



Scala Sancta

Following an ancient practice, worshippers climb the 28 steps of the Scala Sancta [Holy Stairs] on their knees. According to tradition, the stairs, located in an oratory adjacent to the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, once led to the praetorium of Pilate in Jerusalem and were sanctified by the footsteps of Christ during His passion. Wooden planks now cover the actual steps, which have been worn down by the knees of throngs of pilgrims. [RNS]

Hospital Nuns Issue Human Life Statement

In a recently released policy statement, the health advisory commission of the Third Franciscan Order of Minor Conventuals of Syracuse make clear their philosophy on abortion.

The Third Franciscan Order operates or staffs four hospitals in the United States, including Mercy Hospital in Auburn, as well as other health agencies such as rehabilitation centers and homes for the aged.

The statement begins, "Because we are involved in the health field where issues concerning life are of vital concern, we hereby affirm our corporate philosophy that all life must be guarded with the greatest of care."

The policy of the hospitals operated by the order in Utica, Syracuse, Auburn and Honolulu, is: abortion is not permitted by any health agency under their care, and the right to die with dignity will not be interfered with.

Notre Dame To Use Only Chavez Lettuce

Notre Dame, Ind. [RNS] — The University of Notre Dame will buy and serve nothing but iceberg lettuce picked by the United Farmer Workers Union led by Cesar Chavez.

A boycott of all non-Chavez lettuce was declared following a referendum in which 78 per cent of 2,400 students voting said only UFW-picked lettuce should be served in university dining halls.

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Hope Village Gets Final 'Go Ahead'

The on again, off again Hope Village, a cooperative community project in Wayne County, has been given the final go ahead.

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) recently announced the project again qualifies for processing for a loan with interest credit.

Hope Village is a proposed housing project for 25 separate houses to be located in the Town of Huron, Wayne County. Its members have been working with Farmers Home Administration for four and a half years developing a proposal for financing through a loan from FmHA under that agency's plan for Rural Cooperative Ownership Housing.

Since the first plan was submitted to FmHA in 1968, the project has been subjected to numerous delays. During these delays the project cost has increased 53% because of the rise in material and labor costs, and because of ever more stringent controls and regulations being placed on housing development by various government bodies.

If low income families are to benefit from the program, it will be necessary now to seek donations or grants as a supplement to the loan because of the increase in cost, according to Maude H. Weeks, coordinator for the program.

The program has been planned for families who will be owning their first homes and whose members have helped in all of the planning.

Hope Village members were informed of their return to the status of eligibility for loan processing with interest credit by Senator Jacob K. Javits and by James F. Neville, assistant administrator, in charge of rural housing, United States Office of Farmers Home Administration.

Raymond Ferrand, Supervisor Wayne County FmHA had informed the members on Jan. 17, that the Hope Village application would not be processed because of government action to freeze all housing subsidy programs. The Hope Village application was subsequently dismantled by Farmers Home Administration.

A new procedure notice was released by FmHA National Office on March 15. It stated that applications were eligible for

processing for a loan with interest credit if a written or verbal commitment had been given prior to Jan. 9. Senator Javits, as a result of his inquiry to the United States Secretary of Agriculture received a ruling that Hope Village qualifies under the "verbal commitment" of the new ruling.

Frank Elliott, acting administrator of the U.S. Farmers Home Administration has requested that the New York State office give priority to the processing of the Hope Village application.

Anyone interested in contributing to this effort may contact the planning chairman, Raymond Wahl, Melrose Rd., Auburn; Mrs. Weeks, Ann Lee Dr., North Rose; or Mrs. Mary McCrae, 14 William St., Lyons.

JEAN SHEPHERD

Jean Shepherd will do a benefit performance for WTRR, the student owned and operated radio station at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Shepherd will step into the theatre-in-the-round at 8:30 p.m. in the Main Gym at the RIT Henrietta Campus, Friday, May 11.

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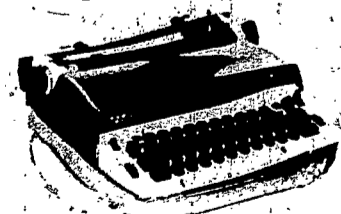
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