

# More Opinions

## ERA Has 'Dangers'

Editor:

There is much talk these days about the Equal Rights Amendment. To many Christians, it is a political issue, yet, to many Christians it is a moral issue. The Holy Spirit of truth within me, convicted me to search for what is right; so through it all, I found myself in the latter category. Searching the scriptures, there is much taught about the order of God. Genesis 2:18 The Lord said "It is not good that man should be alone: I will make him a helper fit for him."

We have been created equal, but with physical differences, ambitions and abilities. Biologically we are different from man. We are to complement each other wonderfully and uniquely.

In conclusion I see many "Hidden Dangers" in the Equal Rights Amendment, as woman was created from the rib of man — not from his head to top him — neither from his feet to be walked upon. She was made from his side to be his equal: from beneath his arm to be protected by him: from very near his heart to be loved by him.

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## 'Say Nay To ERA'

Editor:

It has been most gratifying to witness the amount of interest generated toward the New York State Equal Rights Amendment during the past few weeks. Conscientious awareness and healthy debate, both pro and con, seem to be prevalent.

I would like to offer a few brief clarifications on my letter which was published in this column early in September. I firmly DO believe that women should be treated equally. However, I feel that the ERA is not the answer because it is too broadly worded. No one can predict for certain what will occur as a result of the passage of this amendment. Note that I used the word "could" repeatedly in my first letter when referring to the possible effects. I am neither an alarmist nor a radical. Rather, I am a proponent of caution and foresight. Hind-sight is too late. We can only thoughtfully observe what has already happened in some of the states that have approved the ERA:

In Colorado five homosexual couples have been legally married because of the state level ERA.

In Minnesota a man and his male spouse have applied to three social agencies in hopes of adopting a child. They have not been rejected.

Consensual sodomy is no longer a crime in California.

In the Framingham, Massachusetts, correctional institution, birth control devices are being distributed and abortions arranged in the sexually integrated reformatory. Also, a male guard was hired for a female bathhouse because the State Civil Service Commission mandated that hiring must be done on a sex-blind basis and the first person to qualify was a man.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, women are put into jail cells with men. Rapes have occurred.

In California, a female guard supervises showers and makes body searches of the inmates of San Quentin.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court declared the Pennsylvania support law invalid and in their decision said that women must now share equally in the financial support of the family.

A Delaware woman must make support payments to her husband for their two children in his custody.

In conclusion, I would ask the question: "Whenever there are areas of doubt or conflict, is it not wiser to take the cautious route, and in this case, 'Say Nay to ERA on Nov. 4.'"

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## Misquote Seen In Editorial

Editor:

Your Oct. 8 editorial on gun control has presented some errors to readers, and indicate another trend that is harming the Catholic church.

Your first paragraph misquotes part of the second amendment to the Constitution by using the phrase, "carry and bear arms." The phrase reads "keep and bear arms." Anti-gun spokesmen often say the second amendment does not give us the right to keep arms.

You would lead readers to believe there are no gun control laws at the federal, state and local levels. The truth is we have had federal firearms laws on the books for 40 years, and our own state and county has some of the most restrictive laws in the union.

These laws have not disarmed the criminal, for they regard no law.

Sen. James McClure of Idaho, on a morning TV show last week informed listeners that since passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act, nationwide crime has increased 300%.

The Catholic Conference calling for controls on handguns that will lead to their eventual removal from society, is the same kind of soft-headed thinking that says the Communists are mellowing.

Readers of your editorial may believe that the gunnies, as you call us, and the NRA have never been responsible enough to support or endorse any gun laws, which is not true. We simply believe adding more and more restrictive laws will lead to confiscation of guns.

You add to all these errors by saying that police departments don't agree with us. The fact is, police officials do support our efforts for the right of citizens to keep and bear arms, and our programs for sane gun handling and firearms training courses.

Because of America's wonderful constitution and Bill of Rights, the Catholic church has prospered here as in no other land, yet you use the right of free speech to attempt to destroy your countrymen's rights under the second amendment.

Donovan Dunn  
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Editor's Note: Several police departments have spoken in favor of gun control legislation. The Boston (New York Times, Sept. 26, 1974) and Detroit (New York Times, Feb. 26, 1974) police commissioners have asked for stricter gun control legislation. Members of the New York City police department are concerned about lax laws in other areas, which they say are primarily responsible for the estimated 2 million unlawful handguns in the city. (New York Times, March 2, 1975).

