



"All right! Who bent, spindled, creased or mutilated a card?!"

On the Line

If an Air Crash Erases Yankees

By Bob Considine



Dat ol' debbil, the law of averages, one of these years will come up with a plane crash that wipes out an entire major league team and its stars worth millions of dollars on the slave mart.

There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, and for a day or two thereafter the air patrons will drop off by a few percentage points, as happened in the wake of the recent college football team disasters.

But the big tragedy, when it comes, will not result in the use of other means of transporting precious muscles. There is no way, except by air, that most schedules can be met today. Baseball holds out with the pretense that there must be an off-day "for travel" when a World Series switches from one town to another, though only an hour or two of jet flying time separates the cities. This is a throwback to the olden days of lengthy railroad trips; cars filled with players, officials, umpires and baseball writers, that spanned such eternities of rail as stitch New York to St. Louis.

The big leagues of professional baseball, football and basketball — and presumably the top college circuits — have planned for that unhappy day when a whole team "buys the farm."

As for the pros, the National League of organized baseball would permit a crash-busted management to draft certain players from the 11 other teams in the league — much in the manner in which expansion teams, including the Mets, were formed when the league was escalated. The American League isn't quite as specific, but probably would go along in the same way, "for the good of the game," if, say, the N.Y. Yankees or Baltimore Orioles were erased.

Sportswriter Gerald Eskenazi of the N.Y. Times came up with a chilling document from the files of the National Hockey League on this grisly subject. It reads, in part:

**"EMERGENCY REHABILITATION PLAN — Bylaw 16c
Special Meeting Convened**

"As soon as practical, following a 'disaster' the President shall notify the Member Clubs (Ed. Note: As is well known, hockey club owners cannot read) and convene a Meeting of the Governors for the purpose of bringing about an effective rehabilitation of the Disabled Club so as to insure its immediate and continued operation as a genuinely competitive team in the league.

"The Member Clubs shall first endeavour to assess the

loss of playing strength occasioned by the disaster and to replace it by voluntary sale of players from their N H L rosters or elsewhere to the Disabled Club at such prices as are mutually agreeable between the selling Club and the Disabled Club.

I'll never knock Joe Namath's movie again. The callous plan of professional sport to keep the turnstiles going, come what may in the way of disaster, is infinitely more obscene.

The Church: 1970

Liturgy and The Crazies

By Fr. Andrew Greeley



Like most Roman documents, the recent Instruction on the Sacred Liturgy reads much better in its entirety than in the garbled accounts of the newspapers. It is unfortunate that the Vatican is still unable to cope with its horrendous press relations problems.

The instruction is especially — and quite correctly — concerned with some of the bizarre aberrations that have crept into the liturgy. Cookies and Coca Cola for communion, leopard skins on the altar, erotic dances at the offertory, readings from Franz Fanon or Chairman Mao, marijuana before the homily — most Catholics would concede that such weird innovations are cause for concern.

So while the reader winces at the inept continuation of the second class liturgical status of women, he must agree that "liturgical reform is not all synonymous with so-called desecralization and is not intended as an occasion for what is called secularization."

And those who have grown tired of the quirky eccentricities of some clerics can only say "amen" (or perhaps, "so be it") to the comment, "The priest should keep in mind that, by imposing his own personal restoration of sacred rites, he is offending the rights of the faithful and introducing individualism and idiosyncrasy into the celebrations which belong to the whole Church."

One suspects, however, that even though much of what the instruction says is pertinent, it is not going to be very effective. Not only the liturgical crazies are going to ignore it but many moderates, turned off by press reports that the document is an attempt to "turn

If little children are brought up in a familiarity with the Bible, the Liturgy of the Word so emphasized in the new form of the Mass will be a treasure of grace and inspiration.

A few months ago I ran into a good series of children's Bible stories which have been on the market for five years. The series is put out by the Lutheran Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis. It has 42 shiny, colorful covers enfolding 30 pages of good print and charming pictures. The series was written for children of Sesame Street age: three years to eight. For all my sixtyish years I found myself enjoying them too.

