

SARAH CHILD
**All In
The Family**



For weeks I have been railing against the onslaught of Christmas Present.

There have been too many ads in the newspaper too early. The Post Office has been in on the conspiracy. A singing commercial tells me that if I haven't shopped and shipped by Dec. 10 to forget it.

There have been too many parties in too short a season (I am among the guilty, having given two myself).

The fruitcake doesn't have to be made. But I make it. The house doesn't need to be trimmed. But we trim it.

Television reinforces the assault. When we are not being bombarded by 10th reruns of "Rudolph" or "Frosty" consumer representatives appear to tell us which toys are potentially dangerous for our children and which are too sexually sophisticated.

The tree needs to be bought

and decorated. I can muster no enthusiasm.

Worst of all we ask the children what they would like Santa to bring and they have no answers. The reason is simple. They have everything within middle-class reason.

I remember Christmas Past with nostalgia.

There was less. But there was more.

Emphasis was on the creche. Not cocktail parties and cross-town traffic jams.

It was on the kitchen. Not the clothes closet and the rush for enough different outfits.

Emphasis was on church. Waiting for the Christmas scene to go up, going to confession when the line was shortest, on the pageantry of Midnight Mass. Not on the city's tallest evergreen tree, erected by downtown merchants in order to lure us downtown.

The exchange of gifts was the fulfilling and receiving of a particular heart's desire not an embarrassment of riches.

I am greedy. I want it back again. For my husband and my children and me. And for our families.

And I am going to have it. If not completely this year, then Christmas next. This is fair warning, to me, the one that wants to conform and thus not only ends up in the rat race but helps create it.

It will mean saying no to some things and yes to others. It will take some relearning to recognize what is important and what isn't. And I am going to start the re-education process right now.

V. A. Hospital Slates Show

The members of Rochester Council No. 178 Knights of Columbus will travel to Bath, Sunday, Jan. 7, for the 38th consecutive year, to cheer members and patients at the Veterans Administration Center.

Grand Knight Charles Northcote has completed arrangements for the distribution of PX coupons, gum and lifesavers to patients in the hospital and to all home members attending the evening show.

Stage shows will be presented at 2 p.m. in the hospital, and at 7 p.m. in the recreation center. Mrs. Albert Leopold will direct the show, and her daughter Valarie will do the choreography.

Sally Hemings and her stage show orchestra will furnish music. General chairman is Ray Nary.

Mercy Superior In New Role

Sister Mary Judith, superior general of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy, has been elected secretary-treasurer for one year of Region II of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Region II includes the major superiors of New York State and meets about four times a year. The election took place at a day-long meeting of the group recently at Good Counsel Convent, White Plains, New York.

Deaths

Lauretta Lehner

Lauretta Huether Lehner, 73, of Ames Street, died Dec. 13, 1972, in St. Mary's Hospital. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated Dec. 15 in Holy Family Church.

Mrs. Lehner was president of Ladies Auxiliary 48, Knights of St. John; president and life member of the Catholic Women's Union; a life member also of the Holy Family Rosary Society, and secretary of the parish credit union, with which she had been associated for 30 years.

Surviving are her son, Kenneth W. Ritzenthaler; a step-son, Vincent Ritzenthaler of Wheeling, W. Va.; a step-daughter, Mrs. Edith Carr; three sisters, Mrs. Bertha Dick, Mrs. Michael (Eva) St. John and Mrs. Mary Schwind; two brothers, James and Norman Huether; seven grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Mental Health Commentary

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

As our knowledge regarding learning disabilities increases, so does our confusion about what to do about it. Educators, psychologists, pediatricians, neurologists, psychiatrists and even neurosurgeons are all making their contributions to the problem with a variety of ideas about the various types of learning problems, their causes, and how to diagnose and treat them. Sometimes, it seems we are like the seven blind men and the elephant, all making out different observations, each arriving at a conclusion based on our own observations and bias.

To say a child has a learning problem is easy. Just look at his report card or talk to his teacher. Or have him tested by the school psychologist who can pin-point some of the difficulties and suggest areas for further study.

In the Child Guidance Clinic, the child referred with this complaint has the usual evaluation to determine, so far as possible, those factors important in his educability and his health, both physical and mental.

