

Editorial

When this editorial first appeared in the Courier-Journal last year at Holy Week it drew considerable comment. We reprint as appropriate for Holy Week consideration.

Easter Story of Sorts

Editor: Lookit, Steve, Jerry is sick today, so you'd better cover that crucifixion.

Steve: Come on, will ya? I don't know anything about that beat and besides it's Friday afternoon.

Editor: Yeah, I know. But Jerry says this guy's different. Got a lot of followers, too. I just got a feeling we should have somebody there.

Steve: But I'm bushed. I just finished that in-depth job on the protests over Roman rule and besides it's Friday afternoon. A hell of a time for a crucifixion.

Editor: Ah, you know those Romans. But maybe you're right. After all two other guys are getting it with him. So maybe he's not that important. I was just figuring on five, maybe six graf.

Steve: If it were that other guy, Barabbas, I'd say let's go. He's really a revolutionary, but this guy Christ is just some kind of religious nut. They say he claims to be the son of God.

Editor: That might be just an act. He's got a lot of followers and if I were Pilate I'd think twice, too.

Steve: Sure, he's got some fans, but watch what happens when he's gone. They'll scatter to the winds.

Editor: Okay, you convinced me. Go on home, have a good weekend. Say hello to Miriam. See you Sunday.

The scene shifts to Sunday at the office.

Editor: Jerry, come in here. Did you know that they claim that guy Jesus Christ is not in his tomb? That he has fulfilled his promise to rise from the dead?

Jerry: I heard that but who knows?

Editor: What do you mean?

Jerry: The way I look at it, couple of things could have happened. Some of his pals stole him from that tomb or else he wasn't really dead in the first place.

Editor: I got to believe he was dead. They really treated him rough, those Romans. And they're good at that crucifixion stuff.

Jerry: But we didn't see it for ourselves. I mean I take one day off and we blow one. We should have had someone there to observe, even if there was no story. I told you this one was different.

Editor: Let's not cry over that now. I want you to go interview that woman, what's her name, Mary Magdalene, and those others who found the tomb empty. Also try to find out who else was hanging around there over the weekend. I'll send Steve to talk to the Romans to see how sure they are that he was really done in.

Jerry: Isn't that a bit much. I mean we know he really didn't rise from the dead. Who cares what they did? It's only worth a couple of graf, at most.

Editor: You reporters never worry about my problems. Today is Sunday and I need something to fill the local page.

Later that night: Steve and Jerry in editor's office.

Jerry: Well, I told you, not much of a story. Either he wasn't dead in the first place, which I believe, or somebody stole the body. They had plenty of motive for that but where would they keep it?

Steve: The soldiers swear they killed them. Said nobody could have lived through that and they should know. One of them is a real veteran at this sort of stuff.

Editor: Well, the hell with it. At least we're covered. We got the story and we got it right out there on the local page.

Jerry: All right, so he's dead. But what about those guys from Emmaus who claim they've seen him since the crucifixion?

Editor: For God's sake! We'll be getting a lot of those bugs. We try to run every one of them down, we'll be doing nothing else. Forget it! Who's for a brew after work?

Can't believe it could happen? Can't believe the greatest historical event of all time would get such short shrift? This story is true. It happens every day.

Opinion

Charity Begins At Home

Editor:

"To the Do-gooders and Church Leaders."

I wish you would put as much effort into helping our poor as you are for the world's poor. It is time for each government to be concerned about its own poor and not expect the U.S. to be responsible for them. This is not being selfish. It is plain, old common sense. We can no longer be responsible for the world, because we can't afford it. Twenty five million dollars for World Food Conference would feed our own poor.

We have spent over \$112 billion in foreign aid, and the foreign poor are no better off now than they were 30 years ago. Why? Because their governments have sold our wheat for military arms and nuclear reactors. They enrich their treasuries by selling the aid we have given them.

