

SARAH CHILD  
**All In  
The Family**



Judy came over for coffee one morning last week. Judy is a good friend to have. Not only is she wise in the ways of children (she has four) and marriage survival (a very nice but very busy husband) but she also possesses a certain quickness of mind about other exigencies of life.

She is the one who told me how to deal with a pseudo liberal friend who kept insisting that I hang an equal housing opportunity sign in our front window.

"Put your darkest complexioned child in the window every day between two and four," recommended Judy, one of whose four happens to be adopted and a lovely shade of brown.

When we were attempting to sell our own house with very little luck I confided in Judy.

"We've shown this house to 30 couples," I moaned.

"Keep a stiff upper lip," said Judy. "It takes 60 couples going through to produce one buyer."

When we sold the house to the 54th pair of lookers I began to look at Judy with new respect.

Over our latest cup of coffee together, we covered, as usual, a multitude of subjects ranging from our respective weight problems through the kids' newest foibles to the best kind of kitchen cabinets.

Then I happened to mention that I was housebound that day, the family breadwinner having taken our year-old-station wagon into the garage for diagnosis and treatment of a mysterious ailment.

"It figures," said Judy between sipping black coffee and separating her youngest and mine who both wanted the same musical toy.

"How long have you been in the new house," she queried.

Puzzled, I replied that it had been a little over a month. "Well, it's time," she said knowingly. "You buy a house and are up to your ears in mortgage payments. The curtains, etc., put you in up over the top of your head. Right?"

I nodded silently.

"Then," continued my expert

whose last move was a year and half ago, "the car starts acting up, the clothes dryer suddenly stops and the fitted bed sheets all develop holes. Even the camera goes into shock."

I looked at this oracle across from me and shook my head in disbelief.

I recited my litany for her: "The typewriter collapsed permanently last week. The television started to burn the day after. The two-year-old knocked our last alarm clock off the nightstand and the washer has omitted the first spin cycle since we moved."

The oracle just smiled. Judy's Law, as I've dubbed it, was working perfectly.

**Latin Mass  
Slated at  
Cennacle**

A Latin High Mass will mark the 20th Sunday after Pentecost Oct. 8, at 4 p.m. at the Cennacle Chapel.

The Gregorian Chant Choir, under the direction of Dr. Erich Schwandt, will sing the traditional Gregorian proper, and figured music of Palestrina.

The Masses are sponsored by the Eastman School Newman Club. In addition to the Oct. 8 Mass, Masses are scheduled for Nov. 12 and Dec. 3. The public is invited to attend.

**Work-a-Thon  
Slated by  
Saint Jude's**

"Perspiration, dedication, and inspiration are what we are asking area teenagers to give," Mrs. Carol Rogers, the Monroe County director of the St. Jude children's research hospital project said recently.

On Oct. 14, a Work-a-Thon will be held to raise funds for the non-denominational, non-secretarian hospital where young patients suffering from catatropic diseases are treated free of charge regardless of race or creed.

In Work-a-Thon a teenager obtains a worker kit through his school. He signs up friends, neighbors or relatives who are willing to give him odd jobs. On Oct. 14 he performs these tasks and collects a tax deductible donation from each sponsor.

The Work-a-Thon is expected to involve thousands of Monroe County teenagers.

A call for volunteers has been issued to all of the young people in the area, and response has been good, according to Mrs. Rogers.

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Wednesday, October 4, 1972

**Mental Health Commentary**

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

In a recent suit, the District of Columbia Board of Education was charged with failure to provide public supported education and training for exceptional children. It was alleged that this school system continued to exclude, disband, expel, reassign and transfer exceptional children from the regular public school classes without affording them due process of law. United States District Judge Joseph C. Waddy determined that "due process of law requires a hearing prior to exclusion, termination or classification into a special program." "By failing to provide plaintiffs and their class the publicly supported specialized education to which they are entitled, the Board of Education violates the statutes of its own regulations."

The board claimed that they agree with the principle that handicapped children have a right to publicly financed special education but it was unable to provide such service without millions of dollars more than they have in their budget or curtailing other educational services. Judge Waddy countered that equal rights to education of these exceptional children cannot be excused by the contention that there are insufficient funds or because of administrative inefficiency.

He ordered the board to file with the Court a timetable for the identification of these children and a more comprehensive plan for their education within 30 days of his order.

The plaintiff claimed that emotionally disturbed children or children thought to be disturbed were being denied public education through disciplinary suspensions. The Judge ordered that such a child should not be suspended from public schools for disciplinary reasons for any period in excess of two days without affording him a hearing and without providing for his education during the time of any such suspension; and that those children who need special education programs shall either be placed in, or denied placement in, such a program unless the school system shall have first notified their parents or guardians.

In addition, parents or guardians who initiate hearing procedures have the right to legal counsel at the hearing, access to all school records and tests, free medical, psychological or educational evaluation and the right to make a tape recording of the proceedings. This is the first Court decision in the Nation stating explicitly that all handicapped children have a constitutional right to public education, according to one of the plaintiff's attorneys.

There was a similar ruling last spring when a Federal Court Judge ordered Pennsylvania to provide free education to all retarded children.

It is doubtful that this decision will affect public school children in most of Monroe County where we have enjoyed many facilities for handicapped children in and out of the public schools. Disturbing children, their teachers and their parents usually have access to some first line assistance in the school system and there are several resources outside which offer both evaluation and treatment. If the school does not have a class for such children, there are both residential and day treatment programs, which include education, and home tutoring.

The problem that seems to be snowballing is the increasing numbers of educationally handicapped children who become increasingly disturbed and disturbing in the regular schools. The frustration of the child, his family, the school personnel and the public is increasing and is outdistancing the available resources to deal with such problems effectively. The problems of the Rochester Public High Schools in the last few years testify to this.

Court mandated hearings with lawyers on both sides will be costly and time consuming and may detract from the school's primary responsibility — education. Perhaps we must change that responsibility and make schools Child Development Centers where the emphasis is not on education but on the child's total development.

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

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