



## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### Are Jewish Women College Students Too "Ivy-League"?

A recent study of 900 women college graduates from the finest eastern colleges shows that since 1972 only 123 of 900 have married and, of the entire group, only three children have been produced.

Studies of other trends show that while more of these women will get married later on, a huge number will not, and while the group will produce more children later in life, the total production of children will be small indeed.

There are many reasons contributing to this overall fact. One is that these women are more interested in a career than in having a family. Another reason is that since sexual passion can be satisfied outside of marriage, why get married? (A reason in which the young men heartily join.) A third reason is that these idealistic women want to save the world from over-population. A fourth reason is that our modern youngsters, both male and female, have been so trained towards self concern and advancement that they consider children a bother and a bore. We could talk about each of these at great length, but in the confines of this column, we can only begin our discussion.

It is unfortunate for the hope of the survival of the Jewish community in America that so many of our fine young girls attend the best colleges. Our Jewish young women show almost precisely the attitude towards marriage and children which is demonstrated by other model women from liberal, intellectually oriented homes. These young women want to exercise their new-found freedoms. Such exercise seems inconsistent with the possibility of reproducing themselves.

I am not a conservative on the issue of women's rights. On the contrary, I have fought for the ERA amendment, and I feel very strongly that a woman is as much of a person as a man. Our synagogue has always extended equal privileges to women. On the other hand, I think it possible for a woman to have a career and be a mother at the same time. If she were to surrender the latter role for the former, I would consider it tragic indeed.

World population is increasing, but it is not increasing in the groups where we can hope to find our educated leadership. The peasants of the world have either never heard of birth control, or they choose to ignore it. Nations like Brazil have intensive campaigns to increase their population. So, the idea that our best educated ladies can hope to save the world from over population by not having children of their own is, of course, illogical. All these ladies can hope to do is to deprive us of a reservoir of potential leaders, which would be their children.

To our Jewish young women, the vast majority of whom attend college and who are subject to those pressures which lead to self-imposed barrenness, we must say, "All you can hope to do by way of reducing the world population is to make the Jewish people extinct." If that is not your intent, this is what you are accomplishing. The non-Jewish community is definitely not becoming smaller in size, but the very existence of the minute American Jewish community (five million of 220 million) is jeopardized by the attitudes of Jewish college trained young women.

Are 4,000 years of adventurous and courageous Jewish history to end with our modern collegians? If so, how anomalous it is that our best educated, most advantaged, most free Jewish children should be the ones to choose to commit suicide for all of us!