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TWO WHITE MICE — Charged with "cruel treatment and death of two white mice" are science teacher, Sister Dun Scotus and students at Facelli High School in Austin, Minnesota. Efforts of the Nun and her science-minded students to launch a mouse-manned rocket were halted when humane societies obtained a court order against the experiments. (NC Photos).

Story Of 'Mice And Men'

Court Halts 'Mousenik' Boys; Mice Seen Taking Over U. S.

Austin, Minn. — (RNS) — The right of young rocketeers here to experiment with living mice was defended by the Roman Catholic nun who advises them.

That right is important "If we are to develop youngsters as scientists, and we are completely convinced we have exercised no cruelty at all," said 28-year-old Sister Dun Scotus of Facelli High School.

SEE COMPARED the lessons the Austin Rocket Society youths were trying to learn with the lessons a biology student learns in sacrificing and dissecting a frog.

"A child in a biology lab knows what's in the frog, but in dissecting it he learns more graphically," she said.

"Here, the use of mice in rockets isn't going to benefit the world with any scientific discovery, but it is going to benefit that individual student. Because he has benefited, he may later be able to benefit science as a whole.

"The only way a student can benefit the world is to learn now."

SISTER DUNS SCOTUS said she was "very hurt and disappointed" by the court action of the Minnesota Humane Society and Humane Society of the United States which has at least temporarily halted use of mice by the youths.

"These boys who have worked on rockets 2½ years, and who only once in all that time called the newspapers or TV station — when they got so excited over how high one rocket had gone — now have been accused of publicity-seeking and sadism. They have been forced to defend their names and the name of their school.

"But this action of the humane society was made before any investigation of the actual use of the mice. It was evidently based on the newspaper articles they read, and not what they got from us, and in their injunction there are many things that are not true."

THE BOY rocketeers sent up one live mouse Nov. 30, which was killed when the rocket hit earth. They planned to use another Dec. 23, but it died from an overdose of ether.

"They were very careful to administer the ether and take every imaginable precaution to make



ARCHBISHOP BRADY
Mice or Children?

sure the mice did not suffer," their advisor said.

"In the first instance they padded the mouse chamber with foam rubber. Then the second time, because that had not worked well enough, they used more foam rubber and had planned a parachute ejection system.

"Their intention was not just to use a mouse unnecessarily, but to study the effects of acceleration and deceleration on a living animal. They studied the animal's daily weight, feeding habits and behavior before launching, and intended to study them after."

Rocketeers Map Legal Defense

Austin, Minn. — (RNS) — Members of the Austin Rocket Society, composed of students at Facelli Catholic high school, have decided to go to court in their fight with humane societies over the use of live mice in rocket experiments.

With the help of their parents, they have retained a law firm to represent them.

The school itself will take no part in the legal skirmishing. And neither will the Catholic Church, according to Bishop Edward Fitzgerald, head of the diocese, which is located here.

"We are too busy with the problems of men to be worried about mice," Bishop Fitzgerald told a reporter.

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS) — Efforts of humane societies to stop teenage rocketeers at Austin, Minn., from sending up a "mousenik" has drawn comment from Archbishop William O. Brady of St. Paul.

"The mistake they (the teenagers) made was to plan to put a mouse into the gear," the prelate wrote in the St. Paul Catholic Bulletin. "One wonders if there would have been a problem if they had put Sister Dun Scotus into the nozzle and fortified her with a parachute for an experimental flight into space."

Sister Dun Scotus is a physics teacher at Facelli High School in Austin and advisor to the Austin Rocket Society, made up of boys attending the Catholic school.

ARCHBISHOP BRADY, in his weekly column in the newspaper of the St. Paul Archdiocese, suggested that the legal action of the humane societies showed that mice have greater protection in courts than children.

"With such decided action to save a mouse, we can confidently expect that sooner or later someone will be inspired to save our children," he wrote.

"Some of us have been trying to do so. But there is always strange opposition.

"If we try to save our youth from pornography, old man Law steps in to protect the freedom of the press, or printing, to insure the right of people to know and hear anything and everything, to protect the right of merchants to make money at youth's expense.

"Few seem to think of the rights of parents to see to it that their youngsters' hearts and minds are not corrupted. . . .

"There is something heroic and humane about saving a mouse from a short trip into time and space. Saving the young from later tears and a long trip into damnation is much less glamorous. And the attempt finds much less understanding and cooperation. . . .

"The youngsters of Austin now know something clearly which really needed no experiment to prove. They can be battered by bullets, rammed by drunken drivers, solicited by all sorts of printed pictures, but you see, they are not mice, and they have no protection in the courts."

THE ARCHBISHOP concluded: "Our advice to the Franciscan Sister who loves mice is to keep them on the ground. For that is where they will be, and where they will take over when we will all have been blown to smithereens by some other rocket. That will be the field day for those who are humane."

