### All in the Family

# Kids Have **Perfect Timing**

By Sarah Child



Our Random House dictionary defines "aplomb" as "imperturbable self-possession."

My own definition of the word differs slightly. To me, having aplomb is when you take your pre-schooler into polite (or impolite) company and know that no matter what he or she says, you won't have the urge to run away.

A neighbor called the other day and began thusly in what is a somewhat standard form of greeting among mothers of our

"Oh, that son of mine!" (Daughter can be substituted for son in this case with no change in the expression or meaning.)

"Yes," I prompted.

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She proceeded to tell me that she had just returned from the supermarket.

Her 5-year-old had made the rounds of all the "interesting" departments and issued a number of "gimme" demands which had fallen on deaf ears.

When they reached the bathbubble-for-kids section he began his lobbying.

"Do we really need more?" his mother asked. "How much is left in the box?"

Whereupon, to hear his mother's version, the child raised his voice several decibels and proclaimed to the crowd

which seemed to gather at that instant:

"Gee, I don't know. It's been so long since I've had a bath I can't remember."

My mother still cringes telling about the time when my little sister, at about age 3, welcomed the first nuns to come to our small parish.

"And, where's your lipstick?" asked Judy of the three smiling, fully-robed sisters.

Today, when it is sometimes hard to tell a nun from a midied housewife, her embarrass-

My own moment to remember came when our oldest was shortly past her second birth-

It was Father's Day and I had set the kitchen table with a tablecloth, some candles and the rest of the customary utensils. It looked lovely I thought for a change.

Then two of the neighbor girls, one whom I knew only slightly, dropped in for a quick cup of coffee.

proper lull in the conversation and then conspicuously picked up a corner of the tablecloth between two little fingers.

# 'Female Equality Not So Desirable'

house surveyor came to our only" lunches are served. door, and while I peered out curiously from behind my mother's skirts, I heard the question, "Occupation?" "Housewife" she said. "Homemaker," the survevor corrected as she wrote the answer in her book.

We don't hear the word much any more. Apparently it never caught on, and even if it had I suspect that today's feminists would have just as much scorn for it as they do for the word "housewife".

Frequently many of us are asked if the new femininsts speak for us. My reply would be in the negative, but they have my sympathy. Pity the unhappy creatures who have no idea of the unique role destined for the female. They despise the part which society asks them to play in God's world because they have no idea of their intrinsic worth.

I have no quarrel with current campaigns for equality of opportunity for women employes and I share "Women's Lib's" objections to economic exploitation of women's role by either the "Playboy' or the "Mothers Day" methods. What I cannot accept is the idea that an entirely new basis for selfrespect a m o n g American women is needed.

"Regard us as human beings first and then as females," the women's lib organizations say. Their members betray their own lack of self-respect because for them being women is less than being human. They do not recognize any of their unique gifts and opportunities, and wish instead to compete with men as human beings, however they define such persons. Competition for human status finds them going to court in Chicago to protest alleged discrimina-self-esteem.

ment seems overstated.

Johanna waited for just the

"Whats this thing?" she wanted to know, making it clear she'd never seen one at our

By Marian T. Koller

Many years ago a house-to- tion at restaurants where "men-

"Equality!" is the universal cry of the various female liberation movements, but they have no idea what this really means. To be treated "equally" is to be treated with equity, fairness and justice, according to one's rights. In the case of the American woman of the 20th Century, this is the right to choose how to develop her God-given talents to their fullest, and to be true to that choice.

While not regarding it quite as scornfully as the new feminists, too many of us consider the choice of the role of womanin-the-home as unchallenging to one's talents. Betty Friedman would like to have women who don't seek a career outside the home feel guilty.

Little can be said to deny that housework is repetitious, dull, boring, and often unrewarding. Perhaps our Lord reaffirmed this when he chided Martha for having lost sight of the best part. But the day-afterday at-work routine for most men is also repetitious, dull frequently unrewarding. woman-in-the-home must acknowledge that she has the freedom to organize her own work schedule which, among other advantages, enables her to give herself to many unpaid but necessary charitable acts of service towards a better world.

Woman's role today is what she chooses to make it. If she challenges man at every turn and demands a so-called equality, she will probably be frustrated, unhappy, unloving and unloved. If she recognizes her unique potential as wife and mother, as the human source of life and living, she will be loved and loving, well on the road to self-satisfaction and

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Sister Claire is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias R. Kondolf of Rochester. Her father,

## COURIER / WOMEN

an inventor and patent attorney, formerly was executive vice president of the Odenbach Shipbuilding Company. Her grandfater, Mathias Kondolf, was president of the Genesee Brewing Company.

- The Newton announcement said that Sister Claire had been

instrumental in obtaining the first Federal funds for the college and in the development of campus facilities. She was tducated at Hawley School, Newton, Conn.; Marymount and Manhattanville colleges and in Rome, and has been active in the Society of the Sacred Heart for 15 years.

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