

ERA: More Rocks in Way, (Or Are They Boulders?)

Washington (NC) — Already in trouble with many pro-life groups because of a perceived link to abortion, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment is also raising red flags on other issues in the eyes of some Catholics and evangelical Christians.

After a lengthy debate among Catholic groups and individuals — some of whom have opposed it while others, including some bishops, have backed it — the ERA now is the object of more in-depth scrutiny by a new ad hoc committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The NCCB has never taken a position on the ERA itself. In 1978, though, what was considered a pro-ERA statement by the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Church and Society was squelched by the bishops' Administrative Committee, the same panel that decided this year to set up the ad hoc ERA committee.

The NCCB also warned in April that unless anti-abortion language is added to amend the amendment so that ERA is not construed to mean the right to abortion, "the conference will have no alternative but to oppose ERA because of the serious moral problems this will present."

An anti-abortion rider, drafted by Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner R-Wis., is backed by the bishops.

For a long time, proponents of the ERA, including members of the hierarchy, disputed an automatic link between the ERA and abortion rights.

In 1980, for example, Bishop Michael McAuliffe of Jefferson City, Mo., speaking as an individual, told a Missouri legislative hearing that the ERA would not affect abortion because men cannot become pregnant and the ERA would affect only those activities and concerns men and women share.

But the debate is changing, following a recent Pennsylvania court decision in which the judge invoked that state's ERA as grounds for rejecting laws against state-funded abortions.

The key portion of the ERA reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Sensenbrenner's measure would add the statement, "Nothing in this article (the ERA) shall be construed to grant or secure any right to abortion or the funding thereof."

Network, a national public interest and lobbying group of Catholic nuns and lay people, has supported the ERA for more than a decade. Its national coordinator, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Nancy Sylvester, said Network is still on the record backing a "clean" amendment — without any riders attached — but will reconsider that position in light of the Sensenbrenner proposal.

However, some Catholic officials indicate that even if the Sensenbrenner amendment is attached to the ERA, serious problems may remain.

According to Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye, NCCB general secretary, questions about the ERA extend beyond abortion to issues of education and charitable organizations as well. "There's increasing concern that we're into very murky waters," he said.

Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, NCCB vice president, named to head the ad hoc committee, concurred that while abortion is the major ERA-related concern, it is not the only worry.

If the ERA is part of the Constitution, questions could be raised about all-boys' or all-girls' schools, he said. A related issue is whether such schools' tax exemptions could ever be withdrawn on the grounds of violating the ERA, he added.

Even "the question of a seminary that did not enroll and train women for the ministry" could arise, he suggested.

Archbishop May and the NCCB have not yet said the ERA poses these specific problems. What they are saying is that the NCCB will study the ERA to see if these issues could come up.

There is precedent, if narrow, for disallowing tax exemptions to schools on the grounds they discriminate.

In the Bob Jones University case, the Supreme Court ruled in 1983 that the government was within its rights to withdraw a school's tax exemptions for racial discrimination, even if discrimination is based on religious beliefs.

But Susan Deller Ross, Georgetown University law professor, said the Bob Jones case involved tax law and the acceptability of a government decision to withdraw a tax exemption, not a constitutional question as such. She said she doubts the ERA would threaten private organizations.

Catholics are not alone in their concerns about the ERA. Given the continuing debate about what ERA would or would not do, the as-yet-unsuccessful amendment is not likely to find the road ahead any easier.

Bishops Form Unit On ERA

Washington (NC) — A cardinal, an archbishop, and three bishops have been named to an ad hoc committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to study the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

The NCCB announced the appointments May 9. Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, NCCB vice president, is chairman of the ad hoc group.

The new committee members, who chair NCCB or U.S. Catholic Conference Committees related to the ERA study are: Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, Committee for Pro-Life Activities; Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York, Social Development and World Peace Committee; Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Pittsburgh, Canonical Affairs Committee; Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet, Ill., Committee on Women in Society and the Church; and Auxiliary Bishop Edward T. Hughes of Philadelphia, Education Committee.

The NCCB's administrative committee has said it cannot support the ERA if the amendment does not include a rider to prevent the ERA from guaranteeing abortion rights.

The ad hoc committee will consider other potential issues involving the ERA and its possible effect on social and moral issues.



Novitiate Bound

Maureen Servas, art teacher at Our Lady of Mercy High School, will be received as a novice in the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, 4:30 p.m., Sunday, May 20 in the motherhouse chapel, 1437 Blossom Road. The daughter of Carlton and Alice Servas of Greece is a 1978 graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School.

Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication.

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TOUR - By Memorial Art Gallery docent Shirley Somers through 1984 Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition, 2 p.m., Sunday, May 20 Rochester Memorial Art Gallery. Free to members; free to non-members with gallery admission.

CONCERT - Madrigalia, Rochester-based 16-voice chamber choir, conducted by director Robery Dwelley, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, Fountain Court, Rochester Memorial Art Gallery. Free

SHELL SHOW - Featuring collections of members of Rochester Shell and Shore Club and of RMSC, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 25-26 and from 1-5 p.m. Sunday May 27, Bausch Hall, Rochester Museum. Free with general museum admission.

FASHION SHOW - Presenting "The Lure of Lace", 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, May 23, Rochester museum and Science Center. \$10 with lunch; \$5 in advance, or \$6 at door.

SENIOR MATINEE - "Desk Set" starring Katharine Hepburn, Gig Young, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 17, George Eastman House.

