

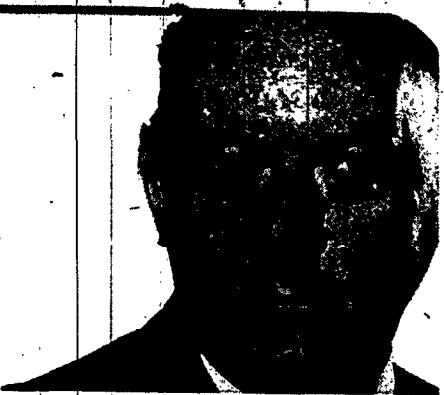


Alice in Wonderland

One of the two casts which will present "Alice in Wonderland" at St. Louis School, Pittsford, on June 4 and 5, practices their dancing. Mrs. Janet Alfieri, right, coaches the production with great deal of vigor.



BOB CONSIDINE On the Line



If President Nixon yielded to the many demands from friend and foe that he pull this nation out of Indochina, lock, stock, and barrel-chested B-52's what do you suppose would happen?

Perhaps there would be utter consternation in Saigon and elsewhere in South Vietnam. There is no guarantee that our policy of Vietnamization will work until that day — if it ever comes — when they are left strictly on their own... no American to lead them, or shame them, or clear a path for them with 7½-ton bombs.

Perhaps the reverse would be true. Maybe, with fiery fellows like Air Marshal Ky taking over the reins, the Vietnamese would delight in being able to operate on their own. The heavy hand of successive American administrations has been on them for most of their fight-

ing lives. They have had to live with and abide by a U.S. policy as alien to them as it would have been to, say, Gens. Grant and Washington — the policy of fighting not to win but to gain a draw. One would guess that if Ky wound up in charge of the gear and materiel left behind him by a departed American military force, he'd order the bombing of Haiphong and Hanoi in the first five minutes of his reign.

What would happen then, vis-a-vis China and the Soviet Union, is anybody's guess. And everybody's apprehension.

There was a piece in the Times the other day which seemed to regard as Page 1 news the fact that we haven't fitted the South Vietnamese with enough goods, modern armor, to enable them to get very frisky.

That's been true from the beginning, though we've been a lot more subtle about that than were the French, during their century of domination over Indochina. Generations of French colonial governments encouraged their subjects to join the militia and undergo military training. But the French would never trust them with an automatic weapon. (In time, Ho Chi Minh found a way to get them and threw the French out.)

We've been relatively philanthropic with "arms-for-the-ARVN." But until quite recently, they were the pikes and pitchforks of our arsenals: The M-1 rifle of World War II, the A-1 propeller job of the Korean War, long outmoded artillery, ect. We still haven't given them first-line jet fighters such as the Phantom, or enough choppers to permit them to move very many troops very far — such as across the DMZ. There was never any thought to letting them have bombers. As long as we stay there (which could be around the year 2000), we'll tie one hand behind them.

Why? The answer is simple: We don't want them to heat up a cooling war. We don't want certain delicate dealings with the Soviet Union and Mainland China to be jarred off center. We don't want anybody to make waves.



K of C Advisory Committee

Past grand knights of Rochester Council No. 178, Knights of Columbus, meet as the Advisory Committee to plan the 75th anniversary of their council. From left to right, seated, are John Ward; John Kinney; Kenneth A. Burnett, grand knight; Robert Farrell; Raymond Nary, chairman; Orrin Ochs, secretary; Thomas O'Connor; Robert Ridley; and George Schenk; standing, from left, are Charles Northcote, deputy grand knight; Vincent Hannon; and Edward Miller.

Family Center Referral Cases Down Sharply

By ALEX McDONALD

The diocesan Catholic Family Center is dealing with fewer unmarried mothers than a year ago despite broadened efforts to offer counselling and practical aid to girls with a "problem pregnancy."

Figures just released that 11,641 unmarried women upstate had abortions performed since the law was liberalized last Spring prompted the question: What do you offer to women facing the abortion dilemma?

"We sent 500 letters to doctors, hospital social service departments, parish priests and college chaplains in this area," James M. Maloney the Center's director said, "offering to accept referrals of girls and women who desire counselling to explore the alternatives to the legal abortion." The response has been very small.

"We also have lined up 20 homes where a girl and her baby can be comfortably sheltered for six weeks after the child comes. She needs time while she makes plans about returning to her own family, getting housing and a job, and day-care for the child, or takes counsel about giving the child up for adoption.

"The Center can also offer many homes where a girl may wait-out her pregnancy away from her family and assisted by a case-worker.

Miss Catherine Wobus, case-work director for the Family Center, agreed that the drop in applications for counselling was due to the abortion legislation and the growing inclination of girls to keep their babies.

"Parental acceptance of a girl's problem-pregnancy — and even her school's toleration of her condition — have encouraged many girls to handle the pregnancy without an agency's assistance," she said. The unmarried girl who is pregnant is not a startling disgrace in most neighborhoods today, it seems.

The counselling at the Family Center offers the unwed mother "every possible alternative" to deter her from having an abortion, Maloney explained. "We're prepared to discuss the whole dilemma and outline a series of assists we are equipped to supply. We emphasize the adoptive procedures available."

He admitted that some girls, and married women, have probably avoided Catholic counselling since abortion was legalized for fear that "we have a moral pre-disposition on the subject.

"But if she does not accept our counsel we urge her to

visit a non-charge, non-profit group called Problem Pregnancy rather than letting her go right off to a doctor or hospital. This offers her one more source of possibly-detering advice before she decides on the abortion."

Family Center proudly cites its close care for the mother and child if the girl decides to keep her baby. It does not approve of several unmarried mothers and their babies living together, but helps encourage parental support of the girl if she can return home, or arranges a foster home and day-care for the infant while the mother works.

But if the problem becomes too heavy, adoption is encouraged. The Family Center placed 122 babies in the past 12 months (as compared with 136 in the previous year).

"If we persuade any girl not to have an abortion we feel a moral obligation to find a permanent home for that child. And if we look hard enough we believe we can get the best-possible adoptive parents for every child," Maloney said.

Forty-five of the 122 adoptions were "hard-to-place" children, Miss Wobus revealed. "These include older children, black or mixed-race babies, babies mentally or physically handicapped."

The charity of modern couples — not only the childless but many who have children of their own — to take a child whose chances for adoption would be slim in normal adoptive cases is very heartening, she said.


A group of people who have adopted a hard-to-place child, calling themselves the Council of Adoptive Parents, are very active, Miss Wobus said, "and are ready to go anywhere to answer questions for couples who might consider the handicapped or black child."

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

Ithaca — Father Theodore Jones was ordained to the priesthood at St. John's Episcopal Church, where he served as curate, Tuesday, June 1. The Roman Catholic parish, Immaculate Conception, wished him congratulations and offered in print, the hope "he will continue to offer his generous and needed services to our community."

THURSDAY DEADLINE

Remember that the news and photo deadline for the Courier-Journal is Thursday noon for the following week's newspaper.



"Services at
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