

The Slot Man

Christ's Looks ... Who Knows?

By Carmen Viglucci



It strikes me as a bit inane that people criticize other people because they wear their hair long and sport beards.

And when many of those so chastened answer that after all Jesus of Nazareth so presented himself, it leaves me equally amused.

All of this, however, raises an interesting point. Jesus, it may be assumed, had long hair and a beard because such were the custom of the times.

For the present longhairs to have any logical validity to their argument, however, would require that Christ did not follow the tonsorial dictates of his day. Indeed it might seem that He would have had to have a crewcut and be clean-shaven to appear a revolutionary.

That would seem to dispose of some argumentation by modern-day hippies.

But, dear reader, the plot thickens. None of us can state with any accuracy what Christ actually looked like. None of the four Gospel writers ever said what color hair or eyes He had; how tall He was; whether He was slim and trim or muscular; if perhaps He had a paunch; whether He walked in the manner of a farmer; if He was prematurely bald. Our images are drawn from the styles of the time or from the models who posed for later classical artists.

So conceivably Christ could have been clean-shaven and had the equivalent of today's brushcut. If He intended to be a rebel in the sense of today's nonconformists, such a possibility gains impetus.

There were no city editors as such in those days and that may be a shame because any would have demanded that the evangelists bring their stories

alive by describing Christ. If not actually calling for close detail they would have recommended interpretive description, such as "the late afternoon sun shone through his golden hair as he said . . ."; or "He thoughtfully tugged at his black beard as he said . . ."

That is if He had such accoutrements.

The point that is to be derived is that the four New Testament writers, divinely inspired, did not consider such things of any importance along side of the message Christ was hand-carrying to mankind. That if He had long hair or short, if He laughed raucously or frowned, if He had buck teeth or if one arm was shorter than the other mattered not at all.

What He said and what He did was all that counts.

Therein may lie a lesson for us all as we go about our 20th Century inanities.

To be Christ-like has nothing to do with how we look — whether we have shaggy hair and beards; or wear the latest Madison Avenue striped shirt; whether our collars are blue or white; what shade our skin is — whether we are male or female.

Where it is is how we equate our lives with His message.

More Letters

Abortion Issue Decisive Factor Vote Records On Abortion

Editor:
Thanks to the Courier-Journal for presenting the views of the candidates, particularly in regard to the issue of abortion.

Gov. Rockefeller's "maybe" can also mean "maybe not" and can never erase the fact that he did sign the present abominable statute. Mr. Goldberg didn't even respond to the survey and his reported verbal opinions to Father Tormey (i.e., a matter to be handled within the family structure) lead one to believe that he feels NO law is needed.

A basic sociological premise is that political institutions and laws are necessary for the protection and development of the common good; e.g., a law is necessary in this matter, and a "maybe" is not enough to assure us that this aim will be sought.

Only Dr. Adams "stated flatly that he favors a repeal of the present law . . ." thereby assuring us that he understands the true nature of government and will work to achieve its proper ends.

My vote for Dr. Adams on Nov. 3 will rest on my agreement with the principles he presents, but I do not hesitate to say that I could base my vote on the abortion issue alone. I firmly believe that if we order our lives, and our governments, — according to the Will of God, He will see to it that all our other needs are fulfilled.

As a public service, the Rochester Right to Life Committee has compiled the following voting record of each local senator and assemblyman on the 1970 Abortion on Demand Bill.

State senators who voted for the abortion law: Thomas Laverne, James E. Powers, William T. Smith, Theodore D. Day.

State assemblymen who voted for the abortion law: Donald C. Shoemaker, S. William Rosenberg, William M. Steinfeldt, Don W. Cook, George Michaels, Constance E. Cook, L. Richard Marshall, Charles D. Henderson, Joseph Finley.

Assemblymen who voted against abortion on demand: Frank Carroll, Raymond J. Lill, Frederick L. Warder, James L. Emery.

This election represents the only opportunity during the next two years for voters to influence directly a change in the present law, which allows abortion on demand.

While abortion is not the only issue to be considered in the decisions to be made on election day, we believe that it is an important one because it involves the right to life of a living human being. We urge you to vote your convictions.

