

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

Every time I think I am unique, unusual, or have experienced one of a kind trauma I get pulled up short and discover I am so average it hurts.

This week's come-uppance came in the form of a news story I found buried on page 9 of the Sunday Times "News of the Week in Review" section.

Since I was eight I have had to face up to the fact that anything to do with numbers in general and math in particular tends to produce a sense of panic within.

I trace it back to the third grade and a wizened Miss Ripple who had taught my father in our small town and was still teaching some 30 years later when I reached her grade. Miss Ripple kept a rubber hose filled with chalk on her blackboard tray. Rumor was that she used it on irascible boys after the rest of us had gone home. I had nothing to fear, she liked me. But when it came time to introduce fractions something happened. I remember them as the first thing I did not understand immediately in my short academic career and as I struggled to master them the rubber hose in full view on the blackboard and the fractions became unextricably linked in a fearful, classic case of conditioning. My last formal education experience with math took place my sophomore year in college with arts majors required to take a pot pourri course. I cried through most of it but passed.

Now the New York Times and a Ford Foundation Study tell me that

far from being the exception I am one of a vast multitude of women who have succumbed to social attitudes decreeing that little boys who eventually grow up to be big boys and men have an innate God-given ability to deal with math while women just don't have the aptitude.

Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! reports the Ford study and goes on to show that the social attitude has enormous practical consequences for women. In another study at Berkeley it was revealed that 3/4 of the major fields at the institution required either calculus or intermediate statistics which most female students hadn't had in high school. They were therefore limited to the remaining 25 percent: humanities, music, social work, elementary education and guidance and counseling.

To rectify this situation and correct the math anxiety that most women and some men have, various math clinics are springing up around the country. Some are divided into two parts. One part deals with a course in pre-calculus math which gives both men and women a "second chance" to pick up high school level math. The second is a "psych" lab that allows anxious students to explore their hangups about the subject.

In addition many colleges have adopted remedial approaches to help students cover lost ground and give them an experience of "success" at doing math.

At Wesleyan college where one of the clinics is located, the program was developed by Sheila Tobias, the associate provost and widely known feminist leader. One goal is to let students know that they are not alone in having math anxiety. Ms. Tobias does acknowledge one problem still not surmounted: How to reach students who are so "anxious" that they even avoid the Math Clinic. And she might have added fulltime homemakers who don't like to admit they still can't figure out the cost per ounce of a grocery item unless her whiz kid children are along.

Church Plans Refurbishing

Parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt Street, have been advised by Co-Pastors Fathers James E. Boyle and John M. Mulligan that the Parish Council has approved the "Master Plan" to refurbish their 50-year-old church. The plan which has been under study for more than two years, will update the present church building and place it "right in step" with the liturgical changes of recent years.

Major features will include a remodeling of the sanctuary to extend out into the present church area and the construction of a Blessed Sacrament Chapel directly behind the remodeled sanctuary to seat approximately 40 people.

The chapel will allow for private devotions before the Blessed Sacrament, baptisms, small weddings and funerals. During the week the chapel will be open, heated and lighted for private devotions while the main church could remain closed for security and heat conservation. In addition, a new confession room will be constructed and will offer the option of anonymous confession or face-to-face with the priest. The room will offer a bright atmosphere rather than the gloomy darkness of a confessional the co-pastors stated.

Another major improvement included in the master plan is an enclosed stairway to provide a direct entrance from the parking lot to a heated, lighted stairway giving entrance to both the main church as well as to the church hall.

A new priests' vestry, a church level lavatory and the installation of new carpeting throughout the entire church are the other proposals. The cost of this program is estimated to be \$75,000.

A fund-raising appeal to raise the necessary money will be conducted during the month of October with Sunday, Oct. 31, designated as Commitment Sunday. The drive, entitled the Refurbishing and Offering Renewal Program, will seek two separate commitments from each parish family—a pledge for the church refurbishing to extend over an 18-month payment period and an estimate of their contributions to the regular Sunday collections.

The Program Committee is under the leadership of Mrs. John Casey, John Burke and Thomas Geiger and is being directed by Norman J. McGowan of the State-wide Counseling Service.

COURIER-CALENDAR

Monte-Wayne Counties March of Dimes — Walkathon, 9:30 a.m., Lock 30 State Park in Macedon, Oct. 24.

Southwest Golden Age Group — Friday, Oct. 15, at 1:30 p.m., 34 Monica St.

The Little Flower Guild — Of St. Boniface Church, Evening of Prayer, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., 919 Clinton Ave. on Nov. 17.

Rio Clemente — Benefit performance, St. Monica's Church, Oct. 24, at 8 p.m.

Divorced, Separated and Widowed Catholics — Of Southeast Region, meeting and talk by episcopal Father Thomas Hanson of the Catholic Family Center, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Ham Dinner — St. Rita's Society of the Webster parish, Saturday, Oct. 16, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Nazareth Academy — Open House Oct. 24 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Arts and Crafts — Show and sale, Guardian Angels School hall, Sunday, Oct. 17, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Items include holiday decorations.

American Legion Auxiliary #1064 — Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall.

The 20th annual Seton Sale — Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday Inn Downtown. Featured: luncheon and fashion show, sale of craft items and a silent auction. To benefit St. Mary's Hospital.

Nazareth College Lecture — Dr. Regina Soria on "Early Italian Sculptures in the U.S.A." 8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 14, Room A-14, Arts Center.

Make Today Count — Panel discussion on Coping with Cancer at St. John Fisher College, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

The Altar Rosary Society — Of Good Shepherd Church, 3rd annual craft show and sale, Nov. 12 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the school gym.

Silver Anniversary Luncheon — Of the Notre Dame Women's Organization, at noon Oct. 19 at the Century Club.

A Revival — Sponsored by the Office of Black Ministries, Friday, Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Church. Rev. Andy Gibson of A.M.E. Zion Church first night's preacher.

An Annual Fall chicken dinner — Most Precious Blood Church, Oct. 16, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Spaghetti dinner — St. Philip Neri School hall Monday, Nov. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets available through rectory, after Sunday Masses or at the door. Chairmen Joseph Marmo, Joseph Tiberio and Charles Willmer.

St. Marie Women's and Men's Club — Euchre Tournament Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

Women in Communications — Second annual A to Z Sale, 600 Park Ave., Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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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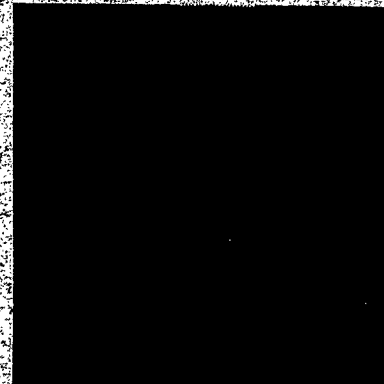
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