

**Editorial**

**Smoking . . .  
Is It Sinful?**

No matter how it is viewed smoking is a serious business.

Still the current Sounding Board feature in U.S. Catholic, "It's a Sin to Smoke," has perhaps unintentionally given rise to some lighter insights into the morality of using cigarettes.

The author of the article, Yvonne Coulet, finds it sinful to smoke because it violates the law of love against God (by injuring our bodies), against ourselves (by decreasing our efficiency and increasing susceptibility to disease) and against our neighbor (air pollution, endangering the health of the unborn, giving bad example to children, etc.).

Though most readers in a private survey generally agree that smoking should be frowned upon and even curtailed, 55 per cent do not think it is a sin.

Perhaps more interesting than the statistics are some of the remarks.

"It was no burning issue in the Gospels."

"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. I smoked four cigarettes today."

"Is it a sin to eat eggs? There is sufficient evidence pertaining to the relationship of the ingestion of food with a high cholesterol content and heart attacks."

These are only some comments. Most were in a serious vein, either ridiculing or defending the topic as a worthwhile issue.

While it is indeed difficult to defend smoking we do find that labeling it sinful as well as hazardous is a bit difficult to inhale. The person who commented on the possible harm of eating eggs has a point.

There are just too many human pursuits that might be analyzed as sinful. If we begin to label them all as sins the list would defy publication. And might also leave the human race in suspended animation.

**Timely Report**

Although Girl Scout officials in Philadelphia are denying there was ever any cause for worry, a combination of news coverage and alert CYO officials may have averted a very unfortunate situation in that city.

About three weeks ago the Associated Press reported that a requirement for a new Girl Scout Merit Badge would be a visit to an abortion clinic.

CYO officials strongly criticized the badge program, entitled To Be a Woman, for the clinic aspect and for other reasons.

Now a Scout official denies there was ever any mention of visiting an abortion clinic, according to Religious News Service. But she did admit there is one section of the proposed pamphlet on "termination of pregnancy" and also a statement that "you might want to visit an anti-abortion agency."

The official was surprised by the AP story, since requirements for the badge were still being formulated.

As a result of timely reporting and alert work by the CYO, badge requirements will be reviewed by Scouts and CYO representatives.

**Opinion**

**Vietnam War  
Defensible**

Editor:

The June 6 editorial contained comments delivered by Rep. Robert F. Drinan at a Lutheran conference.

One of the comments I find questionable is that "virtually all religious voices in America protested" the Vietnam War as indefensible.

The religious voices in South Vietnam don't feel this way. For the most part, I would say, they support the government of President Thieu.

The religious voices in North Vietnam are non-existent, which moves me to question the thinking of any religious group that would favor the withdrawal of U.S. aid in the face of naked Communist atheistic aggression.

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**Sen. Buckley  
Applauded**

Let's commend Senator James L. Buckley for his moral fortitude and political courage. His proposed constitutional "Human Life Amendment" would restore the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans, especially, our unborn children.

Buckley's amendment, which is co-sponsored by six prominent Senators, would overturn the Supreme Court's Decision permitting feticide during the first 24 weeks of life. While the medical profession would prefer we use the term induced abortion, the result of induced abortion is the intentional death of an unborn child, which is feticide.

Senator Buckley is motivated by moral conviction, the pro-life majority of New York voters and a recent petition drive in the Rochester area yielding 45,000 signatures supporting his "Human Life" amendment.

Feticide is only the tip of the "death mentality" iceberg as evident by an article in Prism, an American Medical Association (AMA) publication. Dr. James D. Watson, a Nobel prize winner, stated, "the law should allow abnormal infants to be killed the first 3 days after birth. He asked, "whether a baby should be considered alive before it is 3 days old."

First we kill the most defenseless — unborn children. Then the imperfect born children —

