

Abortion and the Law

Why are there laws? It has been suggested that laws against abortion were enacted solely because of medical hazards to the mother. History shows otherwise.

Laws protecting the unborn can be traced back to the Sumerian Code of 2000 B.C.; to the Assyrian, Hittite, and Hammurabic Codes of a few centuries later; and to the Persian Code of 600 B. C.

Protection of the fetus from conception to birth was the aim of the 1803 English law after which our American laws were patterned.

The thrust of contemporary law — with the single exception of the abortion movement — is toward recognition of the unborn child as a person at all stages of his existence. Acknowledgement of his legal right has been a true evolution of the law in response to the growth of scientific knowledge.

The courts have established that the fetus:

- Can be wrongfully injured.
- Can be protected from parental neglect.
- Can claim present support from the parent.
- Can inherit property or be the beneficiary of a trust.
- Can be preferred to the religious liberty of the parent.
- Surely, he may be guarded from intentional destruction!
- The right to life has been affirmed by:
- The Declaration of Independence, which states that all men

are endowed by their Creator with the inalienable right to life;

The 14th Amendment, which declares that no one may be deprived of life without due process of law (due process being concerned with the prevention of arbitrary and unreasonable

legislation and unfair judicial procedures);

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which recognizes that the being before birth is a "child", and that the child, so defined, needs legal protection.

SARAH CHILD

All In The Family



A recent study in Ohio has revealed the not very astounding fact that even women who have attained a high status in the professional world place motherhood above career.

In an attempt to test the feminist theory that status jobs for women would automatically lower the birth rate, social scientists at a large university studied 53 marriages in which the wife was a practicing lawyer, physician or professor.

They discovered that 45 couples had a mean of 2.4 children. Seven had at least four children and several others were planning four or five.

Said a mother of three who was planning on two more children: "I don't know if there is anything that brings the depth of satisfaction that children bring." She added that in spite

of the cost to her career and the fact that children can be frustrating and difficult, she doubted she could ever get from the career the satisfaction the children gave her.

The notion that women can substitute job, status, prestige gains for the maternal instinct and suffer no loss may be the greatest error fostered by the feminist movement.

As one who sees more to identify with in the movement with each succeeding month, I am the first to agree that women are capable of far more than they have been allowed to contribute thus far in history.

But to negate the one side of women in order to promote the other forces within her she has long had to quell is utter insanity. There is room for both in most women's lives. Some women will never want to engage in any other work apart from rearing children, cosseting a husband and keeping house. Some women want no part of marriage, motherhood or housework. Both groups should be allowed to do as they wish.

But the majority of women in the years to come will realize that a career will not rule out motherhood nor vice versa. Child bearing and rearing takes about 20 years. That leaves another 30 years of productivity in another area.

And my own pet theory is that the woman who has had the joy, the challenge, the work and the satisfaction of rearing a family will bring something unique and special in knowledge of daily living to the complexities of another career.

What we must do now is prepare our young girls for all the marvelous possibilities that lie ahead and instruct them how to order their own priorities.

SETON SHOP

The Seton Shop at 151 Genesee has Spring and Summer clothing for sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; and from 10 until 1 Saturday. The shop is operated by volunteers for the benefit of St. Mary's Hospital.

Bridge Tourney Set at Xerox

The Rochester Area Bridge Association and the Central New York Bridge Association will sponsor a duplicate bridge tournament, sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League, Friday, March 24, at 8:15 p.m.

Proceeds will go to the United Cerebral Palsy Association Foundation for research.

The game will be at the Xerox Corp. Cafeteria 335, Seine Drive, Webster, New York. Open and limited pairs.

Mental Health Commentary

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

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

QUESTION — My sister admits she has been abusing her child. She says she can't help it because the child upsets her so she goes into a rage. The child is often innocent. She says she would accept help. Where can she get it without going through a court action.

ANSWER — Child abuse implies the infliction of unreasonable physical or mental punishment on a child and is against the law in New York State. In Monroe County, the Department of Social Services has a "Child Protective Unit" which investigates allegations of child abuse. The court need not be involved.

Abuse of children may be the result of an impulsive act by an angry but otherwise healthy parent or person involved in the child's life. Repeated abuse of a child is always a personality difficulty.

