

SARAH CHILD  
**All In  
The Family**



The Random Dictionary of the English Language defines "serendipity" as "the faculty of making desirable discoveries by accident."

Last week I had serendipity. I think. It was the third bout of the misery this year for me. The first time an attack of bronchitis had laid me low and my mate had had to take several days from work to tend the preschoolers. The second time I came down with Albany flu — at least that's where I seemed to have caught it. Bundled up with a quilt I sat in the rocker and watched the kids do things to the living room a wrecking squad could not have accomplished.

This third time round, a new attack of flu, had me thermometer in mouth, stretched out on the couch, attempting to rest and keep an eye on the troops at the same time.

It was during the mustard fight over the French's squarier between the two-year-old and the four-year-old that suddenly serendipity came to me.

"My mother", I breathed softly to nobody in particular. Then, shouting, "My mother, My mother, My mother!"

Last time Mom had been invited to come in and take over had been seven years ago with the birth of Numero Uno. Only trouble was we couldn't get her to limit herself to changing diapers and cooking supper. Instead she could in spare moments be found scrubbing a seldom used powder room floor on hands and knees, whipping

up Hawaiian lemon pies and calling her mother for advice.

But, if ever there was a time I needed her this was it.

Next day before noon she was here, having managed to neaten her house, stop to get the makings for homemade soup for the invalid and drive 130 miles.

In what seemed like 10 minutes I was being offered poached egg on toast and hot tea on a tray, the kids were lurching quietly at the table and the kitchen miraculously was empty of overflowing wastebaskets, dirty dishes and assorted mustard stains. Beef was simmering on the back burner for the supper soup when I took two aspirin and went to bed.

This idyll continued for three days. True I had trouble containing her. The laundry routine and bed changing went on and on and so did the vacuuming and sweeping. I did stop her from cleaning the refrigerator two days in a row and from tackling the kitchen floor on hand and knees.

But, the cooking and cleaning and waiting on us was nothing compared to watching the kids with their grandma. They got kissed hello, goodbye and in between every time they left the house. There was time for rocking and time to make pudding and time to go to the store for a special treat. And as soon as some agency learns how to package that kind of care, they'll make a mint.

**Who Speaks For The Unborn Child?**

**Dolphins - Yes; Babies - No**

"Dolphins and porpoises are man's first cousins in the animal kingdom... Inadvertently and carelessly, men are engaged in the wholesale killing of these fascinating mammalian cousins... An New York York Times Editorial — "To Kill a Cousin" — 9-8-71.

As I contemplated the death of the dolphins — and considered also that in one year alone an estimated 167,903 unborn babies lost their lives in just one city (New York) through legalized abortion—the thought came to me: how will certain events of our time be explained to people in the years to come?

Let us suppose that we could eavesdrop on a conversation in the future. The year is 1995. A father, active in the successful struggle of the early 1970's to save the dolphin, is finishing a description of the effort to his 20-year-old daughter.

Father: And that, Joan, is how we saved the baby dolphins. The next year we passed a law to save baby seals.

Daughter: What about unborn human babies, Dad? Not our "ecological cousins" — but our daughters and sons?

F: That was different Joan, our society faced very serious problems in those days. There was war and poverty and disease and racial prejudice — violence of all kinds. To be honest, many of us became somewhat annoyed with all the talk about unborn children. The people doing the talking didn't seem to show much compassion for other social causes.

D: So you responded by not showing compassion for their social cause? The unborn babies died because you were dis-

turbed by the people talking about them?

F: No, no, that's not fair. It's simply that... if it were right to be concerned about unborn children, then wouldn't the socially involved people share that concern? I concede that some of them did — but those that did usually came from a similar religious background. Then too, I wonder if many were doctors or women.

D: Dad, you yourself taught me to react to what people are saying — never to their race or creed or anything else?

F: Yes, that's right.

D: Then, why did you set up four tests... all of them personal... none of them involving the abortion question itself? First, you decide who was compassionate and who was not. The survivors of the character analysis were then given a religious test, a sexual test, and a medical background test. These facts disqualified any person with an opposing view... except for a woman doctor with the proper religious background and social concern. Should the fate of an unborn baby depend on the ability of other persons to pass character tests and background tests?

F: Joan, I'm afraid you just don't understand. Probably you never will, for you didn't live through those times. I wish I could take you back to the 1970's. If only I could show you some of the very real problems that women faced. You may not like it, but abortion did provide some sort of solution to many of these problems.

D: But couldn't your genera-

tion have provided a solution which showed concern for both the mother and the baby? Impossible? You flew to the moon. You built gigantic computers. You cracked the genetic code. Was a womanly solution to the problems too much to ask? You saved the dolphins — but you couldn't save the babies?

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**Mental Health Commentary**

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

Q. My son is two years old and doesn't talk, what can I do about it?

A. A two year old ordinarily is beginning to put words together in short phrases. If he has no words at all, his speech is lagging. There are several possible reasons for this. The first step is to decide what is the most likely cause. His physician can help you decide.

The second step would be to refer him to the most appropriate special service for further study to establish the exact cause and best treatment plan; for example, if there is evidence of mental retardation, referral to the Clinic for Developmental Disorders of Children at Strong Memorial Hospital may give you an answer. If it is due to emotional factors, referral to a childrens psychiatric clinic may be indicated.

So ask his physician what he thinks.

Questions on children's mental health should be mailed to: Mental Health Commentary, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, 14604.

**Catholic War Vets Honor John Bittner**

Monroe County Catholic War Veterans recently choose John G. Bittner as the Outstanding Catholic Layman for 1971.

Bittner is a former Rochester Postmaster and City Councilman, now active in Parish life at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

A Mass will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Mar. 19, with a breakfast following to

present this award to him.

Main speaker for this event will be Detective Supervisor Gene LaChimia.

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