



**TOWARD TOMORROW**  
Fr. Henry Atwell

Who, back in 1963, would have thought that in 1973, we'd cancel a national television show for a week to welcome the world's number one Communist?

But that's what we did last week — Brezhnev washed out Watergate!

And for most tube-watchers, it was undoubtedly a welcome change.

But we have no right to evade Watergate.

For the past few years we blamed the ills of the nation on hippies, drop-outs, long-hairs, draft-dodgers, war resisters, peace marchers — all those people who didn't look like us, didn't act like us.

Then came Watergate and television has shown us a parade of neat, clean, bright, hair-cut-and-combed people, people who came into high office because they claimed they were all in favor of law and order and respect for authority; were true-blue patriots and even went to church every Sunday.

And these are not just "a few bad apples," as President Nixon implied in a recent speech, but they are the very summit of decision-making people he personally chose to advise him and shape decisions affecting the nation and thereby the world.

Many people are obviously out to get Mr. Nixon, to tar him with this Watergate mess but whether Mrs. Martha Mitchell is right or not, Mr. Nixon is not alone in responsibility.

One group, at least, has given an example more of us should take in accepting a share in the Watergate guilt. The American Association of University Professors, meeting in St. Louis in late April, even before the Watergate story had developed into what we know today, passed a resolution worth noting:

"The 59th Annual Meeting of the American Association of University Professors profoundly regrets the Watergate scandal and is alarmed at the breakdown in law and order, the decay of public morality, and the excessive permissiveness of which this incident is symptomatic.

"That all the persons allegedly involved in this felonious and fraudulent affront to freedom and fair play are graduates of American institutions of higher education, causes us to grieve that we failed in not helping them to overcome their character defects and asocial and larcenous propensities while they were in our tutelage.

"Having the courage and humility not to cover up our past wrongdoing, we urge that university professors confess their sins of omission and combat the tragic example given to their students by lawyers who allegedly flout the law and administrators who allegedly manipulate the truth. We dedicate ourselves to trying harder to steer this generation of students away from a life of crime and toward an enhanced respect for the Constitution, justice, and ethics."

**AD ALTARE DEI**

Five Boy Scouts at St. John the Evangelist have won the Catholic scouting award, Ad Altare Dei. Christopher Shea, Robert and Michael Buda of Troop 346, and John Brand and David Pellman of Troop 183 received the award from Msgr. Arthur Ratigan at a recent ceremony.

An added humiliation is that so many of the accused culprits are not only college graduates but devout, practicing Catholics who, like so many Catholics in Germany during the Hitler regime, are quite content to surrender themselves in blind obedience to their superiors in government, acting as if they had never heard our Lord's warning that Caesar's rights are limited.

The university professors concluded their April recommendation asking for "an enhanced respect for ethics." Aye, there's the rub. In a pluralistic, secularized society, who decides which ethics — the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, the ethics of Father Bernard Haering or of Mr. Hugh Hefner? And another question is who teaches these ethics? Does government determine its own rules? If clergy speak out they are told to keep out of politics.

And so the spiral twists down, and the swamp gets dirtier.

One of these days perhaps some of the members of the Church will realize that here is precisely the opportunity and the responsibility for the Church to be relevant in our time — to point out with emphatic clarity the moral imperatives our elected and appointed officials must recognize and adhere to.

**Kearney Orator In National Meet**

Bishop Kearney sophomore Kevin Hasson, as the New York State representative, completed five out of the possible eight rounds in the National Forensic League Original Oratory Tournament at the University of Pittsburgh, June 18-21.

At each round six or seven contestants delivered their original oration before a panel of three judges. Kevin, nine times trophy winner in local, district and regional tournaments, spoke on ecology in his presentation titled, "... and It Was Good."

Competing with contestants from 49 states, Kevin won two first place ratings and three second place ratings from the judges in the various rounds.

Junior Margaret Mary Walz also made State competition in New York City with Kevin. They were coached by Sister Evelyn Marie Carlin, SSND.

**INSTALLATION**

**Elmira** — A combined installation of officers for Court St. Rita 137 of Elmira and Court St. Joan of Arc, 235 Catholic Daughters of America was held here recently.

Installed as regents for their respective units were Mrs. James H. Brown, Court St. Rita, and Mrs. Velma Bently, Court St. Joan of Arc.

Mrs. Lorraine Camin, district deputy from Owego, presided over the installation.

**Vatican to Display Contemporary Art**

**Vatican City [RNS]** — A new part of the Vatican Museum devoted to contemporary art will be opened in late June to commemorate Pope Paul's 10th year as pontiff and illustrate his role as patron and collector of contemporary paintings and sculpture.

The new museum section will display works by such modern artists as Picasso, Chagal, and Rouault and there will be sections reserved for American art. Officials claim the new museum complex will be opened June 23 by the Pope himself.

Archbishop Giovanni Fallani, president of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Art, indicated a year ago that the Vatican would have a museum for contemporary art. The museum, according to some reports developed from an idea by Msgr. Pasquale Macchi, Pope Paul's private secretary.

The museum would be situated in a renaissance wing of the Apostolic Palace beneath the Sistine Chapel. The art works reportedly will come from gifts to the Pope from artists, private collectors and groups of Catholics. The Vatican currently has no collection of modern or contemporary art.

According to the New York Times, Dr. Fabrizio Mancinelli, who is in charge of medieval and modern art for the Vatican, said the idea is a "personal project" of the Pope.

Other reports indicate that the Pope has been collecting modern art from the time he was a close adviser to Pope Pius XII and later when he was Archbishop of Milan. His office, and library at the Vatican were remodeled according to modern styles.

Essentially, the new museum wing will be made up of Pope Paul's private collection of modern and contemporary art. However, the project, especially its contents, is being kept a well-guarded secret.

The site of the new museum area involves some 40 to 60 small rooms that are part of the Borgia apartment. Most of these will be devoted to European art but about 12 rooms are slated to hold art from America.

Until 25 years ago, the Vatican did not exhibit any art from after the 18th century. But after World War II, Pope Pius XII ordered that some rooms be opened to accommodate modern works given to him.

**KIDS DAYS**

Elephants to ride upon will be at the National Guard Armory, 145 Culver Rd., Friday through Monday, June 29-July 2. The Junior Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a full-scale carnival at the Armory, 2:30-10 p.m. each day, as the highlight of its Kids Days project.

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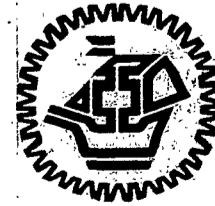
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