

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## Sarah Child

At a recent gathering of physicians the group was warned that unless the situation changes the time will soon come when "doctors will be competing for patients."

According to the doctor speakers, slews of paramedical people are being turned out of schools trained to do many relatively simple but time-consuming chores for patients that heretofore only a bona fide physician could do.

Consequently the incomes of doctors are being threatened, and their educations (which cost \$100,000 per person) on the verge of being wasted. Or so say the speakers.

Doctors competing for patients? The idea is mind boggling but after the initial shock anyone who has had the need to consult a doctor in the last five years must necessarily brighten at the prospect.

For at the present time and in the most recent years the situation may quite accurately be described as the reverse. Patients are literally competing for doctors. Their incomes and education are not at stake, but their health and their very lives.

If you are fortunate enough to have a doctor of your own who will see you when you are sick, try scheduling a physical. If you can get in an appointment in six months time consider yourself lucky. Most doctors are so swamped with sick people, those not conspicuously ill must wait for attention.

If you have moved in the last year, as nearly all of our neighbors have in the new development in which we live, getting a doctor for even the most serious illness may take a miracle.

A friend several houses away called one morning recently saying she believed she was seriously ill and asking if we have a doctor.

Yes, we told her, but because some other recent arrivals had already tried him we knew he had not taken any new patients in more than a year.

I gave her two other doctors' names along with the suggestion to ask them to recommend a doctor if they were not taking new patients. An hour later I called to check with her and she said nurses for both doctors had turned her down and said they knew of no one taking new patients in our city. Before she got a chance to ask one if the doctor would see her just this once on an emergency basis the nurse hung up on her.

At 4:30 that afternoon she finally got an appointment with a doctor on the other side of the county. The diagnosis: pneumonia.

## Maplewood Churches Set Unity Service

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed in the Maplewood area of the city Friday night, Jan. 25, at a service scheduled for 7:45 in Grace United Methodist Church, Driving Park at Thorn.

The Rev. John Schaertel of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer will be the speaker. Other churches involved are Sacred Heart Cathedral, Holy Rosary, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Dewey Avenue Presbyterian and Christ Presbyterian, Lake Avenue Baptist and Wesley Methodist. Child care will be provided during the service, which will be followed by a coffee hour.

So why hadn't she gone to an emergency room of a hospital? It is common knowledge you can sit in a waiting room from six to eight hours before being seen, so crowded are these facilities. She hadn't wanted to chance it in her condition.

In fairness to the doctors who treat us, we know them to be hard working, dedicated, attentive and responsive to both physical and emotional needs. I consider our family extremely fortunate in this regard. On the other hand we have lived in the same general area for the last 10 years. I would dread the prospect of moving to another community, urban, suburban or small town and try to find the same quality care.

Doctors competing for patients? You cannot blame those people who have had trouble even once in getting a doctor's attention for wishing it were already so.

The Alhambra Ladies will meet Wednesday noon, Jan. 23, at 513 Monroe, with Mrs. Frank Melville as hostess.

Folksinger U. Utah Phillips, who was prevented by illness from keeping his original engagement with the St. Joseph House of Hospitality, will perform there tomorrow night, Jan. 24, at 8 p.m. The price of admission, \$2, includes refreshments. Profits go to the house, which is at 402 South Ave.

Members of the Rochester Cursillo Movement are invited to a "Day of Sharing" from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, in The Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave. Reservations should be sent to Oscar and Ruth Hauser, 1570 Culver Rd., 14609. The \$4 ticket covers dinner.

The Chili Area Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will hold its monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Community

Christian Church, 2647 Chili Ave. A representative of the Social Security Administration will answer questions and talk about the increase in Social Security benefits.

Cardinal Mooney Women's Guild members will entertain their husbands at the monthly meeting Monday, Jan. 28. There will be a social hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner, at the school.

A new method of selecting judges will be discussed today at the Judicial Process Commission noontime series by a panel of four men in the legal field. Programs begin at 12:15 and conclude at 1:30 each Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Plymouth.

Questions about changes in the church will be answered by Father Francis Falletta at the St. Theodore Rosary-Altar Society, meeting Jan. 30. The meeting will

be preceded by church services at 8 p.m.

## CDA URGED TO PRAY

Union, N.J. [RNS] — The national regent of the Catholic Daughters of America, has called on the organization's 200,000 members to spend Jan. 22, anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, in prayer and reparation. In a communication to CDA state regents and territorial deputies, Miss Mary Kanane, who is judge of the Surrogate Court of Union County, N.J., asked members to "spend this day in prayer and reparation for the slaughter of thousands of innocent unborn lives."

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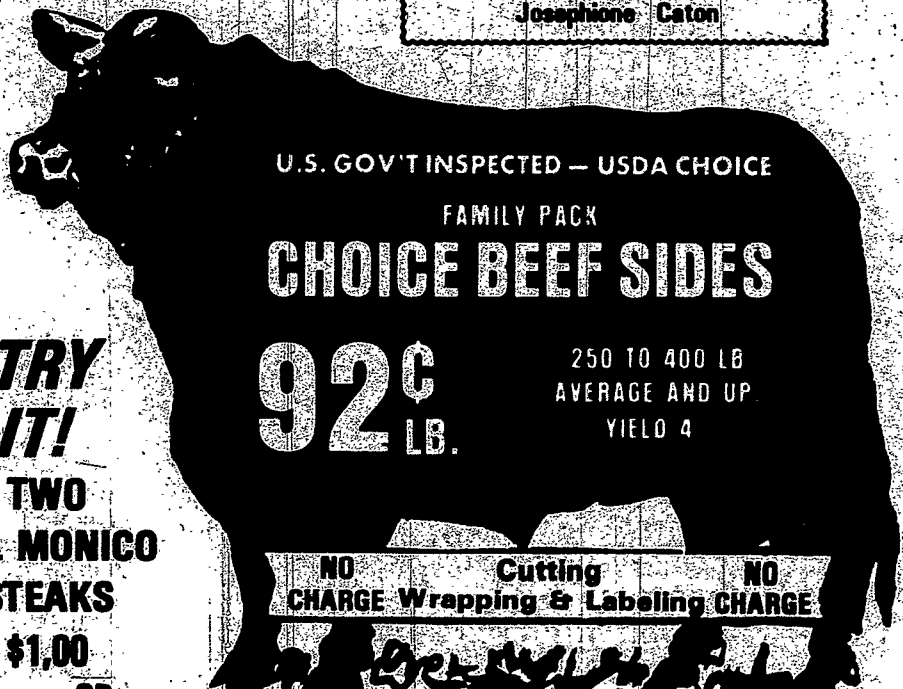
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