

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

One Person You Can Depend On

A friend whose children are now all on their way to being teenagers told me



recently about a time some years ago when all three youngsters were under six.

She was tired, physically and mentally, depressed and overwhelmed by the daily details required in take care of an infant, a toddler and a five-year-old.

On one Monday morning she was particularly bad off. The house, as usual, was less

than tidy. One of the kids was sick. And she, herself, was cheerless and uninspired to do any of the 101 things she thought might pull her out of her rut.

Pouring herself another cup of coffee she sat down and picked up the Sunday New York Times which she hadn't read the day before and eventually came to the pictures of all the society women who had been married.

Along with each picture was a short story on the backgrounds of these young privileged women — stories which told of honeymoons in Europe and which hinted of penthouse suites and servants aplenty when they returned to set up married life.

How nice it must be, she

mused, to have someone to do all the mundane, tiring, sometimes tiresome chores of taking care of a family. My friend wouldn't need a whole staff of servants. Just one person would do. One person who would take care of the children precisely as she would like them taken care of, to cook meals that would please her husband, to decorate the house in a fashion suitable to their tastes and income, to go shopping for her and pick out just the right clothes and on and on.

Happily immersed in the daydream featuring the paragon servant, my friend said she realized that if such person existed, there was no wonder woman who could perform such varied and personal chores to her satisfaction.

Then something occurred to her. There was just such a person, after all. And not only did she know her, but

that person's services were available — without charge.

It was, of course, herself.

I think about my friend's discovery every once in a while. Usually it is when I want something done which is either too expensive, too involved to explain or too personal to enlist another's aid.

My friend said she never did accomplish all the things she wanted to. But, her depression lifted and she was able to order her priorities, tackling the most important goals first. Simply knowing that she was capable of doing what she wanted done was a big boost.

Like my friend we are all sometimes guilty of passing over the one person who can move mountains and bring about the changes in our lives we know are necessary. And frequently we can get that one person to do more and do it better than anyone else we know.

More Opinions

Must Speak On SALT II

Editor:

Robert McNamara, former Secretary of Defense, said in a recent speech, "We cannot build a secure World upon a foundation of human misery." But that is what the World, led by our country and the Soviet Union, is trying to do. This year, on an ever increasing scale, the World will spend over 400 billion dollars for military purposes as participants in the arms race. We and the Soviets will account for more than half of this.

Meantime, millions of human beings are starving, and millions of children have damaged brains because they have not had enough to eat.

Let's see what the arms race does to us. In the coming fiscal year our military spending will run well over 125 billion dollars. This will accelerate inflation, weaken our dollar, add to our taxes and consume vast amounts of our vital resources. It will feed and fatten the military-arms industry partnership which President Eisenhower warned us against so emphatically.

Finally, simple logic should tell us that the arms race can only end in nuclear disaster unless something stops it; and only a coming to our senses by us and the Soviets can do this.

The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty — SALT II — offers a glimmer of hope in the reality of that coming to our senses.

Some say that SALT II accomplishes nothing. We think one can see in it a slight indication of a mutual desire to dampen the arms race. If so, it can accomplish momentous things.

Some others say we are selling out to the Soviets, and they quote all sorts of military arithmetic which few of us can understand. At this point, isn't comparative military arithmetic rather academic since each of us has the capability of

destroying the other many times over — and it makes little difference who pushes the button first.

SALT II, carefully supervised, can do us no harm. It could be a start toward a rational World free of the threat of nuclear disaster.

Each of us has a serious moral responsibility to form and express an opinion on this vital issue. Silence implies consent to the way things are. Our Senators, who must decide for or against ratification of SALT II, are entitled to our opinions. Let us write them.

