, the woman, in her soft, warm voice, said: "No, ma'am. We know the children have to go back to their parents. We have seven more children coming on Monday. We just want to know if it would be OK to send these children presents on their birthdays."

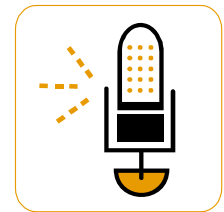
There was dead air on the radio station. When the psychologist came back 10 or 15 seconds later, you could tell that not only did she have tears in her eyes and a quiver in her voice, but also she had just experienced the most humbling moment of her life.

The psychologist told the woman it would be fine to send birthday presents to the children going back to their parents. She then asked if she could ask the woman a few questions.

"Yes ma'am" was the soft answer.

"Do you work?"

"No ma'am. We always have a lot of children here, so I have to stay home to take care of them."



"Does your husband work?"

"Yes ma'am. He's the janitor in the school."

"Can I ask you how much he earns?"

"About \$27,000 a year, ma'am."

"You foster all these children on \$27,000 a year plus whatever little you get from the state?"

"Yes ma'am. It's tight, but we do fine."

"Do you take vacations?"

"No ma'am. Being with these children is our favorite vacation".

The psychologist then went to a very LONG commercial break - no doubt deeply shaken by what just happened.

Where are the prizes and parades for those people? Why aren't we celebrating people who do wonderful things like that? Instead, we shower our adulation and money on "celebrities" who are engaged in the most aberrant behavior.