

More Letters

To the Editor:

Recent editorials in newspapers around the country contend that the "obvious solution" to the problems of teenage pregnancy and the passing of sexual diseases is "education and contraception." Yet some serious thought should suggest that, however well-intentioned, this solution is proving worse than the problem. Besides being ineffective it distorts the dignity of humanity and diminishes any sense of personal worth.

Considering the emotional make-up of teenagers, the promotion of contraceptives actually adds to the pressure to engage in premarital sex. When teens are taught by adults that contraception is an option, this leads them to believe that it is all right and

perhaps even normal for them to be having sex. All teenagers want to be normal, to fit in with their friends.

The acceptability and availability of contraceptives, charged with the need to prove themselves, preys on a teens' fragile self-image. The use of contraceptives also gives teenagers one less enabling reason to say "No" to pre-marital sex.

The "education-contraception philosophy" also adds to the confusion that teenagers regularly experience about the difference between true inter-personal closeness and simple physical intimacy.

Perhaps most dangerous, this approach to the problem takes advantage of a teen's desire to grow up too fast, expecting them to assume adult

responsibility before they are able to be ready. At the same time treating them like children who are not expected to control their own behavior.

The House Select Committee On Children, Youth and Families makes clear the connection so many of the problems our teens face:

"Progressively over the past 25 years, we have, as a nation, decided that it is easier to give children pills than to teach them respect for sex, marriage (and family).

Today we are seeing the results of that decision, not only in increased pregnancy rates (and abortions), but in increased rates of drug abuse, venereal disease, (AIDS), suicide and other forms of self-destructive behavior."

The time has come to stop

blaming the problem of teen pregnancy on our children or the ills of society. We are responsible for their upbringing. Let us stop giving our teenagers "quick and easy solutions" which are not solutions at all; let us give them guidance that respects their ability to control their actions; guidance which will work!

Dean Julian
Pastor

Vernonia Bible Church

To the Editor:

We would like to express our gratitude to the people of Vernonia, Vernonia Cares and Dot Yadon for their caring and help during Ollie Ray's illness.

Lynda and Ollie Ray

To the Editor:

Safety is an interesting concept. On July 22, 1987, I was

informed that we would no longer be able to park at our residence on Park Drive where residents have parked without trouble for many years. We must find somewhere else to park because our vehicles cover a sidewalk and could be a hazard to motor, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. That's where safety comes in. How can a person safely walk by when the sidewalk is covered?

Let me present another side to this question. Have you seen that sidewalk? The broken places and cracks? The street is in better condition. Did you notice the five yards of gravel at the beginning of it or the retaining wall at the end? This sidewalk is a hazard.

In any event, we've been

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