

Birth control-revolution in marriage

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Knaub continued. "On one side if they are too easily available there is always the fear that perhaps it isn't a good thing, but if the behavior is occurring maybe it should be recognized."

It is documented, though, that lack of contraceptive information and supplies and fear of pregnancy will not necessarily prevent pre-marital intercourse, she said.

If she had a daughter, she would rather see her daughter use birth control devices and not have children than enter into a marriage in which divorce would be a great possibility. To make for better families and marriages she wishes that marriage were more difficult to get into and divorces easier to acquire.

The pill is beginning to eliminate the double standard, said Dr. Alan Pickering, director of United Ministries of Higher Education. "Woman has a choice, now, to be exploited or not to be exploited. She is no longer bound by the fear of pregnancy." Girls feel better about their role in life because they have a choice, he said.

"FROM WHAT I observe and hear, if a woman makes the choice to bear children, she accepts the fact that her primary role is toward her family until the family is reared." Society, accident or sexual relationships do not oblige her to have children.

"If my single daughter wants to use birth control, I want her to make that choice." There is no reason why she shouldn't make that choice and live with the responsibilities of it, Pickering added.

The pill doesn't free her from responsibility, it relocates the matter from conceiving children to taking the responsibility of one another, Pickering explained.

Pickering would not generalize about sex without marriage. "To ignore the pleasure aspects of sex is to do it injustice, but you must consider who the people are, who is being hurt and who is affected. Pre-marital sex is not a question of what, when or where; but, who is involved."

HE WISHES people could be more honest about pre-marital sex so there wouldn't be such a guilt hang up between upbringing and actions.

It looks like pre-marital sex will be more widespread, but there is not enough evidence to say it is a trend, he said. "I am anxious to see what it does to our ideas about marriage," he added.

As a contextualist, he believes in making decisions based on the surroundings, situations and contexts — not what is right or wrong, moral or immoral. There aren't any absolutes to marriage and family and it has always been that way, he said.

HE FEELS that contraceptives should be more easily available. "I believe in preventive medicine, be it teeth brushing or contraceptives; and I believe that contraceptives are better than abortions," he explained. Pickering feels that physicians should do the thing they are trained to do and not try to make up people's minds morally.

"Physicians have many moral decisions to make, but I don't believe they have any special competence to evaluate the relationship between a couple," he said. He also wishes that physicians would just prescribe for the patient and not be subject to the dictates of the institution.

The Roman Catholic Church in Pope Paul VI's encyclical, "On Human Life," says that all artificial means of contraception are against natural moral law, according to Rev. Donald Imming, asst. director of the Newman Center.

Pope Paul VI seems to feel that the very nature of sexual union, conjugal love, is an expression of mutual self-giving and at the same time has as its purpose the procreation of children, he said.

THE TWO ideas of mutual self-giving as an expression of love and procreation are inseparable in the Pope's mind, Imming said.

The French bishops looking at birth control from a pastoral viewpoint have indicated that there might be a conflict of values in the area of conscience. There might be a husband-wife conflict of duties toward each other or toward the children they have or might have and their responsibility to keep every sexual act open to procreation. In such a case the French bishops say

a choice has to be made as to where their greater responsibility is.

Pope Paul's statement is not infallible and the Pope does not want to cut off theological debate, Imming said.

Some contemporary theologians feel that the Pope is viewing the morality of human actions too much in terms of biological functions. These theologians say the Pope should be looking at what is the morally right thing to do from a sociological and psychological stand point, he explained.

If the Church would shift its position, the Pope feels that this would be like taking the finger out of the dike and there might be a tremendous adverse reaction. The Pope seems to be alarmed with what he considers a collapse in modern man's morals, Imming added. He feels that at this particular time the risks are too great and the future too uncertain to change the Church's stand.

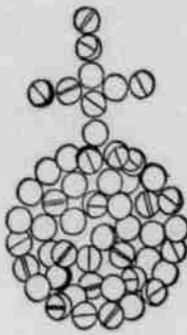
Contraceptives, even more than education, have permitted women to have a more active professional life, according to Dr. Helen Beth Smith, professor of human development and the family. "We need to rethink the role of women in society and take advantage of this reservoir of talent and womanpower," she said.

