

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

"Warning: The surgeon general has determined that cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health."

Some people did quit smoking due to the research which led to that now familiar announcement. Each person had the right to do as he pleased with his own health and each chose to quit. Maybe they were wise.

But they did not try to impose their good judgment on the rest of us. The giant marketing industry still sells cigarettes and ashtrays and lighters and holders. The multi-million dollar tobacco industry still implies through the cigarette ads that smoking enhances sexual attractiveness, wealth, social power and, intellectual independence. Chrome-plated sand boxes are still available in theater lobbies and grandiose hotels.

But drug abuse is different. Highway speed is different. Manslaughter and aggravated assault are different. Because drug abuse, highway speed, manslaughter and aggravated assault all involve not only the health of one person, but the health and lives of others as well. In fact, human death is frequently the result of these four. And when it comes to man-caused human death, civilization is apt to force a judgment because of the value traditionally placed on human life.

Ours is a pluralistic society. (Some theological commentators delight in thinking that they have discovered a new word: concept in pluralistic.) They haven't. Society has been a mixed bag around here for centuries and God willing, ours will remain so. It would be monumentally boring if all of us were white Anglo-Saxon Catholics. In a pluralistic society we accommodate smoking even when we don't approve of it ourselves because smoking involves only the smoker's health. But we legislate against drugs, highway speed, manslaughter and aggravated

assault because they directly destroy human life.

And murder is a different thing again. Deliberate murder, a uniquely human procedure not practiced by the lower forms of life, is an aggressive act against mankind. And even a pluralistic society will enact laws in an effort to control it. One's judgment in this matter need not spring from an education equal to that received by the Jesuits. It need not be even rooted in a set of moral values. One's judgment here does not require the buttressing of a law degree, and it is equally unnecessary to subscribe either to a formal code of ethics or to the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in order to acknowledge that murder is an act of death. It is the deliberate destruction of one human by another and we all know it.

Do you think I am about to call abortion murder?

No.

According to my copy of the FBI Crime Reports, murder is defined as "the unlawful killing of another." According to medical dictionaries and texts there is no time when the unborn is a part of his mother's body. His is a separate, unique, individual human life in charge of the pregnancy from the moment of fertilization to the moment of birth. So abortion, unlike murder, is the lawful killing of another.

No, I am not about to call abortion murder.

I am saying that a society which shrugs its shoulders at one, and a half million legal abortions is a shakey and uncertain ambience. I am saying that a religious organization which smoothly accommodates legal abortion by hiding behind the word "pluralistic" is at least within sight of the infamous Gates of Hell. I am saying that a nation which encourages the medical community to abandon the Hippocratic Oath and the medical community itself which rushes coldly into the lucrative abortion industry in order to support its share of the office work load are on the same incredible path blazed by the German medical technicians in the late 20s and early 30s.

INSPECTION

The Knights of St. John will hold their annual inspection of the Rochester regiment at Bishop Kearney High School, Sunday, Nov. 24, at 11 a.m.

Capitol Letters

Howard W. Cannon (D.Nev.), chairman of the Senate Rules Committee looking into the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President of the United States, has noted the possibility of a vote in that committee by the end of this month. Rockefeller's use of his vast economic influence has drawn fire from many areas.

Individuals are urged to address their personal concerns to the members of the Senate Rules Committee, as well as Senators James L. Buckley and Jacob K. Javits of New York.

The Senate Rules Committee members are Howard W. Cannon, Claiborne Pell, Robert C. Byrd, James B. Allen, Harrison Williams Jr., Marlow W. Cook, Hugh Scott*, Robert P. Griffin and Mark O. Hatfield. Any Senate member may be reached: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

*Senator Hugh Scott received \$4,000 from Nelson Rockefeller in his last two election campaigns (Rochester Times-Union 11-13-74 p. 20A).

(Compiled by Jeanne D. Sweeney, American Citizens Concerned for Life)

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COURIER-CALENDAR

St. Anne's — Rosary Society Christmas party, Wednesday, Dec. 4, Mass at 6 p.m., supper at 7, school hall; holiday crafts program by Jo Ager, Mrs. Clifford Casad, Mrs. Harold Bohrer, hostesses.

St. Stanislaus — Holy Name of Mary Society's Harvest Bazaar, 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, school auditorium.

St. Patrick's Victor — Demonstration on inexpensive Christmas decorations 7-30 p.m. tomorrow, Nov. 21, School of Religion, High Street.

St. Pius X — Gates-Chili Choir, directed by Mrs. William McHugh, Dec. 3 at Rosary Society Christmas celebration; faculty as guests.

Holy Trinity, Webster — Sale of religious articles, books, after Masses this weekend and next.

Nazareth Hall Parents Club — Dinner-dance Saturday, Nov. 23.

Scarlatias Party House, 333 Edgemere Dr., Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bucciarelli in charge.

AOH and Auxiliaries — Dance 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, Sacred Heart Cathedral hall, Flower City Park, \$5 per couple.

K of C, Cenacle Council — Memorial Mass, 9:45 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, St. Jude's 4100 Lyell.

VFW Ladies Auxiliary — Variety sale Friday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Nov. 23, 10-6, Keith Miller Post, 733 Maple St.

Images — Hochstein Ballet, Sunday, Nov. 24, 1:15 and 4:15 p.m.; Hochstein Music School, 12 Hoeltzer St., free.

Miracle Worker — Bishop Kearney Players, 8 p.m. this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22, 23, school auditorium, 123 Kings Hwy. S.

MacBeth — Ionesco's parody of MacBeth, opening 8 p.m. tomorrow, Nov. 21, also 22, 23, 30, GeVa, Theater Center, 169 S. Clinton. For reservations: 716/232-1363.

Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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THE MOONLIGHTERS ORCHESTRA — Music for all occasions. Bob Gardner. 338-2023 or 467-3394.

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FOR RENT

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HOUSE Orchard St. — 3 bedrooms, w to w carpeting, furnished-unfurnished, modern large kitchen. \$160.00 a month, plus utilities. Security deposit: 352-6616.

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FOR SALE

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