

Speaking of you

Birthright provides choices

Kathleen Sullivan, Oakland County director of the Birthright Organization, was kind enough to contact me to correct a previous statement about this agency.

It was my understanding (meeting a number of people directly involved with Birthright) that the pregnant woman was encouraged to bear her baby and give it up for adoption.

Mrs. Sullivan said Birthright provides alternatives to abortion. The Birthright organization makes available an individual to act as a counselor to offer help while the woman makes her decision to either keep the child or give it up for adoption.

SHE WAS careful to point out that all decisions concerning whether or not to keep the child or give it up for adoption, as well as the initial decision to go through with the pregnancy, are a matter of individual choice and responsibility.

This organization which is a nonprofit, non-sectarian agency offering guidance and assistance to women with problem pregnancies, stands behind the principle that having made the decision not to have an abortion, each woman must now make her own decision and bear the responsibility in regard to keeping or adopting out the child. Birthright offers total support.

that choice. Women have a choice of other occupational roles, i.e., secretary, teacher, physician. Men have these choices, too.

IN TRUTH, being a mother is a full, or part-time occupation. Shouldn't this be chosen at least as wisely and with as much thought as one might select a future academic or vocational career? As in other vocations, there are many of us not suited to the job, but poorly

skilled at self-appraisal. This is true of motherhood also.

Too bad we don't have the equipment to query the fetus to find out if it wishes to be born into the existing set of circumstances. How marvelous if the child also had the right of choice so that he, too, might select out the most optimal circumstance: two loving parents able to offer financial and emotional support and love.

Moral perspectives

Meaning is lost in abstractions

The greatest sin, Jean-Paul Sartre once said, is to turn what is concrete into an abstraction. Any sustained exposure to the mass media validates the poignant truth that, in our search for reality, we substitute abstractions for an effective response to concrete experience.

In current discussions about our defense system, certain phrases tend to recur with hypnotic frequency: "massive retaliation," "first strike capability," "national security."

Consider the significance of the phrase "nuclear deterrence." In the words of a scientific expert, "The strategy of assured destruction means that we must have the capability to destroy the Soviet Union as a viable nation even after suffering a surprise first strike."

dying, the apocalyptic visions of burning flesh.

We're to think in concrete terms we would direct greater efforts to the creation of international understanding about nuclear arms reduction rather than



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port whatever the individual needs may be.

The choice of whether to abort, to become a mother, or to be a mother in name only and adopt the child out, is a critical one. But, it is an issue in which there must be

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the development of new weapons that will escalate the arms race. A similar rhetoric of detachment is evident in discussions about the urban crisis, the race problem, or law and order.

Who can measure the horror that has been perpetrated by turning the concrete into the abstract? It was the diabolical scheme of Hitler to transform millions of real people into an abstraction called the Jew. But the six million died one by one, each death an incalculable tragedy, each death the loss of a potential artist, writer, poet, saint, a uniquely endowed spirit. The popularity of the "Diary of Ann Frank" is an indication that we cannot even think of the Holocaust as an abstraction, but must instead focus on the anguish of a 12-year-old girl.

STATISTICIANS, sociologists, and scientists cannot tell us much about the individual, for they deal in those abstractions that define whole populations. The heart can not respond to an abstraction. If our society is to exercise justice, exercise compassion, and be morally sensitive and responsive, it must bridge the gap between the world of detached abstractionism and the inner universe of an individual's experience.

Lamaze birth classes held in three areas

The Plymouth Childbirth Education Association will sponsor a series of Lamaze childbirth classes in this area.

To meet at 7:30 p.m., a class will be held on Monday, April 8, in Garden City Hospital, 6345 Inkster. Another at the same hour will take place in Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, on Thursday, April 18.

A third class will meet on Wednesday, April 24 in North Farmington Baptist Church, 32500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington.

The classes are taught by nurses. Instruction is given in neuromuscular control and effective breathing techniques which help the mother to participate in the birth of her child. The film, "The Story of Eric" and slides are included.

Husbands are urged to attend but it is not necessary for further information contact Mrs. Doris Cross, 371 Blunk, Plymouth, or write Box 311 in Plymouth.

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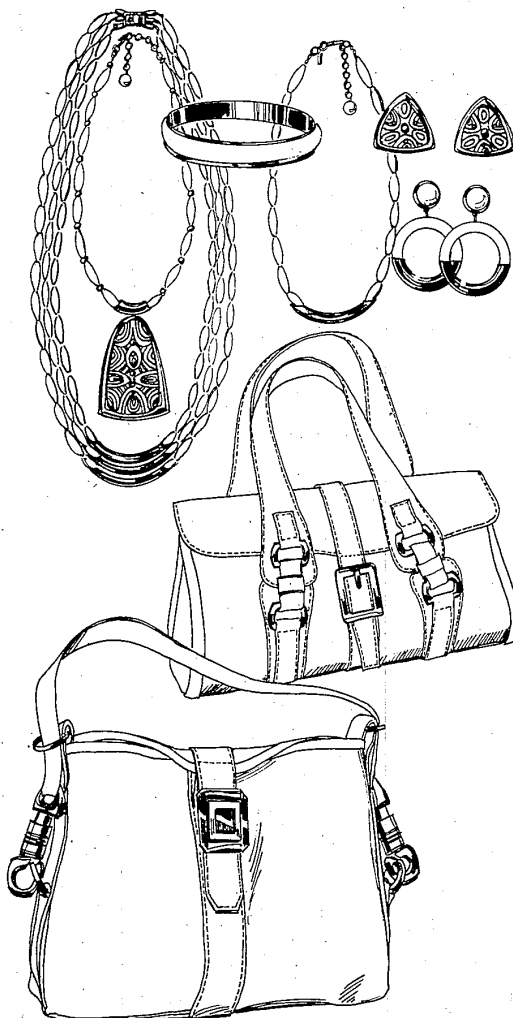
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