

## Keep your Perspective\*

A father passing by his son's bedroom was astonished to see that his bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then he saw, propped up prominently on the pillow, an envelope that was addressed to "Dad." With the worst premonition, he opened the envelope with trembling hands and read the letter:

*"Dear Dad,*

*It is with regret that I write. Dad, I eloped with a new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with mom & you. I have been finding real passion with Stacy, and she is so nice.*

*But I knew you would not approve because of all her piercing, tattoos, tight leather pants, and the fact that she is much older than I. But it's not only the passion, Dad, she's pregnant. Stacy said that we will be happy together. She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We want many more children, maybe.*

*Stacy opened my eyes to the fact that pot doesn't hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves and trading it with the other people living nearby. In the meantime, we hope science finds a cure for HIV so Stacy can feel better*

*Don't worry, Dad. I'm 15 and I know how to take care of myself. Someday I'm sure that we will be back to visit so that you can get to know your grandchildren.*

*Your son,*

*John*

*P.S.* *Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Rob's house. My report card is on my desk and just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than this report card. I love you. Call me when it's safe to come home"*

Wow! After the initial “scare” the report card didn’t seem so big after all. For all students reading this, DON’T TRY THIS AT HOME! The reason I share this is not so you will do it, but so that you will learn this lesson: Make a big deal about the things that deserve it and give the rest attention, but don’t get sidetracked.

\*Used by Dr. Roger Ferguson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Owasso, OK, in an e-mail newsletter, January 2007. No original source information included.