

More Opinions

Check ERA Carefully

Editor:

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." This statement by Edmund Burke has prompted me to share the following thoughts with you.

It is your moral obligation to investigate all the aspects of the state Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which will be voted upon in New York on Nov. 4. Ignorance and apathy are inexcusable when the stakes are so high. Consider that the State Law Revisions Commission has preliminarily reported that 250 of our laws will be drastically affected by January if this amendment is passed. About 400 laws just need word changes.

Considering all the facts, it is my opinion that ERA could actually degrade womanhood and take away some of the privileges that women have traditionally enjoyed. For instance, the right of privacy could be seriously affected. Visualize your 10-year-old daughter in a common public restroom. Laws regulating exploitation of women, statutory rape and pornography could be abolished.

Men could be adversely affected as well through higher taxes, loss of jobs for which they are qualified due to preferential hiring tactics to meet quotas, loss of personal fulfillment as provider and protector of his family and loss of the essential right of a husband to establish a home and name his children. It is possible that children would not be required to carry their father's name.

When ultimately enforced, the ERA could result in radical alteration of the historic Judeo-Christian family life pattern in this country. Homosexual couples could be allowed to adopt children. State laws might be invalidated which now place the primary responsibility on a husband to support his wife and children. Women with preschoolers could be required to work outside the home if child care centers are available. ERA advocates are also pushing for day care legislation. If a woman chooses to stay at home, her husband could be required to pay Social Security taxes for her yearly. Incidentally, if a woman works outside the home she is already protected by the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, and ERA would be a duplication with regard to this.

My purpose then in writing this letter is to encourage you to exercise your God-given ability and investigate all the implications of the ERA. Then prayerfully search your conscience and take a stand.

OPERATION WAKE-UP is a coalition of organizations united to defeat ERA. For further information, or if you wish to donate your time or money, or to arrange for a speaker for your club or organization, you may call the local representatives: Agnes Dunford at 663-3251 or Mary Margaret Hober at 254-2007.

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'Gay' Letter Rebutted

Editor:

Thomas E. O'Grady in his letter (Courier-Journal 8/20/75) tries to erase the belief that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of homosexuality.

Mr. O'Grady justifies his

position by quoting Ezekiel 16:49. However Genesis 19:1 - 11 states, "Where are the men who came into your house tonight? Bring them out that we may abuse them."

This passage is quite explicit and any person with a little common sense would know that these people of Sodom were indeed homosexuals.

Mr. O'Grady goes on to quote from an earlier letter of Father G. Stuart Hogan (7/9/75) and then criticizes these comments as "negative attitudes."

Perhaps Mr. O'Grady can tell us what is so positive about homosexuality? Homosexual acts are mortal sins and mortal sins are punished in Hell. So I can't understand why people who commit such sins are called "Gay." There is certainly nothing "gay" about going to hell.

And just so Mr. O'Grady won't feel discriminated against, unmarried people of the opposite sex who indulge in sex are also committing a mortal sin. Maybe we should start a group for these people.

Commenting further on homosexuality, St. Paul writes in his Epistle to the Romans, 1:26-28, "For this cause God has given them up to shameful lusts; for their women have exchanged the natural use for that which is against nature, and in like manner the men also, having abandoned the natural use of women, have burned in their lusts one towards another, men with men doing shameless things and receiving in themselves the fitting recompense of their perversity."

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Center Needs Assistance

Editor:

In the Courier (8-6-75) an article about the Come-Unity-Center in Williamson, gave a somewhat skewed impression. Twenty years ago the focus on helping migrants was true. Today it is far too narrow. The local migrant committee of the council of churches saw the need was much larger than "migrant" and changed their name accordingly to "Rural Ministry." The Come-Unity-Center is one of those ministries.

The center was originally a simple used clothing store. Its income was sent off to the missions. The present form of the Come-Unity-Center places emphasis on relationship and cross-cultural communication. The current concept draws inspiration both from good social work practice and Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan, each implementing the other. As a place, the center is unique, attempting to utilize misfortune or need, as an occasion for personal growth of both helper and helped. It is, perhaps, more true to say it is a place where people seek to help each other, respecting the sacred nature of this healing relationship. Finally, it is a place where persons of different economic and cultural backgrounds can, through association, heighten their awareness of just who, for them, is that neighbor Jesus counsels us to love.

