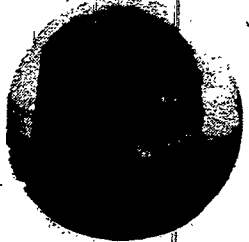


Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

I'll say this much for Planned Parenthood, they have consistently been courteous, prompt and reliable. They are, as the old-timers say, true to their code. Whenever I contact their offices in London or on New York's Madison Avenue for position papers, reports, statistics, booklets and other documentation, Planned Parenthood has complied by return mail. And in this business, that's high praise.

Some organizations are

rude, aloof, temperamental, or downright skittish about responding to a Catholic columnist. In fact there are even Catholic offices in the United States which leave correspondence dangling, ignore or condense appointments, sidestep direct open dialogue, disregard requests for position papers, or refuse to be interviewed. In other words, Planned Parenthood's responses are qualitative. I disagree with their active conclusions, but for sheer research, they are thorough. I rely on them to a large extent.

(The Vatican of course is another story, as are many local priests, nuns and attorneys. The Vatican, unlike the Catholic offices referred to above, has consistently been helpful. Its staffers are always courteous, their research covers a much wider spectrum than that of Planned Parenthood; and their every statement is supported by years of intense study and scholarly

research into all interrelated matter. Without exception, their replies to me have been couched in warm personal tones; their advice and enclosures are above question; their aura of compassionate understanding — even of the most callous transgressions on an international scale — is a constant source of inspiration for me. Theirs is not the cheap and fleeting "luv" of contemporary imaginations, but the deep spiritual serenity of Christ. I sincerely regret that the Vatican gets such meager press in the United States; and I sincerely believe that if Pope Paul VI is recognized by secularists for nothing else, they cannot help but recognize him as the most beautiful writer of the Twentieth Century.)

But to get back to the subject of this series, Planned Parenthood. They are, in my considered judgement, riding the giddy crest of a forceful wave which they themselves did

so much to stimulate, namely the overexed, overpermissive overkill atmosphere pervading our contemporary literature, drama, art, classrooms and minds. Planned Parenthood is a master of public relations and without peer as an image maker. They are smooth, deliberate and successful. Their names appear on the Humanist Manifesto and in the literature of UNICEF, SIECUS, AASECT, WHO and ZPG. And their voices are heard in many Catholic schools.

SCOUTERS DINNER

The annual Bishop's Report Dinner sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Scouting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at Guardian Angels parish hall. All Cub and Boy Scout leaders and scouters are invited. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be a guest. Reservations should be made with Ed Sloan, 473-4782.

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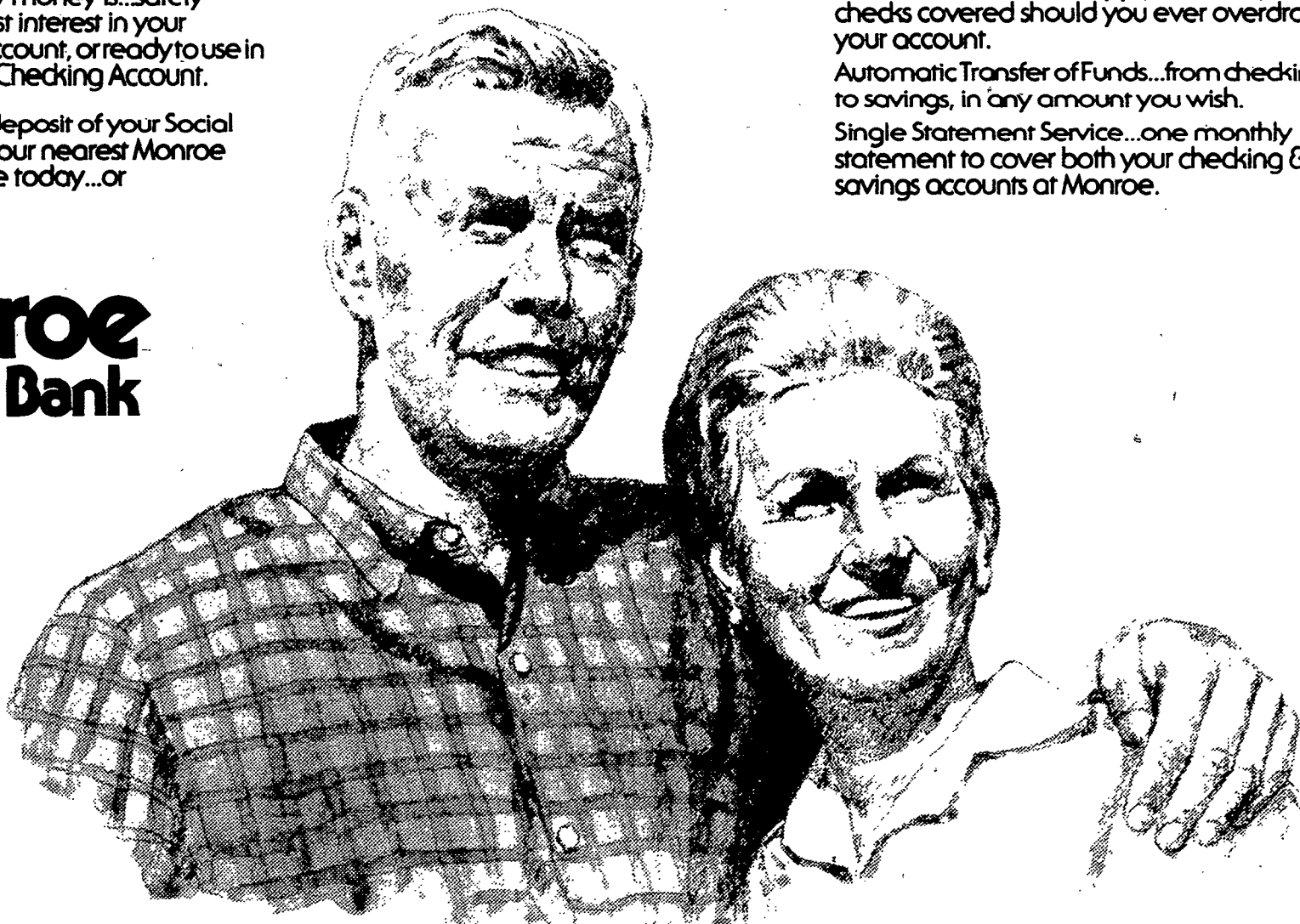
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