

Why Good Teachers Need Tenure

EDITOR:

I should like to reply to a letter (Jan. 19) by Barbara Rankin, college student and future teacher, who supports abolishing tenure for teachers.

It sounds as though Miss Rankin is understandably miffed over what she calls "the overstocked field of education," and she would like to see some teachers removed to make room — I infer — for "good" teachers, the likes of herself and her friends.

I should like very much to know Miss Rankin's definition of "good" teacher and then her suggestions on how to be the judge(s) of "good" teachers.

Miss Rankin is incredibly naive to believe "None of the auto industries would keep an assembly line worker who turned out inferior cars," and despite her weak analogy, I trust she does not believe students are "turned out" from assembly lines.

Unless one subscribes to American planned obsolescence, the "baddies" in education are not to be simply disposed of. They are human beings, most of whom just might respond positively to a kind administrator with guts enough to point out their alleged faults and patience enough to work with them, if the faults are real.

Abolishing tenure could be much more harmful to education than keeping it. It could lead—in some tight-laced districts—to a band of indistinguishable "goodies," financially enslaved to a dead status quo rather than freely dedicated to living students.

I have heard graduate students, their plans to revolutionize education, their cry "The trouble with education is teachers!" and now I hear Miss Rankin, "Our school system is full of teachers who should not be entrusted with preparing the youth of today to be tomorrow's leaders."

Let us hope, Miss Rankin, that you will be up to this awesome task. (Incidentally, they aren't all tomorrow's leaders; some, we pray, will be responsible followers.)

JOANNE STEIN

Plymouth

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words.

Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause.

Letters must be typed and double-spaced. Only original copies are acceptable. The editor will not accept any carbon or mechanically reproduced copies.

The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

Thief Knew Jacket Stolen

EDITOR:

I would like to say a few words to the person that stole my son's Clarenceville Variety jacket and black leather gloves one Friday night at his school dance even though it was patrolled by auxiliary police, teachers and parents.

I hope you were nice and warm when you left that dance. My son had to leave in sub-zero weather in his shirt sleeves.

For awhile, I thought it might have been picked up by mistake, but when you found those pictures in the pocket, you knew who it belonged to.

My first thought was what was your parents' reaction when you went home with that jacket that didn't belong to you. They probably didn't even notice or if they did they were just too busy to care.

MRS. R. BAME

Farmington

'Cold-Blooded, Parasitic'

EDITOR:

Kathy Moran's article "How An Abortion Agency Functions" in the Jan. 19, edition really bothers me.

Not only is the opportunistic, cold-blooded, parasitic business "Henry Barton" operates a threat to all of us, but also threatening, is the possibility that the promoters of abortion reform will use him and his kind to further their cause.

JOANNE STEIN

Plymouth

The deliberate suctioning

out, scraping (D & C), and delivery of living defenseless life in utero, is presently illegal in Michigan. Should we legalize it, just to put "Henry Barton" out of business? I certainly don't think so.

Besides, what's to prevent him from opening up his "legitimate business" in some other state.

What's the solution? Legalize abortion with wide latitude as to what we really want? Wake up, America, before it's too late! Far too many of our generation have already been sucked up in a "plush, fully equipped medical center," by the top gynecologist, by a method known as vacuum curettage.

Have you ever heard that sound "Henry Barton"? The sound of another life going down the drain!

Has our generation come so far that we have forgotten from whence we came...and to whom we shall return!

MRS. MARY RAYES R. N.

Livonia

Fetus Is A Human Being

EDITOR:

There is not a responsible medical book in the world which would not refute all of the medical statements of Mrs. Barton in Kathy Moran's article "How An Abortion Agency Functions."

At 18 weeks, a fetus has every single part of the body. It has a heart, lungs, eyes, ears, nose, arms, legs, fingers, toes and every other part that it will have the day it is born if it is not destroyed before it has a chance to be born.

I wish you would print a picture of a fetus at 18 weeks so your readers could see with their own eyes rather than read an account from someone who can only profit by the fallacies that were printed.

NANCY RIOUX

Redford

'Barton' Plays God

EDITOR:

The article "How an Abortion Agency Functions" was such an assault on the sanctity of human life, I felt impelled to comment.

"Henry Barton" tries to convey that he's referring women for abortions only to get satisfaction of soul; yet evidently he's making enough money to support a family of seven.

If indeed, "Barton" wanted peace of soul, he wouldn't deliberately misstate facts by saying at two months of pregnancy the girl mentioned had only a "late period." No woman could believe that statement unless to rationalize herself into an abortion without guilt.

Medical books show at eight weeks the fetus is (1) about 1 1/4 in. long, (2) face...features forming, (3) limbs...show distinct divisions into arms, elbows, forearm...hand, thigh, knee, lower leg...foot, (4) long bones...internal organs developing.

These facts cannot be contested after a "late period." After 12 weeks, more developments are apparent, having been proven with pictures by medical photographers of human development before birth.

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Black Educator To Speak At SC

A distinguished black educator will address himself to two critical questions at a lecture at Schoolcraft College Feb. 2: "Can the Blacks Go It Alone?" What Price Coalition?"

The lecturer is Dr. Ewart Guinier, professor and chairman of Afro-American studies at Harvard University.

Dr. Guinier will speak at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2, in the Waterman Campus Center. Admission is \$1 for students and \$2 for the general public.

He has been called "a profound observer of contemporary life who speaks out meaningfully of black identity in a world of a gripping racial scene."

Dr. Guinier was educated at Harvard College, City College of New York and Columbia Teachers College, and has a



DR. EWART GUINIER

It's Murder By Any Name

EDITOR:

I am writing protesting the article "Abortion" which appeared in the Wed., Jan. 19 issue of your newspaper.

This article was a very biased, one-sided opinion. Murder by any other name is still murder.

ALICE E. DUNLERY

Livonia

...And A Reply

READERS:

Observer Newspapers will not use its news columns to take sides on any issue, including abortion, and will neither praise nor condemn "Henry Barton's" apparently legal business. That is for every reader to decide.

Nor have we used Barton's real name and telephone number, we do not intend for our news columns to be used for free advertising.

As for the many written and telephoned suggestions that we tell the "other" side of the issue, careful readers will recall that we have published several stories quoting anti-abortion sources and compiled a major feature on how local hospitals were treating complications from abortions.

THE EDITOR

Highway Bike Path Proposed

LANSING State Sen. David Plawicki (D-Dearborn Heights) recently introduced a bill that would provide bicycle paths along the I-75 Expressway from Detroit to the Soo Locks.

He also asked that consideration be given to the establishment of bicycle paths along other expressways.

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