

Another Dred Scott Case?

By ELLEN McCORMACK
Women for the Unborn

Should every human life be respected? Or are some lives disposable? Is there a difference between a human life and a legal person?

These questions are now asked with regard to unborn babies. But our society asked these questions once before . . . in the 19th Century . . . with respect to black people. Perhaps this is why, out of all groups, it is the black community — not the Catholic community — that today shows least support for abortion-on-demand (according to a 1970 Harris Poll, for example,

only 29 per cent of the black community supported permissive abortion, while 57% opposed it).

It might be interesting to compare today's rhetoric with that of the last century:

Slavery (1857): "Although he may have a heart and a brain, and he may be a human life biologically, a slave is not a legal person. The Dred Scott decision by the United States Supreme Court has made that clear. The court also gave the opinion that any state laws prohibiting slavery within that state are unconstitutional, since such laws violate a citizen's right to private property."

Abortion (1972): "Although he may have a heart and a brain, and he may be a human life biologically, an unborn baby is not a legal person. Our courts will soon make that clear. The United States Supreme Court should declare that any state law prohibiting abortion within that state is unconstitutional, since such laws violate a woman's right to privacy."

Slavery: "When does a black man become a legal person? Only when he is set free. Before that time, we should not concern ourselves about him because he has no legal rights."

Abortion: "When does a baby become a legal person? Only when he is born. Before that time, we should not concern ourselves about him because he has no legal rights."

Slavery: "If you think that slavery is wrong, then nobody is forcing you to be a slave-owner. But don't impose your morality on somebody else!"

Abortion: "If you think abortion is wrong, then nobody is forcing you to have one. But don't impose your morality on somebody else!"

Slavery: "A man has a right to do what he wants with his own property."

Abortion: "A woman has a right to do what she wants with her own body."

Slavery: "Isn't slavery really something merciful? After all, every black man has a right to be protected. Isn't it better never to be set free than to be sent unprepared, and ill-equipped, into a cruel world?"

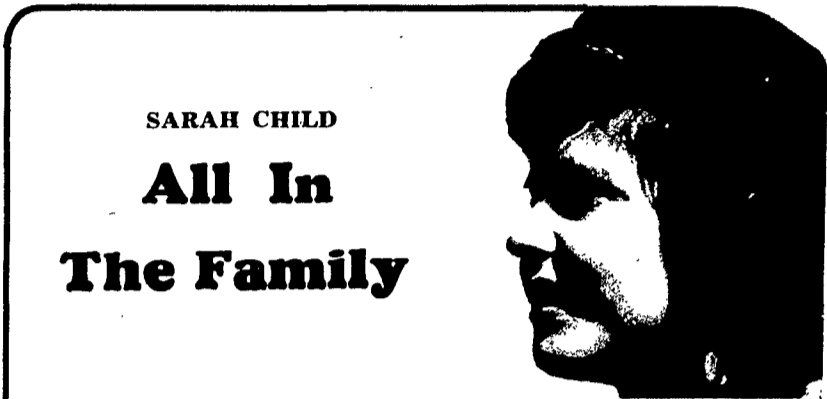
(Spoken by someone already free)

Abortion: "Isn't abortion really something merciful? After all, every baby has a right to be wanted. Isn't it better never to be born than to be sent alone and unloved into a cruel world?"

(Spoken by someone already born)

NUNS WIN ELECTIONS

Milwaukee — (RNS) — Two Roman Catholic nuns, one a Dominican, and the other a Benedictine, won local races in Wisconsin elections on April 4. Sister Michelle Olley, OP, led a field of six candidates in winning election to the Racine United School Board. Sister Mary Frances Gebhard, OSB, campaigning in the 21st district won a seat on the Eau Claire County Board, the county's legislative body.



SARAH CHILD
**All In
The Family**

For years I've been dreaming of a maintenance-free home, one that literally would require almost no upkeep. What the building and home decorating industries call maintenance-free and what I call maintenance free, however, are two different things.

Now for the kitchen I envision a concrete floor sloping to a drain in the middle. "I told the tract salesman brightly. "Once a week I'll just hose it down."

"Have you ever considered a dirt floor?" was his rejoinder.

"We can only afford to carpet one room." I continued undaunted, "and that will be the family room. I want something mud-colored flecked with hues of gravel and grass stain.

"And I suppose you're going to slipcover the furniture in peanut butter tan accented with spaghetti sauce red," he smirked.

"Of course not," I shot back. "Nobody eats spaghetti in my family room. The accent color is coffee stain brown.

"Or maybe," I added thoughtfully, "banana peel green.

"You haven't chosen paint colors for the kids' rooms," he interrupted.

Mental Health Commentary

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

QUESTION — Why is not hypnosis used more extensively to treat people with emotional problems to shorten the treatment which sometimes takes so long?

ANSWER — Hypnotism is an induced trance in which the subject accepts the will of the hypnotist. It can, indeed, be used to pry into the depths of the unconscious mind in an attempt to reveal forgotten, troublesome memories. It has been used to remove, by suggestion, puzzling symptoms of a physical problem, thereby speeding up the diagnostic study. Some psychotherapists use it as part of their treatment.

Hypnosis is not a technique that should be used lightly since it teaches a method of avoiding one's feelings and conflicts. If it can reveal unconscious memories, it can promote the forgetting of painful memories. If used in on-going treatment, this complication can be dealt with so the subject can control this escapism. The therapist should be skilled in the technique and aware of possible complications and how to deal with them. Hypnosis can not do what can be done without it. In the case of children, working with the family is necessary whether hypnosis is or is not used in their treatment.

In this geographic area, hypnosis is not commonly used in the treatment of adults and rarely with children. It has been used in the past as a pain reliever especially in dentistry and obstetrics.

It might be added that amateur and "stage hypnosis" should be avoided. It is tampering with a delicate mental mechanism and, like drug use, is potentially dangerous.

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

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