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WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

Psychoanalyze Me, Hubby, My Spare Time Is Showing

By Marie Weidman

Each of us ladies had better keep her three chins at a firm, fighting angle. We are all in for a siege of vituperation and not a little vilification from that segment of masculine observers whose opinions, for some unfathomable reason, get into print.

Marie Weidman

For some time now they have been scrutinizing, scientifically, of course, women's household tasks and the amount of effort the girls have to give in order to have the gleaming kind of house the LADIES HOME COMPANION says she ought to have.

The men concluded that women's work is never done — by women. Not any more, that is. Instead it is performed by a series of expensive gadgets all of which give ladies a great deal of time to sit about and become neurotic. Well — (dust) mops to you, sir!

NOW ALL OF this agitation has followed on the fact that a number of psychiatrists, using as their axiom that there is something definitely amiss with the American missus, have been casting about for a satisfactory reason why she is the way she seems to be.

And of course we do know that she seems to be excessively dominating, demanding and most ungentle. However, her household duties, as stated by those alleged authorities, would appear to have little bearing on the current feminine state of mind.

Because of technological advances the American lady is supposed to feel unwanted and unnecessary. Switching on a dial, turning a button, opening prepared packets of food, they say, is giving the housewife entirely too much time to think about herself.

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EUROPEANS are still supposed to be shocked by our supposedly unoccupied American wives. To contrast, grandmother is cited as having been a more contented woman because she had a heavy burden of household tasks.

If grandma was happier in the old days (not necessarily "good, old," either) it was not due to the fact that she had to grind her own nutmeg and launder twenty mens' shirts every week. It was the slower, simpler, more tranquil age in which she and grandfather lived, which, of course, is lost to us forever.

We cannot judge today's housewife by norms of the nineties nor by some few present day men who claim to keep their own houses and find the toil it involves most enjoyable. As, for instance, the gentleman in the worthy Catholic weekly AMERICA who recently told readers he found housekeeping exhilarating; or the men who say they have to work harder to pay for their wives work-saving appliances.

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THE WHOLE question of which sex works hardest is puerile. In the heat of argument no one remembers the sacred, satisfying joy of working. The feeling of honest, bonedeep, aching weariness at day's end is something man should be happy to bear. It means achieving, striving, earning, developing.

It means (we pray) using talents to their utmost capacity according to the Lord's direction; it means reaching a goal and having just pride in looking backward on our work. Going forth each morning drowsily seems a bit dull, yet if we were unable to catch the wretched eight-ten some morning we should appreciate what it means to be alive, and doing our appointed tasks.

As for the ladies, their gadget-given free time must be directed toward higher goods within the community as the Holy Father has directed. When they finish polishing all their enameled appliances there are other spheres which require their influence, their viewpoints. The emotional malaise which grips so many will quickly fade.

Teacher

Chicago —(RNS)—Elizabeth T. Bentley, self-confessed former Communist spy courier in Washington, D. C., during the war, arrived here to begin a career as an instructor in political science and sociology at Mundelein College, a Roman Catholic school for girls.

Miss Bentley, a convert to Catholicism, told newsmen here she was attracted to the Church by its social teachings. A graduate of Vassar, she holds a master's degree from Columbia University.

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Lifts Ban on Weekly

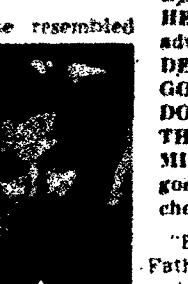
London (NC) The Newcastle city council has rescinded its ban of some weeks ago on placing the Universe, leading Catholic weekly here in the city reading room. At the same time a ban on the communist Daily Worker was also lifted.

At Our House
Superman Is a Pagan

By MARY TINLEY DALY

How's the comic book situation at your house? Better than it has been at ours, I hope; but if you have eight to twelve-year-olds, chances are they, like ours, go through spells of comicitis that verge on addiction.

Fact is, our house resembled a news stand, with huge stacks of comics in closets, under the mattresses, in drawers, and Markie and Mary seemed to spend every waking hour devouring the things.



Mary Daly

We know comics are bad for their eyes; that they waste time, that they ruin reading habits, but we were ignorant of their real danger and anyway school will start soon, we thought lazily . . . Then we attended a lecture on comics given by the Rev. Robert E. Southard S.J.

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"IN MY OPINION," Father Southard said, "Superman is one of the most deceptive and vicious corruptions in the comics. That is because the Superman symbol is a false picture of heroism on the human level and a counterfeit of Christ . . . To adults this comparison between Christ and a comic-book character, Superman, is grotesque. But to children, Superman is very real. With such twisted ideas in their heads how are teachers to persuade them that Christ who suffered and died on a cross is the greatest hero, that they, too, are heroes if they do the ordinary duties around the house, as their parents tell them and as Christ did at Nazareth? Superman is a modernized mythical pagan deity, baptized Christian apart from Christ."

Yet Superman and his counterpart, Wonderwoman, were regular inhabitants of our house! Shamefacedly we realized that we had been blind to this subtly poisonous doctrine — and undoubtedly to a lot of other evil types too. We'd make a clean sweep, we resolved; we wouldn't let a comic . . . but what was that Father oSuthard was saying?