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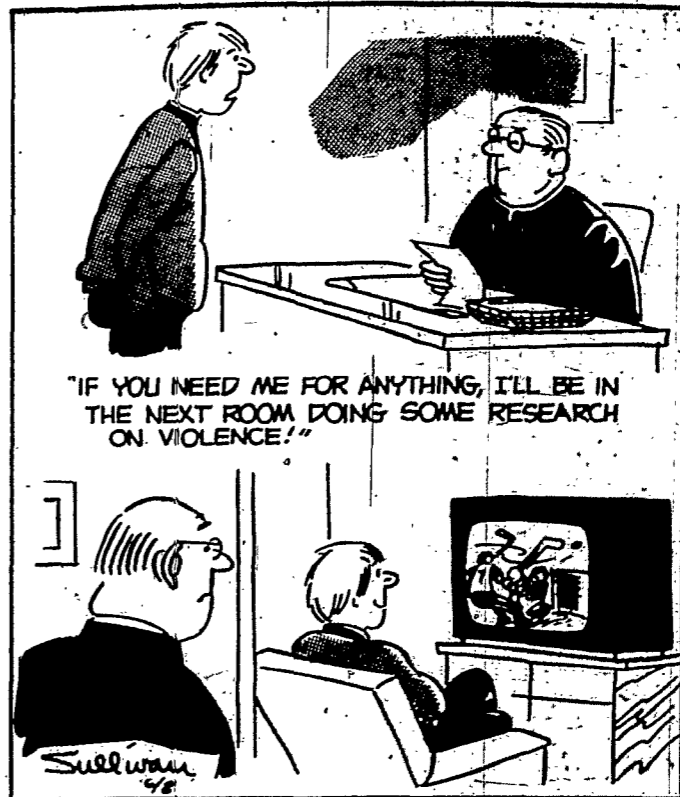
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where does it stop? Euthanasia, killing of the elderly, like abortion will be voluntary — voluntary that is for the survivor — not the victim. Wake up America, the medical profession is not God.

Write your Congressmen and Senators telling them your pro-life feelings. Ask them to support Sen. Buckley's "Human Life" amendment and to let you know their feelings.

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122 Rocmar Dr.  
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**One Step  
To Be Taken**

Editor:

I am writing in reference to Bernard Lyons column, "Our Parish Council." What can the Church do to help the alcoholic? How about eliminating the serving of alcoholic beverages at Church functions?

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**Nixon Praised  
For War Role**

Editor:

In response to Edmond D. Pines Jr. and his letter to the editor on June 6.

He sees Americans who have not resisted the Vietnam War, as worse than the Germans who did not resist Hitler. I say "nuts" to him and to his friend Berrigan. If this sort of reasoning is wisdom, than the doctrine of the Cross will by their own prudence destroy them.

When multitudes of human beings are involved, such as Vietnam and its daily destruction, one could not let this go unchecked. The United States reacted and challenged Ho Chi Minh. Wisdom of the World tells us we were foolish in our action, yet our very foolishness was not only a moral anesthetic but a safety-valve for the continuance of peace.

The type of action taken in Indochina was not popular and the synthesis on the rights and the wrongs of this war left people wandering around in confusion.

President Nixon when elected by popular choice took the bull by the horn and became our steersman. He brought our men home plus a better understanding between world governments. I am deeply privileged to associate my name with this man. I, too, will say, "God bless our President" for his positive action. The world is a better place to live in because of him.

In ending this letter there was a time when the Jews and Greeks scoffed with apprehension when God made Christ the principle agency for the evangelization of the world. So simple was this

appointment it became a stumbling block to the Jews and to the Gentiles. Yet God's foolishness was wiser than men. For this lamp of Gods through the years, has manifested his foolishness as the only true wisdom.

There is a parallel to the above paragraph and our government. It all begins with them that believe.

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**Abortion Seen  
A Crime**

Editor:

Buckley is wrong on abortions. How could one defend a measure to foster millions of unwanted babies? (double spaced, double column, prime time Sunday D&C editorial) It is true. Abortion does effectively reduce the population explosion; spare an emotional woman from an accidental untimely pregnancy; rid our society of possible imperfect or unwanted children; safeguard the woman's overdue right to regulate her own life. In addition, we must think of the high cost of government, food and living which has forced the tax increment to unreal spiraling proportions. Let us go further and rid our society of all its unproductive leeches, seldom supporting, ever sponging on our tax revenues. Let's start with the terminally ill, severely handicapped and retarded, then elderly, infirmed, crippled and orphaned, then the imprisoned, draft dodgers, dropouts and dope addicts, then all the Negroes, Jews, Catholics, Democrats and most certainly all welfare recipients. Then we will truly produce the Aryan Race. Hail Hitler.

Does this sound absurd? Remember the Nuremberg Trials that held the operators of the concentration camps responsible for their deeds even though under the order and sanction of the government. Those supporting or tolerating abortion are likewise guilty.

Let's put our emphasis instead on improving education, and family planning procedures; bringing God, religion and morals back into popular acceptance and recycling our tax dollar back into projects that help solve our domestic problems of pollution and poverty and the corruption they breed.

Jo-Anne Streb  
Avon, N.Y.

Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.