

Editorial

Thank You, WHEC

If television has progressed from a "vast wasteland" as it was described some years ago, the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) remains something of a strange land.

On the one hand it buckled under to pressure, it seems, from on high and canceled its "instant analyses" of presidential addresses. On the other hand it stands stubbornly by a silly situation comedy script that treats the vital question of abortion as lightly as "going to the dentist."

Despite sincere and widespread protest against repeating the Maude abortion episodes, CBS has decided to reschedule the shows in a kind of "let them eat crow" attitude.

Obviously the network has a bottoms up perception of its response to pressure, capitulating to those it considers powerful, such as the White House, and toughing it out when it comes to run-of-the-mill viewers.

While questioning the CBS corporate thinking, it is important to congratulate its local affiliate, WHEC-TV, Channel 10, for its decision not to abide by the network decision. Channel 10 is not showing the repeats.

We are glad Channel 10 has its ear to the ground. When Courier-Journal television columnist Pat Costa in a series of articles soundly castigated the original shows last year and showed the way to effective protests, it evoked a wide response from readers throughout the diocese, not only to Miss Costa and the Courier but to CBS and to advertisers, some of whom dropped sponsorship of the show.

Last week, Channel 10 station manager Jack Decker told the Courier-Journal that the station had decided to cancel the reruns "long before" the new round of protests engendered by the network announcement it was going to the well again. It is nice to know that someone cares.

Too frequently we have to urge readers to write letters to protest unhealthy situations. It is a downright pleasure to ask all concerned about abortion to write thank-yous to Channel 10 in praise of its decision.

Right Guaranteed

We hope that all those who work in medical facilities realize that they do not have to participate in an abortion. This is true for medical aides, technicians, nurses and doctors. The laws of New York State guarantee their right not to participate.

The Courier-Journal has been working with the State Catholic Committee to distribute a pamphlet showing medical workers what they must do to protect their rights in such a situation. Anyone wanting from one to three copies should send a stamped self-addressed envelope to this paper.

One significant detail on the pamphlet should be stressed. If you are working in a medical capacity and are having any difficulty enforcing your refusal to participate in an abortion, write to the Attorney General, State of New York, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224, or to the State Catholic Committee, 11 N. Pearl St., Albany, N.Y. 12207.

Poet's View

Sidelight on the Senate Watergate hearings, courtesy of William Blake:

"A truth that's told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent."

Welcome Relief

In the midst of all the steamy circumlocution regarding governmental affairs, it came as a fresh breeze to see Vice President Spiro T. Agnew stand before a press conference and answer charges against his integrity.

Many of the precepts of American law and decency have been abused in recent times. One that must never be is that a man is innocent until proven otherwise. Mr. Agnew's quick and forthright appearance strengthens his position.

Would that others would follow suit.

Opinion

Abortion Is 'A Grave Sin'

Editor:

Mrs. Sharon Crist (7/25) states: "I must in good conscience, support a woman's personal decision of moral judgment and responsibility (with regard to abortion)." The morality, and responsibility for an abortion depends upon the establishment of medical facts. Medical science demonstrates in many ways that the fetus at all stages of development is a human being. At six to eight weeks, even before the mother knows that she is carrying a child, the fetus is a fully formed child with a heart that beats, organs and a brain that function. (Cf. Handbook on Abortion by Dr. & Mrs. J. C. Wilke, Hiltz Publishing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45224.)

Since it has been established by medical science that the fetus is a child, a human being, at all stages of development, it becomes self-evident that abortion, the deliberate destruction of this human being is an immoral act. It is a grave sin, a crime. Hence, no one can say, "I can in good conscience support a woman's right to make a personal decision to permit an abortion." Theological opinion has no choice than to accept the established facts of medical science.

Rev. G. Stuart Hogan
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Corning Homes Need Furniture

Editor:

A year ago we were hard hit by the powerful flood waters. The road to recovery has been tiring and taxing. But thanks to countless volunteers from our diocese, our people have come a long way.

Families are now returning to their rebuilt homes, but often with little furnishings. Since construction costs are so high, they are grateful for any given appliances and furniture. For example, a month ago the Gates-Chili community sent several truckloads of household items to our Red Cross, and it was gone within a few days. Last Saturday the Furniture Warehouse was closed because the "cupboard was bare."

