

# Letters

## On behalf of themselves

To the Editor:

In his article "Lord of the Venus flytrap" (March 31), Ted Morgan took a perceptive pulse of our family. But just as there is more to a diagnosis of health than the cardiovascular characteristics, so is there more to our personalities than the quest for achievement.

Our childhood was in every sense happy and enriched. We dressed up as clowns, went to



*George and Francis Barany at ages 6 and 4.*

baseball games, played tennis, learned to juggle, listened to music, and wrote poetry. True, our piano lessons dragged on too long, but there is little evidence that our lives were regimented and preprogramed, as some of your readers may have concluded on the basis of the article.

We were disturbed by the statement that "even recreation had to be purposeful." We always considered recreation synonymous with enjoyment. After an entertainment, we often would leisurely discuss it on the way home. Assigning a rating to a movie, for amusement as we did, is certainly no more striking than our friend's weekly compilation of Cousin Brucie's Top 10.

We found unrealistic the implication, perhaps unintentional, that our human values, sense of direction and outlook on life were inextricably meshed with those of our parents. The traumatic upheavals in their lives quite reasonably explain why, for example, they have "a suspicion of all forms of political life." Such characterizations can hardly apply to us, who were respec-

tively 3 and 5 years old when we arrived in this country. The American space program of the sixties captured our imagination and cemented the desire to pry for the unknown.

Our parents' legacy in our development lies in the fertile and stimulating atmosphere they created at home. They transmitted their ideas not by dogma but by example, and always with love and compassion.

We consider our case analogous to that of a youth who can play basketball well. His special athletic ability does not impede his otherwise natural maturation. We strongly feel that children should be given every opportunity to develop any positive talents they may have. In this regard, we would like to express our indebtedness to the public schools of the City of New York, which at every level allowed us to progress at our own rates.

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