

Editorial

A Question

"It is well known that many things harmless to an adult are kept out of a child's reach. In a world developing a social consciousness and striving to avoid inter-group conflict, neither any individual nor any industry — film-making included — may morally indulge in acts that drive peoples apart and pit them against each other; neither should life be degraded by vulgarity and immorality which plague our society today."

Carping by the so-called prudish set concerning a pornographic film? No. It is the voice of the Religious Advisory Council to the State Division of Human Rights explaining its criticism of the movie "Jesus Christ Superstar" as inciting bigotry.

We wonder if any will decry such a statement as censorship. Probably not. Yet if the same pronouncement were to be made by a quasi-official state group about pornography, almost certainly cries of censorship would be heard.

Why?

Making a Point

Sen. Dewey Bartlett of Oklahoma has publicly worried over a nettlesome premise frequently made by pro-abortionists.

They often use the argument that no one knows when life begins so one cannot claim that abortion is a crime.

Bartlett proposes the rejoinder that "if there is a possibility that abortion is the taking of human life, one would naturally forbid abortion until the matter can be decided conclusively one way or another."

In other words, if there is doubt as to when the fetus is a human being, how can anyone take a chance and kill it?

Alive and Well

Poor Albania. Six years after it proclaimed the "first atheist state" in the world, formally outlawing religion, it has had to admit that religion is still a factor with its people.

The official Communist party daily newspaper recently admitted:

"Openly in some places, clandestinely in others, in new forms and in old . . . religious vestiges are still alive."

When the government-controlled atheist press admits publicly that its anti-God policy just isn't working, you can be sure that the "vestiges" more likely are "vital organs" and that religion is not just "alive" but kicking.

Bye Bye, Bobby

Thank goodness that Billie Jean King won that much ballyhooed tennis match so that now we can all put Bobby Riggs behind us and get on with the really important issues of the day.



"NO, I DON'T THINK MACE IS THE ANSWER TO BETTER CHURCH ATTENDANCE!"

Opinion

Chavez Story 'One-Sided'

Editor:

Since the Courier-Journal presented only one side of the story of "Little Cesar" Chavez in its 9/5/73 issue, I'm writing to set the record straight. Both the biased page one "news" story and the editorial on Page 4 represent the worst sort of irresponsible journalism.

Chavez, whose dictatorial United Farm Workers Union (UFWU) has never had an election — democratic or otherwise — is furious because lettuce farmers and the Teamsters have negotiated contracts which exclude the UFWU. If the media were reporting what has been going on in the table grape and lettuce fields, his antics would be laughable. The fact is Chavez and the UFWU represent no one but themselves.

Table grape farmers signed contracts with Chavez despite overwhelming opposition from the workers, and only because of a nationwide boycott which was putting the farmers out of business. Those contracts, moreover, were negotiated and signed secretly, without the consent of the pickers who had to join the union or starve.

The workers in Delano, Calif., hate Chavez and the UFWU. Only a handful of them has signed up with his union voluntarily!

With the dues collected from grape pickers, Chavez moved into the lettuce fields. The workers there didn't want him either. But panicking farmers immediately signed contracts with the Teamsters to keep the UFWU out. The workers went along because they felt they were accepting the lesser of evils.

The media reported the table grapes boycott as if it were a struggle between the pickers and the farmers. The battle over the lettuce workers was reported as if it were a case of the Teamsters and growers versus the UFWU and the workers. In both instances, the interests and desires of the workers have been totally ignored by the media — including the Courier-Journal.

Before it spouts off in the future, the Courier-Journal should find out why, if the UFWU is so popular with the workers, it shuns representative elections! And before it shows its left-wing ideological slip once more, the Courier-Journal should research the facts.

Thomas Scott Thrasher
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[Editor's note: The labor law specifically excludes agricultural workers from its coverage, and the National Labor Relations Board therefore would not conduct collective bargaining elections among the California farm workers, according to the Buffalo NLRB office.]

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Enlightenment Is Needed

Editor:

I believe it appropriate to ask those concerned with the Penance before First Communion controversy to consider two foundation blocks:

The true and loving character of the Sacrament of Peace (Penance); and the essential distinction that must be made between innocence and sanctity in children (and in anyone for that matter.)

