

Editorial

Questions, Questions

Isn't it strange that when a newspaper with the wherewithal of the New York Times editorially notices something rotten that its news columns soon echo the sentiment?

For instance about a month ago, the Times suddenly noticed that Times Square is in dire need of missionary work. That its porno shops and squalid movie houses are a disgrace to the city. Whether the fact that the national Democratic party convention will bring the eyes of the nation into the White Way next summer had anything to do with it or not, the Times, out of the blue, has become a crusader to clean up the Big Apple, at long last, love.

Shortly after its editorial awakening, the Times released a study in its news columns which shows that pornographic literature and films in the U.S. are largely tied to organized crime. Organized crime has "heavily infiltrated" the pornographic films industry, the study stated, and is reaping "huge profits" from such movies as Deep Throat and The Devil in Miss Jones.

Isn't it odd what a newspaper can learn when it gets its head out of the sand?

And doesn't it make it difficult for those who steadfastly support the right of pornographers to advertise their wares anywhere, regardless of the offense to innocent bystanders, to know that they are also supporting Mafia activities?

Lively Beat

Hoping not to sound pontifical on the subject, we have long thought that daily newspapers miss a golden opportunity by not covering religion more extensively. Of course, they have pressures others can only guess about and they undoubtedly receive more advice than they can implement. Still we worry that they are hurting themselves by not being more aware of the tremendous dynamism and general interest in religion today.

So it was satisfying to see a survey reported in a recent Editor and Publisher, a journalism management magazine, which said that daily newspapers are continuing a trend toward expanding their coverage of religion.

"If recent surveys which suggest that American people seek moral and spiritual leadership are accurate, the interest in and coverage of religion could increase even more rapidly in the next few years than it has in the past 25," said Dr. Ernest C. Hynds, journalism professor at the University of Georgia who conducted and reported the survey.

Amen to that bit of hope but there were still some disturbing tidbits of information gleaned. In half of the newspapers, religion gets as much or more space as business. However, only a handful of the 175 newspapers which participated in the survey, give religion as much coverage as they do sports, women's news or crime.

We reiterate that those in charge of daily newspapering do their best, after all their welfare depends on it. But we still think that by not giving religion expanded and deeper coverage they are missing the ark.

Twice Told

When they can ignore fellow laureate William Shockley, Nobel Prize winners have proven that they aren't all bad. Shockley, who won the Nobel physics prize in 1956 for his role in inventing the transistor, has gained for more notoriety for his racist viewpoints.

He tried twice at a recent meeting in St. Peter, Minn., to enlist his fellows to investigate his contention that blacks are genetically inferior to whites. Twice, silence was the answer. Amen. Amen.

Opinion

**CYO Rapped
By Priest**

Editor:

I have been involved in and supportive of CYO during the twenty years of my priesthood. I served with my fellow priests as an advisor, as a member of the board of directors, and on the advisory board for their basketball leagues. As of October first I have resigned from all personal involvement in CYO activities.

This step is taken with a sense of sadness and anger over the direction in which CYO has aimed itself. These facts I wish to make explicit for all concerned friends of CYO. This organization was founded to provide the Catholic youth of our diocese with an opportunity for physical activity and competitive sports. Their parish leagues began by reaching the youngsters in our Catholic schools and in more recent years our Catholic youngsters in public schools. Our youth owe a debt of gratitude to all those who provided these opportunities.

I am personally grateful for the many contacts with the young people in the parishes in which I have served. These contacts were made possible by CYO. These involvements often furnished me the opportunity to deepen and enrich the faith of our youth. I have always seen athletics as a way to bring our young to a new and fuller relationship with Christ.

This era seems at an end. CYO eligibility rules now allow anyone to be eligible for a team simply with the geographic qualification that he live within the parish boundaries. If you happen to be in a boundary-less parish, as some national parishes such as Mount Carmel and St. Stanislaus are, any boy in the city, county, or state is eligible to play on your team. He need not be Catholic or in any way connected with the parish. Some of our largest parishes with Catholic schools are now reaching out to enlist non-Catholic boys with no parish affiliation, to play on their teams. This means that Catholic youngsters in Catholic schools are being dropped from teams to make room for more skilled athletes from public schools. These athletes have an opportunity to compete in their own school program but choose to play on a parish team, thereby eliminating a Catholic school youngster who has no other program available to him. Catholic parents whose generosity makes these programs possible see their children eliminated to make room for the better athlete even though neither he nor his parents are Catholic or supporters of parish programs.

