Am I Neglecting My Wife And Home If I Have 'A Night Out With The Boys'

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"My wife raises a great fuss every time I want a night out with the boys. She says she just can't see what I get out of playing cards in a smoky room and drinking beer for hours, while she sits home with the kids. Women enjoy their parties, too, though they generally have them in the afternoon when we're not at home anyway. Am I being thoughtless and selfish in wanting to get out once in a while? She thinks so.

According to the comic strips, Ted, this marital argument has been going on for a long time and isn't likely to stop. Perhaps it is more acute now that the husband's job separates the majority of couples all during the day, so that they spend such little time together.

We might guess that a less highly industrialized society, which permits husbands and wives to be closer together during the working day, woud also find them more willing to seek separate entertainment at night.

That's probably why parish societies in the past were organized according to sex, whereas today only the couple-centered movements tend to be accepted.

At any rate, Ted, you have a problem, and it's evidently not being solved to anybody's satisfaction. You don't want to be unfair, yet you think your wife is being a little narrow and inconsiderate. She would probably say the same about you, so arguing about it doesn't help matters very much.

What's the solution, if any?

It will help clarify matters if you both start out by recognizing that there are no absolute principles or norms which clearly specify what is right and wrong in such situations. Social customs, conditions, and individual couples differ so greatly that satisfactory solutions vary widely. In a sense, your problem is unique. It can be worked out only in terms of your total marriage situation.

This doesn't mean that a good solution will be wholly arbitrary. There are guiding norms and pertinent considera- norms and pertient considerations which should shape your thinking if you sincerely want to reach an agreement that will strengthen your marriage. Let's go over the principal ones briefly.

MARRIAGE DOES imply companionship and partnership as a couple. This involves not only cooperation in childbearing and child rearing but intimate, affectionate unity, for only if husband and wife are thus closely united can they maintain the loving, emotionally secure family climate which children need for normal development.

Because of personality differences and previous training, men and women in marriage frequently discover that they do not share each other's likes or dislikes. This may have little to do with their love or unity, but since they now form a couple, it limits the things they can share and may lead to misunderstandings. Some people regard all differences as marks of inferiority. If you don't like what they like, you must have poor taste.

Particularly during the early child rearing stages, the wife's social life may be seriously restricted. After spending the day with immature children, she craves adult companionship. Husbands easily tend to forget this.

All marriages require a degree of give and take. This defies close calculation. The important point is to preserve the spirit of mutual service and support. Once bickering and bargaining start, marriage becomes a type of "cold war."

HOW SHOULD you solve your problem, Ted?

First, make a check of the number of times you take your wife out at night. If you can't afford it or simply neglect it, are you surprised she resents your night with the boys?

Second, how often do you want to go out alone? Surely more than once a week would indicate a peculiar attitude toward your wife and family. Indeed, this would be too often if you didn't take her out an equal number of times. You say, "this would be too expensive," or "she doesn't want to leave the children that often?"

Then you had best reconsider your own request.

Fourth, if your wife's only objection to your night out is that she doesn't approve of what you do, I think she's probably making a mistake. She should recall the old Roman saying, "One can't argue about tastes."

Finally, in solving your problem, take a long range view of your marriage. It is for life. What you do now will shape its future course for better or worse. Remember, in love as in war, you may win a battle but lose the campaign.

Ontario Liberals Elect Catholic

Toronto, Ont.—(NC)—Religious prejudice took a "well-deserved beating" in the election of a Catholic as new leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, according to the Toronto Globe and Mail, largest morning daily newspaper in Canada.

The Liberal Party's selection of John J. Wintermeyer, 41, an attorney, as its new leader prompted the newspaper's statement in an editorial entitled "The New Ontario."

The editorial called attention to the fact that the seven candidates for the position "were variously Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish; none of them gained any support on that score, none of them lost any."

Mr. Wintermeyer, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, is reported to be the first Catholic to head the Ontario Liberal Party. His election came during a two-day Liberal convention here.

Belgian Educations Policy Opposed

Antwerp, Belgium (RNS) Sixty thousand Catholics are expected to attend a mass demonstration here May 17 in protest against the Socialist-Liberal government policy toward Catholic schools.