President Coty Donates Vestments

Roma — (NC) — The French ambassador to the Holy See, Roland de Margerie, has presented a chasuble and cope to the Archbishop of St. John Lateran here in the name of President Rene Coty of France.

BIRTHDAYS are HAPPIER days with flowers. Mark each joyous occasion with a bouquet of fresh bright flowers and a Hallmark Card from Blanchard Florist, 58 Lake Ave., BA. 5-9401. — Adv.

High Court Kills Postal Ban On Nudist Magazines

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The United States Supreme Court unanimously struck down mailing bans played against three magazines by the Post Office Department. The department had contended the magazines were obscene.

Two nudist magazines, Sun and Sunshine and Health, and a magazine called One, published at Los Angeles, Calif., and allegedly devoted to homosexual matters, had appealed to the Supreme Court against verdicts by lower federal courts upholding the Post Office.

The Supreme Court decisions, which have the effect of sharply restricting the legal definition of "obscenity" — particularly with regard to nudist publications — were delivered without written opinions.

The court merely filed a notice that it was granting review of the constitutional issues raised in the cases and simultaneously filed a "per curiam" decision that the lower courts were reversed.

THE COURT added cryptically, "See Roth vs. U. S." to its one sentence decision in each case.

In Roth vs. U.S., decided June 24, 1957, the court upheld in a six to three decision the constitutionality of the federal law banning obscene material from the mails. In the majority opinion, Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., laid down a new definition of obscenity that is having increasing impact on federal and local law enforcement of antisnuff laws.

The test of obscenity, Justice Brennan said, should be "whether or to the average person applying contemporary community standards, the dominant theme of the material taken as a whole appeals to prurient interests."

APPARENTLY THE court did not feel that the magazines violated this standard.

The two nudist magazines were banned from the mail by the postmaster at Mays Landing, N.J., when they were found to contain detailed unretouched photographs of nude persons.

Federal Judge James E. Kirkland of Washington, D.C., before whom the appeal against the mail ban initially came for review, rendered a delayed decision upholding the Post Office Department. He specified in a page-by-page analysis of the magazines that the photos they carried were obscene by contemporary community standards.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals first overruled Judge Kirkland and then upheld him five to three upon review by the full bench.

O. JOHN ROGGE, former assistant U.S. attorney general, counsel for the nudist publications, argued that the unretouched nude pictures were published with the intent of arousing prurient interest, but to advocate sunbathing and a healthy outdoor life and to show the activities in which nudists engage. Mr. Rogge contended that Dr. Hixley Boone, publisher of the nudist periodicals, is an ordained Baptist minister with a master of sacred theology degree and was motivated by high principles in advocating the practice of nudism.

U.S. Solicitor General J. Lee Rankin, in his unsuccessful brief, contended that an innocuous caption could not make an obscene picture "pure" and that sincerity of motive would not justify the nudists parading down Pennsylvania Avenue in the nude any more than it would, in the government's opinion, permit publishing such pictures.

THE MAGAZINE One, which has been charged with infringement of copyright by the Luther-an periodical for youth of the same name published at Minneapolis, Minn., contended in its successful appeal to the high court that the "prevailing moral tone of the community" is such that "homosexuality may be discussed without being obscene." The magazine complained that other periodicals have been permitted to discuss homosexuality in a manner even more "explicit" than did its stories.

In the government brief, Solicitor General Rankin charged that One carried "articles with a primary purpose of exciting lust, lewd and lascivious thoughts and sensual desires. . . moreover, such stories are morally depraved and debasing."

Solon Proposes Christmas Stamp

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A resolution calling on the Postmaster General to issue a special postage stamp annually "to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ in the true spirit of Christmas" was introduced in Congress by Rep. J. Floyd Breeding (D.Kans.).

His resolution would require that a stamp of different design be issued on September 23 each year, three months in advance of Christmas, with copies of the stamp to be made available in all post offices of the United States.

Vatican 'Silent' On Moscow 'Contact' Proposal

Vatican City — (RNS) — Soviet Union suggestions that "contacts" be established between the Kremlin and the Vatican in the interests of world peace produced no immediate reactions in official Vatican circles. The suggestions were made by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko in a talk to a group of visiting Italian "peace partisans" in Moscow.

Mr. Gromyko reportedly told the visitors that the Soviet Union would welcome long-term contacts with the Vatican that would be confined at first to issues of peace but could lead to contacts also in other fields. He said the contacts would be "official" but would not be regarded as true "diplomatic contacts" until a later stage.

Unofficial Vatican sources predicted that little, if anything, would result from the Gromyko overture. They said the fact that the Russian official's statement was made to an organization subservient to Moscow was enough to create the greatest suspicion.

THE VATICAN RADIO said that "contrary to some press reports, no negotiations are being held for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the U.S.S.R."

The Vatican sources pointed out also that the Italian "peace partisans" included Andrea Cagero, an excommunicated priest in the Archdiocese of Genoa who had been unroofed long ago and is now completely outside the Church.

