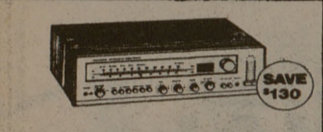


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She did good turn scouts objected

United Press International
WANTAGH, N.Y. — In the best scouting tradition, Andrea Weitman tried to do a good turn, and in the process disclosed to the chagrin of national Boy Scout officials that she was perhaps the only female ever to join their organization.

Andrea's 11 merit awards have now been declared "null and void." Last month, 13-year-old Andrea became upset when she read a newspaper story about an 8-year-old girl whose attempt to join the Cub Scouts was rebuffed.

At her mother's suggestion, Andrea wrote a letter of protest to the Long Island newspaper Newsday, stating she had joined the Cub Scouts when she was 10 and had had "a lot of fun" during a membership of almost two years.

Newsday assigned a reporter to interview Andrea, and when the story appeared, it came to the attention of Harvey Smith, director of support services for the Nassau County Council of Boy Scouts.

Smith forwarded a clipping of the story to the National Council of Boy Scouts office in North Brunswick, N.J., and officials there declared as "null and void" the 11 achievement awards which Angela had won.

"I have 11 pins for achievement and a roster listing my name with the boys who won them," she said.

Andrea said it was her idea to join the "Webelos," the older Cub Scouts, because Girl Scouts "just sit around at meetings and make paper dolls."

Andrea said she filled out an application for the Boy Scout sub-

siary, "using my full name," and her mother signed it. Her father, Paul, was the leader of her group, Pack 330, which meets in a local school, but she said he had no part in the submission of the application.

"At first people laughed about it — you know, 'ha ha, we have a girl in our troop,'" she said. "But then I was treated like everybody else."

Andrea voluntarily left the "Webelos" about two years ago. She was a "Brownie" Girl Scout, from the age of 8 to 10, but has no desire to return to scouting.

"Not unless they have a better and more active co-ed program for younger kids," she said.

Andrea, an eighth-grade student, said she hopes to become a social worker or a lawyer.

Smith said someone "apparently slipped up" in processing Andrea's application.

"Boys' and girls' names are often very similar or perhaps the name was more or less illegible," he said. Smith noted that while the application does not have a box listing sex, the words "boy" and "son" are contained in it, making it readily apparent membership is exclusively for boys.

"The real point is that some adult, either knowingly or unknowingly, filed the application, and it is illegal," he said.

Housing for miners

Chalets in Appalachia?

United Press International
GRUNDY, Va. — When the coal miner of old sang his bitter refrain about owing his soul to the company store, he wasn't hauling the groceries he bought there to a new \$60,000 home. The boom is on in Appalachia and things may never again be quite the same.

Grundy is a typical coal mining community. It's the sort of town city-slickers refer to when they talk about the "boondocks" or the "sticks."

It is steep and mountainous — and remote. In some places, it's too hard to ship in phone service by lines strung on telephone poles, so the signals come through the air by microwave.

Richmond, the state capital, is more than 500 miles to the east. Lexington, Ky., is 220 miles to the northwest.

There's not much reason for anybody to move to Grundy. Except for coal — the black gold of Appalachia. Housing is virtually nonexistent. With the American coal industry experiencing yet another "boom" and an influx of some 200,000 new miners expected by the mid-1980s, substantial new housing is needed in some areas of the county.

To workers of the area, Island Creek Coal Co., America's fourth-largest coal producer, has announced a project to drop a bit of Switzerland into hillbilly country. Island Creek is putting up \$25 million to start the development in an area where it now employs some 2,300 workers.

The development will offer mountain-style chalet homes, costing \$50,000 to \$60,000 apiece, on a 1,223-acre track high atop Keen Mountain, a few miles east of Grundy. There'll also be less-expensive apartments and trailer pads. And it will all house 1,600 families by the mid-1980s.

It will be called Buchanshire. In Grundy, where no buildings are higher than three stories, coal is the community's lifeblood.

