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Letters to the Editor

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I read about the exploits of Gene Diamond, the boxer, in the *Chicago Tribune* over fifty years ago. He was an intercollegiate boxer at Notre Dame in 1944. He certainly has the credentials to be a spokesman for the sport of boxing now.

After medical school he became a pediatrician, father of thirteen children, and Professor of Pediatrics at Stritch Loyola Medical School in Chicago.

The University of Wisconsin had probably the finest of all intercollegiate boxing teams in the forties and fifties. Johnny Walsh and Vern Woodward were the coaches of national champion teams.

On April 9, 1960 Charlie Mohr died the day after having his boxing match stopped in the third round. He was found to have ruptured an aneurysm at the base of his brain. Charlie had been wearing a helmet. Soon afterward Wisconsin gave up intercollegiate boxing and their decision to quit was soon followed by the NCAA.

While Charlie's death followed a boxing match it could have occurred after a basketball, football, or baseball game. Last year the regional director of the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission in Chicago reported 162,000 children treated for baseball related injuries.

Many years prior to Charlie Mohr's death, on November 11, 1944 Wisconsin quarterback, Allen Schaeffer, died on the field of a football injury during a game against Iowa. There was no talk then or now of the Badgers discontinuing football.

— John J. Brennan, M.D.
Milwaukee, WI

(Editor's note: see page 37)

To the Editor:

As one of the principal investigators in the World Health Organization study on the effectiveness of the Ovulation Method of NFP (first reported in 1981, not 1991, in *Fertility and Sterility*), I feel obliged to call attention to certain inaccuracies printed in an article by Dr. R. J. Fehring in the *Linacre Quarterly* of November 1995.

The article speaks of the effectiveness rate of the Ovulation Method as 2.8%, but that figure is the method-related pregnancy rate. The real method-effectiveness rate, according to that WHO study, would then be 97.2%.

Also on page 26 the article talks about the use-effectiveness as 20%. That figure represents the opposite concept; it is the total pregnancy rate in that study. Most of the pregnancies result from conscious departures from the rules by couples who knowingly use fertile days even though they had previously opted to avoid pregnancy.

The figure 20% also includes pregnancies that may result from inaccurate teaching or from misunderstanding of the rules of the particular method. But if a couple knowingly departs from the rules of a method, we would hold that they no longer are using the method.

The purpose of Dr. Fehring's inquiry and reporting was commendable. But it is no wonder that many physicians and nurses still shy away from learning about NFP or recommending it if they are exposed to jumbled statistics. Continuous education courses should include lectures by those who are experts in teaching NFP, as well as testimony by satisfied clients. Our experience in over 80 developing countries confirmed that even illiterate persons could understand and use the OM well.

— Wm. F. Gibbons, M.D.,
Cleveland, Ohio

To the Editor:

On behalf of the World Bank Volunteer Services Book Project I would like to thank you for publishing our name and address in your May issue, in association with the article by Richard A. Watson, M.D. We are receiving inquiries and offers of journals in response to your article.

However, the address in the article is incorrect. Requests for information may be sent to our office:

The WBVS Book Project
Room JB3-105
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433

Donations sent to the warehouse may be addressed:

WBVS Book Project
World Bank Warehouse
559 B Commerce Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

Please note that Mr. James Lee has left the employ of the World Bank, so his name should not appear in the address.

Thank you again for your interest and concern in the education of people in developing countries.

— **Elizabeth Shepherd**
Vice-President
WBVS Book Project