WOMEN HAVE a great contribution to make to society, but society must be realistic and help plan for women being in and out of careers, she continued. If teachers could teach on a half-time basis or have only one class, the woman would have time to be with her family and still contribute to the community.

Birth control without marriage is up to the individual, says Twig Daniels, executive director of the University YWCA. Generally women feel certain restrictions because of the way they were raised and religious orientation.

"I would rather give my daughter birth control pills than have her have an illegitimate pregnancy," she said.

THE IDEA of being a virgin at marriage has changed for both young men and women, she continued. In the Free University courses that brought in a panel of bachelors, only one out of ten wanted his wife to be



Planned parenthood concepts unknown among uneducated

The main findings of United States fertility studies in the past ten years indicates that many of the historic differentials in family planning are finally disappearing, according to "Family Planning and Poverty", by Frederick S. Jaffe, published in the Journal of Marriage and the Family.

However, despite progress since the 1940's many low income families and a disproportionate number of non-white families still remain outside the realm of effective birth control.

A number of surveys show that working-class Americans want as few children, sometimes fewer, than those of higher economic and social strata. A 1960 study on the Growth of American Families showed that nine out of ten women thought that two to four children is the ideal family size.

Significantly, lower-income and non-white families wanted smaller families than higher-income whites. Their findings would seem to challenge the widely prevalent idea that lower classes either want many children or simply do not care how many they have.

THE DESIRE FOR smaller sized families, however, is not born out in fact by low income families. The Growth in American Families survey found that "... the problem of unwanted pregnancies is most severe in the lower income and education groups." Percentages of excess fertility decrease with higher incomes and education.

Jaffe discovered that "In 1960, fertility control of some sort was favored by 96 per cent of Protestants, 98 per cent of Jews, and 85 per cent of Catholics. Among whites, 81 per cent had used some form of fertility control by 1960, six per cent expected to begin

practicing it some time in the future, and ten per cent were subfertile. Thus almost everyone was practicing family planning in some fashion, although there were still some socio-economic differentials."

Data on different methods of birth control show that lower-status wives, such as those with a grade school education, use such relatively unreliable means as douching and less frequently used reliable methods as diaphragms than college-educated wives.

One explanation of the gap between lower-class fertility aspirations and performance, according to Jaffe, is the fact that lower-income couples do not use contraception as regularly as higher-class couples, nor do they employ methods which are as effective.

ANOTHER FACTOR IS that most tax-supported hospitals still do not make contraceptive services available to their patients, and where there are birth control clinics, those facilities are painfully overcrowded and understaffed.

However, the greatest increase in contraceptive use since 1955 has been among couples in the lowest socio-economic groups. The proportion of grade school graduates using all forms of birth control has increased from 49 per cent in 1949 to 66 per cent in 1960.

The figures are just starting to be assembled for the early 1960's, but there is great evidence that oral contraception has radically changed the picture of fertility in high and low income families alike. For the poor, birth control pills are often difficult to obtain, but they are at least proving much more reliable than previous practices. Certainly they are an alternative to birth control pioneer Margaret Sanger's advice to "Tell Jake to sleep on the roof."

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Varsity: 'They Came to Rob Las Vegas,' 1:35, 4:14, 6:35, 9:11.

Stuart: 'World of Fashion,' 2:00, 4:30, 6:30, 8:50; 'Joanna,' 2:25, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15.

Nebraska: 'Faces,' 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30.

Slate: 'A Man For All Seasons,' 1:10, 3:16, 5:22, 'Taming Of The Shrew,' 3:15, 7:15.

Joyce: 'Five Million Miles To Earth,' 7:20 only; 'Lost Continent,' 9:00 only.

54th & O: 'The Skull,' (M) 7:30; 'Project X,' (M) 9:03; 'Dr. Terror's House of Horrors,' (M) 10:50; 'The Mad Executioner,' (M) 12:25.

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