

Sticking by opinions on abortion, choice

To the editor:

This is in response to the Open Forum letter by Peggy Loonan, dated Feb. 1.

According to the Random House dictionary, audacity is the act of being foolhardy or rash, while being audacious is the act of being bold or foolhardy, or being insolent.

Insolence is the act of being rude.

I'm so sorry if my statement that reproductive choice is different than abortion should make the lady so distraught. Did she find it necessary to fire a large broadside with the hope that she could hit one of the many targets with which she finds herself confronted — many of which were indicated in her missal, but not in the letter with which she found so much displeasure?

If calling an apple an apple, or a pear a pear, or a duck a duck is bold or rude, I'm guilty. If denying that a boat is a car, or a young girl is a man, I am just as guilty.

I wasn't rude to Kate Michelman. In fact, I wrote, "I don't wish to deny her the right to speak out about abortion if she believes in the cause." If my audacity is merely using my legal right of dissension, insolence and rudeness have made a 180-degree turn since I was a youth some 60 years ago.

Do I teach young men how to use condoms? Contrary to the preaching of some, I most definitely try to get young people, of both genders, to practice abstinence until they are

old enough to know, understand and practice their responsibilities.

I won't recommend that a young man rush a young girl to a clinic for a secret abortion. I won't on the other hand deny either party, if the act was by mutual consent, the opportunity to follow the best informed advice they can get. If there wasn't mutual consent, I'd advise the young lady to seek the remedy that would be of most benefit to her.

In the days prior to the "boomers," there were many premature births among newlyweds. Some were as short as a month or two. Most of the births to that couple afterward, amazingly, were found to go full term. Oftentimes now, the firstborn is the ring bearer at the parents wedding.

Why should any woman have to demand sex with protection? If I was a single woman, no male would get anywhere near me without protection. I have not forgotten about AIDS. Yes, for the sake of the young lady, I recommend demand. The young male should find another time and place to practice his sport, if he isn't ready to be a man and respect the word "no," or the wishes for protection. In the eyes of many of us the lack of that respect is called rape.

My generation didn't look upon the sex act as just a pleasant way to spend an evening or tally up conquests for a diary. Reproductive choice in those days meant deciding upon the chance of pregnancy and responsibility or abstinence.

Reproductive choice is still one thing.

Abortion is still another.

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