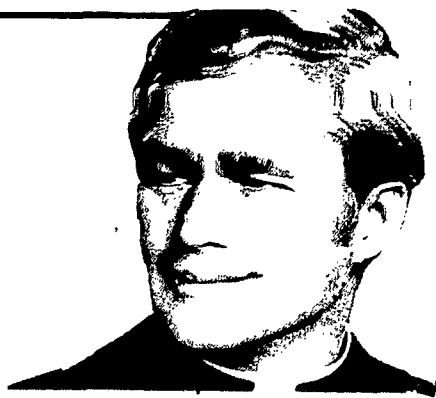


FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

## The Open Window



Q. Please help me to understand the church's new ruling on "underage marriages". Is this a universal ruling or local? I feel that when a young couple want or need to be married, as the case may be, that is the time they need to be able to turn to their church for guidance, understanding, and the sacrament of marriage. What mortal has the right to refuse a sacrament? Even in the confessional the forgiveness of sin is given by mortal man conditionally; the condition being mainly on God's decision, not man's. I feel withholding the sacrament of marriage is tending to drive the young from the Catholic faith. It is also leaving a "bad taste" in many non-Catholics' minds, and many Catholics', for that matter.

A. The new ruling on "underage marriages" is local. The background on it is this: If the Church insists that marriage is indissoluble, which it is, then every precaution must be taken to guarantee, insofar as humanly possible, that the contract is made with fullest possible chance of success. That means a couple who know what is involved, who are perfectly free, and as knowledgeable about the practical problems of marriage as possible.

Marriage for life has always been a serious and difficult commitment. Combine extreme youth with the complexities of our society and you compound the difficulty.

Let me make some observations on your question:

1. Marriage for teens is not prohibited under the present rule. It calls for a closer examination of the maturity of the parties and sometimes a ruling that the marriage must be delayed. This ruling follows interviews by the pastor and a social worker(s) of the young couple and their parents. It is a human judgment and could be mistaken, but isn't it better to be mistaken in favor of delay rather than mistaken in approving a marriage which has small chance of success?

2. You refer to a "need" to get married. I am sure you refer to pregnancy. Both Church authorities and sociologists today refuse to accept the idea of "need to get married". More often than not it is far better if the couple wait on a decision until after the child is born.

3. You speak as though the Church is refusing guidance and understanding. Tell me, when you refuse your children something they want which is against your better judgment, are you lacking in guidance and understanding? If one of yours was to leave home because of refusal to follow your guidance in a serious matter, would you back down and give in?

4. If this rule leaves a bad taste, I think it reflects a lack of understanding of the purpose of the rule or else a personal emotional involvement.



Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

### 'Whyn'cha Buy This One?'

Brenda Dufoe tries to make a sale to Stephanie Pierleoni at lawn sale held last Friday and Saturday to benefit St. Anthony of Padua school. The oddments sale was organized by six children led by Lori Ann Albanes, to help the parish school they attend.

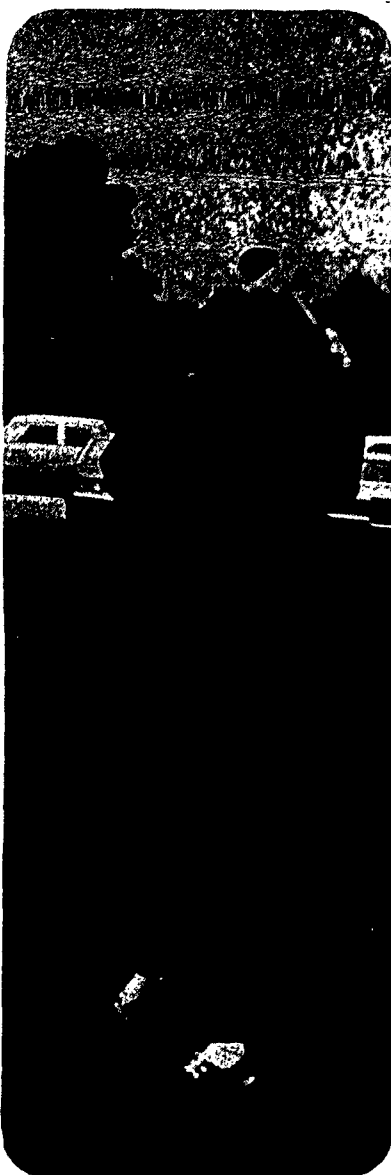


Photo by John B. Stevens

### Aid 'Fore' School

Peggy McGraw tees off on the first hole of the Immaculate Conception Golf Tournament held at Craggie Brae Golf Course last Saturday. Toby Hayes, chairman of the tournament, hopes to make it an annual affair to raise funds for the Immaculate Conception School.

# you don't have to Look CHUBBY



## go Back to School

in

Tim Girl  
Tim Teen  
Simpsons

SIZES  
8 1/2 to 20 1/2

"NO ONE IS HARD TO FIT" at

# SCHOEMAN'S

458 MONROE AVE. FREE PARKING  
Corner Meigs

## NOW YOU CAN GET OUT ON THE TOWN ON A BUDGET —

With

THE NEW ... 72-73  
DINING WITH AFTER DARK

# DINNER CLUB COUPON BOOK

## \$55. CASH VALUE

### BOOK CONTAINS COUPONS FOR 15 RESTAURANTS AND 3 THEATRES

BOOKS ARE NOW

AVAILABLE THROUGH:

BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL  
PHONE: 342-4000

NAZARETH ACADEMY  
PHONE: 458-8583

OUR LADY OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL  
PHONE: 288-7100

CARDINAL MOONEY HIGH SCHOOL  
PHONE: 865-1000

Present book when dining at any of the restaurants in the column to left. Each coupon entitles bearer to one free dinner (not to exceed the amount printed on the upper right hand corner of each coupon) provided that one additional dinner is purchased at the same time at regular menu prices.

Book produced by After Dark in Rochester Magazine ... member Better Business Bureau.

### Restaurants And Theatres In Book

PRICE INDICATES COUPON VALUE

- Eddie's Chop House \$4.00  
Valid: May 1, 1973—Sept. 30, 1973  
Entire Week
- Downtowner \$4.00  
Valid: Entire Week, except Holidays
- Treadway Inn \$3.25  
Valid: Entire Week, except Holidays
- Rio Bamba \$3.00  
Valid: Sunday thru Thursday, except Holidays
- Ramada Inn \$3.00  
Valid: Entire Week, except Holidays
- Marshall's Steak House \$3.00  
Valid: Entire Week, except Holidays
- Lamplighter \$3.00  
Valid: Sunday thru Thursday, except Holidays
- Towne House \$3.00  
Jan. 19-Oct. 15, 1973 Sun.-Tues., except Holidays
- Schukart's \$3.00  
Valid: Entire Week, except Holidays
- Henri's \$3.00  
Valid: Sunday thru Tuesday, except Holidays
- Johnson House \$3.00  
Valid: Sunday thru Wednesday, except Holidays
- The Viking \$3.00  
Valid: Sunday thru Friday, except Holidays
- Royal Scot Steak House \$3.00  
July 1-Oct. 31, 1973 Sun.-Thurs., except Holidays
- Cafe Avion \$3.00  
Valid: Monday thru Thursday, except Holidays
- Golden West Steaks \$3.00  
Valid: Sunday thru Thursday
- Showplace 1  
One Free Admission Sun. thru Thurs., except Holidays
- Showplace 2  
One Free Admission Sun. thru Thurs., except Holidays
- The Pocket  
One Free Admission Sun. thru Thurs., except Holidays