



Coffee House Planned

Members of the St. Lawrence Youth Group practice old movie music for their up-coming coffee house featuring such silent classic films as 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Dracula and Laurel and Hardy. Live folk entertainment is also slated that evening, Saturday, Feb. 19, 8-11 p.m., in the parish hall.



SARAH CHILD

All In The Family

I have just received a threatening note from a women's magazine saying that unless I pay my long overdue bill in 10 days they will turn my account over to a collection agency.

I was not aware I owed a bill, particularly since I don't get their magazine.

Incensed, and just a little afraid, I've written a scathing letter to the publishers (always write to the top man or woman in any organization) explaining the situation.

Whatever the outcome, the particular magazine shall forever remain a "dirty name" in my mind for its consumer relations practices.

Some day all business organizations that deal with the public directly will learn the value of expert handling of the customer. Some companies know full well the benefits to be reaped by using a little deference. Others will never learn.

Ten years ago as a bachelor girl I overlooked a telephone bill one month. Immediately I received a letter notifying me of my crime, with the implication that I was not trustworthy, that I was attempting to cheat them and unless I paid at once the phone would be removed.

Shaken to the core I hunted through the cupboard and did come across the bill. True, I had forgotten to pay it, an error I remedied at once. A decade later I still look upon the telephone company with contempt for its graceless ways. Worse perhaps for them I refuse to have a second telephone put in

the house reasoning that one is a necessity, two would be an extra profit for them that I don't care to furnish. A small thing, not making the least dent in their corporate structure. But I wonder how many other customers see the corporate image tarnished because of similar treatment for human error.

By contrast I always think of the city bus line as a warm and human company. Again the reason is a simple one: How many times did I as a career girl go running up the street to catch a bus, successful only because a kind bus driver saw me coming and waited the five extra seconds.

Stores have customer relation problems, perhaps to a higher degree than any other business.

As a check-out clerk during summer jobs I learned that the angriest customer could be soothed with the right words and a helpful attitude. True there will always be among us the person who complains only because he enjoys it so much but most people want to have good relationships with the stores they patronize.

I have my favorite shopping places. The stores that recognize that I don't like bringing my pre-schooler with me any better than they do but will tolerate them kindly are number one in my book. To them I will show loyalty, friendship and tolerance.

For all of us consumers a little extra in treatment goes a long way. Wake up, business world.

Students Organize Education Workshop

Watkins Glen — A search for new modes in education has been launched by some of the people most intimately concerned — high school students themselves.

The District XI Association of Student Councils is organizing a Southern Tier Education Workshop to be held here March 17-19. Invitations have been sent to 84 schools in a 10-county area — to their principals and school boards, faculties, student government and parent-teacher associations.

State education department officials and experts in various fields are on the speakers' roster.

Joseph Roccisano, chairman, said that the students hope for the development of "fantastic new ideas and improved human relations in schools."

"We strongly need and desire adult participation," he added.

Information may be obtained through Roccisano at 103 South Ave., Watkins Glen, N.Y. 14891.

Who Speaks for the Unborn Child?

Pregnancy After Assault

Question: How often does pregnancy result from rape?

If a woman victimized by rape takes the available non-abortive precautions, her chances of becoming pregnant are about as great as her chances of being hit by a falling meteor. I am not being facetious. It is that rare.

If no preventive measures at all are taken, less than 1% of rape victims will conceive a child. The extreme physical and psychological tensions of the rape situation make pregnancy virtually impossible.

For the 1%, however, it is important to realize that non-abortive preventive procedures are easily available at the nearest hospital. As Dr. and Mrs. John Wilke, nationally known authorities on human sexuality, point out in their book on abortion, "If the rape victim would report her assault promptly, there would be, for all practical purposes, no pregnancies from rape."

So rare is pregnancy from rape that many states and countries issuing abortion statistics do not even include rape as a category. Others put "statutory rape" and forced rape under the same heading. "Statutory rape" describes the situation in which a girl freely consents to sexual relations but is under a certain age. Since no force is involved, pregnancy is more possible. In reports where the statistics appear to show a significant number of pregnancies from rape, a check should reveal that "statutory rape" has been included in the same category with forced rape.

One country which has issued separate statistics for forced rape is Czechoslovakia. Out of 86,000 consecutive Czechoslovakian abortions, only 22 were done for rape. This figures out to one in 4,000. To put it another way, 99.97% of planned Czechoslovakian abortions were not performed for rape. Twenty-two such cases in the whole country — and this includes

women who did not take the available preventive means!

In order to understand what I believe is happening in the present abortion debate, let me return to my previous example. Suppose that, for some reason, I do not want my children to leave the house. Instead of saying this directly, however, I begin to tell them stories about boys and girls who were crushed to death by falling meteors. I make the stories so vivid and I repeat them so often that soon my children cannot put on their overcoats without worrying about "the meteor problem." John turns anxiously to his sister and asks, "With all the danger out there, should we really leave?"

Perhaps my strategy is effective. But is it fair? Can I justify myself by saying that on rare occasions a tragedy does occur and meteors do kill? Or am I really deceiving my children?

(If you have any questions on abortion for this column, please write to Women For The Unborn, Box 269, Merrick, New York 11566)

Mental Health Commentary

By the DE PAUL CLINIC

QUESTION: My 7-year-old son was completely toilet trained by 18 months of age. Two years ago, he suddenly began wetting the bed almost every night. Sometimes, he will be dry for several days, so I know he can control it. His pediatrician doesn't think it is physical and believes he will grow out of it. Is there anything that can be done to break this habit?

ANSWER: "Bedwetting" is a symptom which can have a variety of causes, physical and emotional.

The typical bedwetter of the "habit" type is usually a very deep sleeper — so deep he loses bladder control. There may be different reasons for the "habit" of deep sleep including to escape disturbing dreams.

Theoretically, the treatment of this type of bedwetting is to remove the cause of the deep sleep pattern which may be related to guilt and fear of his anger.

Bedwetting usually disappears as a child grows older and finds acceptable ways of expressing feelings he may have feared when he was younger.

Physiological causes should be eliminated, of course. Persistent psychogenic bedwetting deserves a psychiatric study. Remember, the bedwetter does not wet deliberately. He can not help it. Punishing him can only make the problem worse and may create new problems. It is better to do nothing than to handle the problem wrongly.

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

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