

Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

Headline Harbor is today's Utopia. No need to think, no morals, no absolutes, just bland acceptance. The gospel according to Pluralism. And if you plan to live there you won't read beyond this sentence.

Headlines are among our most common and potent political advertising tools; they are used frequently if not always with discretion by politicians via the average editor. And Headline Harbor is populated by those who may be correspondingly among the easiest and most frequently duped citizens in history, those who instantly believe the loud bold print and/or the velvet-voiced advocates.

If advertising is the science of artful implication, it is not unreasonable to suggest that the headline writers mastered this science to repress the details of the Supreme Court ruling on abortion. The headlines imply that the States have the power to proscribe abortions subsequent to the nebulous point of viability, which the Court grandly opines is "usually placed at about seven months, but may occur earlier, even at 24 weeks."

I suggest that we read the Court's own words, look for State regulation of anything beyond the surgical procedure, and surroundings chosen to effect the abortion. I suggest that you will not find it. Because it is not there. The State may, if it wishes, interfere on behalf of the 'potential life' after approximately six months gestation, except when the abortion is 'necessary' to preserve the life or health of the mother. Taken at headline value, that sounds eminently reasonable. But the Court's definition of maternal health is scribed with appalling latitude. 'Medical judgment may be exercised in light of all factors — physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age — relevant to the well-being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health.' All factors of health relate to the mother only, and must operate exclusively for her benefit. The State is specifically forbidden to interfere on behalf of the baby, regardless of the gestational age, once the abortion decision has been reached by the doctor and the mother.

Read on, for the court does not stop there. They insist that "maternity or additional offspring may force upon the woman a distressful life and future. Psychological harm may be imminent. Mental and physical health may be taxed by child

care. There is also the distress, for all concerned, associated with the unwanted child." Justice William O. Douglas adds in his concurring opinion, "Elaborate argument is hardly necessary to demonstrate that child birth may deprive a woman of her preferred life style, and force upon her a radically different and undesired future."

The baby has begun to sound like a threatening opponent.

The baby? Nowhere in the Court ruling have I found a definition of 'baby.' Not his existence, not his right to life. Not his right to due process of law. No basic definitions are there; He is referred to as 'potential life.' Palaver! Thought, maturity, compassion, wisdom, wit these are potentials. Income level, education, personality, happiness or distress — these are potentials. But life itself either exists or it doesn't exist. It isn't potential.

I have a letter signed by Senator John V. Tunney, whose father retired in the 20's as undefeated champion of the manly art of self defense. Senator Tunney, a member of the Bayh Subcommittee (I wonder how many sessions of the Human Life hearings Tunney has attended) writes of "my profound sense that the only justification of abortion is self-defense. I cannot support a right to life amendment to the Constitution."

Self defense? From potential life?

I suggest that you read the court ruling. And I suggest that you understand that we have lost hundreds of thousands of American babies to the legal scalpel because of the preferred life styles in Headline Harbor. Please write a note in response to Mr. Tunney's form letter. I hope and pray that there are still many people who are repulsed by today's pluralistic panacea that ills can be solved by evils.

Headline Harbor is a grave place to visit and a deadly place to live.

Hon. John V. Tunney, Hon. Jacob Javits, U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510.

Area Congressmen: Frank Horton (34th); James Hastings (39th); Barber Conable (35th); William Walsh (33rd); and Howard Robison (27th), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515.

Editor's Note: Persons wishing to use materials in this column when writing to their representatives may do so.

Deaths

Sr. Louis Clare

The funeral Mass for Sister Louis Clare Rummel, SSJ, who died unexpectedly on May 2, 1974, was celebrated May 4 in the Motherhouse Chapel by Father Joseph Reinhart and Msgr. William Naughton.

Sister Louis Clare had taught for almost forty years in the parochial schools of the diocese. In the Rochester area she was a teacher for short periods in Corpus Christi School, St. Anthony's, Immaculate Conception, and St. John the Evangelist, Greece. She served at Holy Trinity School, Webster, for 12 years and taught also at St. Stephen, Geneva; St. Mary, Dansville; St. Patrick, Mount Morris; and St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads. She retired in 1968 from St. Aloysius School, Auburn.

Born in Rochester, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1928 from St. John the Evangelist parish on Humboldt Street. She

held a bachelor of education degree from Nazareth College.

Surviving are a sister, Miss Clea Rummel, and nieces in Rochester.

