

SARAH CHILD
All In
The Family



A sense of outrage can be a healthy thing. But only if you let it work for you.

I was thinking along such lines the other day when for the umpteenth time I was reading a letter to the editor from an anti-gun control lobbyist.

The writer was using one of the same arguments against stricter gun laws that we've all heard.

Namely: "Automobiles kill more people than guns. Why, then don't we outlaw automobiles?"

The logical response to this is simple, i.e. automobiles are designed to transport people. Guns are designed to kill, maim, destroy, ruin. It is their first and ultimate purpose.

There also is the current argument being used by the pro-abortion people. It says, and correctly, there are many children in the world today being abused by unstable parents. The second part of the argument follows: Thus, do not force women to bear children they do not want.

That, bluntly, is a non sequitur. There is no way of knowing how many children being abused were eagerly anticipated by their parents. Or conversely how many children whose births were not looked forward to initially became causes for great rejoicing once they came into the world.

Another such example of

cloudy thinking is the current belief of black social workers who maintain that black adoptive children belong in black homes and that failing to find such a home, they are better off in institutions than in white homes.

It is common knowledge that institutional life is an emotional cripple for youngsters. This group maintains that black families through years of discrimination have developed a built-in radar to help protect the black child.

My father, because of his parents' immigrant status, fought a debilitating prejudice throughout his early years. Because his mother and father could speak only a tiny amount of English and read and write none, he fought his battles almost single-handedly. There is more than one group of people in America who have developed a built-in radar!

But, this is not the point in this argument either. The point is that in adoption the important criteria are:

1. The child has a stable, loving environment.
2. The child loves back.
3. The parents foster the child's self-respect and esteem. Anything else is bunk.

Next time you come up against some bunk, try some logic. It works wonders. I feel better already.

Mental Health Commentary

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

My 9-year-old son started blinking his eyes about a year ago and still does it. He often does it in public which is very embarrassing. He says he can't stop it. The pediatrician says there is nothing physically wrong but he has an emotional problem which causes it. What is the cause and treatment of this?

The tic or habit spasm is an involuntary, sudden contraction of a group of muscles usually of the face and also of the neck, throat and shoulder as well as other parts of the body.

Twice as many boys have this condition as girls and the usual age of onset is between 6 and 8 years of age. Sometimes it lasts a few weeks, a few months, a few years or may continue into adulthood.

The habit spasm involves a particular group of muscles and is considered to be an expression of unconscious conflicts, for example, fear of aggressive behavior. Such a child can be telling us that he is trying to control angry feelings which lead him into conflicts with those in authority over him. Often these children are rather active physically and perhaps somewhat impulsive.

The following example illustrates how an eye blinking tic can be precipitated.

An 8-year-old boy's mother was increasingly distressed by his "picking on" a younger sibling despite her efforts to correct him. Finally his father, perhaps somewhat annoyed at his wife's complaining, decided to correct the sibling's problem once and for all. He did it by harshly scolding the boy in a way that he had never done before. While he was doing it the boy's eyes started blinking. The father realized he had gone too far but it was too late. For the next several years the boy had an eye blinking tic. Though he may have avoided his younger sibling, his resentment toward him increased as did his belligerence toward children outside the family increase.

Tics are frequently annoying to parents who may be embarrassed by them or annoyed by those which produce sounds such as sniffing and throat clearing tics. Scolding and otherwise calling attention to the tic does not help; more likely, such treatment will perpetuate the problem.

As with any behavior problem that has an unconscious basis, it is better to do nothing than do what would make the problem worse. Understanding the cause of the problem will give a rational basis for its management.

In the case of your son, one can assume with reasonable certainty that his tic was related to a family problem involving not only his feelings but those of other members of the family as well. Thus his tic might be interpreted as being an expression of a family problem.

The tic is not one of those psychogenic problems that is responsive to medication. Entrenched tics which have been present for years are difficult to treat. For this reason it could be said that the earlier the treatment begins the more successful it is likely to be.