Grundy came of age in 1931 when, as a dying timber industry threatened to dry up, coal mining began and the N&W installed the first railroad.

The boom doubled the county population as coal companies moved in and built communities such as Red Ash, where cheap shanties sat by the river and often were flooded after heavy rains.

In the mid-1950s, the demand for coal subsided and Grundy once again was threatened with extinction. But Grundy began growing again with Island Creek's investment in black gold. Today, one county official said, there are more

than 500 coal companies in Buchanan County alone, from tiny two-man jobs to the giants employing more than 500.

The town is squeezed into a valley, the river and railroad on one side and steep mountains on the other that block out the winter sun except from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Every third vehicle, it seems, is a coal truck. The trucks rumble back and forth through Grundy's two-lane main street, delivering tons of coal daily to the huge coke ovens outside town on Dismal Creek. Some are old and nondescript, others are spanking new and sport names like "Daddy's Little Boy," "Midnight Possum," "The Stud" and "Bad News."

Grundy lives for coal. The wealth it brings also brings a curious juxtaposition with the town's inherent poverty. Sleek Mercedes, Lincoln Continentals and Cadillacs ply the streets bordered by ramshackle homes.

Grundy's Buchanan County straddles the borders of Kentucky and West Virginia, and available housing "just doesn't exist," said county program director Arlen E. Rice.

That's because only a tiny percentage of the county's more than 500 square miles of land is usable for housing.

Study blames mothers' pain killers

Birth drugs harm babies' brains

Editor's Note: The following exclusive dispatch is based on reporting by Richard Hughes, UPI's New York-New Jersey editor, and Robert Brewin, a free-lance writer. They are coauthors of "The Tranquilizing of America" to be published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in September.

United Press International
NEW YORK — Painkilling and anesthetic drugs routinely given American women during childbirth cause brain damage to their babies, a government study shows.

A government health officer admits this may mean many children are being born with "less than a full deck."

The study — submitted for publication eight months ago but still delayed by the government — makes a "clearcut" link between obstetric medication and impairment of brain development, particularly thinking ability, motor skills and behavior in children born during the last century.

"It is difficult to avoid concluding that the damage is permanent," said Dr. Yvonne Brackbill, author of the study, in an interview.

The effects are subtle in most children and they appear to function normally, she said.

But, she said, even the subtle effects of these psychoactive active medications administered during

childbirth cause an average IQ loss of 4 points.

With an annual U.S. birth rate of 3.7 million, this comes to a total national loss of 14 million IQ points a year, which "should put the problem of obstetric medication at the head of the class of national health priorities," Brackbill said.

The study — submitted for publication eight months ago but still delayed by the government — makes a "clearcut" link between obstetric medication and impairment of brain development, particularly thinking ability, motor skills and behavior in children born during the last century.

"The behavioral effects of obstetric medications are not transient and the direction of the effects is uniformly that of interference of normal function and behavioral degradation," Brackbill said in a summary of her conclusions.

Brackbill, a psychologist at the University of Florida in Gainesville, specializes in the study of the effect of drugs on the brain.

Her study constitutes the largest-based test in medical literature of the effects of obstetric medications on infant development and has far-reaching social and medical implications.

Brackbill estimated that in 1977 "95 percent of births in the United States hospitals nowadays are medicated. This means 3.5 million medicated births out of 3.7 million births a year."

She said contrary to the common belief that natural child birth is increasing, the number of drugs being given to women during gestation, labor and delivery is rising. She cited a study in Houston which showed the average mother consumed 19 different drugs during pregnancy and delivery in 1977, up sharply from an estimated 3.6 drugs taken by the average mother in 1963.

Brackbill's study was obtained by UPI, and its substance confirmed by officials of the National Institute of Health under a freedom of information request.

Brackbill accused NIH of delay-

ing its release and "censoring key portions and watering-down some of my own conclusions" by softening the language.

"I consider this a violation of my rights as a scientist and the rights of the public to have an accurate assessment of medications that affect every human being born in this country in recent years," she said.

