

# Some goo-goos for Baby Louise

## Flip Side

By CRAIG PIECHURA

It is being said in some quarters, and a couple \$600 cent stores, that science has progressed beyond man's ability to deal with it rationally. It's become quite the issue.

Moralists and magazine writers point to Baby Louise, the test tube baby born with a silver strip of litmus paper in her mouth. They mention the questionable cloning experiment supposedly observed by writer David Rusk as further evidence of man's infringement on the natural order of evolution.

All I can say is science progressed beyond my ability to deal with it rationally long ago. I think it was when we left the elementary school lesson on static electricity and moved to the chapter about spermatazoa and ova. I was disappointed to find that we were going to learn about tadpole-like creatures meeting to form meiosis. I thought we were going to finally find out sex.

Don't get me wrong. I love scientific breakthroughs and I welcome Baby Louise. I even read scientific journals like the lavishly-illustrated "Scientific American" every so often. I find it a constant source of amusement to try to grasp the meaning of articles such as the recent one about particles and anti-particles tunneling their way through black holes in space. Ha ha. Ha ha ha.

The joke's on me and a lot of other scientific literates.

THANKS TO Mr. Wizard's TV Show, I do know two useful scientific experiments guaranteed to win you money in bar bets.

inside your partner's mouth. Green lights will be flashing like crazy as the crystals split.

If you're too embarrassed to let anyone else in on the experiment, but are dying to try it yourself, chew the Lifesaver in front of the mirror in the dark bathroom. Or don't do it at all. See if I care.

So what does all this have to do with cute, little Baby Louise, the English infant who was conceived in a Petric dish? Admittedly, not much. Only that there are many prominent clergy and sociologists who say that Baby Louise should not have been born because her parents Gilbert and Leslie Brown got an assist from science.

I could understand the outrage if the Browns were intent on cloning a race of overzealous Jaycees. But Mrs. Brown had a blocked fallopian tube and the conception joined their egg and sperm. The child is their legitimate offspring.

But the other day, a Catholic theologian on public radio denounced Baby Louise's birth saying it was immoral because it employed an unnatural conception.

But the church says all sex acts must be for procreation and this one was.

In this case I wouldn't put any restraints on the scientists. The only restraint I'd like to see imposed in the whole affair is on the British press who are exploiting the Baby Louise story even more than the one about Joyce McKinnley, the Miss America candidate who kept the Mormon in bondage.

We all know sex sells big in Britain. The question is how will social science play in Peoria?



### Mailman's malady

The joke is on the U.S. Mail at the Northville State Hospital, where someone has erected a mailbox for air mail packages. It's hard enough for a mail carrier these days with dogs and the heat and now they'll have sore arms from straining. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

## Protect wee ones from home hazards

You can't be too careful when the safety of infants and toddlers in your home is concerned—whether they are a permanent part of the household or just visiting for a short time.

Here are some safety hints for youngsters in your home:

- Keep all poisonous substances and medicine out of the reach of children. If you must store harmful substances at lower levels, be sure to place these items in cabinets that can be locked.

- Most cleaning agents, medicines and even cosmetics can be harmful.
- Dispose of old or unused medicine by flushing it down drains rather than tossing it in the wastebasket. Also, be sure that empty containers of other harmful substances aren't left within reach of curious tots. Even residual quantities of these materials can be dangerous.

- Of course, children should be taught that electrical outlets and appliance cords are not toys. But, to prevent a precocious youngster from imitating you by plugging in a favorite toy, install inexpensive covers on outlets not in regular use.

- Avoid letting appliance cords dangle below kitchen-counter level to prevent having the appliances pulled down. Make sure pot handles are never left facing outward on the stove where they could be easily bumped, resulting in hot foods or other items falling on youngsters.

- Install gates at the top and bottom of stairways to prevent falls. Be sure stairs are free from clutter to avoid tripping by any member of the family.
- Be sure matches, cigarette lighters and other such items are kept out of reach of children. Also, check that the fireplace screen, which is an essential feature for safe operation of the fireplace, cannot be pulled over by a toddler.

- Develop a fire escape plan, and be sure that all members of the family know what to do in case of an emergency.

- Like most safety precautions, these hints can be carried out with only a minimal amount of time and effort. And, the accident/injury potential that can be avoided by following them is an even greater investment for your family's future.

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