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Let's Start Evangelizing

Editor:

Father Paul J. Cuddy's column on Evangelization (Courier-Journal 7-18-79) is excellent...and we Catholics had better begin to evangelize and NOW. What do we do? When do we start? Not much more time should roll by. This will be work and education, and demand some sacrifices...but what doesn't which has to be done and is worthwhile. We sure can take lessons from the Mormons on just how they get it across, even if what they believe is almost unbelievable and naive.

I am happy to be a Catholic... love the Mass and other forms of worship, receive comfort and peace from beautiful prayers, Catholic newspapers, magazines, and books by Bishop Sheen, his retreat tapes, etc. But truly, haven't most of the Catholics only received a Catholic education up to 8th grade, and then instructed to be sure to attend Mass every Sunday and on holy days, and obligated to receive Holy Communion at least once a year as an Easter duty. Many only do as much. And feel, well, they are doing what they're supposed to do, so what's the problem? Too many selfish Catholics, and their priority is not their Roman Catholic faith. Let's really start

something for evangelization in our church, and now.

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Stalin Purge Remembered

Editor:

With reference to letters in the Aug. 1 Courier-Journal from Mr. Podgorski and Mr. Bart. I say to them, be patient! To shampoo a donkey's head is a loss of soap, the old saying goes.

And did not the dying Christ on the cross admonish us to forgive His crucifiers because they knew not what they were doing?

You couldn't even persuade him to believe you swore over a stack of bibles that his very Stalin ordered cold-bloodedly the massacre of the 14,500 Polish officers in the Katyn forest, the world's most horrifying unjudged mass murder.

It takes perception and perspicacity even on a guided tour in Mother Russia to distinguish fables from truth, especially since the psychiatric aberrations setting in after the social, cultural, and political mutation of 1917. Wishful thinking can make us believe we see the things we are looking for.

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Editor's Note: Contributor Miller refers to letters from the two writers named which rebutted an earlier letter praising the Soviet Union.

Taiwan Control

Editor:

This is in reply to the letter in the Courier-Journal July 18, 1979, from G.F. Newberry of Rochester entitled Let's Protect Taiwan. The theme of the letter, with which I agree, was to protect the Taiwanese from communism. They really need protection from their own government.

The ability of the 11

million Taiwanese to participate in self-government over the past 30 years has been restricted by the ruling minority of approximately 1 million Chinese, which continues to identify itself as the legitimate government of all China. Participation in the National Assembly has been restricted to provincial representation, the mainland provinces still being represented by the persons elected 30 years ago, prior to the migration from the mainland. The central government has been tightly controlled while local government has tended to be in the hands of Taiwanese willing to cooperate in the Kuomintang. The native Taiwanese are excluded from meaningful participation in the government of their own land, settled 300 years before the migration of Chinese from the mainland with Chiang Kai-shek. The elections scheduled for Dec. 23, 1978 were cancelled following the establishment of relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States. The Taiwanese continue to feel excluded from meaningful participation in the government of their own land by the Kuomintang.

The Taiwanese feel that again their destiny is being determined by others: 50 years under the Japanese, 30 or more under the Kuomintang, potentially again under other authorities they did not choose.

The 191st General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, meeting in May 1979 in Kansas City, Mo., supported the Taiwanese in their hope that free elections will be held soon and asserted that justice cannot be achieved until the Taiwanese are accorded the rights guaranteed to all by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Further information on this subject may be obtained from the proceedings of the 191st General Assembly, a copy of which I have.

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If you are a close friend, you may want to visit at the home of the family. Expressing your own feelings of loss — and your sorrow — lets the family know that others feel their grief. In addition to your visit at the time of the death, your continued contact with the family over the months that follow can be a great help.

In our many years of helping others work through their feelings of grief, we know that the friends of the bereaved were the ones who, ultimately, accepted the responsibility for seeing to the special needs of their sorrowing friends. Their love and concern were the strength that helped the family through the weeks and months of sadness.

Please call us for other suggestions on expressions of sympathy.

We can furnish suggested reading, and information that can help you in adjustment. Please call.

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