

## Editorial

## A Way to Aid Schools

Former basketball star Bob Cousy made a perfect pass when he noted here last week that it is ridiculous for professional basketball players to be paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to play a game.

Granted, entertainment, sports or otherwise, is needed to soothe a nation's soul, perhaps particularly these days. But also these days, times are exceptionally difficult. Unemployment is up — so is gasoline, milk, and bread. Professional basketball, as exciting as it is, cannot go on forever paying sky-high salaries to men wearing short pants and bouncing a ball without losing popularity among the common folk.

We were pleased to see the action of another thinking athlete — Francis Tarkenton of the professional football Minnesota Vikings. He donated his \$7,500 share of the recent Super Bowl game to a retarded children's group and to Daytop Village.

"I consider it a privilege to give this way, and I do it in the name of my Viking teammates as well as myself," Tarkenton explained.

"The game has been good to me financially," said the quarterback. "Sometimes I feel a little awkward when I meet and talk with people who need. I think a person always has to ask himself, 'Do I share enough of myself?'"

A man with a developed conscience.

We, of course, would not try to judge high-priced athletes and how they use their profits. They are not the only overpriced workers.

It would seem reasonable, however, that organized professional sports leagues who are rolling in money, should remember not only where it comes from but also where the players themselves were developed. Players likewise should keep these facts in mind.

Every time a school district gets in financial trouble one of the first places selected for paring is sports.

During these times of increasingly higher prices, more and more athletic programs may be cut back, eventually causing some kind of dent in the ranks of professionals.

We feel the well-established leagues would be doing themselves a giant public relations favor if they would set up funds to help beleaguered school districts.

Catholic schools, as well as public, could be helped financially in this way. The Supreme Court hasn't yet ruled against the National Football League, for instance, giving aid to nonpublic schools.

## What Peace?

The strangest war in our history ended for us one year ago this week and the interlude has been equally puzzling in a number of ways.

Men have been awarded Nobel peace prizes for settling this war yet it has continued, practically unabated, the only difference being the absence of Americans. Saigon says 60,000 Vietnamese have been killed and claims 45,000 were Communists.

While the overriding concern should be a real peace in that tortured part of the world, the past year has raised some other questions of lesser magnitude but of intriguing interest.

For instance, the slaughter of millions of South Vietnamese by Communist hordes predicted by many with the absence of American troops has never happened. Please God it never happens.

Those protesters who not only criticized the American presence in Vietnam but who also decried all killing in the war have grown comparatively silent. This despite the fact that this government is still arming the Vietnamese and that some 60,000 people have been killed (if Saigon is to be believed).

With all our other problems it seems that politicians are wont to avoid opening up this can of corn — or rice, if you will.

The fact is that after a year of "peace with honor" there is no peace and scant honor on the part of any of the many parties, official and otherwise, with regard to the war in Indochina.

Mercy Sisters  
Back Boycott

Editor:

We noted your article "Implement Stand on Boycott, Prelate Urges U.S. Bishops" (1/9/74) referring to the memorandum of Auxiliary Bishop Joseph F. Donnelly, chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Farm Labor, advising the bishops that "Priests and religious should be requested to support the action of the bishops, bring it to the attention of the people, and request organized support for the boycott."

The boycott referred to is the American consumer boycott of iceberg lettuce, table grapes and grape products produced on those California and Arizona farms where the growers will not allow their farm field workers to choose freely the union of their choice. The boycott is in support of the United Farm Workers of America whose regulations and labor contracts do give farm field workers this right. Produce harvested on farms where these workers' rights are honored bears a black Aztec eagle label, the symbol of the United Farm Workers of America.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, 1974, the Central Administration of our religious congregation passed the following resolution by a majority vote (nine in favor, five opposed, three abstained):

"Be it resolved that the Central Administration of the Sisters of Mercy, Rochester, support the United Farm Workers of America in their boycott of lettuce (iceberg), grapes (table) and grape products and issue a public statement in the *Courier-Journal* to that effect."

The Central Administration unanimously approved a portion of the resolution urging "individuals to use opportunities of educating in our schools and within parish or other groups, especially Human Development Committees, on this issue of social justice." "Educating" here means creating situations of free and open inquiry into the issues involved in a question.

This resolution expressed the decision of the Central Administration of the Sisters of Mercy and the opinion of our Social Justice Commission, who presented the resolution. It does not represent the opinions of all the members of our congregation.

In presenting the resolution the Social Justice Commission stated that: "Denial of the right to organize into a union of their own choosing is clearly an injustice to the farm workers and their families, which demands

serious attention and response from Christians. The struggle to create a union of farm workers is born from the continuing suffering incurred from low wages, poor working conditions, and the denial of self-determination. The United Farm Workers of America are committed to non-violence in this present struggle."

