

# Catholic Youth Wins Highest 'Freedom' Award

Valley Forge, Pa. — (RNS) — The highest Freedom Foundation award was presented this year to an 18-year-old Florida boy for his role in launching a teen-age "rally for decency" in Miami last March.

Michael Levesque, a Miami Beach Junior College freshman, is the youngest person to receive the top George Washington Award from the Foundation. He also received a prize of \$5,000.

Levesque, a Catholic youth leader, was selected by the 1969 National Awards jury for initiating the successful Miami Teenage Rally for Decency in the Orange Bowl. It was attended by 30,000 young people and inspired similar rallies throughout the country.

The Miami rally was based on the belief in these five virtues, Levesque explained: "Belief in God and that He loves us; love of our planet and country — patriotism; love of family; reverence for one's sexuality; and equality of all men."

The youth leader reflected that "the Lord gave the idea to me." He explained that the problem of moral decay had come up during a "philosophy of light discourse" group in his church (St. John the Apostle, Miami).

"I said 'let's not just talk about — let's do something,'" he recalled. The group contacted a local television station and from there the idea "snowballed."

Levesque believes that it is important "to stand out for what you believe and not just follow the crowd." He felt the "hippie-type" youths were probably in the minority but "their acts stick out like sore thumbs" because of the apathetic silence from the rest of America.



MICHAEL LEVESQUE

Praising Mike and his supporters, Freedom's Foundation President Kenneth D. Wells said "these youths stood up to be counted" as responsible, resolute, and reverent young American citizens.

The Catholic youth was among more than 50 individuals and organizations honored this year in the annual Freedom Foundation National Awards Program for "their contributions in helping to bring about a better understanding of the American Way of Life."

# Sen. Brydges Denies Shift On Abortion

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while at the same time withholding his decision whether he would vote for a change or not.

In the past Senator Brydges has been an outspoken opponent of loosening the present safeguards against abortion in the state. His position has been based on the inviolability of human life and the concern, as he expressed it, of where would you put the "next benchmark" once you decided some lives, those of unborn children in this case, could be taken under varied circumstances.

The two main liberalized abortion proposals now before the legislature (and which the Senator opposes as he has in the past) are:

• Assemblyman A. Blumenthal's proposals to change the penal law to allow abortions under several new grounds not now permitted (if the baby might be born defective; if a mother is of a certain minimum age and unmarried; if there were a possibility that the mother's physical and/or mental health might be disturbed etc.)

• Assemblywoman Mrs. Constance Cooke's proposal which would repeal the provisions of the present abortion law thus permitting abortions in any month of pregnancy, for any reason, with no reference to the father's rights or the rights of the unborn child.



Fight To Save Birds

Students at Florida (United) Presbyterian College clean oil-covered water birds in a school biology laboratory which was converted into a cleaning station. A tanker had run aground off the Florida coast near St. Petersburg, sending an oil slick toward shore, and the college canceled all classes to allow its more than 900 students to fight for the birds' lives. The birds were washed and girls' hair dryers were pressed into service to hasten the drying process. (Religious News Service)

# Pope Sees U.S. Seminarians, Calls It 'Beautiful' Event

Rome — (NC) — Pope Paul VI paid a Washington's Birthday visit to 300 American seminarians and priests here, saying the day he spent with them was "one of the most beautiful and serene" of his pontificate.

The pontiff appeared happy and relaxed when he called on the Pontifical North American College seminarians, who were joined at their building on the Janiculum Hill by priests studying at the PNAC graduate house in downtown Rome.

Addressing the students during a Mass he celebrated in English at the college, Pope Paul urged them to go on questioning exactly who Christ is, just as Christ's contemporaries in the gospels had done.

"Do not ever forget that."

The Pope conveyed through the students from around the United States his greetings to "all the dioceses of that great nation." He said it was of value that "citizens of great nations" come to Rome to prepare for their priestly ministry.

Bishop James Hickey, college rector, greeted the Pope, whose address brought long applause.

# Local Woman Honored in News Contest

(Continued from Page 1)

Mrs. Reitsnyder, whose husband is an accounting manager in the Eastman Kodak main office, submitted a story about bridging the generation gap.

Besides looking after seven children, ages 17-3, and writing noteworthy copy, Mrs. Reitsnyder also teaches 7th grade CCD at St. John's school and helped organize her parish's CCD program.

Mrs. Burley Elliott of LeRoy, Minn., was the national first prize winner and was awarded \$100. Her story on page 1.

In future weeks, the Courier-Journal will print other selected entries from this diocese.

Hundreds of persons entered nationally. They told of modern Good Samaritans who helped them when their cars broke down; they told of commonplace kindnesses done under uncommon circumstances; they told how their eyes had been opened to others' needs, and how others had responded to needs they hardly knew about themselves; they told of people who had overcome great handicaps to help others even more in need.

# good news 'The Champ Wins Contest'

By MRS. BURLEY ELLIOTT

LeRoy, Minn. — Have you ever seen a boy who does so well at everything he tries you hope he goes up just to see how he would take it? Mothers shouldn't feel that way, but this one did about our Bill.

Bill is our freshman in high school. He serves Mass for Father Thomas Duane, helps his father, gets high grades, can cook a four-course dinner. And our 95-pound weakling has won 22 wrestling matches since he started back in seventh grade.

If a boy never loses how are you going to know if he has good sportsmanship?

His room has three medals and a first place blue ribbon from tournaments he's won. That's all very well, but here's his mother worrying because he's doing so great.

The teachers brag him up, even Father says, "Why didn't the rest of the team follow your lead?" Bill kids around a lot at home and makes silly remarks like, "at being humble — I'm the greatest."

