

## The Kids Are All Right



### Or Maybe Not...

Two summer movie releases promote the benefits to women of anonymous insemination.

The first movie, *The Kids Are All Right*, highlights the "positives" of a lesbian couple raising two children fathered by an unknown sperm donor. But things get awkward when the "donor dad" comes back on the scene and the kids fall in love with him. Even worse, one of the lesbian moms does as well.

[The New York Times](#) calls it "a nearly note-perfect portrait of a modern family."

The second movie, *The Switch*, stars

Jennifer Aniston as a woman who chooses single motherhood via artificial insemination.

Aniston herself was quoted as saying, "Women are realizing more and more... that they don't have to settle with a man just to have a child."



JENNIFER ANISTON  
**THE SWITCH**

Although these new approaches to parenting are promoted by Hollywood and applauded by *The New York Times* as "liberating," how liberating are they for the children?

A recently released [study](#) by the Commission on Parenthood examines the lives of 485 children whose fathers are listed as "donor." The study found that these children are twice as likely to be afflicted by depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, high risk sexual behavior, and problems with authorities. Furthermore, the identity issues resulting from not knowing dad's identity are clear predictors of future relationship problems. About half the children are troubled whenever they see someone who looks like them. Half are disturbed that money was involved in their conception and have objections to donor conception *itself*.

When the father's name is "donor," the facts are, most of the kids are *not* all right.

**Huh?** Parents are no longer yelling to their children "Turn down that racket!" That is unfortunate for the kids.

With everpresent headphones and earbuds for MP3 players, iPods, video game consoles, TVs, radios and computers, the noise is gone. Parents no longer hear how loud their children are playing the music and the children are paying the price.

A [recent study](#) published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that hearing loss in teenagers has risen over 31% in the last decade. According to the study, close to 20% of all teenagers today have damaged hearing of some sort.



Parents need to be proactive in finding out how much noise their children's earbuds are "pumping." Fortunately, some new MP3 players have safe hearing level options in their settings.

## Vocabulary

**Epic fail (1):** a catastrophic failure. Not just any failure - not just an “oops” - but a game over failure, like the Challenger exploding.

**Epic fail (2):** by its very show-stopping nature a public epic fail is a “winner.” Bad fame is better than no fame.

## Epic Jail

Most criminals have nothing



good to say about life in jail. [Lindsay Lohan](#) Is not most criminals. She spent thirteen days in jail for violating the terms of probation for driving under the influence of alcohol. *OK!* magazine is reported to be giving her one million dollars to describe her stay.

Her epic fail means her fee for New York and Los Angeles event appearances will rise to \$25,000-\$100,000.

Interestingly, bars think there's money to be made by publicizing that Lindsay Lohan drinks there. She will earn serious money just for showing up.

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## No Regrets?

Katy Perry is pretty, has a great voice, is a fashion setter (the 50s redux look). Many teen girls dream of being pretty, popular and rich, like her – so they watch and imitate her.

*Last Friday Night*, is a song from her new album entitled, *Living the Teenage Dream*. The dream sounds like a nightmare.

The song says, “I have a headache and bruises, my house is wrecked, my clothes are ripped, compromising pictures of me are now online, I maxed-out my credit card at a bar, I broke the law and woke up with a guy I don't know.” She calls it an epic fail.

Her conclusion is a perfect example of post-modern values. “I'm screwed. Oh, well. Let's do it all again next Friday,” as if getting arrested, wrecking your house, being sexually promiscuous, and getting blindingly drunk will never have consequences.

Why repent? Why learn? Had an epic fail? Just walk away.

Oh, well...



According to [USA Today](#), Katy Perry maintains a “direct connection” to Christianity but adds, “I don't think a lot of people would consider me a Christian.” She is the daughter of two ministers who gave her “a strict” upbringing. Determined to become a singer, she got her Graduate Education Degree at 16 and moved to Nashville to pursue a Christian music career.

## Last Friday Night

There's a stranger in my bed,  
There's a pounding my head  
Glitter all over the room  
Pink flamingos in the pool  
I smell like a minibar  
DJ's passed out in the yard  
Barbie's on the barbeque

There's a hickey or a bruise  
Pictures of last night  
Ended up online  
I'm screwed. Oh well.  
It's a blacked out blur  
But I'm pretty sure, it ruled

Last Friday night  
Yeah we danced on tabletops  
And we took too many shots  
Think we kissed but I forgot  
Last Friday night  
Yeah we maxed our credit cards  
And got kicked out of the bar  
So we hit the boulevard

Last Friday night  
We went streaking in the park  
Skinny dipping in the dark  
Then had a menage-a-trois  
Last Friday night  
Yeah I think we broke the law  
Always say we're gonna stop  
Trying to connect the dots

Don't know what to tell my boss  
Think the city towed my car  
Chandelier is on the floor  
Ripped my favorite party dress  
Warrants out for my arrest  
Think I need a ginger ale  
That was such an epic fail

This Friday night – do it all again  
This Friday night – do it all again  
Do it all again – this Friday night