The Come-Unity-Center has been an experiment and a ministry ahead of its time in what it has set out to do and in the service it has rendered. Problems now facing the center have been outlined in the article. If it is felt that a center of this kind is needed, now is the time to come forward. Volunteers are needed as well as money.

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7 Legionaries Take A Working Vacation

By LUCILE H. KUNZ

The ambition of the Legion of Mary is to bring everybody a little closer to Christ. In the everyday working of the Legion's system, this contact is made with those near at hand. However, it must not stop there, but must proceed far beyond the sphere of normal life. This aim is accomplished through the program known as "Perigrinatio pro Christo", or "Vacationing for Christ."

God called Abram to "Leave your country, your family and your father's house for the land I will show you." In like manner, the Legion of Mary asks members who are able to spend part of their vacation in some distant place where help in spreading the "Good News" is needed.

The diocesan Legion of Mary undertook such a vacation apostolate this summer. Seven Legionaries drove to West Union, Ohio, to work for a Glenmary priest, Father Roland Hautz. They were joined by three Legionaries from the New York area in this poverty region of Southern Ohio, situated along the beautiful Ohio River, in the midst of rolling hills and mountains.

Father Hautz and his assistants have a "parish" area of more than 500 square miles, with a population of 18,000, about 200 of whom are Catholic. The poverty is extreme. About 27 per cent of the people are unemployed and 32 per cent are on welfare. Father Hautz has four churches throughout this area.

The Legionaries were asked to visit homes in two towns of the "parish" to find out whether Father Hautz's monthly letter was of value. It was a real challenge to the Legionaries to seek out these people, most of whom live in rural areas down rutty, hilly dirt roads. The friendliness and cooperation with which we were greeted was exemplified by the postmasters in both towns who took much time and trouble to tell us where and how we could find the people.

The days were busy and full, generally following a regular pattern of prayer and work. Our life style was simple. At noon we would stop at some country store to buy cheese and crackers, which we would eat on the bench invariably found on the store porch. Our "home" was a dormitory style parish hall furnished by Father Hautz. The unity experienced by the group and the sense of community drew us together in such a way that we concluded each evening with a period of shared prayer. This fitting climax for the day evolved very simply; it was not planned, but seemed to be given to us by the Holy Spirit.

The people we encountered were beautiful people, happy in their simple life, thankful for whatever little they had and generous in sharing it. Almost every day some of us came "home" with corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, etc., which they insisted we must accept.

Many told us they used Father Hautz's material in their ladies' aid organization or passed it on to their Methodist minister to use in his service.

A non-Catholic man wanted to know if Father Hautz could help him to become reconciled with his wife who had left him eight months ago. Father sent us back the next day with the assurance that he would be most willing to help and to arrange a meeting.

One lady pondered aloud how was it that she never saw anyone other than Catholics spending their time helping their neighbors.

Another told us how very despondent she had been. Then she happened to read an article

in Father Hautz's letter — just what she needed at that moment. She cut it out and had it encased in plastic and rereads it often now.

The one or two weeks that we were able to spend in Ohio passed all too quickly. Everyone was happy to have had this opportunity to help in some small way to spread God's love to others.

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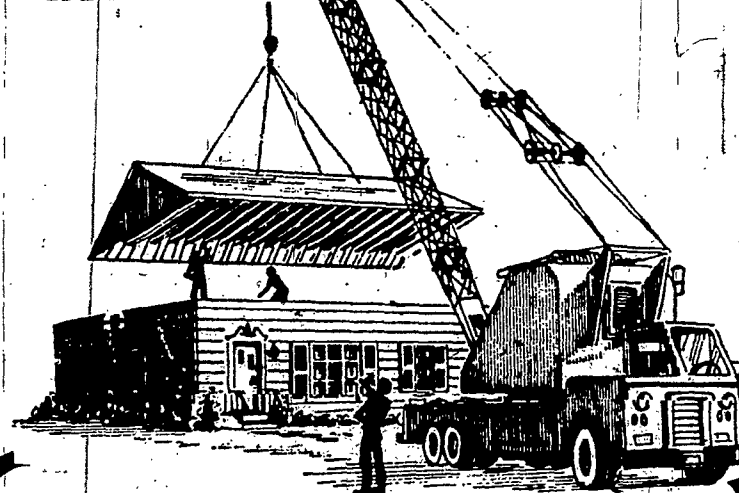
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