

sexually active are more than programs that promote abstinence alone.

The research also shows that comprehensive abstinence-based programs do not promote earlier or increased sexual activity among young people.

There is no evidence whatever that abstinence-only programs are effective at reducing teen pregnancy or sexual activity. A 1997 report, "No Easy Answers," from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy echoed the 1994 findings reported at the fifth biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, which concluded that there were "no methodologically sound studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of curricula that teach abstinence as the only effective means of preventing teen pregnancy."

A recent \$5 million abstinence-only program (ENABL) that did have a methodologically sound, rigorous evaluation found that these abstinence-only participants were more likely to become sexually active than nonparticipants.

When programs fail to teach about contraception, young people are poorly served. At some point in their lives, most people will become sexually active, and information about contraception and the prevention of sexually transmitted infection is needed to save lives and avoid unintended pregnancy.

Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio welcomes inquiries about family life and sex education curricula. There is no excuse for spending public or private dollars on ineffective programs, given the research from the field.

MARNI L. PAHL
Executive Director
Planned Parenthood
of NW Ohio

State: support reconstruction bills

Two bills now pending in the Ohio General Assembly would require all insurers doing business in Ohio which provide insurance coverage for mastectomies to also provide coverage for breast reconstruction incidental to mastectomy. They are S.B. 47 (Watts) and H.B. 159 (Britton).

Ten years ago when I had a bilateral two-team mastectomy with immediate submuscular reconstruction using tissue expanders which were replaced with silicone gel implants, I lost only the time which I spent in the hospital. I returned from the hospital at 1 p.m. and was driving and doing errands a couple of hours later.

Heavy lifting and overhead lifting were the only restrictions for

RUTH N. WITZEMAN
Perrysburg Township

Two Toledos unit has a proud record

I would like to advise that John Henry Fullen and his organization have no connection whatsoever with the Association of Two Toledos (formerly the Committee on Relations with Toledo, Spain) which has originated and maintained relations with Toledo since 1931.

The Association of Two Toledos (Committee on Relations with Toledo, Spain) has been officially recognized by the city with financial support and exchange visits of delegations. The Blade archives will show evidence of this long relationship.

We have maintained a scholarship program through the cooperation of the University of Toledo and a relationship between the YMCAs of the two cities. A collection of artifacts demonstrating the longstanding friendship with the association is in the safe-keeping of the UT library. We also sponsor each year a program honoring the outstanding students of Spanish in the Toledo area high schools.

I would like to see a retrospective of the relationship between the Association of Two Toledos and the city of Toledo, Spain, published in The Blade.

MARILYN STEVENS
Trustee, Association
of Two Toledos
Grand Rapids

Red tape a barrier to U.S. businesses

Own your own business: the American dream. Perhaps you have a knack for making exotic waffles that everyone loves. All you need is that old waffle device your mother no longer uses, a ticket to Vietnam, and a few hundred bucks. Soon you can have a small chain of eateries with dependable help and plenty of free time for enjoying the fruits of your gamble and sweat.

Try it in America and you will soon discover why some people complain about bureaucracy. You will encounter people from

from city, state, and federal agencies, and that's just the first wave.

Instead of fishing and enjoying the fruits of your entrepreneurship, you will spend every spare minute with tax experts, lawyers, and psychiatrists. Odds are very good that you will be broke and only be able to afford to talk to God.

Hopefully, you learned to pray in school. If not you could always join the army and go fight against totalitarianism in a place like Vietnam.

JERRY LUPTON
Tiffin

District not at fault for discipline woes

Your June 3 editorial shows again your sophomoric and uninformed response to situations whose oversimplification belies complexity and misplaced blame diverts attention from where responsibilities truly belong.

What is your suggested solution to the discipline problem? Perhaps it is to have teachers and administrators go home with children so they can be parents to them for 24 hours, not just during school time.

The Toledo school system is already functioning as surrogate family for many youngsters. When do we as a society begin to demand responsibility from parents for the behavior of their children?

The parents of children who do behave in the classroom have the right to expect that their children will be receiving lesson presentation without disruption from habitually unruly classmates.

Children who consistently disrupt the classroom need to be segregated and dealt with in a facility set aside for problem youngsters.

Yes, that is punishment, and, yes, that is stigma. But students who behave have the right to learn in peace.

And you do a disservice to the Toledo board of education, its teachers, and administrators by unjustly pointing the finger at them.

RICHARD D. THIELMANN
Wedgewood Court

Punishing Flinn was the right move

A few days ago a short letter appeared concerning the Flinn matter. I believe the gist of it was a claim that Kelly Flinn was "taken in by the jerk," thereby raising an interesting question.

If she was truly gullible enough to be taken in by some "jerk," what in the world was she doing tooling around the sky in a B-52 loaded with nuclear warheads? After all, she might someday be taken in by some "jerk" that turns out to be a secret terrorist.