

National ERA Seen Danger

Editor:

Our state level Equal Rights Amendment was overwhelmingly defeated at the polls. However, ERA could still be imposed on us at the national level. The national ERA would make women subject to the draft on an equal basis with men in all our future wars. It would transfer jurisdiction over marriage, property rights, divorce, alimony, child custody and inheritance rights out of the hands of the individual states and into the hands of the federal bureaucrats and federal courts.

This means the central government would have more power over our lives. There are bills in our State Assembly and Senate to reject New York's ratification of the national ERA. We urge you to write your Albany representatives to express your views on ERA.

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Teens' Art Work 'Shocks' Reader

Editor:

The lead paragraph in a March 10 Courier-Journal article covering the art exhibit of local high school students expressed appreciation of their creative talents.

If the photographs accompanying the by-lined story truly reflected the exhibit, a more accurate description might have been written. The beauty of the design of photo No. 3, a macrame, should have been contrasted with the ugliness of the No. 5 picture of the nuns of "yesteryear" — a shocker — with sub-human faces shrouded in the traditional habit, a rosary clutched in homely hands. There is a subliminal message here. It came through to me loud and clear. It was, "How much more meaningful and relevant are the short skirts and newspeak of the new order of Ms. Forgiven are the sacrificial lives of the nuns of yesteryear who built what is today diluted. Since teenagers have an innate sense of fairness it would seem that this unjust caricature might well be the product of a conditioning process.

It would have been better if attention had not been drawn to the grotesque, leering Uncle Sam, greedily clutching two fists full of money. Was this inspired by education or indoctrination? This question literally haunts me. American generosity is legendary. A famous Canadian newsman was sickened by the carping of recipients of United States help. He wrote a stirring defense of his neighbor country. Is it ethical to ignore truth?

Now, with painful reluctance I criticize the judgment of those young people. I should direct my unfavorable comment to those who teach. By design or by injudicious choice of teaching material impressionable young minds are being deprived.

An example of a deplorable teaching aid is the controversial "Liberty and Justice for All" Bicentennial discussion guide. Even the liberal Father Andrew Greeley commented on this "guide": "By what right does anyone use the resources of the Catholic Laity to produce such a shabby, shameful, and disgraceful attack on the United States and its people?" The discussion guide, he says, "is a product of the new social action advocates" who are "rigidly anti-American" and "look outside

American theology to Marxism, socialism, and third-world liberation theology for their principles and methods."

Teachers should be capable of using "caveats." They should observe the ethics of pointing out to the student that certain happenings are aberrations, that some individuals in government have abused trust. It is not our form of government nor our Constitution which is reprehensible — they have been victimized.

Mrs. I. B. Newberry
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Re Sr. Traxler, Martha and Mary

Editor:

RE Sr. Margaret Traxler: Women Will Be Priests, Courier-Journal 3-10-76.

Although sister assures us twice that, "it isn't that we in any sense reject the teaching authority of the church," her sentiments toward the teaching authority of our Holy Father are expressed quite clearly in the statement, "No man has any right to say what God wants or doesn't want." Yet, she would have us believe that she does have this right for she says such things as, "it's a matter of what God wants, and I think God wants this," and "I see women's liberation as a true translation of what God really wanted." Furthermore, to say, "I see this as a return to the true spirit of Jesus: His ministry and the gospel," is to say that the Church has turned from truth — that the mandate entrusted by Christ to Peter has not been fulfilled by His successors.

Biblical arguments against female ordination are dismissed with, "Anything that frees a person has to come from God," yet we are expected to believe that Jesus, Who is God, was not free to do what He really wanted to do, for sister tells us that "in the time of Jesus the socio-economic situation was such that the position of women would have not tolerated His appointing them or calling them." Are we also to believe that Jesus conformed to the ways of the world and adapted His mission to the changing values of fallen man?

But, where did Sr. Traxler get the mistaken notion that, "Jesus never refused the request of a woman"? Has she forgotten how Martha asked Jesus to order her sister Mary to quit sitting at His feet and help with the serving? Jesus refused her request. He told Martha that Mary had chosen the only good thing (listening to His word), and that it would not be denied her (Lk. 10:40-42). Apparently Jesus felt that the woman who listened to His word did a far greater thing than the woman who set His table and served His meal. If sister is looking for new insights and hidden meanings in scripture, there's a good place to start.

Betty Lindsay
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Church Windows Made Here

Editor:

The recent photographic layouts and text on the churches and stained glass windows in the diocese were most effective. You mentioned the names of the architects who designed the church buildings. All of the stained glass windows pictured were made over the years by this studio, except those in Ithaca.

James O'Hara, director
Pike Stained Glass Studios
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Rochester, N.Y. 14604

Ontario County United Way Sets April Drive

Ontario County United Way will conduct its annual fund raising campaign during the month of April, fund president Susanne G. Kennedy has announced. The transition from a fall campaign to a spring campaign, started in 1973, provides the opportunity for simultaneous United Way campaigns in Monroe, Ontario, and Wayne counties.

Last year the Ontario United Way organization, with its headquarters at 74 S. Main St., Canandaigua, consolidated its administration with the United Community Chest of Greater Rochester and the United Way of Wayne County. Recently, the Geneva Community Chest also joined the regional United Way system. According to Mrs. Kennedy, "This area-wide United Way concept will aid in developing new campaign resources while also further reducing campaign expenses."

Under the new campaign timetable, the Ontario United Way will solicit contributions during the month of April. Pledges received during last fall's campaign will terminate June 10 and 1976 pledges will take effect July 1. "Under this system," Mrs. Kennedy noted, "no contributor would be paying two pledges simultaneously."

Turkey Supper Scheduled

Port Byron — The Altar and Rosary Society of St. John's parish is sponsoring a public old fashioned turkey supper Saturday, March 22. Serving will begin at 4:30 p.m. and continue until 7 p.m.

Mrs. Henry Young is dinner chairman, assisted by Mrs. Josef Capeder, Josephine Van Acora and Mrs. Thomas Guidone, society president.

*Father Bernard Kuchman, pastor, also has announced plans to hold the annual chicken barbecue and bazaar on Saturday, Aug. 7 under the auspices of the Parish Council, Charles Burke, president.

Charismatic Mass May 2

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate a charismatic Mass at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 2 at the Cathedral. All priests in the diocese are invited to concelebrate the Mass and the general public is welcome to attend.

AIM-PLAY

Auburn — "A Man For All Seasons," performed by the Alpha-Omega Players of Rockport, Texas, is being sponsored by Auburn Interfaith Ministries (AIM), as part of its Lenten offering to the community. There will be no admission charged to the performance which begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, at the Cayuga County Community College auditorium. Offerings to defray expenses will be accepted.

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