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Letters

'Surrogate Motherhood'

TO THE LIVING SECTION:

I have been following the controversial topic of surrogate motherhood with great interest ["Kentucky Attorney General Calls Surrogate Motherhood Illegal," Jan. 28]. I do not think this new adoption process poses any new question of morality if a woman chooses to allow the true father of her artificially inseminated child to adopt after birth. However, I do not understand why the very term "surrogate motherhood" is used, because it implies a situation that is not scientifically accurate, and perhaps this contributes to the problems regarding the legality of the process.

The term implies that the woman who carries this child is a substitute mother but she is as much the mother of that child, regardless of the fact that she was artificially inseminated with the sperm of a stranger, as she is the mother of any other child she may carry or bear in her lifetime, because she provided the ovum. Had she been implanted with an externally fertilized ovum from the couple desiring the child (as in the case of Louise Brown) then she could be regarded as a surrogate who provided the uterine nourishment and protection necessary for growth and survival, but none of her own genetic material. The term "surrogate motherhood" as it is used currently is simply a new twist to the adoption issue.

PATRICIA CLAYTON
Brooklyn

Contraceptive Labeling

TO THE LIVING SECTION:

In "Barrier Methods of Birth Control" [Personal Health, Dec. 31], Jane

E. Brody briefly mentioned that over-the-counter contraceptives have been heavily and erroneously promoted among teen-agers and college students.

At my own clinic, I have witnessed literally thousands of young women who became pregnant while relying on these foams, vaginal suppositories and creams. Few stopped to question provocative product claims, even fewer realized that efficacy ratings did not appear anywhere on the packaging.

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration called on manufacturers of nonprescriptive contraceptives to eliminate misleading claims from advertisements. Yet no recommendation was made to require proper labeling of risk factors.

Women have the right to straightforward information concerning medical choices. Flimsy warnings merely place a Band-Aid on a problem that deserves a more significant resolution.

MERLE HOFFMAN
Executive Director, Choices

The 11-Ounce Wine Glass

TO THE LIVING SECTION:

Our restaurant was mentioned in the article by Larry Miller ["Wine by the Glass: Often an Unknown Quantity," Jan. 10]. The article stated that, because we can sell six glasses of wine from each bottle, the diner is paying the equivalent of \$16.50 for wine that would probably list for between \$7.50 and \$8.50. The assumptions are entirely incorrect. Our wine glasses are 11 ounces. Each glass is filled with about 9 ounces of wine. A bottle contains less than three glasses of wine for each bottle, approximately one-half of what was stated to be the fact.

ALAN N. STILLMAN
The Post House Associate.