NIH said the study had been delayed pending review and approval for publication in a medical journal.

Doris Haire, president of the National Organization for Women's Health Network, said she has been urging NIH for many months to release the study to the public.

"It would be a crime against American women and children if we waited for a medical journal to pick up on this," Haire said.

Even the more mildly worded conclusions reached by NIH raise serious questions about the degenerative effects of most, if not all, medications routinely given to women during childbirth. The NIH study concludes:

"There are overall strong associations between pharmacological agents administered during labor and delivery and the infants' development during the first year of life. In some cases, these associations decreased with age (of the

With an annual U.S. birth rate of 3.7 million, this comes to a total national loss of 14 million IQ points a year, which "should put the problem of obstetric medication at the head of the class of national health priorities," Brackbill said.

child) or even disappeared with some drugs such as oxytocin (a uterine stimulant) but with others, principally the inhalant anesthetics, they persisted during the first year. The inhalant anesthetics had particularly strong association with motor function.

Asked if in laymen's terms this means children are being born "with less than a full deck," Dr. Samuel Drage, who is responsible for the study at NIH, said: "Well, if you want to put it that way, it may be that several generations of children born in this

UFOs new here says group

United Press International

DENVER — Extraterrestrial travelers have buzzed earth-turries, but are waiting for progress scientifically and locally before introducing them.

Visitors from outer space layed direct contact because panic it would cause, according to Tom Bellone, a researcher, Arizona-based organization.

He said APRO investigations of space visitors and alien counters rather than mere sightings.

"If we get a report of light sky, there's not much we can do about it. But we're receiving reports that contain physical evidence and people who claim to have had physical contact to be busy," Bellone said.

The disappearance of a pilot Frederick Valentich's report on the small green light following his aircraft has been more public interest, he said.

"We may have an explanation of Valentich's disappearance the next week. I don't yet know what the explanation will be learned last night something upcoming soon on it," he said.

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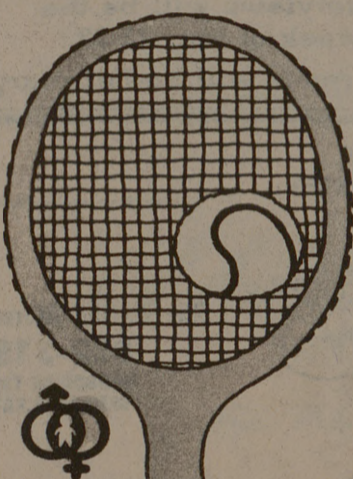
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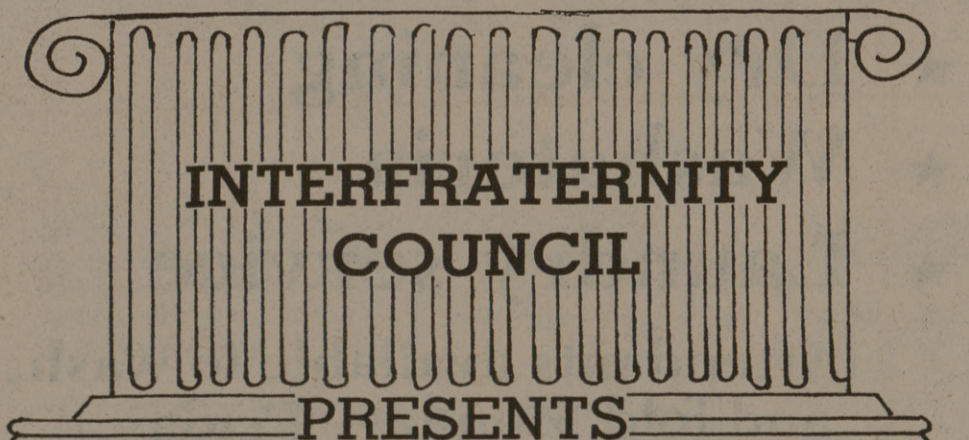


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