

## NEWSLETTER

WebParentip, Volume3, #5 for 5-1-02

### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Talk about diversity! When Mother's Day was established in 1914 there was only one kind of mother. She stayed at home with her children and was always neatly aproned as she cheerfully and lovingly did her housewifery and child-rearing chores.

Today, in addition to traditional mothers, we have mothers employed full-time, mothers who work nights while their husbands work days, mothers who work part time, mothers who work out of their homes, adoptive mothers, single mothers, lesbian mothers, handicapped mothers And let's not forget the millions of single fathers raising their children as well as the millions of grandparents raising their grandchildren.

They all deserve a salute on Mother's Day! All mothers--and all those who raise children-- work hard. All mothers--whether they stay at home or go to a job--work especially hard today because of the complex, rapidly changing world in which we raise our children.

Raising children is a 24/7, 52-weeks-a-year, no-paid- vacation job for which we have precious little training and for which, on balance, we get little in the way of thanks.

But there are many rewards. Cherish your Mother's Day cards, especially the hand-scrawled ones from your kids. Cherish their special loving gestures no matter when it occurs. My daughter, for reasons we have both forgotten, once handed me a paper with a pin through it that read "Good Mommy Medal" which I still have in my possession.

There is no job on earth more important. Sad that many government policies seem to undervalue the importance of mothers. One example: the job of mothering is not covered by Social Security.

Let me wish every reader out there involved in raising our children a Happy Mother's Day!

Let's work together politically to ensure that pro-child and pro-family policies replace our archaic notions about mothering today.