Mother mentions a few times in

her prayers she'd hate to see Bill get beat wrestling but she'd like to find out if he's a good sport or gotten a swelled head from all that winning.

Mothers don't care if the school gets a trophy. She isn't responsible for how the team turns out — that is the coach's headache. Besides he gets paid for it, which is more than mothers can say.

Here comes the good news folks—Bill got beat, 4-0, by a boy from Tanesville! He didn't cry, refuse to shake hands, say it was a poor referee or kick his chair like some we've seen (and been secretly glad they didn't belong to us.)

Mother got the chance to say "you even lose like a good kid — I'm real happy with you!"

Only trouble was: father blew up. He said it was all the coach's fault. After that article in the paper every 95 lb. wrestler in the area was out to snap his winning streak!

Now things are back to normal and mother has somebody new to worry about — can she make a good sport out of father? Only time will tell.



# Honorary Degree

Bishop Hogan receives honorary third degree in Knights of Columbus from Thomas Grosdonia, center, and Wallace Stevenson, state deputy.

# Knights to Grant K. of C. Reveals \$4,000 in JFK Tribute Scholarships

The Rochester Knights of Columbus will come up with \$4,000 for high school scholarships tomorrow night, Feb. 28, and take the occasion also to honor a long-time member, John A. Temmerman.

The heads of the eight Catholic high schools in the Rochester area will be guests at a dinner at 6:30 in the clubrooms at 513 Monroe. Each will be given a \$500 check for the school's scholarship fund. Past Grand Knight Edward Miller is dinner chairman.

# CLUB DEDICATED

New York — (NC) — Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York officiated at the dedication of Casa del Marinaio, the Italian Seaman's Club, here. A Scalabrini Fathers project, the clubhouse was reconstructed at a cost of \$250,000. It will serve as a haven for thousands of Italian seamen who come into port here each month.

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# Nine D To Pon

Princeton, N.J. — (RNS) — "unity of the whole church" ultimate goal of a plan of nine Protestant denominations leaved here.

A draft document developed by the Commission of the Consultation of Churches (COCU) is available at consultation headquarters. It will be proposed to annual meeting at St. Louis, 9-13.

The plan declares that the of Christ Uniting — the name for a 25-million member — will "seek communion and with other Churches in the world."

No timetable has been set for implementing or rejecting the COCU hopes merger might be published by 1980.

COCU is made up of the following Churches: African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran, U.S. (Southern), United Methodist, United Methodist, United Methodist, Church of Christ.

As proposed, the New would have an episcopal form of government. The ministerial of presbytery and deacons would be retained. Laymen would have a ratio over clergy in decision-making.

Clergymen are not scheduled for "reordination." Membership now in the nine COCU C

# Finch's 'Disincen Birth L

By KIM LARSEN

Washington — (NC) — Father James T. McHugh, director of the Division for Family Life of the United States Catholic Conference, condemned Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Robert Finch's suggestion that families be limited to two children, saying the government might have to "make 'disincentives' to discourage large families. Father McHugh said the proposal was "irresponsible and simplistic."

Dr. Pusey, a native of Iowa is the 24th president of Harvard, oldest institution of higher education in the U.S. He had originally planned to retire in 1973 at age of 65 but will relinquish the post in 1971.

Dr. Pusey said his successor should be picked soon and have "an opportunity to help design and order the new developments of the era ahead as well as effect their fulfillment."

On Feb. 23, a few days after the confrontation between Finch and Father McHugh, Sen. Robert Packwood (R-Ore.) announced he will introduce federal legislation allowing a maximum of three children per family for personal tax exemptions and legalizing abortion in the District of Columbia.

Packwood said at a news conference he expects religious opposition to his two proposals, especially to the abortion legislation.

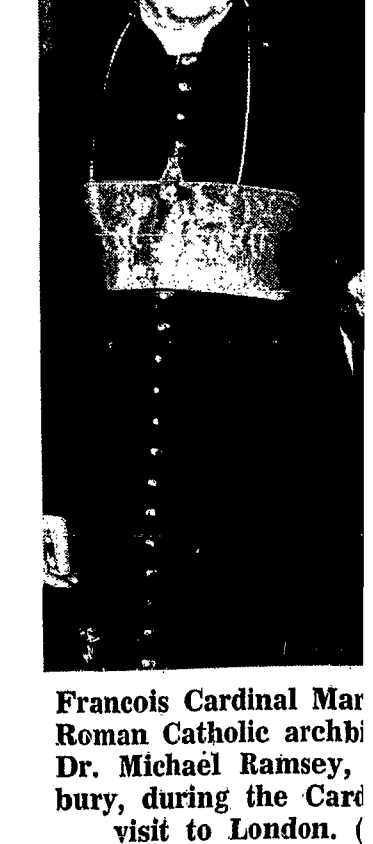
"Let's not kid ourselves," said Packwood. "Something dramatic must be done if we are to stem this tide of pollution which has reached epidemic proportions." He said his legislation was an effort "to ease the strain on an overtaxed environment."

Packwood's proposal, made law would provide the first child in a family qualifies as a \$1,000 personal tax exemption, the second child as a \$750 exemption, the third child as a \$500 exemption.

# Cardina

London — (NC) — A small but noisy group of extreme Protestants demonstrated here against the visit of Francis Cardinal Martyr of Paris with Anglican Primate Michael Ramsey.

The demonstrators, including supporters of the Rev. Ian Paisley of Northern Ireland, waved "No Popery" banners, sang militant anthems and jeered outside Buckingham Palace, as Cardinal



Francis Cardinal Martyr of Paris, Roman Catholic archbishop, during the Cardinal's visit to London. (C)