

COURIER-JOURNAL

SOUTHERN TIER-AUBURN GENEVA

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Would Family Protection Act Help or Hurt?

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca — Does the Family Protection Act before Congress constitute "state regulation of sexuality" or a return to the Biblical view of family life?

Four persons discussing the Laxalt-Hanson "Family Protection Act" at Cornell University April 22 remained at opposite ends of the issue following a two-hour debate.

The views of the primarily-student audience also were unchanged, as the bill's critics were applauded, and the points by the two Protestant ministers supporting the bill's concept caused laughter on occasion.

Participating were Rev.

Richard Brown of Marathon, who is vice chairman of the New York chapter of Moral Majority; Rev. Clarence Windnagle of the Spencer Baptist Church, who said he is not a Moral Majority member, but a supporter; Dr. John Smith, Dean of Students in the Cornell Law School, and Susan Buck-Moris, an assistant professor of government at Cornell.

The debate, part of a five-day symposium at Cornell on personal freedom, dealt with the role of the Moral Majority and the Family Protection Act, which the group supports.

Ms. Buck-Moris attacked the bill in an emotional argument, also stating that the Moral Majority is "not a majority, and not moral."

She scored provisions in the bill which would stop funding of educational materials which "denigrate or diminish sex role differences" as perceived in the traditional family. The bill cuts off aid to programs for battered wives and children, she said, as an invasion of privacy. She pointed out the paradox she sees in the bill's restrictions on abortion, which she called a violation of a woman's privacy.

She also charged that the Moral Majority is controlled by a small group of conservative politicians, who are using an untapped supply of fundamentalist voters to accomplish their political goals, especially in military and industrial fields.

The ministers approached

the topic from a different perspective. Rev. Brown said that he "loves America," but that as a parent, he is concerned about developments affecting children. He has "seen a lot of decay," he said, and his involvement with Moral Majority is his attempt to improve the situation.

Rev. Windnagle stated that he sees Moral Majority's aim as not to force its religious views on others, but to protect families from immoral views being thrust upon them. He identified the teaching of humanism and evolution as fact in public schools as examples. He said the "Biblical view of the family" should be preserved.

He listed three forces threatening the family: abortion, immoral lifestyles,

and the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA goes against the Biblical pattern, he said; he challenged the audience with the question: "Is America better off after departing from the patterns given by God?" and answered, "I don't think so."

Brown offered that a woman who supports strong families would want to be subject to her husband. His further statement that a man needs a wife to be his "completer" brought a mixture of laughter and hisses from the audience.

Smith noted the value he sees in the Family Protection Act's preamble, and that he sees as a "bit hypocritical" those who attack Moral Majority's efforts as a

violation of church-state separation.

But he finds the group's complacency puzzling. Noting the movement's fear of change in traditional sex roles, he quoted from Paul's letter to the Galatians: "There does not exist among you Jew or Greek, slave or freeman, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus."

Questions from the audience were primarily directed to the ministers, who also were thanked for coming on campus to express their views. The questions sought clarification of the military goals of Moral Majority, and expressed a concern about the group's interest in "Bible values" for the entire country, when not everyone subscribes to the Bible.

Naples Program Still Filling Need

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Naples — It was more than eight years ago, before most people knew what deinstitutionalization meant, that a program for former mental patients met for the first time at the Naples fire station meeting room.

It was Jan. 11, 1973, when that first meeting of the Naples Activity Center (NAC) took place, involving 15 former patients of Willard Psychiatric Center and seven volunteers. They continued to meet every other week, with the volunteers offering, as their brochure states, "love, acceptance, friendship, security."

Now the program, still volunteer-operated, meets weekly and has expanded to a second site. Its 40 volunteers work with 75 clients from four institutions: Willard, the Newark Developmental Center, the Canandaigua Veterans Hospital, and the Rochester Psychiatric Center.

That NAC is volunteer-operated involves clients from more than one facility makes it unusual, and possibly unique.

The story one volunteer told of her involvement in NAC seems to parallel that of other volunteers and possibly Naples itself. Emma Garner related how after her husband's death two years ago, she volunteered to work in the NAC kitchen, as she really wasn't sure what to expect from the clients. Her hesitation waned and she became more involved. She now is the group's president.

A volunteer since the program's first year, Adolphe d'Audiffret, described the village's reaction to the program and its clients in similar terms. At the beginning some objected, he recalled. But the program's 40 volunteers "feed back into the community a great deal of



understanding," he said. For a time, NAC also was the site manager for the local elderly meals program, and the resulting mingling of the two groups further eroded the ignorance, d'Audiffret said.