MEETINGS - United Cancer Council's HUGS (Hysterectomy: Un-

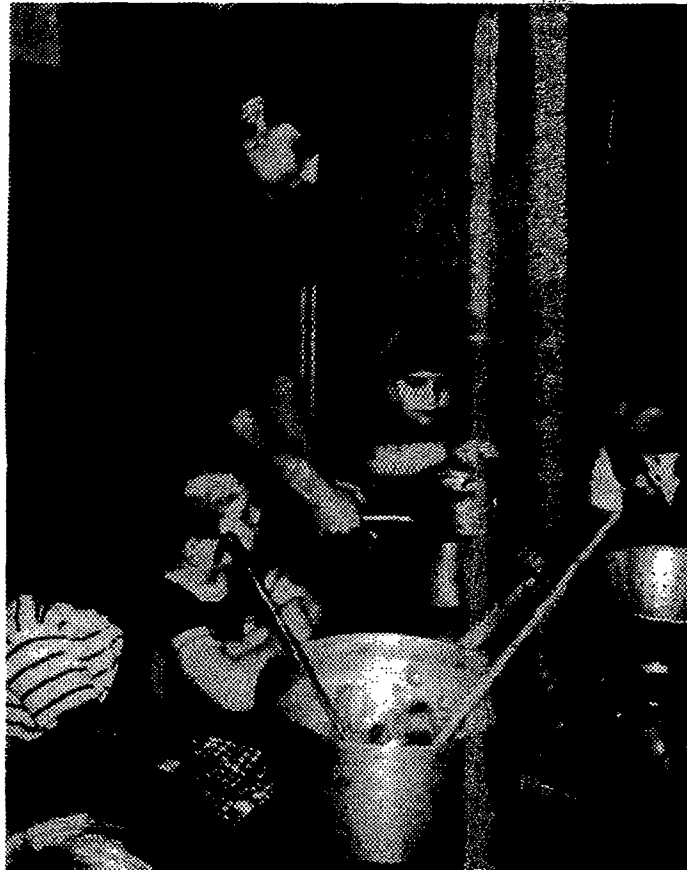
derstanding and Group Support), 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 21, Asbury Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue. Topic, Health: Nutrition and Exercise," led by Mark Munzert manager of Holiday Health and Fitness Center. Free one week guest passes to all who attend. Spouses are welcome. Dress for exercise. For more information call Wendy Wilson, 473-8230: United Cancer Council's "Make Today Count", 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 21, at Friend's Meeting House, 41 Westminister Road. For more information call Gloria Gonyeo, 473-8230.

NFP - Session sponsored by Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester, 7:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, May 23, St. Mary's School, conference room, Dansville, N. Y.

SPRING DANCE - Concepts - Annual Spring Ball featuring a 20s theme, 7 p.m., Friday, May 18, Cabaret Room, Otto A. Shults Community Center, Nazareth College. \$30 per person.

CLASSIC FILM - "Autumn Leaves" starring Joan Crawford and Cliff Robertson, 2 and 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center.

EXHIBIT - "A Nifty 150", a view of Rochester as its young people see it, presented by the students of the Memorial Art Gallery Creative Workshop's Children's and Young People's classes, now through June 17, Memorial Art Gallery.



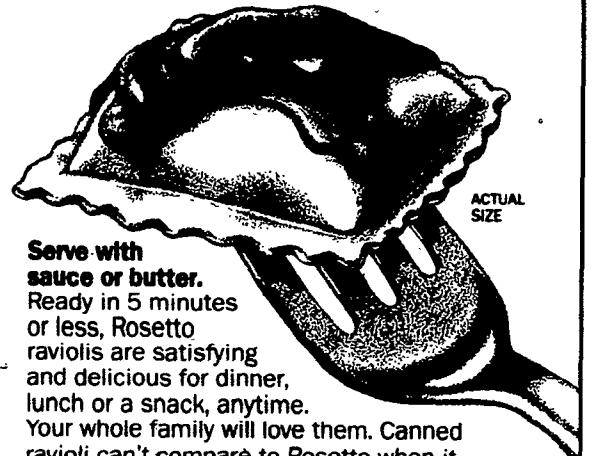
Fun Alphabet

Miss Christine Palmiere's Pre-School class at Nazareth Hall enjoyed making applesauce as part of their lesson on the letter 'A'.

COOKBOOKS — "Love From An Irish Kitchen"	\$7.50
KEYRINGS — 3" Shamrock imprinted with "Lord It's Hard to be Humble When You're Irish!"	1.75
BUMPER STICKERS — Imprinted "Lord It's Hard to be Humble When You're Irish!"	1.25
A.O.H. MOTTO CARDS — "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity"	.50
RECIPE CARDS — "Love From An Irish Kitchen"	
5 in each pkg. 3"x5"	.75
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MEMO NOTE PADS — Imprinted "Lord It's Hard to be Humble When You're Irish"	
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Personalized with your name Pack of 3	3.00
Large note paper - 5 1/2"x8 1/2" Pack of 2	2.75
Personalized Pack of 2	3.50
IRISH BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pack of 10	4.00
<p>"It's an Irish Baby"</p> <p>"It's an Irish Boy!"</p> <p>"It's an Irish Girl!"</p> <p>(Please specify your choice)</p>	
IRISH NOTE STATIONERY with envelopes Green Border decorated with Shamrocks Pack of 10	3.75
Personalized with your name Pack of 10 (Please specify name to be imprinted)	4.50

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