



THE OPEN WINDOW
Fr. Louis Hohman

Q. Is drug use an impediment to marriage?

A. Maybe yes. Maybe no. It depends on what you mean by drug use. Millions of people use drugs in one form or other. In fact, probably most people use them if you include alcohol, tranquilizers, peppy pills, etc.

The real issue at hand is whether the persons contracting the marriage are capable of making a full human contract, whether they are knowledgeable about what they are doing and free to do it. So a person who is in the state of drunkenness is quite incapable of entering a valid marriage. But a person who has a drinking problem and is sober at the time of making the contract cannot be said to be incapable of making the contract.

The real question, therefore, is whether both parties are capable of making a valid contract and whether they actually will to do so.

This becomes a problem when we realize that there is a difference between the fact of the contract — was it for-real — and the ability of society — Church and state — to KNOW whether or not it is a valid binding contract. Two people may declare their vows before a priest and the words indicate they are making a real contract, but it may happen that they are incapable of entering a contract or mean something different from what the words convey.

In that case only God and they themselves (or perhaps only God) would realize that it was not a valid contract at all. In the eyes of society it would still appear as a binding contract and they would be hard put to prove to society that it was not.

Priests, Nuns Fined In Lettuce Protest

Colorado Springs, [RNS] — Twenty defendants, including three Catholic priests and three nuns, were found guilty in municipal court of "unlawful use of property of another" for their participation in a lettuce boycott demonstration at a Bon Safeway Store here.

Municipal Judge William L. Carew fined each defendant \$10, suspended \$5 of that amount, and gave the defendants two weeks to pay the remainder.

A panel of three women jurors took only an hour to deliberate the verdict, but the trial ran all day. Time was spent selecting a jury, with extra jurors having to be recruited off the streets during the noon break.

The group was arrested March 24, after they picketed the

ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — A Benedictine monastery and a Roman Catholic parish church are among 12 structures selected to receive the 1973 Honor Awards of the American Institute of Architects, the highest recognition for architectural excellence in the nation.

They are St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Ill., designed by Loeb, Schlossman, Bennett and Dart, Chicago; and St. Francis de Sales church, Muskegon, Mich., designed by Marcel Breuer and Herbert Beckhard, New York City.

A jury of five architects, headed by Pietro Belluschi, FAIA, winner of the 1972 AIA Gold Medal, made the final selection from a number of entries submitted.

Suppose a man was about to get married but decided in his own mind that under no condition would he allow for any children or he decided the contract would only be temporary. Then even though his bride and the Church did not know about these conditions he had placed, it would not be a real marriage. If later he wanted to prove to the Church that he had not made a real and binding contract he would have an impossible task.

To get back to the drug bit — I really don't know whether a confirmed addict is so deprived of freedom that he or she would be unable to make a real marriage contract. It would seem to me that while the person was quite "unfree" relative to his need for the drug, he could be quite free relative to entering a marriage contract. Maybe this has to be checked into.

One might legitimately ask whether a confirmed addict could really make a commitment giving himself to the other and declaring, "I will love you and honor you all the days of my life." I would seriously question the ability of an individual to make that kind of commitment while addicted to narcotics.

Perhaps the question is somewhat unreal. Who would marry a hard core drug addict? Which priest or minister or judge would not have serious reservations about assisting at such a union?

In summary, while the use of drugs is not listed among the invalidating impediments, there are circumstances under which it could easily render a marriage contract invalid.

Safeway Store and handed out leaflets describing Safeway is the largest buyer of non-AFL-CIO head lettuce.

The protest was staged by the Colorado Boycott Committee of the United Farm Workers (UFW). One of the 21 arrested, Richard C. Longoria, 23, Denver, director of the boycott committee, did not appear.

Testimony for the prosecution was presented by a police sergeant and Safeway officials. They testified they had consulted together, then asked the protestors to leave the area owned by the store, namely the sidewalk and parking lot area directly in front of and on the south side of the store. When the individuals refused to comply, the arrests were made.

When the verdict of guilty was handed down at 11 p.m., defendants left the courtroom singing "We Shall Overcome." No decision has been made yet as to whether the verdict will be appealed to the El Paso County District Court, according to Father Stephen Handen, of Our Lady of Guadalupe church, Colorado Springs.

Father Handen, 33, and Father Sain Richard Buhr, 32, also of Our Lady of Guadalupe church here, and Father William Sulzman, 33, of Our Lady of Guadalupe church in Denver, were the three clergymen arrested.

Nuns arrested were Sister Lucy M. Martinez, 24, a teacher at Ascension School in Denver and Sister Clarita M. Trujillo, 42, and Sister Ramona J. Corrales, 25, both of the Order of Victoryknoll Sisters in Colorado Springs.

Australian House Rejects Abortion

Canberra [RNS] — Australia's House of Representatives has overwhelmingly defeated a hotly-contested federal bill to legalize abortion on demand.

The vote on May 10, which crossed party lines, was 98-26. Both major political parties, the ruling Labor and the opposition Liberal, had agreed that the vote would be left to the "conscience" of each member of the Parliament.

The bill, introduced by two Labor Party "back-benchers," recommended abortion on request for pregnancies up to 16 weeks and abortions required for "medical and social reasons," between the 16th and 24th weeks, provided the woman received the approval of two doctors.

Although defeat of the bill was generally expected, it has sparked an intense national debate.

In an unprecedented action, the Roman Catholic and Anglican

Archbishops of Sydney issued a joint statement condemning the proposed legislation.

Main support for the bill came from the Australian women's liberation movement. Many Australian leaders in the sciences and arts, including Nobel Prize winner, Sir Michael MacFarlane Burnett, spoke publicly in favor of the proposal.

Prime Minister Gough Whitlam voted in support of the bill, but many of his Cabinet ministers voted to reject it.

More than 1,000 women — supporters and opponents of the proposed legislation — waved placards and demonstrated outside Parliament while the debate was proceeding.

Police had to halt an ecumenical anti-abortion service at St. Christopher's Cathedral in Canberra, after they had received an anonymous threat that a bomb would be exploded in the cathedral.

They evacuated about 1,000 people from the building, including Cardinal James R. Knox, of Melbourne and Cardinal James D. Freeman of Sydney.

If the bill had become law, its application under the constitution would have applied only to the Australian capital territory and other areas under the control of the commonwealth government.

But it was regarded as a test case by the country's sovereign states. South Australia is the only state which has liberal abortion legislation.

DINNER PLANNED

The annual spaghetti lunch and dinner put on by parishioners of St. Lucy's is scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The dinner, which will be held in St. Lucy's Church Hall at Troup and Tilden streets, will be for the benefit of the Church and youth programs.

Advertisement for The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Includes text: "Through your sacrifices to the missions you share in the life and service of today's dedicated missionaries around the world. Even more, you share YOUR love and faith with those still living in the 'poverty of darkness.' Our world NEEDS the Light of Christ... Its peoples NEED the missionary... The missionary NEEDS you!" and "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN... IN THE MISSIONS!". Includes a candle graphic and a form for donations.

Advertisement for The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Includes text: "Salvation and Service are the work of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith". Includes contact information for Rev. Msgr. Edward T. O'Meara and Rev. Joseph F. Reinhart.