

Monday, March 8, 1982

OCC Womencenter

Forum speaks out against Family Protection Act

By Lorraine McClish staff writer

Helen Milliken leads off a string of speakers who have lined up to speak out against The Family Protection Act in a free morning program on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus. The act is now being considered by Congress.

Michigan's first lady will be the keynote for "Speak Out," running from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 18, in H-Building's multi-purpose room, sponsored by Womencenter.

"We've invited representatives from local Congressional district offices to be in the audience. And we invite all area persons who want to speak out against the act to have their say," said Mary White, director of Womencenter.

The invited speakers will be zeroing in on the areas of the act that concern education, reproductive freedom and censorship.

THE-FAMILY Protection Act is a wide-ranging bill that addresses numerous issues and programs, most of which bear directly or indirectly on family concepts, prerogatives, practices, values and their relationships with government.

Proponents of the act appear to feel that the federal government has be-

come too involved in family matters which should be handled by the individual family. Failing that, these matters should be under state or local jurisdiction.

The act implies government is over-regulating in the areas of school prayer and the integration of sexes in school sports, for example. It implies government is overly permissive in other areas, such as homosexuality or in providing contraceptives to minors.

It also asserts that tax policy fails to provide incentives for family members to support and care for one another.

It proposes to amend the National Labor Relations Act.

The overall bill contains provisions that attempt to change these and other perceived problems in existing laws and programs.

MS. WHITE calls The Family Protection Act "blatantly Right Wing in content and in strategy, tricky, twisted and distorted."

She has invited Carol King, the Displaced Homemaker Project coordinator for Macomb Community College, to wind up the program "with an analysis of the New Right that will help to set the record straight," she said.

"The passage of such a bill will directly affect many aspects of our lives and the freedom to live them as we choose.



E. Faye Williams



Howard L. Simon



Ursula Bowring-Trenn



Helen Milliken

"The bill's contents call for an educational forum that will let the citizens know how the Right Wing wants to control our lives."

Guest speakers for the morning are Howard Simon, president of Detroit chapter of American Civil Liberties Union; E. Faye Williams from Michigan Education Associate's Women's

Caucus; and Ursula Bowring-Trenn, president of the North Oakland Chapter

of NOW (National Organization for Women).

Much of the bill concerns education. It proposes that parents and churches have more control over the content and values presented by the public schools.

"Our speakers will have a lot to say on the censorship and limitation and inequality of the sexes this would impose," Ms. White said.

ONE SEGMENT of "Speak Out" will be devoted to women and minorities.

"The act would have us all back to the traditional role of homemaker," Ms. White said. "It assumes that there are no divorces and consequently no single parents."

The act proposes to ban funding which would provide legal assistance that might lead to litigation concerning abortion, divorce or homosexual rights.

As to that, Ms. White said, "We will talk about the legal aid offices that are being shut down now, which is only

deepening the already existing problems that are keeping the poor poor and the ignorant ignorant."

The Family Protection Act was originally introduced in the 96th Congress in 1979. It since has been revised and a number of single provision contained in the bill have been introduced as individual bills.

As it stand now, eight separate provisions relate to education, taxation, civil rights and domestic relations.

The creation debate

Evolution is scientific; creationism is revelation

By Sherry Kahan staff writer

"Science is an open system," said Ronald Jameson, instructor at Schoolcraft College. "It is open to additional information, verification and revision."

"Evolution is a theory, a way of making sense of the observed world. As a scientific theory, it is open to correction. Science is based on observation and experiment. Creationism is not based on observation and experiment. It is based on revelation, an idea in the Bible."

"I don't believe even creationists say the Bible is based on observation and experiment." Evolution was very much on Jameson's mind because he recently spoke on the subject to the Adult Forum at St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Livonia. His audience, he said, "was favorably disposed to the concept of evolution before I got there."

"Their questions were challenging but not hostile," he added, and pointed out his views were sought because of the recent national interest in creationism as part of school science courses.

"BEING OPEN to change, I think that's the only way to go," he continued. "I was trained in the scientific approach and find it useful for some things. But it doesn't answer all the questions of life for me."

A sociologist, Jameson teaches both sociology and anthropology. In his opinion, creationists believe that religion is the backbone of society.

"To overcome society's problems they favor strengthening religion," he explained. "They might see a secular view of human origins as weakening the lifer interpretation of the Bible and leading to crime and other bad things."

"Humans did not evolve from apes," Jameson said. "But they share a common ancestor, who lived in an environment close to that of apes," he added.

"We didn't evolve from the kind of apes we see today. We evolved from

some ape-like creatures. More than 10 million years ago as the forest area declined, some of the ape-like creatures were pushed from this area into flatlands."

