

# 'Teen Father' is a misconception of adol

If you happen to think that Madonna's dreamy assessment of teen-age pregnancy in her hit song "Papa Don't Preach" is pretty flaky, get a load of "Teen Father." It's the new "ABC Afterschool Special" airing at 3 p.m. tomorrow on Channel 4.

While Momma tends to preach in this one — at least a little bit — the final outcome is designed to convince us that these two lovable teen-agers are going to make it as parents, even though they've no particular plans to marry, and the in-laws are all chatting happily, getting to know one another.

An ABC press release says the storyline is "reality-based" in the hope that this drama "will lead young people toward more thoughtful consideration of the possible consequences of sexual activity." A worthy aim, certainly, but the all-warm-inside ending tends to nullify what has gone before. At fade-out time, it all looks as if everything will be all right — whereas any perusal c



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what's happening in the world of unwed teens in any city would put a different face on things.

Corey Parker and Christine Langner are the attractive teens, and the script is the work of Jeanne Betancourt. Among the many upbeat scenes Betancourt has imagined is one in which a group of teen-age fathers sit

around and talk about the results of their sexual activity as if they were at a kind of Sexuality Anonymous meeting: "Hi, my name is Joe and I'm an unwed teen father."

Is life really like this?

**Re-Cycling the "Ring:"** If you've attended the Seattle Opera's new production of Wagner's "Ring" — or even if you've only heard about it and wondered what all the fuss was about — you'll thoroughly enjoy "Making the Ring," an informative half-hour documentary by Randy Paris.

The program will air at 8:30 tonight on Group W Cable's Channel 33 and again next Wednesday. "Making the Ring" will be repeated on the public-access channels (29) of Group W, Viacom and Seacom systems.

Paris and his crew videotaped more than 30 hours of interviews, backstage scenes, rehearsals and performances which he has edited

down to a jam-packed 30 minutes. It gives you not only the flavor of the production but also a glimpse into the staggering amount of work that goes into the "Ring."

Paris' film is a documentary for the archives — by far the best thing local TV has done concerning the "Ring" — and well worth airing on other stations after it has been shown on cable.

**Winners & Losers:** With baseball games still jerking the TV schedules around, not all of the new season's programs aired last week. The most-watched new program was NBC's "Matlock," which the Nielsen ratings placed at No. 20.

Next was NBC's "L.A. Law" (36), CBS' "The Wizard" (37), NBC's "A1" (38), NBC's "Crime Story" (40), CBS' "Together We Stand" (44), CBS' "Kay O'Brien" (45), CBS' "Better Days" (47), ABC's "Life with Lucy" (53), CBS' "Downtown" (54), NBC's