Do you see any justification for India to build a nuclear reactor while its people starve? Incidentally, we are supplying them with nuclear fuel under the Food for Peace Program.

The helicopter Nixon gave Sadat of Egypt also is paid by the Food for Peace Program — a cool \$4 million. Kissinger gave Mrs. Sadat \$10 million for her favorite charity hospital through the Food for Peace Program.

Columbia is a great chicken exporter but its poor can't purchase only one chicken a year and some never even tasted chicken.

North Bangladesh is a great peanut exporter but the peanut income doesn't feed the poor. Yet the government is getting rich.

How would you like to eat dog and cat food because you can't buy one pound of hamburger, put cardboard in your shoes because you can't afford to have them soled or buy a new pair, eat laundry starch because you can't buy potatoes or bread? Or to suffer inadequate shelter, ragged clothes, lack of needed medication because one doesn't qualify for Medicaid?

This is occurring in our country of plenty.

You should be directing your energy and concern toward these 20 million. Insist our government cut foreign aid drastically and use the money to help our own.

Mary L. Panetti
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Courier-Journal 1



"I TRADED MY PULPIT WITH A METHODIST MINISTER AND HE NEVER GAVE IT BACK!"

Appointment Criticized

Editor:

In the Feb. 1 edition of the Democrat and Chronicle, an article entitled "Proper to Start Dead Center" announced the appointment of a Brighton woman as one of the five commissioners in the state's investigation of nursing homes. The article also stated that she has been president of the local chapter of Planned Parenthood.

It seems ironic to me that a woman who has headed an agency which recognizes abortion on demand is so interested in the dignity and quality of life for our senior citizens.

She seems to support an anti-life philosophy at one end of the scale and a pro-life philosophy at the other end.

Right to life begins at conception.

Marie Galpin
39 Newton Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14626

Study ERA, Backer Urges

Editor:

The Equal Rights Amendment reads:

1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriated legislation the provisions of the article.

3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

The opponents of ERA, in quoting the Yale Law Journal (April, 1971) "take quotes out of context, cut off sentences, leave out parts of paragraphs, twist it around, and essentially make whole sections mean what they don't mean at all." Thomas I. Emerson, one of the authors has complained. Actually, Emerson and the three other authors of this particular article are very much in favor of ERA.

For an accurate analysis of ERA and its effects, I suggest interested readers contact your local League of Women Voters. They have a pamphlet entitled "ERA Fables and Facts" which quotes from a Senate Judiciary Committee report in refuting many of the falsehoods perpetuated by ERA opponents.

Other sources of accurate information are the National Coalition of Catholic Nuns, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the National

Organization for Women, to name just a few of the national groups who are pro-ERA.

The Equal Rights Amendment must be passed if the women of this country are to realize true equality under the law.

Celine Watkins
205 Segar Road
Horseheads, N.Y.

Open Letter To Official

Editor:

Following is an open letter to Russell Freer, supervisor, Town of Huron.

From the media I understand that you feel boxed in and worried about the upcoming legal costs. Also I see you have offered black Americans an acre of land and perennial guidance, but note that you have offered us poor whites nothing. This is a switch. I never knew you to worry about legal fees as far as the town was concerned on any other occasion. Myself, for instance. I can see where the town board and the planning board may be in need of a plea for sympathy but please exclude me in any further plea.

Several years ago I publicly stated the town officials were using a stacked deck as regards zoning. Now if you are really worried about the welfare of your town, perhaps mass resignations are in order.

Ex-Planning Board member
Josh Dean
202 Margaret Road
Sanford, Florida 32771

Women Should Be Drafted

Editor:

If Mrs. Hober is trying to influence women against ERA may I suggest she select different reasons. I resent the statement that subjecting women to the draft will degrade them. It seems to me simple justice that women be subject to the draft.

Mary B. Grabman
[Veteran of World War II and Mother of 5 sons]
2 DeLancey Drive
Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages; typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

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