I fear for the lack of confidence and imagination among those who speak of "returning" to past customs as well as for those who equate confession with a "doghouse."

In the Spirit, in Truth, we cannot "return" or sink backwards. In the Spirit, the Eternal Now, we are as "au courant" as we can get. But for this unity it is essential to learn the truth from the teaching authority of the Church.

Since our Bishop is part of this authority, we must try to determine if he remains part of it in delaying implementation of the decree of the congregations on the Sacraments and for the clergy.

In this we could all use some learned guidance, rather than letters to the editor — such as this one!

Could the Courier-Journal be of service by searching out and printing scholarly interpretations of the matter in the light of Lumen Gentium, Chapter 3, articles 22, 25 and 27?

The actions of individual families must be properly enlightened.

Judith Echaniz [Mrs. Jose M.]
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Holy House 'Outstanding'

Editor:

The dedication ceremony of Holy House U.S.A. in Washington, N.J., on Aug. 22, was attended by hundreds of people from all over the country.

The two concelebrated Masses, one inside, one outside to accommodate large numbers were the highlights of the ceremony.

Among the celebrants were Bishop George W. Ahr, of Trenton, Father Modestus Pape, secretary general of the original Holy House in Loretto, Italy; Msgr. Anthony Connell, president of the Blue Army of Our Lady; Bishop Venacio of Fatima, Portugal and various other Capuchin and Franciscan Fathers.

Blue Army directors from various areas also were in attendance.

The Holy house itself is a most outstanding and holy edifice. The altar was imported from Spain and is the very one over which Our Lady appeared to Lucy in the "Mystical Crucifixion" July 1929. A vault containing relics is embodied under the altar.

Actually one must visit there to appreciate.

A pilgrimage may be organized from Rochester for October 13 if sufficient interest is shown. It would be an approximate five-hour bus trip.

If interested call Mrs. Mary Kelly (716) 586-1664.

Kay Sullivan
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Confessional A Laundromat?

Editor:

My letter (Courier-Journal, 9/12/73) must have been a big enough pebble to cause ripples in the form of letters and phone calls (both pro & con).

"I have come to the conclusion that the inadequate preparation for First Eucharist in our older generations has distorted their reasoning in regard to what the Eucharist is, what its meaning is, and what its effects are. (Don't accuse me of denying the "Real Presence;" I didn't say that.) Without this proper attitude, it is impossible to find a common base on which to discuss either sin or Penance.

If, as some of my critics say, children need Penance to "restore their innocence" and set their minds in the right track because so many mothers are working and so many parents don't have time to guide their children's consciences or to develop the beginnings of their life-long philosophy, why hasn't the repeated reception of the Sacrament of Penance by adults, who have had "this training from the start of their own age of reason," "restore the parents' innocence and set their minds on the right track"?

Why don't the "tremendous, beneficial effects of the Sacrament of Penance" make the parents sorry for their sins and instill in them a strong purpose of amendment for having brought children into the world that they aren't training, or for not training the children they have brought into this world?

Or do too many people think the confessional is just a handy laundromat to be used before Sunday Eucharist?

Kay Benn
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Back Prayers In Space

Editor:

We left the Rochester diocese last year but still enjoy your fine paper. It has so many interesting features.

Perhaps you have passed on the following information to your readers or would like to: Madeline Murray O'Hare, the atheist crusader, succeeded in making it illegal to read the Bible or pray in the public schools. Now she has obtained 27,000 signed letters protesting the decision of the astronauts to read the Bible as a Christian message while orbiting the moon in December 1968.

She plans to present these letters to NASA with a demand that the astronauts be publicly censured for their act and a further demand to prohibit demonstrations of religion by public leaders. An effort is being made to secure one million signed letters commending the astronauts for their action. This would be a great triumph for religious faith.

Here is what we can do — copy the following form letter and get at least five of our friends to write a similar letter NOW.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Manned Space Craft Center; Astronaut Office; Houston, Texas 77058.

Dear Sirs: I personally appreciate and wholeheartedly support the decision of the astronauts to read the Bible from their spacecraft as they orbited the moon during December 1968. I further support the right of every human being to express his faith in God and the Bible publicly and without fear of censure. Your name and address.

Mrs. John Aceti
483 Vermont St.
Olean, N.Y. 14760

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.