The first step is to determine the cause of the abusive behavior, the immediate risk to the child and the treatability of the underlying problem.

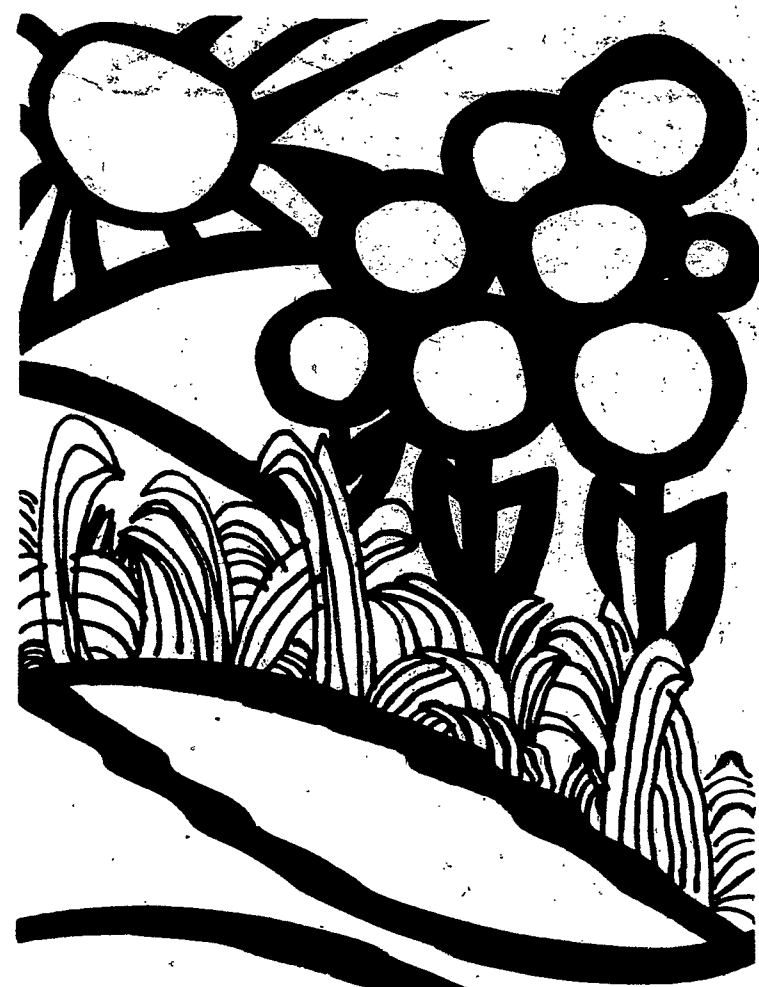
Repeated child abusers usually have other signs of personal distress. Sometimes they can ask for help though often they are afraid to admit their impulsive behavior to anyone. Among Catholics, priests often have been consulted first. If your sister wants help, let's determine the type of help she needs and where she might get it. If you or members of your family need advice regarding the next step, talk to one of your priests or call one of your Catholic Charities organizations.

If you wish to talk to someone at the DePaul Clinic, call 548-7220. We can, at least, share with you the burden of deciding what to do next. If a child's welfare is at stake, please don't delay.

Dear Mrs. H.:

Your problem is a complex one and must contribute to your distress. First, re-establish yourself well on the road to recovery outside the hospital. When you are able, discuss with your aftercare therapist where you might discuss the problem further. A family service agency might be appropriate. You must remember that helping an upset child requires the cooperation of those with whom he lives. Older teenagers can be helped by counseling for themselves in their school, in social agencies or, if necessary, a mental health clinic.

Good luck!



**SUDDENLY,
It's Spring!**

So...
what's
new?

The new Spring Quarter of evening classes at Rochester Institute of Technology begins March 27. Registrations are now being accepted.

And...
what else
is
different?

This spring quarter offers a brand new time of the year to begin studies in areas such as Social Work, Advertising Design, Industrial Supervision, Materials Handling and Packaging, Transportation and Traffic Management, Health Institutions Management, Industrial Marketing, Electromechanical Technology, Production and Personnel Management.

Spring into action by calling now...
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