## Partners In Abortion

Editor:

As reported in the Courier-Journal 10/1/75, various amendment proposals aimed at overturning the 1973 Supreme Court ruling on abortion were recently rejected by a Senate subcommittee.

Since this is a government by the people responsibility for the laws of this country rests squarely on the shoulders of the American people.

Last year an estimated one million "legal" abortions were performed in this country.

Every American should be aware of his role in this horrendous destruction of human life permitted under our existing immoral law. As long as we allow this immoral law to remain we are partners in every legal abortion performed in America.

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## ERA, Abortion Seen Linked

Editor:

In his letter regarding the Respect Life Program (Courier-Journal, 10/1), Bishop Joseph L. Hogan states that "the welfare of society is very much dependent on the stability and well-being of the family."

After having attended the recent Right-to-Life Convention here in Rochester, I am thoroughly convinced that in no way, can the abortion issue be separated from the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) issue. The backers of both are using the same tactics and are, in fact, the same organizations. The goals of

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the women's libbers are set forth in their booklet, "REVOLUTION: Tomorrow is N.O.W." It includes: 1. Advocating a unisex educational system for which all traditional male and female roles would be banned, including the "stereotype" of women in the home. 2. Government-funded free child care centers for all children, which would forbid sex-role channeling. 3. Repeal of all abortion laws. 4. Lobbying for ERA. The U.S. Commission on Population Growth and the American Future, headed by John D. Rockefeller III, states that the ERA is the means to achieving its anti childbearing objective.

In the Courier-Journal (10/8), Father Albert Shamon says that there is a need for laws to protect women and to assure preferential treatment to protect the home. He feels that the ERA would threaten those laws.

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## Opposed To ERA

Editor:

On Nov. 4, New York voters will have a chance to say yes or no to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. The proponents of ERA say it will provide equality under the law for all — almost all, anyway. The unborn child will be the exception.

I fear that if the ERA is passed it will become much more difficult, perhaps impossible, to pass laws protecting the unborn. It does not take much investigation to find that militant pro-abortionists back the ERA along with a number of organizations which favor abortion on demand.

Referring to the national ERA, Clarence Manion, who is one of the country's most distinguished constitutional lawyers, has said

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that "with ERA in the Constitution, State anti-abortion laws, since they are obviously designed on the basis of sex, would be a violation of ERA." Since we are concerned here with the State ERA I imagine the effect would be the same.

I believe that the state ERA is not essential to our efforts to provide equal rights for all. I was looking at a pamphlet put out by the New York State Division of Human Rights entitled "Equal Rights for Women in New York State." In the introduction it reads: "The New York State Human Rights Law protects your right to equality of opportunity without regard to sex in employment, credit, places of public accommodation and housing." What more will ERA do? What is the real purpose of ERA?

I suggest that, since it will most likely have an effect on future efforts to protect the unborn, we reject the ERA and concentrate on providing equal rights for all (including the unborn) without attaching an amendment to the constitution which we may regret later.

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## Liberation Is Cross

Editor:

Regarding homosexuality, our liberation is the Cross.

Let us pray that our diocese not sanction the Dignity organization.

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Editors Note: Dignity is a national organization of Roman Catholic homosexuals.

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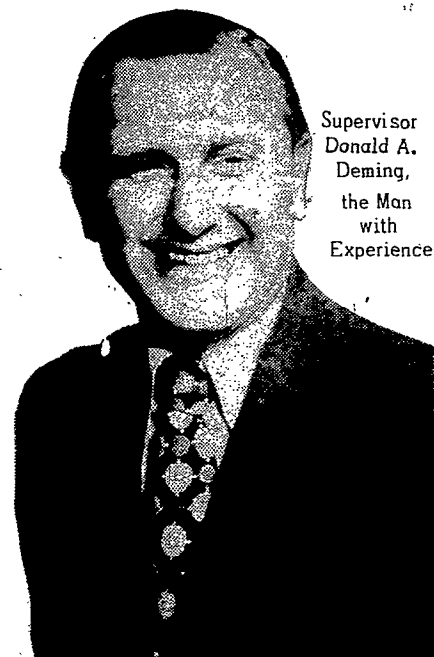
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