"The worst mistake a parent can make about comics is to condemn them all without distinction. Comics in themselves are no more evil than motion pictures, newspapers, books, television or any other medium for telling stories or transmitting ideas.

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Father Southard then told us about the Catechetical Guild, publishers of a comic called TOPIX, who make a list of approved comics. Even without such a list, he continued, parents can judge the types that are harmful — the sensational, the fantastic, the lurid, the sexy — and steer their children from this kind into the truly funny ones like BLONDIE, DATE WITH JUDY, HENRY, LITTLE LULU; the adventuresome ones: DAREDEVIL, ALL SPORTS, FLASH GORDON; the animal type: DONALD DUCK, FELIX THE CAT, LOONEY TUNES, MICKEY MOUSE . . . The list goes on and on with plenty to choose from.

"But even as to good comics," Father Southard cautioned, "comic book addiction is a symptom of a basic and serious problem, the addict's empty home. An empty home cannot be reconstructed by substituting comics for comics. It must be rebuilt as a center for self made fun, responsibility and achievement."

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FATHER SOUTHARD specifically recommends books, toys, pets and hobbies to fill a child's life . . . then comics, movies and such vicarious amusements will not occupy a major place.

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Indian Bishop

Karachi, Pakistan — (NC) — Bishop-elect Edwin Pinto, S.J., of the Diocese of Ahmedabad in Pakistan will be consecrated at Saragossa cathedral in Barcelona, Spain in mid October.

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Two Trapp Girls Married

Stowe, Vt.—(NC)—A double wedding ceremony for two members of the Trapp Family Singers was performed at the Blessed Sacrament Church here by Bishop Edward F. Ryan of Burlington. Martina Trapp, daughter of Baron and Baroness von Trapp and the soprano of the family, became the bride of Jean Dupire, of Montreal, and Theresia Hutef, an adopted daughter, was married to Pierre Lamy, also of Montreal.

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'Voice' of British Working Youth Is New Newspaper

By DOUGLAS NEWTON

London — (NC) — The Young Christian Workers (YCW), an organization in Britain which has already gained a world-wide reputation as one of the most auspicious of contemporary Catholic social movements, has just added a monthly newspaper to its forward-reaching enterprises.

The organization had already launched a number of bulletins and pamphlets, all characterized by a note of brisk modernity, but the new journalistic venture is its boldest challenge for public attention. Proclaiming itself as "The Voice of Working Youth," the paper is called The Young Worker and is a lively and competent production.

It prints a popular range of features. Its Sports Page covers football, cycling, speedway-racing and other sports, while critics deal with films, the theater, music and books.

NEWS ITEMS tell of how attention was drawn by the YCW to the need for cheaper meals in factory canteens to meet the lower wages of youth, and the benefits secured, how a local education committee was interested in the need for arranging instruction for bedridden youths in hospitals; how attention was called to cases in which youngsters were given work beyond their strength, and how the YCW was commended for this by the managements and trade union officials concerned.

The articles dealing with the YCW's own cause, ideals and methods are direct and frank. They are practical rather than preachy. The spiritual note is not obtrusive, but it is a strong undercurrent.

For instance, helping youth to make a good start in life by a comradely welcome to them in the first trying days at the factory and workshop is urged. The formation of social clubs with religious as well as entertainment and discussion aims is stressed.

PARTICULARLY interesting is what is called Pre Y activity, aimed at boys between 12 and 14, just before they leave school. It tries to give them an insight into their working life ahead by gathering them into clubs for practical talks and rudimentary instruction in such trades as woodworking, electrical fitting, radio, clay modelling and for visits to local factories and work shops.

In this way, the boys gain a fuller idea of what they want to do by the time they leave school. With this activity goes the very definite policy of giving boys "a Christian formation to prepare them for their vocation as workers who can lead a full Christian and apostolic life."

With such aims vigorously presented, it is small wonder that The Young Worker has already had so marked a success that its projectors are foreseeing the need to enlarge it from four to eight pages, and even to publish it weekly instead of monthly.

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— • —

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In the diocese of Rezaieh—the Papal Delegate is the Holy Father himself—in the eyes of the poor. They bring him all their problems and expect him to provide for the many children who were orphaned by the war . . . The good prelate has found places for the orphan girls with the Daughters of Charity —for the orphan boys with the Lazzarist Fathers . . . To support each one of these children we must find six dollars a month—seventy-two dollars a year . . . Would you adopt a homeless boy or girl—an orphan—for a month or a year?

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WRITTEN IN BLOOD

St. Isaac Jogues — whom the Church honors on September 26 —wrote the name of "Jesus" with the blood that oozed from the stumps of his mangled arms . . Write your name on the altar that Archbishop Anthony Abed asks for one of his Near East Chapels. . . The offering is fifty dollars and guarantees lasting remembrance—for you or for one you love.

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Saints Cosmas and Damien — feasted September 27—were medical men who became Saints—the patrons of physicians. We would like some of our doctor friends (or their wives or children) to help us obtain Medical Kits for the Ladies of Nazareth who are establishing Medical Missions in the little towns and villages of Bishop Assaf's diocese in Transjordan. Each kit costs seventy-five dollars —and can be given as a memorial.

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