On August 18 and 19 a tractor trailer will be parked at St. Ambrose Church, at Culver Rd. and Empire Blvd. to receive any usable furniture, rugs, utensils and appliances.

We hope that many will be

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able to contribute items they no longer need for our people who are in need.

With prayers of gratitude,

Father Elmer J. Schmidt
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Corning, N.Y. 14830

Xavier Society Aids the Blind

Editor:

The Catholic Review in Large Print has successfully completed its first six months of publication. This monthly magazine published by Xavier Society for the Blind helps to provide current and informative religious reading for the ever increasing number of people throughout the U.S. and Canada whose eyesight is weak.

Anyone wishing a sample of this magazine may receive a free copy with no further obligation.

In addition to Large Print, the Xavier Society publishes reading materials in Braille and Tape which are available free to all visually handicapped persons. The list includes book titles of a religious and secular nature, weekly and monthly periodicals, liturgical and devotional books, calendars, and especially textbooks for students at all levels of education.

For information and/or free catalogs write to: Xavier Society for the Blind, 154 E. 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.

Betty J. Dodt
Xavier Society for the Blind

'Encounter' Going Strong

Editor:

In response to many inquiries, we would like to say that the Rochester Marriage Encounter is still very active even though it is summer.

There will be Marriage Encounters held every weekend of August at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. In September, October and November there will be seven Marriage Encounters each month at different locations. Weekends will be available in December.

The Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience for couples who consider their marriage to be "good." Its primary goals are presenting an in-depth method of communications and enriching the Sacrament of Matrimony. Priests are invited to attend the Marriage Encounter to work on communications and their Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Further information may be obtained by writing Marriage Encounter, Inc., Box 131, Fairport, N.Y. 14450 or by phoning 716-385-2111. There is a general information evening the third Sunday of every month at St. John Fisher College, at 8 p.m., Basil Hall. No reservation is needed.

Ange and Peg Turiano
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Disagrees On Quote

Editor:

Please save my "faith" in Catholic newspapers. In your article "Bergen Revivalists Hear Famed Pentecostal Priest" (Courier-Journal 7/25/73) it is stated that Father Francis McNutt, O.P., said that the secret to healing is having faith in your faith. I did not go to hear Father McNutt, but a friend of mine let me borrow her tape of his talk.

May I quote Father McNutt's exact words from the tape:

"Your faith cannot be in your faith. That gets you all messed up and filled with anxiety about whether you're worthy of God's love. Do you see that? And the faith, I believe, that God calls from us, is a faith in His absolute goodness and willingness to heal; that He knows what He's doing; that He does heal and if we pray He does listen and He does answer. I believe in God as my healer without any doubt whatsoever. I believe in that 100 per cent. I don't have any difficulty with that. If I can get my eyes off myself and off my own weakness and stupidity, and TURN my eyes upon Jesus — then that gives Him a chance to work."

Audrey J. Hunt
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Bishop's Stance Is Praised

Editor:

Bishop Hogan's courageous statement on the new First Penance directives is a welcome breath of fresh air.

It gives me hope to see that some of our bishops will no longer tolerate a one-way-only line of authority. If the new directives had truly expressed a pastoral concern, they would have been more reflective of the experiences of the clergy and educators who, having studied both psychology and theology, honestly believe that delaying First Penance is the best way of preparing small children for that sacrament.

Hopefully, Bishop Hogan and others like him will demand that Rome consult them as to their pastoral experiences before issuing such sweeping and inflexible statements. Bishop Hogan, your courage and conviction deserve much praise and support!

Barbara Schmucker
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Why No Word On Glen Concert?

Editor:

The Watkins Glen "jam concert" with its 600,000 participants is now history. Here was a gathering where all kinds of illegal drugs were being openly sold before the eyes of law enforcement officers. Planned Parenthood was there passing contraceptive devices to the young people. Sanitation conditions were atrocious. The devil really had his day.

Since Watkins Glen is in the diocese of Rochester, we looked for comments on such a significant event from our religious leaders. We found none! It seems to us that if one witnesses evil and remains silent, that very silence implies approval. ("I charge you to preach the word, correcting, reproving, and appealing, constantly teaching and never losing patience." 2 Timothy 4:2.)

Our nation is in rapid moral disintegration. May we suggest that Christians heed the advice from the Bible before it is too late?

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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.