The event will climax a campaign launched by the Christian Social Party (Catholic) for revision of a measure which sharply reduced State subsidies for church schools. The measure was sponsored by Socialist Education Minister Leo Collard.

Cardinal Van Roey, Archbishop of Malines and Primate of Belgium, is sponsoring the rally, along with Bishops Charles Calewaert of Ghent and Emile de Smedt of Bruges.

It is expected that half the participants will be children and youths attending Catholic schools and colleges. Among those occupying the platform will be leading political personalities and representatives of major Catholic universities, including the University of Louvain.

58-Years In 1st Grade

Melrose, Minn.—(NC)—Teaching 60 consecutive years at St. Boniface School, here, is something of a national record achieved by Sister Celsa, a Benedictine Sister almost 80-years old. She's pictured in her classroom. 58 of those years she's taught first-graders. In the past six decades, three generations, numbering 2,100 first-graders, have started their educational careers under her care.

Irish Polio Head Joins Benedictines

Dublin (RNS) Louis M. Fitzgerald, 45-year-old general secretary of the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship of Ireland, left here to join the Benedictine Order at Prinknash Abbey, Gloucester, England. He had been working for sick and disabled people for the past 15 years.

Nun-Convert Hailed In Leper Work

New Brunswick, N. J. — A convert to the Catholic Faith who became a nun and distinguished herself working in behalf of Hansen's disease victims was showered with congratulatory messages by President Eisenhower and others as she was presented with the annual Damien-Dutton Award here.

SISTER HILARY ROSS of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul upon being honored, stated:

"This award belongs to the patients in Carville whose cooperation made it possible."

She referred to the patients at the U.S. Leprosarium in Carville, La., where she has been stationed for 36 years. She is now a biochemist and head of the laboratory there.

Presentation was made by Msgr. Vincent W. Jeafers, director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the New York archdiocese, at a luncheon in the Rogers Smith Hotel.

The award is given by the Damien-Dutton Society which was organized in 1944 and provides medical relief and social rehabilitation for Hansen's disease victims in Catholic leprosaria throughout the world.

A message from President Eisenhower stated that "with her great record in the field of leprosy she is eminently qualified for the Damien Dutton Award. Her long service in the government hospital in Carville provides an outstanding example of faith and good work."

OTHER MESSAGES came from Cardinal Spellman; Gov. Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey, and Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney of the U.S. Public Health Service, the Sisters, patients and staff members of the Carville institution.

Sister Hilary, a native of Berkeley, Calif., said that after her conversion she was attracted to the Sisters of Charity because of their devotion to the sick and poor. She joined the community in 1916 and was assigned to the Carville institution in 1922 as a pharmacist.

She recalled that the Carville institution was founded as a Louisiana hospital in 1894 and was taken over by the U.S. Government in 1918. It is now under the U.S. Public Health Service. Sister Hilary said that her work now entails blood analyses of patients, tests designed to aid physicians treat patients and purely investigative tests.

The citation accompanying the award cited Sister Hilary for "outstanding scientific contribution as well as a lifetime of personal service and devotion on behalf of the victims of Hansen's disease."

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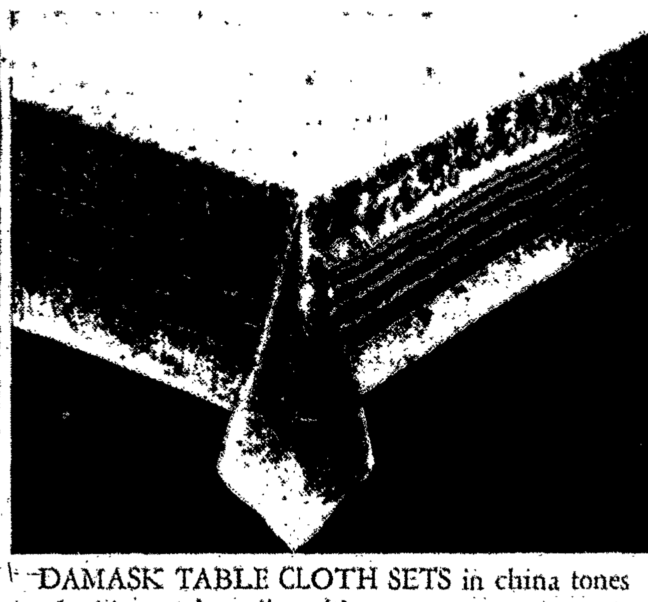