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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan,
President

Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

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Courier-Journal

In CYO we now have teams from the Jewish Community Center, the Orthodox, and inner-city community groups. To play with these teams you must be affiliated by parental registration. To play for a parish team there is no such qualification. A coach looking for a winning record may choose any boy in his parish.

I challenged Mr. Tom Cotterill, Mr. Robert Laird, and Mr. Jack Quiggle to continue to provide a league for Catholic boys in Catholic schools or public schools. I challenged them to require some minimal form of parish affiliation, such as attendance at Mass. Their response was that they were not in the business of getting people to go to Mass. Furthermore, they see the word Catholic as meaning universal in the sense of any youth. My idea of a Catholic youth is one who is in some way linked to a faith community, especially through the Eucharist as the sign and source of our union with Christ and with each other.

I challenged them to offer some form of community leagues for those who were in no way a part of our Catholic parishes. This would provide opportunities for all youth of any religion while maintaining our parish league to provide parishes with an outreach to their own Catholic youth. They refused all challenges.

It is evident to me that CYO and I see Catholic in vastly different ways. I am now, as always, in the business of getting youngsters to go to Mass and be Catholic, not simply by existing but by freely choosing to be a part of a Christian community.

CYO has ceased to be Catholic by any definition that I can accept. They are a community service group deserving of community support. My time and effort as a priest should now be directed more toward new avenues for regional and parish programs that both give and require a faith orientation.

I see no reason why CYO should be a part of Catholic Charities, or a Diocesan Youth department. They are a community service group and should be funded as such.

Rev. Conrad J. Sundholm
St. Salome's
4282 Culver Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14622

**A Good
Charity**

Editor:

"Life, Liberty, and Law", Oct. 18, carries more Murphy magic.

This is the last-in-a-series of perceptive commentary on the many faces of Charity. How this virtue is exploited and generosity is both diverted and abused.

Nine of the many worthy organizations are listed which make a dollar do the work of two, which do not engage in slick paper, computer operations, and which do not place their precious donations in the hands of foreign governments for use at their questionable discretion. Among those truly following Mark 10:14 is St. Vincent's Rehabilitation, Father Robert Crawford, CM, 540A No. Wilmot, Tucson, Ariz., 85711. Father Crawford headed a rehabilitation center in South Vietnam. Here the mutilated and broken bodies of child victims of Communist aggression were nursed back to health and patiently taught practical skills.

Father Crawford managed a rescue operation for 160 handicapped children and some others. Now Father Crawford is personally responsible for all of them. The Vincentians have provided the roof. Let our little dollar donations provide the care.

Mrs. I.B. Newberry
160 Azalea Road 14620
Rochester, N.Y.

**Repeats
Question**

Editor:

Kevin Scahill, in his letter to the Courier-Journal (10-8-75) dismissed my question "What is so positive about homosexuality?" as irrelevant and ignorant.

Mr. Scahill based this assumption on an alleged predominant theory that states one's sexual orientation is neither positive or negative but rests with one's own views regarding their particular situation.

Challenging this view, I would say it makes a great deal of difference how a person is sexually orientated. If a person is sexually orientated to members of the opposite sex, he or she can lawfully satisfy their sexual desires in Holy Matrimony.

On the other hand, a person sexually orientated to members of the same sex can never hope to satisfy sexual desires in this manner. This to me is the negative aspect of homosexuality. No amount of semantics will change that.

As Catholics, our first concern must be spiritual. We must not allow current secular mores that are at odds with our faith serious consideration.

While our Lord did not condemn a woman caught in adultery, He did say, "Go, and sin no more!" This same message applies to homosexuals.

Robert Bart
PO Box 594
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

**Exciting (?)
Times**

Editor:

How terribly refreshing to learn that the girls of St. Agnes are spending their time and talents developing that highly sophisticated art — belly dancing.

Of course, there will be some prudish mid-Victorian types who will raise their eyebrows in wonder that Catholic girls at Catholic schools are belly dancing rather than, say, learning about the corporal works of mercy, the importance of meditation or even (you should forgive me) the Rosary.

Fortunately, there are enough contemporary Catholics who have been "freed-up." Here in Hornell, for example, a small but determined group of ecclesial women (we used to call them sisters back in the bad old days) are leading us out of our structured and falsely secure world of submission to authority and into the modern world where sterilization is, to quote one of our ecclesial women, "a matter between a woman and her doctor."

Damn! These are exciting days.

Kevin Doran
46 Pearl St.
Hornell

**Other Letters
On Page 6**

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.