He commented that novices with the program are nervous at first, but it doesn't take long for them to realize that the clients are "nicer than some 'normal' people."

D'Audiffret noted that his wife, Loe, has worked with the program since its first meeting. Although she has trouble with her eyesight, on a recent Thursday when the program was in session, she spent most of her time with a Willard outpatient who was avoiding the activity in the room.

D'Audiffret commented that everyone needs a feeling of security, but mental patients need it even more. He pointed to a man walking about the room, shaking hands with everyone he met. When he first came to the program eight weeks ago, d'Audiffret said, he stood near the door "and shivered. He was absolutely petrified."

The clients at the Presbyterian Church vary in age and type of disability. Some sit in groups and drink coffee; others are making favors to be distributed at F.F. Thompson Hospital in Canandaigua. A movie had been scheduled for the afternoon, but the absence of the person who was to bring the projector caused a late change in plans. The change didn't seem to bother anyone.

Clients and volunteers eat lunch at the site. During

lunch, a client leads the singing of "Happy Birthday" for a volunteer, which causes another client to take out pictures of her birthday, and proudly show them off to those at her table.

The lunch and other expenses of the program are funded by donations and the United Way; NAC receives only limited financial support from the institutions involved.

When the program outgrew the fire hall and moved some of its program to the Presbyterian Church, it was the Willard patients who, by choice, stayed at the fire hall. On April 2, the second day of trout season, a group from the fire hall went to see the fishing, reported Betty Baker, a co-chairwoman at that site. After lunch they made place mats for their Easter luncheon.

A couple of the fire hall regulars were in the hospital, Mrs. Baker said, so the group signed get-well cards for them.

NAC receives the assistance of four staff persons from three of the institutions the clients represent, who act as advisors.

Nancy McWilliams is a Willard employee who works at the fire hall; she also works at the Ontario Community Service Center in Geneva, an outpatient program operated by Willard.

A recreation therapist, Ms. McWilliams explained that she helps the volunteers plan activities designed to involve the clients as actively as possible. She conducts a socialization session in the morning, she said, attempting to involve the clients in conversation. Most of the fire hall clients were institutionalized for many years, she noted, and some, if left alone, will simply sit. Her attempts to get them involved aren't always successful, she said, but the effort of coming to the program is itself beneficial.



Essay Winner

Robert DelloStritto of Blessed Trinity School in Auburn poses with the stuffed seal he won as the grand prize winner in an essay art contest. The contest was sponsored by Marine Midland Bank. Offering congratulations are, from left, Sister Helen Therese, S.S.J., teacher; Sister Walter Anne, S.S.J., principal; Charles P. Ingersoll, bank vice president, and John J. Dundon, assistant vice president. Eighteen pupils at the school won prizes of small seals.

Deaths

Mrs. Dando

Apalachin — A Mass of Christian Burial was offered for Mrs. Alma B. Dando on Thursday, April 23, at St. Margaret Mary's Church by Fathers Neil Miller and Elmer Schmidt.

Mrs. Dando, 62, who died April 20, had been involved in nursery, youth, Human Development and parish council programs in St. Margaret Mary Parish, and in the diocesan Human Development program.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Katherine Price of Norfolk, Va.; three sons, Robert E. of Fredonia; David F. of New York City, and George T. of Apalachin. Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. Mary Hausmann of North Bergen, NJ; a brother, Thomas Brown of Little Ferry, NJ; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Burial took place April 24 in Fort Lee, NJ.

Alcoholism Is Topic

Apalachin — St. Margaret Mary's Parish will have a Cabaret Night dealing with alcohol use and abuse at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 8; at the parish hall.

A film titled "Chalk Talk,"

Worship Service Scheduled

Elmira — A memorial service has been scheduled at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, in the Dunn Chapel.

The St. Joseph's Hospital Pastoral Care Department, sharing in the grief of those who have experienced a death in the family, plans a worship service every two months for those who have died at St. Joseph's. The families of the deceased are invited to the service, and to a small social gathering in the lower cafeteria of the Dunn Memorial afterwards.

done" by Father Joseph Martin, a widely-known expert on alcoholism and its treatment, will open the evening's program. A question and answer period will follow, which will be led by Lois Kearns of the Broome County Council on Alcoholism.

Students from the seventh grade and older, and all adults are invited. Refreshments will be served.

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