

Church And Politics



Sister Frances

"Nothing will ever change."

"Politicians are all dishonest."

"Why vote? It doesn't make any difference."

Comments like these surface when Americans talk about politics. Cynicism about the democratic system of government is prevalent among all age groups. For many, Watergate was the inevitable culmination of their experience of politicians as people who talk rather than act, and whose ends are often at-

tained dishonestly. Honest dialogue with responsive public officials is only a dream to many Americans, including many of those most active in politics. Interest in voting and in more intense political involvement is waning.

Growing apathy is a natural reaction to the frustrations of coping with an unresponsive system. In effect, though, apathy may well lead to increased irresponsibility among public officials. Deprived of grass roots support and the demand for accountability, politicians lose contact with all but those in power. Issues are stripped of the human element: legislators vote on tax reform without a consciousness of taxpayers' needs; they decide a jail budget without actually speaking with any staff, inmates or families affected by the criminal justice system; they too easily shrug off public criticism of legislative salary hikes in a time of recession.

If apathy leads to even greater oppression of those who are powerless, we cannot succumb to disillusionment. Organized grass roots efforts toward legislative accountability to bear some fruit.

Ralph Nader's study of legislators on a national level has set a precedent followed by state-based public interest research groups across the country. This summer the first county-level legislative profiles were released in Rochester. This project was coordinated as a public service by the Office of Human Development of the Rochester Catholic diocese. The profile on each legislator is the result of an interview by constituents and provides insight into the lawmaker's views on issues and priorities in county government. Hopefully the availability of the profiles will lead to even more dialogue between lawmakers and constituents and a new awareness of the importance of county government.

Basically the project aims at enabling county residents to make informed decisions about legislators and issues. The gap between people in power and those with no power must narrow. Hopefully church and civic groups will work together to expose the human side of issues and to demand honesty and accountability from legislators and voters alike.

(The Monroe County legislative profiles are available from the Office of Human Development, 750 West Main Street, Rochester, New York, 14611. Cost is \$.25 for an individual legislator's profile and \$5.00 for a complete set.)

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Gartland of Bryan Street celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary June 27 with a Mass at Holy Rosary Church and a reception at the Party House given by their son and daughter, Edward E. Gartland of Penfield and Mrs. Donald (Frances) Cuempel of Woodbridge, Va. Msgr. Albert Simonetti, a former neighbor and altar boy at the 1925 wedding, presided over renewal of the wedding vows.

Since Mr. Gartland's retirement from the position of battalion chief of the Rochester Fire Bureau, he and his wife, Vida, have traveled widely, visiting the Orient, the Near East, Europe, Alaska and Australia.

buy the idea of staying back of the filly's fast early pace, and perhaps seeing her make it a rout; or the alternative, one of the colts, playing "rabbit" to wear out the filly and set it up for the other colt. Neither thought was acceptable.

The solution was giving the owners of Master Derby \$50,000 NOT to run. The deal was accepted. The winner gets \$225,000, and the loser gets \$125,000, of the \$400,000 pot.

That leaves us without the glamor of a winner-take-all cruncher, but in these days such things no longer happen, not even in golf and tennis matchups. Best of all is getting 50 big ones for not showing up.

Another decision had to be made.

This one involved jockey Jacinto Vasquez, who had been fortunate enough to have the regular assignments on both Ruffian and Foolish Pleasure. That means the usual 10 per cent of purse money, in addition to riding fees.

Now Vasquez had to make an agonizing choice, and you know that, no matter which horse he took off from, would mean some hurt feelings in the stable area, right up to the top, meaning ownership.

Vasquez didn't hesitate, and he went against the book that says 3-year-old colts have an edge over fillies of the same age.

Vasquez elected to ride the undefeated filly, Ruffian, incidentally, is a 3-5 favorite.

And that brings us to the matter of handicapping by jockeys. Like football coaches, they are the worst, perhaps because they are too close to their own subjects, and can not evaluate the opposition with a neutral eye.