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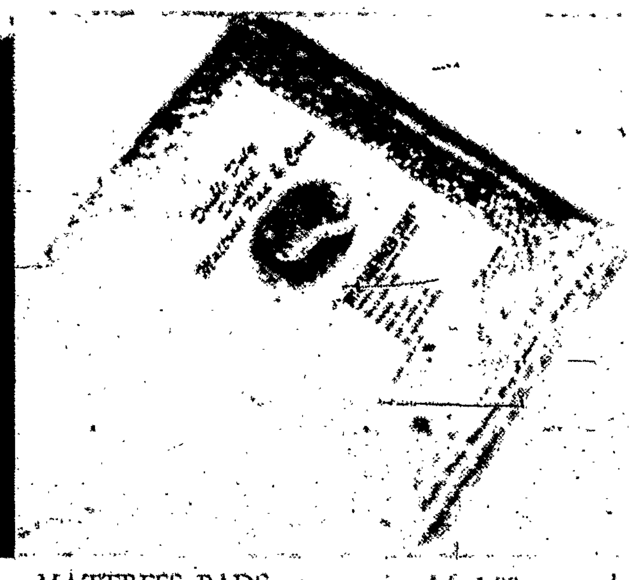

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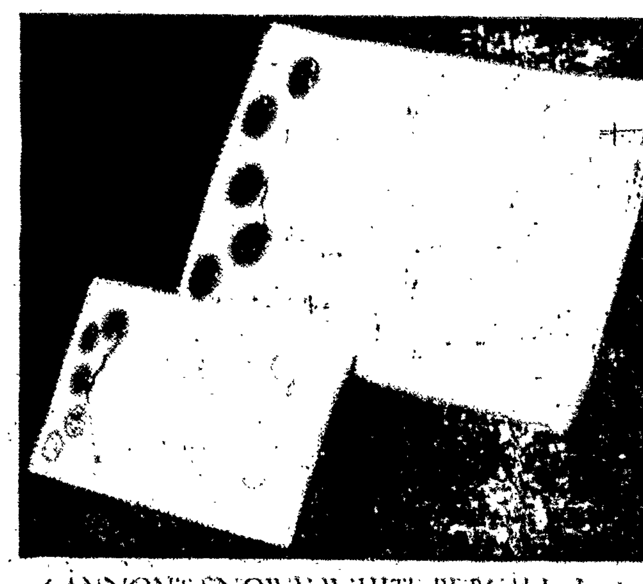

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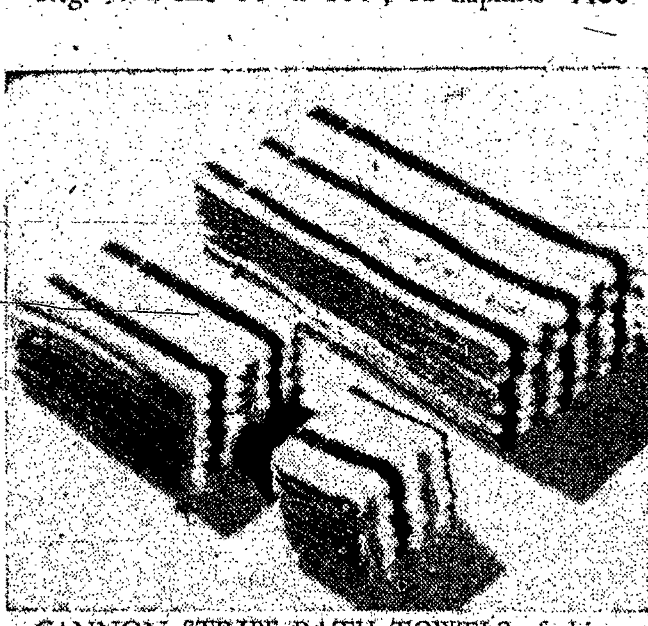

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