"It was those who became human. It was the good walkers who survived. Walking erect is seen as the first step on the way to humanness."

THESE ARE THE IDEAS all evolutionists adhere to, Jameson told the church group, adding that the exact steps of moving from ape-like creature to man has engendered "lots of disputes among anthropologists."

"The creationists take these disagreements and say that this indicates our theory is wrong," he went on.

"Just because we agree on evolution doesn't mean we agree on all details. There have been more bones and fossils found between 1967 and 1977 than in all time before. Much new information is coming out."

"I've found that some of what I teach students on details of evolution may no longer be true. But I don't abandon the theory."

When he started teaching, Jameson noted, "they said that human beings go back its cottles years. Now they say about four million."

"They base their case on new techniques for dating these bones and fossils. I don't think creationists care about dating techniques. They say the world is 5,000 years old. The Bible dates it."

STUDYING ANTHROPOLOGY has made him aware that all people have created theories. For example, "the Pima Indians in the American Southwest think the first people came from a hole in the ground, produced by Mother Earth," he said.

The instructor pointed out that the same arguments that are being brought up today were raised against Charles Darwin's theory of evolution in 1859. He noted that the English naturalist was not a believer in this theory before



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Schoolcraft instructor Ronald Jameson talks about the way evolution is taught.

he went on his five-year voyage on the ship, Beagle.

On this trip the young scientist did systematic studies of the animal life of South America. In 1859 when he published "The Origin of Species," he discussed the idea of natural selection, noted Jameson.

Darwin claimed, he went on, that there are variations within any species and thus some are bound to have the characteristics that enable them to live longer.

The fact they live longer allows them to reproduce more, so their variation of the species is more likely to survive. In

the same way, the bug that is the color of its environment is less likely to be found and eaten by other bugs. For this reason its species survives.

In Darwin's second book, "The Descent of Man," Darwin applied these principles to man, said Jameson. "He wrote that we are descendants through modification and change of some earlier species, now extinct."

A resident of Detroit and a graduate of Wayne State University, Jameson is in his 11th year at Schoolcraft College. He pointed out that he enjoyed the opportunity to speak outside the college.

"We're a resource the community should use," he said.

Spring term roster is set at the center

Students may choose from a list of about 45 classes and 40 workshops being offered in Farmington Community Center when spring registration starts from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 18.

A variety of leisure activities can be found in the center with a strong emphasis on heritage crafts.

Basketmaker Scott Smith will offer classes in beehive, layette and gathering baskets. Theresa Ohno teaches coil basketry, using broom corn and yarn. Stenciling, rya rug, weaving on a table loom, as well as crochet, sewing, knit-

ing and needlelace will expand the crafter's experiences.

An opportunity for self-improvement is available through parent skills training, losing weight the smart way, slim-nastics, yoga and pediatric first aid.

Classes in fine arts will include painting, sketching and sculpture, plus a number of art media: calligraphy, stained glass, silk flowers, porcelainized flowers and dried flower arranging.

JAN DOLAN, nationally accredited flower show judge, will offer "Fresh Flower Arranging," and Betty Frankel, Free Press garden columnist leads

"Landscaping and Gardening" and "Japanese Gardens - Made in America," a slide presentation and discussion of Oriental serenity and harmony outdoors.

Oriental harmony will also be experienced in Mary Bowman's Japanese tea ceremony and Sumi-e painting classes.

Cooking classes will include chocolate moulding, gourmet lunch and gourmet dinner, buffet entertaining, super salads, hors d'oeuvres, party menus, "It Hasta Be Pasta," Chinese cooking and cooking for men.

TABLE SETTINGS for formal, casual

and holiday entertaining will be presented in "Table Settings," and help for planning that special wedding day is offered in "Wedding Planning and Etiquette."

Children's classes include art, calligraphy, ballet and jazz, tap, golf, English riding at Haverhill, beginning guitar, piano and song writing.

Examples of arts and crafts will be on display during registration. Mail enrollments will be processed after in-person registration. Fees are payable in full when registering. Inquiries will be taken by calling the center, 477-8404.

5 from Mercy High take prizes in AAA contest

Five students in Mercy High School's art department will receive cash prizes from the Automobile Club of Michigan this spring.

Renee Bibeau and Julie Chrzanoski both took first place awards for the

work they submitted in the annual Michigan School Traffic Safety Poster Contest.

Marie Nowak and Brita Brookes both took second place awards. Julie Bender was given an honorable mention.

The competition was open to teens throughout Michigan.

"We were pleased and fortunate to have so many of our entries take a prize," said Suzanne Young who directed the contest.

The winners will receive their awards at a luncheon in May, at Dearborn's Fairlane Manor.

The winning posters are now being forwarded to Falls Church, VA. for national judging.

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