

Monologue

Idle Hands

By J. Dana Haynes
(First of a two-part series.)

Last week, Richard S. Schweiker resigned from the job of Secretary of Health and Human Services in the Reagan cabinet.

However, before he left office, Schweiker presented a plan to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). He proposed that any family planning clinic supported by federal funds must notify parents of minors who receive birth control pills, diaphragms or intrauterine devices (IUD). The proposal is known as the "Snitch Rule."

The reasoning behind the plan is simple. In Schweiker's own words, "This department (Health and Human Services) has a deep responsibility to protect the health and safety of minor adolescents who are given prescription birth control drugs and devices paid for with taxpayers dollars."

The operative term here, of course, is "... paid for with taxpayers dollars." For quite obviously, Schweiker's proposal will not, in any way, protect the health and safety of minors.

The underlying logic behind the proposal seems to be that if teen-agers want to have sex, they will first tell mom and dad, and then the entire family will stop by Planned Parenthood for an IUD on the way home from the store.

Or perhaps the theory is that the average 15-year-old will be unable to inform her father that she wants to have sex with Elmer, so she'll simply not get any birth control pills. And since she doesn't have any pills, she won't go to bed with Elmer.

Could it be that the Department of Health and Human Services is so dense as to actually believe either scenario? Or do they realize the only other outcome will be to have no effect on the amount of teen-age sex, and a dramatic increase in the amount of teen-age pregnancies?

Eve Paul, the vice president for legal affairs for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America said, "These regulations are an outrage and threaten the health and well-being of hundreds of thousands of teen-agers and their families."

In fact, Planned Parenthood is read to take this fight to the U.S. District Court, even though the proposal has yet to be accepted by the OMB.

And another voice has come out against the proposition. Margaret M. Heckler, who has been nominated by President Reagan to replace Schweiker as the H.H.S. Secretary, is opposed to her predecessor's idea. In fact, Heckler was against the plan even when she was a member of Congress.

Last April, Heckler signed her name to the first of two letters sent to Schweiker. The first letter was signed by 32 other members of Congress and stated that the undersigned feared the regulation would "discourage many young people from utilizing these services and would result in a drastic increase in the number of teen-age pregnancies."

If that was not enough opposition, Representative Henry A. Waxman, D-Cal., referred to the Snitch Rule as "a heavy-handed move by government to interfere in personal decisions." Waxman is the chairperson of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Health and the Environment, which has jurisdiction over some of the programs of the H.H.S. Waxman called on Heckler to stick to her guns on opposing the Snitch Rule, and vowed to do the same.

Teen-age pregnancy is a definite problem, and steps must be taken to turn the situation around. However, making protective devices less available is a treatment for a symptom, not for the problem.

The problem is lack of knowledge by minors, lack of proper, nationwide sex education, and nonsensical "good-girls-don't-plan-ahead" peer pressures.

(Next week: *The Planned Parenthood Option.*)

Oregon at expenditure deplorable

By Brett Bigham

Oregon has class. Right? Oregon has culture. Right? Oregon can look down at the more primitive and "unenlightened" states like Alabama. Right? ... Wrong.

Arts in Oregon is pretty near the lowest 'man' on the totem pole. In fact, out of 50 states, the District of Columbia and five territories, Oregon ranks a hot number 51 for arts spending per capita. That's pretty bad.

In fact that's something about which the people of Oregon could really get embarrassed. We must really look like hicks to all the cultured people of Idaho and Nebraska.

Art advocates in the state are hoping to turn this embarrassment into support for a new and heftier arts budget. The increase in fact, would be a whopping 44 percent.

Don't fool yourself. This increase sounds like a great deal but it would only scrape us up into around 42nd place. The original budget sought would have put Oregon into the 30's but it was cut down to keep the proposed state budget lower.

The committee will be asking for one million dollars for 1983-85. Come on Oregon,



that's not even the cost of an MX missile.

Governor Atiyeh has been very supportive of the new arts budget and on a national level Congress is even defending the National Endorsement for the Arts against budget-cut happy Reagan. Maybe the country is finally going to start getting its head out of military spending and start spending money on more enjoyable things. Let's face it. Mushroom clouds are pretty but they cost a hell of a lot more than a play and there are no encore performances.

Even with this new budget (if it passes) it's not going to be like an explosion of arts. This

budget is for two years and it is still pretty skimpy. The sad part about it is that small art-related businesses will still have a hard time getting funds. The state just won't have enough money to invest in all the groups that come around or try to start up.

With the economy the way it is I can see why people would flinch at the idea of boosting up any budget when everyone is having to tighten their belts but arts have been neglected for too long in Oregon.

I guess it's time for Oregon to get its butt out from in front of the television and get some "culture."

Dialogue

Christmas article OK

To The Print:

I'd like to express my response to the letter submitted to *The Print* in the last issue concerning the appropriateness of Wanda Percival's article entitled, "A Christmas Message."

I agree to what was stated to the effect that a school paper should not be a vehicle in which to preach religion. I do not, however, object to the exhortations quoted from the Bible in her article directed toward professing Christians. I have found that more people are offended by hypocrites rather than by those who make it their life to truly follow after Jesus and His teachings.

The timeliness of Wanda's article was especially refreshing as well, since Christmas is one of the few times during the year in which we as a nation even give recognition to Christ's birth. The rest of the year seems to be devoted to evolution and humanism (a religion of great offense to many). When the subject of religions is

discussed, humanism falls into this category. The only difference between humanism and other religions is that taxpayers pay for their organization. "140 billion dollars is received annually to operate their vast network of churches, called schools, colleges, and universities. There, in the name of academic freedom, only the religion of humanism can be taught." (Tim LaHaye, "The Battle for the Mind")

In regard to Christianity, the true Christian should want to follow his founder if he truly believes in Him.

Besides, what if every professing Christian *did* decide not to do anything before first asking himself the question, "What would Jesus do? ... Unless, of course, as a "christian," one has something against Jesus' example.

Sincerely yours,
Dale Seale

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