There are other causes of muscle spasms. These usually are not of a particular set of muscles but "migrate", that is, different muscle groups may be involved at different times. It is usually not the case with a tic due to an emotional problem.

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

CYO Seeks Members

The 41st Annual CYO Membership Drive will take place through Oct. 27. The county wide goal is 6,200 members, according to Richard J. Stillman, CYO Board President.

The CYO is a member agency of Rochester-Monroe, County Community Chest and offers more than 40 programs to all residents of the area. Membership can be obtained for families, college students, elementary and high school students.

Priest-Aide To President Disputed

St. Paul, Minn. (RNS) — A Jesuit priest who is a speech writer for President Nixon encountered skepticism when he spoke before two political science classes at the College of St. Thomas here.

Father John McLaughlin had told the students that the President's Vietnam War policies are "moral, necessary, licit and upright."

One student told the priest, "It's hard to believe so few women and children are being burned and bombed. I really can't believe what you've said."

Another student, William Reed, 23, a sophomore majoring in political science, told the priest: "Everything you've said is a complete lie."

Reed said he served as a body-guard for Gen. Creighton Abrams, President Nixon's nominee for Army chief of staff, and with a convoy unit transporting enemy war prisoners from July 1970 to July 1971.

"We packed them (enemy war prisoners) in trailers, two to three hundred at a time, and locked the door and hauled them for three to four days without food or water," Reed told the class. "Father, don't get up there to tell me what's right or wrong."

CITATION FOR PROOF OF WILL

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK By the Grace of God Free and Independent

To Maude Speckgoor, East Lake Road, Hamlet, New York, 14471, Marie O. Keele, Grecian Gardens Apartments, Apt. #30-D, Rochester, New York 14626. Unknowns, being the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legal representatives or assigns of any of Gertrude E. Roth, deceased who claim to have a claim of interest in her estate and whose names and post office addresses, if living, are unknown to petitioner, and if dead to their executors, administrators, distributees, legatees and devisees who claim to have an interest in or title to any of the estate of said decedent by purchase, inheritance or otherwise, distributees of Gertrude E. Roth, deceased. Send Greetings.

Whereas Charles A. West, residing at No. 122 Alwood Drive in the City of Rochester, County of Monroe and State of New York, the executor named in a certain instrument in writing, bearing date September 18, 1959, purporting to be the last Will and Testament of said Gertrude E. Roth, late of the City of Rochester in said County of Monroe and State of New York, deceased, and relating to both real and personal property, has lately made application to the Surrogate's Court of the County of Monroe to have said instrument proved and recorded as the Will of the personal property and real property of said decedent, Gertrude E. Roth. Now, therefore, you and each of you are cited to show cause before the Surrogate's Court in the City of Rochester in said County of Monroe, New York, on the 9th DAY OF NOVEMBER 1972.

AT 9:30 O'CLOCK in the forenoon of that day, why the said Will and Testament of Gertrude E. Roth should not be admitted to probate.

If any of the aforesaid persons is under the age of twenty-one years or insane or otherwise incompetent, he will please take notice that he is required to appear by his general guardian or committee, if he has one, and if he has none that he appear and apply for the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem or in the event of his neglect or failure to do so a Guardian Ad Litem will be appointed by the Surrogate to represent and act for him in these proceedings.

In Testimony Whereof, the seal of the Surrogate's Court of the County of Monroe has been hereunto affixed. Witness Hon. Michael L. Rogers, Surrogate of said County at the City of Rochester this 2nd day of October, 1972. (L.S.) WILLIAM C. WILSON JR. Deputy Chief Clerk Surrogate Court

Personal appearance is not necessary unless you desire to file objections. Charles A. West, Attorney for Petitioner, 31 Main Street East, Rm. 400 Rochester, New York 14614. Area Code 716 546-1228. 10-11-18-25: 11-1-41

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