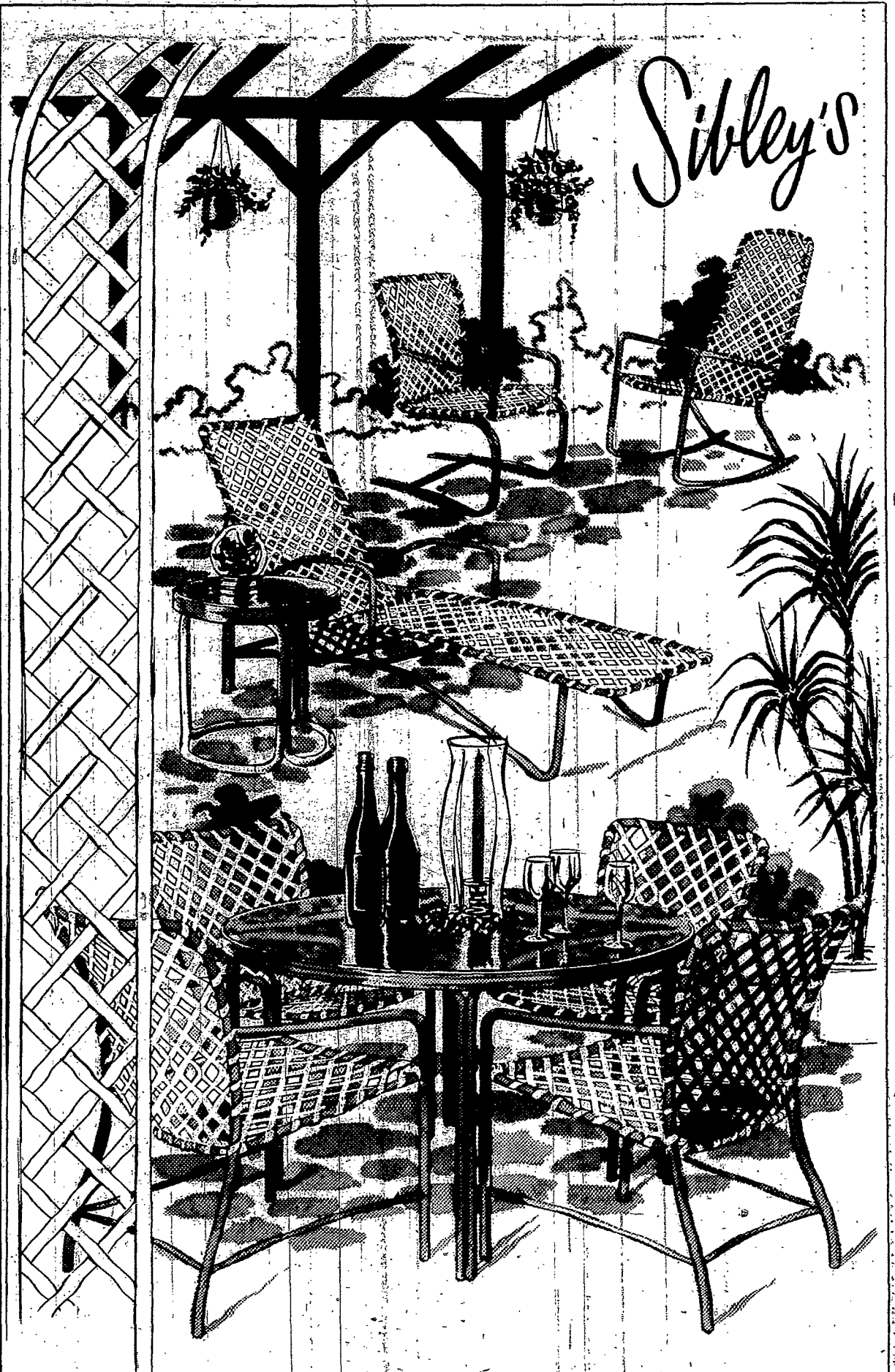
Sr. Pudentia

Sister Pudentia (Josephine) Tschiderer, SSJS, formerly of Rochester died at St. Therese Hospital in Waukegan, Ill. on May 6, 1974.

Sister Pudentia joined the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in Techy, Ill. in 1919 and pronounced her first religious vows in 1921. She spent her active years in the religious life teaching black children in the congregation's schools in Mississippi and Arkansas.

Her nephew, Father Robert Donovan, who is pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Newark Valley, celebrated the Mass of the Resurrection May 8, at the convent in Techy.

Sister Pudentia is survived by a sister, Mrs. Mary Bott, and a brother, Frank, both of Rochester.



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- 42" table with tempered ripple glass top, \$120
- Arm chair, \$54
- Chaise lounge, \$149
- Spring-base chair, \$76
- Rocker, \$83
- Occasional table, \$58

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