Thomas R. Sweeney, M.D.

RACL Viewpoints

Vote as Christians

By Stanley R. Vidinghoff

With publication in the past few issues of the results of its "Election '70 Survey", the Courier-Journal has injected itself into a political campaign for the first time. According to the results of the survey, most local candidates for state legislative positions favor tightening or outright repeal of the liberal abortion law enacted earlier this year. An editorial in the Sept. 30 issue discussed abortion reform as a moral issue while a later letter from Father Daniel Tormey warned against oversimplification of questions on the subject and called for serious thought regarding possible solutions to problems which now exist.

Most candidates also favor some form of state aid to parochial schools. This can scarcely be described as a moral issue but it is a question of concern for many Catholics. While I share Father Tormey's concern regarding the dangers of over-simplification, I believe that the Courier-Journal has performed a valuable service by focusing the attention of voters on two important issues and on the reactions of candidates when questioned on them.

My own personal opinion is that the candidates least deserving of voter support are those who refuse to express their views when questioned formally on important subjects such as these.

The Courier-Journal's involvement in a pair of state issues should stimulate Catholics to search for valid moral issues at other governmental levels as well, since we were all counseled by Vatican II "to vote freely in the interest of advancing the common good."

For a growing number of Christians, the dominant moral issue at the national level in our country today is the war in southeast Asia. Our continued involvement in the slaughter, devastation and human misery brought about by this conflict is being questioned at every turn. Furthermore, for many

the efforts by the United States to de-escalate the war by stabilizing a regime of doubtful morality with highly questionable democratic support are only slightly less dishonorable than unchecked continuation of military operations. Certainly the attitudes of congressional candidates toward the war in Vietnam and the measures which they propose or support for ending it should influence strongly the votes of all thinking Christians.

A rather compelling issue also may be found on the local scene by city residents. When we encountered in the gospel reading of a Sunday or two ago Jesus' warning that "whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all", we probably should have thought of seekers of public offices.

Certainly there is no greater "need of all" than the most effective education possible. There are major differences among the attitudes of candidates for the Rochester School Board toward methods which have been proposed for increasing the effectiveness of public education, particularly in schools with a large majority of students who may lack the incentive or early training needed to take full advantage of the school system as it is presently organized.

That of some comes dangerously close to blatant racism. Sincere Christians will probably find these differences to be of sufficient importance to serve as a basis for choice on election day.

The point of "Election '70 Survey" and of this discussion is that this year's candidates hold widely differing positions on a variety of subjects of importance to those citizens who try to vote in a manner consistent with their Christian principles. It is the responsibility of each of us to determine and evaluate these differences before we enter our voting booths next Tuesday.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Paul ADAMS for Governor

Jim BUCKLEY for Senator



WE ARE A GROUP OF YOUNG WORKERS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS . . .

who are concerned with today's problems, high taxes, drugs, and the unrest in our streets and on our campuses. We ask for your help now; we ask for you to help keep our schools and universities opened. We ask for help to stem the tide of drugs that are destroying today's youth. We ask for help so state spending can be controlled so taxes won't get any higher.

It will be a hard fight, but there is a place to begin, join the March for America and support the Paul Adams-James Buckley Team.

These men believe that the primary responsibility for peace on our campuses rest with university officials. If the school administrators allow violence and disruption on campus this year the hard-core revolutionaries will try harder to destroy our institutions. It should be made clear

to such student that criminal acts will not be allowed and those students who are involved will be expelled.

They also support stronger legislation against drug pushers, putting these pushers behind bars for a longer period of time so they can't pass drugs to your children or our brothers and sisters.

They believe that high salaries for non-teaching administrators and high cost of non-educational experiments can be cut. They want welfare clients to be given the incentive and the training to become self-supporting citizens. Welfare should be a temporary help for temporary need and not as a permanent right to live off the rest of us. These ideas will help stop the rising taxes.

Please help the youth who want a better society and who are working for it in the right way. Join the march for youth, vote for Paul Adams and James Buckley on Nov. 3rd.

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