The Central Administration also voted unanimously to "support the action of the Social Justice Commission in its efforts to educate the Sisters in local communities with regard to the issues involved in the lettuce and grape products boycott."

Sisters Mary Scholastica Caulfield, Marietta Hanss, Jane Frances Hauser, Mary Judith Heberle, Jean Marie Kearse, Barbara Moore, Mary Sullivan, Janet Wahl, Nancy Whitley.

Strong  
Feelings

Editor:

I have rather strong feelings about the letter Joanne Grass-Opperman wrote in the Jan. 16 *Courier-Journal*.

I have to agree with Joanne on the "sexism" I have felt was present whenever I've heard a homily on the Letter from Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 5:22-33.

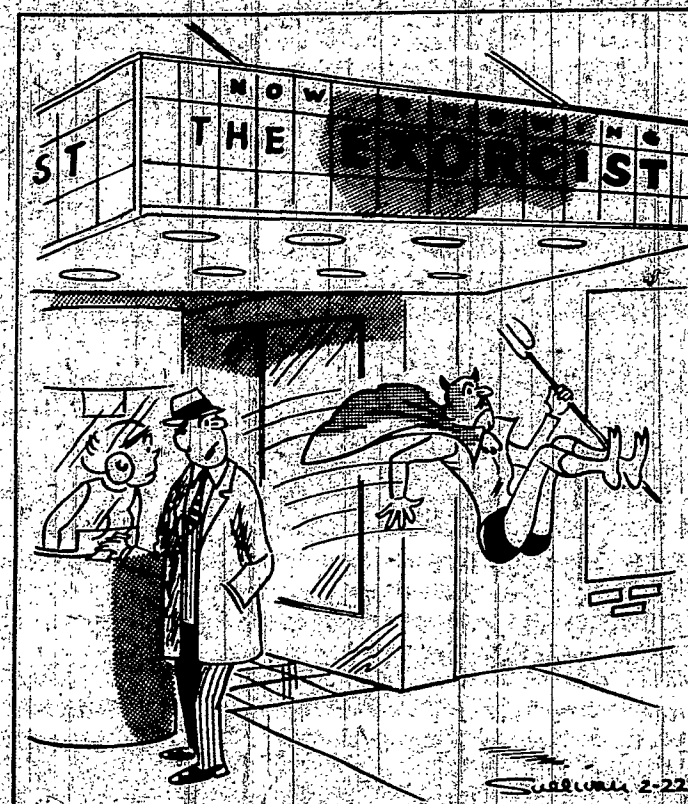
Paul, however, was not a sexist. After two sentences on wives being "submissive" to their husbands, he devotes three whole paragraphs to how husbands ought to love their wives — probably because he felt that needed more emphasis. Somehow, whenever I've heard a homily on this letter, little if any emphasis was made on the latter parts. Paul may well have lived in an age of different customs but I feel his message is very clear for us even today — if we are "open and hearing." Open your Bible Joanne, and everyone, read it again!!

Vicki Wadell  
Member of the Ecumenical  
Bible Study Group and All  
Saints Church, Lansing, N.Y.

Thanks  
For Marching

Editor:

On behalf of the Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the many fine people and leaders of our community who took the time from busy schedules on a cold afternoon to participate in our Jan. 19, 1974 "Silent March." I am happy to say that their public expression was duplicated by many thousands of citizens throughout the country. I believe that the success of this effort means that our cause and the millions of concerned citizens behind it are no longer willing to be ignored.



"WHAT TIME DOES THE SECOND SHOW START?"

More Opinions  
On Page 7

Special thanks and full credit are due to Raymond Buonemani and Mary Ellen McCarthy, who as chairmen of the "silent march" originated the concept, made the plans, and carried it through in a successful, dignified and responsible manner. We are very fortunate to have their assistance.

ROCHESTER AREA  
RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE  
William P. Polito,  
Chairman

Write  
For Life

Editor:

Saturday, Jan. 19 the day was not too cold, the sun shone, a perfect day for our Right to Life March, so we thought. The paper Sunday estimated the turn-out to be 600. You might say that is a very good representation.

But it could have been so much better. Where were the hundreds of eager teens from all our Catholic high schools and two Catholic colleges? They marched to the tune of 50,000 for the Hike for Hope and 20,000 for the Walk for Water. Were those issues so much more important than "marching to prevent murder?"

Where were our clergy who urged active participation to show how important proper legislation to protect life is; and to impress our point of view on our law makers? I counted six priests in the march.

As we crossed one street and the police on duty held the traffic to a two-minute stop for the marchers to pass uninterrupted one man blew his horn in impatience. One woman in the group was heard to remark "he shouldn't be angry, we could have stopped traffic for two hours!"

But we didn't. The directors of the march wore black arm bands to show sorrow. It was a sad March on a sad day. If you did not make the march be sure to write your representative, let's not be too busy for that.

Mrs. H. Pikuet  
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Rochester, N.Y. 14624

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.

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