The family history gives clues to possible inherited disorders including learning disabilities, especially in reading, spelling and speaking. Some learning problems are inherited; as is true for all learning problems, more boys are affected than girls. These learning problems usually are not associated with mental retardation. The developmental history of the child gives clues to possible brain disorder which may adversely affect the development of learning skills. Difficulties before, during and after birth may cause mild brain damage which may not be apparent until the child begins school when the learning problems and sometimes behavior problems become apparent.

All possible life experiences which might cause problems in growing up and may shed light on the basis for emotional problems are investigated. Such information helps determine the probable cause of the problem which incidentally, often remains unknown.

The study of the child includes psychological testing to measure levels of intelligence, academic achievement and learning skills. Personality evaluation is done by both clinical examination and testing. These studies attempt to give and determine as accurately and completely as possible the child's abilities and difficulties in learning and in behavior. Sometimes a neurological examination is done, if it seems indicated.

Other specialty studies and laboratory tests can be suggested to be done elsewhere.

The conclusions drawn from these studies attempt to answer the parents' questions, and, when indicated, suggest a remedial education plan and/or treatment. Medication may be helpful in calming the overactive child and may increase his attention span. Sometimes, the repeated frustration with school work results in emotional problems some of which can be alleviated by changing the level of expectation at home and at school. Sometimes the emotional problem requires a treatment program, especially if the learning problem is caused by the emotional disorder.

Teaching the child with a learning difficulty depends on the child. One approach is to use the ways he learns easiest. For example, a child with a reading problem may learn well by listening. If that is his strength, it should be used to educate him. Older children may like to use tape recordings. To improve the child's ability in his weakened avenue of learning is too complicated a prescription to give here.

As with all children, the child with a learning disability deserves the right to understanding and encouragement to develop his potentials for physical, intellectual and emotional maturation.

Each child needs help to develop confidence in his ability to use what gifts he has to cope with the events he may face in life.

His experiences at home, in school and elsewhere in his society, should be directed to these ends and away from compounding existing handicaps or generating new one.

COURIER WANT ADS

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BROKEN WINDOWS? We replace glass in regular, storm, picture, Thermopane, patio doors & Anderson windows. For low cost "on the spot" glass replacement with our MOBILE GLASS SHOPS. Call the GLASSMAN. We also make tops for furniture and desks. 328-6130.

PAINTING and paper hanging, free estimates, quality work. Dan Burgmaster, 663-0827.

CARPENTER WORK porch steps, small jobs, remodeling, paneling, wind damage repairs. Free estimates. Robert Bulluck, 865-2448.

ODD JOBS: Storm windows removed, washing walls, floor waxing, cleaning gutters etc. 436-4421.

WINDOW SHADES: Beautiful new decorator shades or crisp new regular shades would make "that room" really come alive for the holidays (made locally — no delay). Call us at 235-6462 and we'll come. Edgett Window Shade Shop.

PIANO TUNING — experienced tuner, reasonable. Jerry Gallagher, 482-4061.

INSTRUCTIONS

PSYCHOLOGY of handwriting classes — RIT Call 482-2823 for details.

TUTORING all subjects. Qualified teachers. PROFESSIONAL TUTORING SERVICE. 244-9155, 271-7707.

SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS

RIDE NEEDED from Canandaigua to Holy Childhood on Buffalo Road; one or both ways; school hours 9 to 3. Call anytime (315) 394-1195.

I KNOW of a family that is badly in need of a set of bunk beds due to lack of space. If you have one set to give, please call 288-8885.

HOME FOR aged. Room, board. Elderly lady. Private home, companionship, transportation provided. 247-2640.

STUD service: Golden Retriever, champion stock. Ancestry of nineteen champions. Beautiful dog, golden red. Robert Bulluck, 865-2448.

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BAR — with or without stools; Mediterranean style; good condition, 254-4391.

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WANTED

COMPANION FOR elderly Catholic woman. Light housekeeping. Plain cooking. Good home near church and busline. Generous salary. References required. Call evenings, 594-8080.

PRIVATE COIN Collector wants coins of any kind, top prices; 464-8846.

COOK: Live-in. Apt. plus salary. References. St. Patrick's Rectory, Seneca Falls, N.Y. (315) 568-5203.

WANTED—Homeworkers and addressers for our company. Over \$150.00 weekly income possible. Begin immediately. Send \$1.00 for complete setup to: Geni Specialty Corporation, 22 Detroit Ave., Troy, N.Y. 12180.

OLD SLATE bed pool table. Wood must be in good condition or easily restored. The older the better. 267-3353, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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FREDDY BECK Orchestra; finest in music. Weddings, Parties; 454-8719.

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