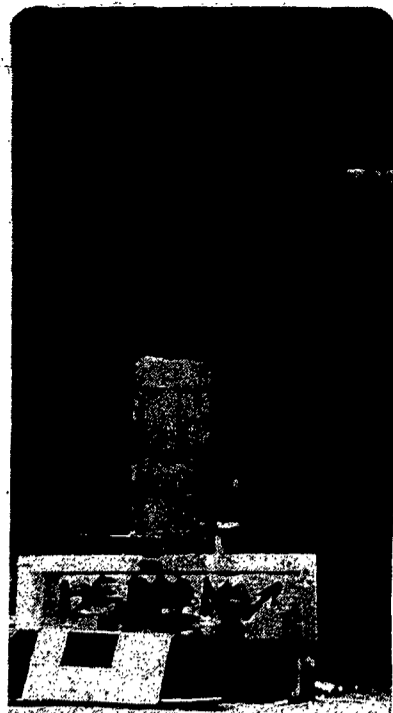


Heroin Here

One would hope this sign on a condemned building in New York's Bowery wasn't for real. But the heroin problem in New York and other cities is very real and so are the places where addicts buy their drugs. (RNS)



FR. ANDREW GREELEY The Church 1971

I note that Archbishop Fulton Sheen has denounced the NORC study of the American priesthood as a waste of money. According to the archbishop, \$500 thousand was poured down the drain merely to confirm what everybody already knew.

Well, perhaps, though it was only \$300 thousand, and one wonders whether the archbishop really did know that the majority of the American clergy favor a change of the celibacy rule and that even larger majorities want to see popular nomination of bishops and do not support Humanae Vitae.

However, the archbishop is at least more fortunate than most of his colleagues in the hierarchy, for somehow or other he obviously got hold of a copy of the report; at least at the time of this writing, other American bishops have not yet received the full text of the report. (I presume that such a distinguished scholar as Archbishop Sheen would not judge a study that he had not had the opportunity to read.)

I hear by the episcopal grapevine that the report is going to be distributed in the "near future," along with copies of the "evaluation" done by three social scientists. If the rumor is true, a number of interesting questions ought to be raised.

- Why was not the NORC survey team given an opportunity to comment on the evaluation before it was distributed? A social science center of the age and the experience of NORC need hardly fear the judgment of competent professional colleagues.

- Why was the NORC team told that the distribution of the report would not depend on the completion of the evaluation? It turns out that in fact it did depend on the evaluation.

- Why was only the sociological report "evaluated"? What was the reason why the sponsoring committee decided that NORC's work needed evaluation and Loyola University's did not? Is not a secular research center to be trusted?

- Who made the decision to withhold the distribution of the report before the "evaluation"?

- Is the rumor correct that while the report is to be distributed to the bishops, no one else is to be permitted to see it?

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, of course, Courier-Journal.

CARMEN VIGLUCCI

The Slot Man



Those of us old enough can always remember exactly where we were certain momentous times in history—for instance when Pearl Harbor was bombed or when President Franklin D. Roosevelt died, or when World War II ended.

In the order of the three events, I was watching a Jack Oakie movie at the Grand Theater in Albany; repairing a roof on a shed in my grandfather's backyard, again in Albany; and riding a fire engine in Lake Placid.

There was something so flat about life in those days that even the most unusual happenings managed to gain added luster. There also is something frantic about modern life that obscures such facts as dates, places, etc.

For instance, who could pinpoint the start of the Vietnam War—or who in the future will be able to fix with certainty its end, when it finally evolves.

Sure we can easily recall the assassination of President Kennedy but that was not that long ago and it already seems to lack the clarity, at least for me, of FDR's sudden death.

This holds true even though when JFK was shot I was working on the telegraph desk of the Democrat and Chronicle, and we labored many hours without break on the story.

Part of all this must be attributed to the surmise that young minds are more impressionable than those already creased, scraped and dented by the many harrowing, personal and otherwise, events of passing life.

But one of the bright, young men at the Courier says it all is probably born of the fact that life back in the 1930s and 40s really was duller. The "mass society" of those days, he says,

left us all part of one big melting pot usually national in flavor. Events of a wide or national nature made a greater impression since that was practically all the news we were interested in.

Nowadays, he contends, society is so fragmented that local news, even neighborhood news, assumes an importance to rival even the colossal happenings of our times, even detracting from them.

I'm not sure it's all that black and white, remembering such local problems as soup lines, lack of jobs and other offshoots of the depression. But there it is again—all related to national happenings.

His theory gains validity when related to present day

newspapering. Many big city papers are in trouble or have already died because they failed to see the importance of very local news.

So the peculiar possibility exists that in an age when man is heading far out into space, most of his interests are, entrenched stronger than ever in Mother Earth.

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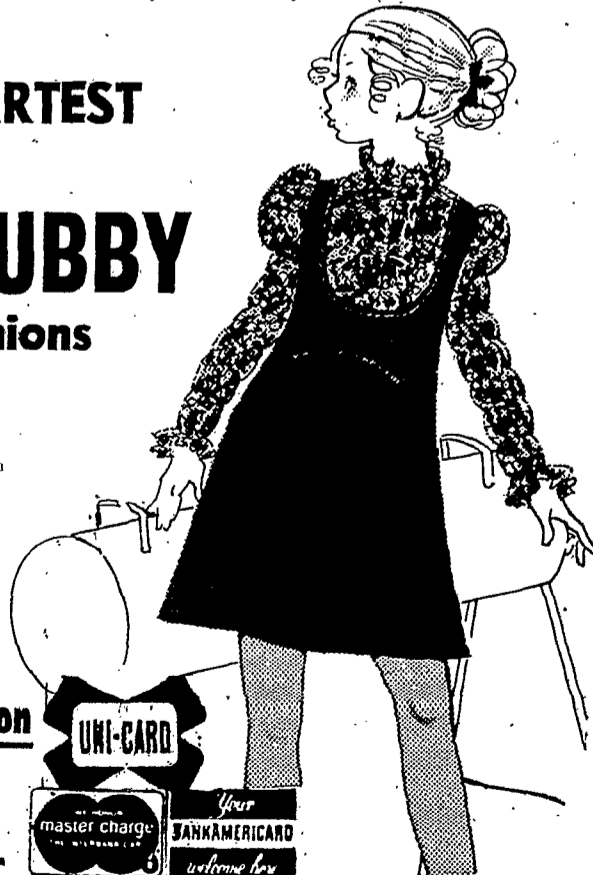
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