The greatest rider of all time also was a famed gambler. Eddie Arcaro sat in a saloon near Finger Lakes one night and talked about the values of tips from horseback riders.

"I would gladly pay," said the Maestro, "five thousand dollars for the privilege of booking the action that comes out of the jockeys' room at any race meeting. I would be a very rich man."

IN THIS CORNER



George Beahon

There is a story behind the story of Ruffian vs. Foolish Pleasure, the first major match race in 30 years in New York racing.

Fillies generally are not expected to compete on even terms with colts when they are in 2- and 3-year-old brackets. Ruffian's only concession is a 5-pound weight allowance. Both, of course, are 3-year-olds.

Master Derby, the Preakness winner, was originally included in the special race planning. But the trainers of the two colts did not

Aquinas Board Elects Three New Members

Sister Maureen Flood, RSM, vice principal of Cardinal Mooney High School, has been elected to the Aquinas Institute Board of Trustees.

She was one of three named on June 23 to fill vacancies on the 23-member board. The others are James M. Price, a marketing manager at the Schlegel Corporation, and Lawrence J. Oberlies, a vice president and trust officer at Marine Midland Bank.

By means of a by-laws amendment, three ex officio members were accepted. They are: Father Robert T. Halloran, CSB, regional representative of the Basilian Fathers and former Aquinas teacher; Father Stephen Martin, local superior of the Basilians at Aquinas; and Father Frank Boehm of the faculty, who is treasurer of the institute. As president of the Aquinas Parents Association, Mary Gutberlet succeeded Donald Hayden on the board.

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Hochstein School Moving Downtown

The Hochstein Memorial Music School will be moved downtown during the summer, from Hoeltzer Street to .50 N. Plymouth.

The new site, formerly Central Presbyterian Church, now is designated as the Central building of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church. The Hochstein Board of Directors described it as "an ideal size to house the school's present student body of 600 plus a large number of new students, and the structure is extremely suitable and adaptable for educational and cultural purposes." The Shakespeare Theater formerly used the building.

The 55-year-old school is expected to open its new quarters Sept. 2.

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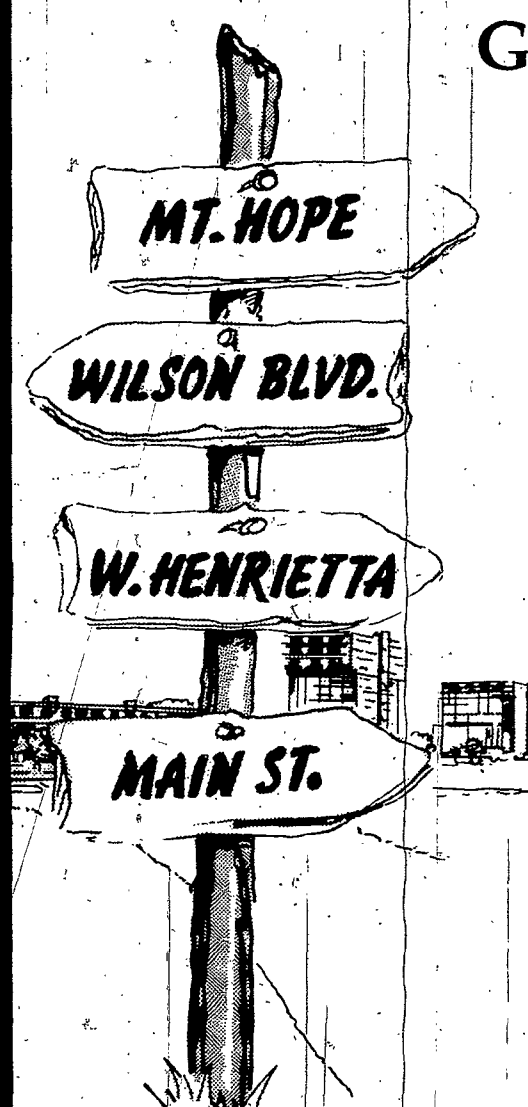
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