

Editorial

Don't Idolize Technology

In a recent homily a priest asked what good is it to have men walk on the moon when some of us cannot walk to the corner grocery store at night.

A question in the same vein is what good are all the wonders of the electronic media when we use it to bring trash into our homes.

These questions exemplify what used to be called the "culture lag" — the inability of society to keep up with its scientific achievement. Probably the most terrible example is the nuclear bomb, created by man and now controlling his future.

A less graphic example but nevertheless constituting a great problem lies in the production of life-lengthening agents and procedures while neglecting parallel efforts to make old age dignified and worthwhile.

We do not mean to attack science, per se, but we, probably unwittingly, have made a god of technology. We must become more aware of this and work to provide the moral and cultural baast to offset the burdens of our science.

We must recognize situations where we can use our technology instead of vice versa. For instance, we should provide the methods to the so-called Third World nations whereby they can erase hunger, and become productive world members.

We must not let our lives reflect the violence and shallow principles piped into our homes through our television sets.

We must not turn our pastime arenas into battlefields.

We must not accept the easy expediency of death-dealing devices such as abortion. We must stand confidently for the sanctity of life in every area where it is endangered, whether in the sterile surroundings of a clinic or in the war-making agencies of governments.

We must have purpose to our invention. A joke: One person, talking about a supersonic airliner, says it can get you half-way around the world in just a few hours. The other asks who wants to go there?

So technology in itself is not evil — if we learn to use it wisely. It is inspiring to think of the medical advances which have prolonged life for the average person. But, how much better if we had advanced our societal concepts at the same pace, so that the octagenarian is truly enjoying his extra years and not just existing?

True our nuclear prowess was developed under the unreasonable duress of a great war yet wouldn't it have served us all better if the developing nation had been able to stop at certain steps along the way and discussed it with its sister nations, perhaps asking, should we proceed? Shouldn't we establish some rules before taking the next step? Impossible in war. But we are reluctant to do this in peace.

Earlier, this editorial singled out television as part of the offending technology. That was only because it uses public airwaves; there are equally offensive "entertainment" media in the private sector. But television is public so take a look at it. Manufacturers spend billions of dollars to sell everything from oil industry propaganda to anti-diarrhea potions. Often they unwittingly demean their products with obnoxious ads. We stick satellites in the atmosphere to cover the world. Good people make it their careers to work in the medium. Universities offer degrees in the field. And what do we get? Maude having an abortion.

And, of course, if those profiting from such pap do not regulate themselves and if the government will not act, then we must establish our own rules and regulations. If we do not then we deserve what we get.

And that dictum can be applied to our entire concept of technology. If we will not suffer some to master it, it will end up destroying us, one way or another.

Opinion

Columnist Rebutts Letter

Editor:

It is, of course, never a pleasure to be attacked in public print. But it does have its redeeming facets, and one of these is the right, as they say in Ireland, "to reply to the kind invitation" in public. For this reason I am deeply grateful for the letter to the editor which mentioned my column.

I had planned to spare my readers some of the more bizarre aspects of the population-control philosophy but I am compelled to mention one of these this afternoon. A proposal by Frederick S. Jaffe (presently the president of the Guttmacher Institute, Planned Parenthood Federation of America) in his "Activities Relevant to the Study of Population Policy for the U.S." published in a memorandum to Bernard Berelson over five years ago, includes the following as one of six suggestions to reduce fertility in this country:

"Encourage increased homosexuality." This will "reduce/eliminate paid maternity leave or benefits" and will "confine childbearing to only a limited number of adults." It will in addition "allow certain contraceptives to be distributed non-medically."

For most of my professional life in both Chicago and Manhattan I worked with many homosexual people. I do not take a stand against them but I am opposed to any organization which uses homosexuality as a means to control fertility.

The primary goal of many leading women liberationists is, in the words of the Honorable Bella Abzug, "to enforce the Constitutional right of all women to terminate pregnancies they do not wish to continue." ERA?

NOW publicly banned pro-life advocates from membership in their pro-abortion organization several months ago when they denied continued membership to Ms. Pat Goltz, a friend of mine who heads **Feminists For Life**. Pat believes as many of us do in equal opportunity/pay/education for all men and women. But she includes as many of us do the silent unborn in her definition of true equality.

UNICEF in its own pamphlets supports the World Health Organization, which in turn funds and directs many abortifacient research projects throughout the world in its effort to control human life.

I applaud any act of human

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"SO WHEN THIS GUY WHAMMED INTO THE SIDE OF MY CAR, I SAID, 'GOLLY-NED, FELLA'"

kindness rendered by UNICEF but I fear and abhor the progressively larger amounts of their funding which flows directly into "family planning" activities.

I believe that if one is truly against abortion one must be prepared to stand in public and speak intelligently on behalf of all the unborn in the world. And I commend anyone who has the faith, the integrity and the courage to do so. But when one supports the pluralism of organizations which offer human death as one of many social services, one has been sadly duped. And it is the unborn, not the housewife-columnists, who must pay for such naivete.

[Mrs.] Nancy Murphy
Columnist
Courier-Journal

'Life' Writer Recommended

Editor:

Every Thursday after dinner I read the Courier-Journal. You and your writers deserve high praise. However there is one in particular, Nancy Murphy, who writes Life, Liberty and Law that is by far and away at the top of my list.

We are constantly bombarded by TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, etc. with a side variety of views on subjects ranging from abortion, euthanasia, retarded children, senior citizens, ERA, WHO, UNICEF, planned parenthood, world starvation, etc.

Nancy Murphy must research her articles very carefully. For example, in one article she wrote concerning world starvation, she offered a prominent opinion why this is not really a problem.

She quoted at some length Dr. Roger Revelle, director of the Harvard Center for Population Studies, who said that the earth can well support the 3.9 billion people now living on it. He also predicted we can support 40 to 50 billion people with improved fertilizers, high-lycine corn, triticale wheat, improved strains of rice and feed grains, not to mention marine farming which has hardly begun.

Another example is her citing of Dr. Nordoff's book, Therapy in Music for Handicapped Children. Vera and Tom were cerebral palsied; Wendy was brain damaged; Ralph was mongoloid. Mike, Lucy, Alice, Marvin and Gene had to wear football helmets to protect the variety of braces and fixtures that held them in an upright position. Dr. Nordoff sang, taught, and inspired each child after a fashion to use an instrument using the musical language all living things respond to.

Her current series is about Dr.

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Kenneth C. Edelin who was charged with manslaughter in the Boston City Hospital abortion case. Some of these facts are absent from most newspapers and radio accounts.

In closing, I would say Life, Liberty and Law is for all readers. Try it once and see if I'm right or wrong.

William D. Morgan, Sr.
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Reader Offers May Prayer

Editor:

I've been a faithful reader of the Courier-Journal for many, many years, and I want to commend you for a superior paper. I read it from cover to cover each week, then pass it on to my relatives, who also appreciate it.

I enjoyed the lovely poem by Barbara Fischer and reread it many times. I have composed what I call Poem Prayers for a long time, also. Perhaps the readers may enjoy one of Mary, in her month:

O Mary, my mother
in Heaven above
Give ear to my humble plea
Wrap me, dear Virgin,
in thy mantle of love
And let me not stray
far from thee.
I need thy protection,
dear Mother of Love,
For life's journey is
thorny and steep
And thus I will gain your
Son's Divine love
And Heaven will be
mine to keep.

I recite this each evening, and I just wanted to share my offering to this Blessed Lady, who has watched over my sons and my family through the years. Thank you.

Mrs. Helen M. Wade
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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.