They noted that Mr. Gromyko had praised Pope Pius XII for taking positions parallel to those of Moscow on a number of key issues of peace. However, they said Moscow has long quoted papal peace statements out of context, minimizing or ignoring the fact that pleas by Pope Pius for limitation of atomic weapons are accompanied by proposals that adequate controls be set up.

The source insisted that the Vatican's position on world peace differs in many vital respects from that of Moscow. They said the Church must always lay stress on the vital condition of full and unrestricted freedom for the Church in its spiritual mission.

THE VATICAN sources said it should not be forgotten that the situation of the Church remains very serious in all Communist countries. They pointed especially to the "unbearable situation" of Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, and other leaders of the Church in Hungary.

It was recalled here that the last formal Soviet approach to the Vatican occurred in August, 1956, when Dimitri Pogodiev, Soviet charge d'affaires in Rome, called upon Archbishop Giuseppe Fiotta, Papal Nuncio to Italy. At this meeting, which the Moscow Radio termed the Soviet Union's "first official contact" with the Vatican, the Russian envoy transmitted a disarmament plea by the Supreme Soviet (parliament).

Vatican circles discounted the Soviet gesture, however, as a propaganda move intended to create confidence in the intentions of the U.S.S.R. toward the Catholic Church. They also labeled it another indication that the Soviet Union was trying to "monopolize" the world peace movement.



EXAMS VERSUS TV — Pressure of mid-year examinations held this week in diocesan schools caused television heroes like "Mickey Mouse" and "Superman" to lose some of their small fry fans. Here Leo E. Farnan shuts off family TV set and advises brother Jack to put his head in his book (for the book into his head). The youngsters are pupils at St. Helen's School, Gates, and the children of Mr. and Mrs. Leo E. Farnan of Hinchy Road. (Paul Contestable-Courier Journal Photo).

Exams Still TV Six-Shooters

The smoking guns of "Wild Bill Hickok" and "Hopalong Cassidy" are not booming so loudly in family parlors this week.

The reason is this. Many of the almost 42,000 pupils in Rochester Diocesan Schools have stepped from their classrooms to the living rooms to meet the challenge of the mid-year examinations which began this Wednesday, and will continue through next Tuesday.

TO MEET THE stern demands of scholarship many of the youngsters are turning off the TV for some last minute cramming. The smart ones know from experience that Shakespeare and Science will do them more good than "six-shooters" when they sit in front of the examination questions.

Questions like "How did you answer question four?" are a real

topic of students' now. Instead of the usual "What's the focus movie tonight on TV?" and "For those students who feel that a little prayer might help the mysteries of the Rosary are more important than the mysteries of TV."

Diocesan elementary school pupils are taking examinations on Tuesday for all parochial

live upstate dioceses, including Rochester. High school students begin their State Regents tests today.

THE YOUNGSTERS may find it hard to believe but many of them have no more than a few examination week than then pupils. "Well, all he did when the exams are over," one teacher admitted.

Sybil Connolly

Fashion Designer Scores Cocktail Dresses, Slacks

Dublin — (RNS) — Sybil Connolly, a successful Irish Catholic fashion designer who was recently named by the New York Dress Institute as one of the ten best dressed women connected with the apparel industry, had some scathing things to say here about cocktail parties and cocktail frocks.

"I hate cocktail dresses, and I think cocktail parties are uncivilized and should be done away with," said Miss Connolly when she was interviewed after the announcement of the award.

Another of Miss Connolly's "hates" is slacks. She said: "I think slacks are a horrible thing on women. No woman ever looks dressed in them. To me they always look dreadful."

Last year, Miss Connolly was commissioned by the nuns of the Dominican Order in Ireland to design a uniform for their pupils.

She is leaving here in March for a coast-to-coast tour of the United States. Later in the year, she will launch a new perfume named after herself and made by the Cistercian monks on an island off the coast of Wales.

Official Gives Home For Aged Priests

Chicago — (NC) — Albert J. Honar, former chief bailiff of the Municipal Court here has announced that he was turning over his estate on the shores of Lake Tomahawk, Rhineclay, Wis., to the Superior-Wis. diocese for use as a home for aged and ill priests.

The estate, which includes a lodge and 1,000 feet of lake frontage, has had an appraised value of \$220,000.

Man Has Bishop As Sole Mourner

Cerignola, Italy — (NC) — The body of a poor man, who died as a public charge, in a hospital here, was accompanied to its grave by a single mourner, Bishop Mario Di Lieto of Ascoli Satriano and Cerignola.

Bishop Di Lieto arrived at the hospital one morning just as the body was being taken to the cemetery.

Shocked to hear that there were neither family members nor friends to accompany it, he canceled his appointment, vested himself and walked behind the bier, saying prayers for the man's soul.

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Fatima Secret?**
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For Unity**
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