The subject matter goes from Genesis through the Gospels: from creation to Noah to Abraham; from Moses to David to Nebuchadnezzar. It unfolds the life of Our Lord, and includes several parables. The books have good art work: color, unity, symmetry, beauty; art which children understand and enjoy. Forests look like forests; sheep like sheep; people like people. Through this attractive and intelligible art there peep humor, history, compassion, human weakness, holiness: all elements of the Bible.

On The Right Side

Scripture For Sesame Street

By Father Paul J. Cuddy



The narration is made in catchy rhythm and rhyme which pleases the ear and helps the memory. For example, the Arch Series begins the parable of The Good Shepherd thusly:

"Inside the sheepfold, fast sleep,
What do you see? One hundred sheep!
That little one is 'Baby Baa',
who loves to snuggle in a heap
behind his brothers on the straw . . ."

The narration continues: the friskiness of Baby Baa, his running away, the dangers he encounters ("The day turned slowly into night, no Shepherd near. What was that sound? A jackal's howl — Baa froze with fright."), the search by the Good Shepherd and Baa's return.

"Once inside the snug sheepfold
the shepherd does not rant nor scold
but smooths an olive oil to heal
all Baa's deep scratches, and we're told
It's done so kindly, Baa can feel
how much his shepherd cares for him —
one poor, lost sheep, back home again."

The little Bible series is called Arch Books. There are 42 little books which sell for 39 cents each. The books are published to familiarize little children with the Bible in accordance to their age. The last page has directions for parents on how to use the narrative. Consider how well done this is. On the last page we read: "Dear Parents, . . . Will you help your child see that Jesus is like the Shepherd? that he cares about all God's children, even those who are bad? that He does not leave them, nor does He want us to leave them to their foolishness . . .?"

Last year I recommended as a Christmas gift for children, The Children's Bible, an ecumenically edited book published by Golden Press. It is a bargain at \$4.95. That recommendation still stands.

But for the Sesame Street age children, the Arch series is ideal. Some enterprising Catholic Schools and CCD programs are using them.

Where can you get them? Try stores which carry religious books. Try your parish church racks or the parish school principal. If all fails, write to me. I have just received from A. Nolan Religious Goods, 115 N. Fulton Street, Auburn, 1,728 Arch Books to scatter through Hornell, Canisteo, Rexville and Steuben County.

Consider what Biblical seedlings are being planted in the souls of precious little ones. To prepare them for a love of the Bible and of the Mass is a great privilege. Deo gratias!

THURSDAY DEADLINE

Keep those cards and letters rolling in on Thursday morning. That's the deadline for submitting local stories and news items for the following week's issue of the Courier-Journal.

Salting the Earth

'The Least of These'

By Father John Hempel

In writing this article I find myself approaching the events of Thanksgiving. When this appears in print, Thanksgiving 1970 will be but a memory.

Within this anticipated atmosphere of thanks I must express gratitude to those who tried to understand and take seriously the collection for Human Development.

It was meant to be a tangible manifestation of our Catholic Christian commitment to those within our Diocese and those throughout the country caught in the vicious circle of poverty. It was meant to provoke that which we heard only a few weeks ago, when Christ spoke to us of the widow's mite.

The results of this collection are not known to me at this writing. Many will have done much to make it possible for

the poor of our nation and our diocese to extract themselves from the ugly quagmire of poverty.

Too many unfortunately will have rationalized their non-giving in generalities about all the myths concerning poor people. This failure in responding to the agonizing cries of those who want so badly to help themselves find a fuller life, especially for their children, is most difficult to understand within the light of the Christian message.

In the final analysis the judgment of mankind can be faulty and lacking in full knowledge of all the facts in a person's life. The real judgment however, is made by a Power, all knowing and incapable of error. It is this judgment which determines man's destiny; it is this judgment which separates the sheep from the goats.