

Stopping the B-1

Anyone who has ever heard the recorded voice of Winston S. Churchill directing the Royal Navy to "Sink the Bismarck" will probably never forget that voice stirring an island people into super-effort to thwart a terrible enemy.

Times have progressed geometrically since those World War II days some 35 years ago. With our spectacular advances into space it has become clear that the "island people" these days have become all of us — earthlings. And we have become saddled with the fearsome burden of nuclear destruction capabilities.

Pragmatically speaking, we earthlings can no longer indulge in war; we must move toward peace. To be realistic, this, of course, is easier said than done. Neither the U.S.S.R. nor Communist China can be trusted. Thus it would be foolhardy for this nation to disarm unilaterally.

This, however, does not mean that we should panic in the opposite direction and chase after every weapon offered as necessary, regardless of effectiveness or cost. The weapon in question now is the B-1 bomber which, if the Pentagon is given its way, will cost us some \$92 billion over the next generation — that is the cost estimate and we all know how such expenses escalate. And we all know how the most sophisticated of weapons, especially those with Wings, soon become obsolete.

Morally speaking, and perhaps practically also, the B-1 bomber is anachronistic even before full production starts — if it is allowed to start. It contradicts what should be the overall spirit of the times — a drive to peace. The effectiveness of any bomber in these times of umbrella defenses clearing the skies over targets is questionable. Its cost is enormous not only for production but also for use.

We are not delving extensively into the matter of cost here — we have done that in previous editorials. Still it cannot be glossed over that anything costing billions of dollars, especially things destructive, must be considered in light of the fact that millions of people are hungry, at home and abroad, and that the money going into such doubtful enterprises as the B-1 might well be spent elsewhere. We may in a sense be trying to make the world safe for people to starve in.

Another argument put forth by B-1 proponents is that production will mean more jobs. Watchguard organizations such as the American Friends Service Committee, see the statistics a different way. It says that the \$86 million cost of one B-1 would keep nine community colleges, each serving 10,000 students, in business for a year. Others say that the billions of dollars if put into such needed areas as housing would produce far more jobs than it would do for Rockwell, Boeing and General Electric who would benefit from B-1 contracts.

Somehow we will never forget that magnificent bulldog voice of Winston S. Churchill barking, "Sink the Bismarck." It is easy to hear it saying, "Stop the B-1." At least until all the options are clear to all concerned — and that means all of us.

Nazis . . . Again

The National Socialist White People's Party — Nazis — has reared its ugly head again. It is planning a bicentennial rally July 3 in Lafayette Park across from the White House.

Naturally these people and what they stand for desecrate all that is "American" about the United States. The only beneficial aspect of their demonstration will be in showing that there is indeed freedom in the U.S. when even Nazi low-lives are allowed to sport their hatred in public.

This does not mean that the Nazis should be taken lightly. Good people did that back some 45 years ago and what many took for a silly little man became a world monster.

Nazis ran a candidate for mayor of Milwaukee and he finished fourth out of seven. Now they're planning to fester the area around the White House. We should not give them any more publicity than they deserve. But at the same time we must be ever alert.

Opinion

Indian Charity Support Urged

Editor:

It's my fervent hope that you will help to set the record straight concerning the recent publicity about fraudulent appeals of various charity projects. True, there are some, but there are many charity organizations that deserve and need our financial support. (Oh how they need it!)

One such organization is the Red Cloud Indian School located on the reservation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota (57770). This school was created at the request of the Indians in the year 1876 and currently enrolls more than 690 Indian students in pre-school through high school. Of the 108 people working in this mission school, 70 persons are non-salaried because they are Jesuit priests, brothers, Franciscan sisters or volunteer lay people — all working without pay, all striving to give the Indian children the kind of education they need and deserve. Only through a good education will the children ever be able to break out of the poverty that engulfs their lives.

The mission depends a great deal on the direct mail approach for its financial survival. Because of the isolated location of the Pine Ridge Reservation, it is mostly through "begging letters" that they can appeal to peoples' kindness and generosity.

Please tell the people of Rochester that, yes, Red Cloud Indian School does exist and is very worthy of their support. I can speak with truth and sincerity about Red Cloud Indian School because our daughter is currently one of the volunteers, teaching art to the Indian children.

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Readers Urged 'Be Huggers'

Editor:

We have a very special mission of love for all of you who wish to join us. We are proud that the Special Olympics, an athletic competition for mentally retarded children, is to be held at Brockport State College this year. We are asking you who are a caring people to be "huggers," people who will give these special children a hug and a kiss as they finish their race (or softball throw

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"OH, COME NOW—THERE MUST BE OTHERS UP HERE WHO FAVORED LATIN MASSES!"

or swim, etc.). Each of you would be assigned a special child to love on June 12 and 13.

The first Special Olympics were held in 1968 in Chicago with more than 1000 mentally retarded children. Working cooperatively, the Kennedy Foundation and the Chicago Park District created a two-day competition, social experience and celebration. Most of the children had never been away from home, travelled in a plane, competed in an athletic event, attended a banquet or dance, or even lost in a close finish.

Since then the Special Olympics has spread to every state. Canada, France and other countries also are setting up new programs. In 1973 more than 300,000 mentally retarded youngsters participated in local games and more than 40,000 advanced to state games. With this level of participation and support, Special Olympics has become one of the largest and most successful athletic programs in the world.

All of us need to feel special. Mentally retarded children in particular face constant experiences of failure and frustration. Sport provides an ideal setting for developing confidence and a sense of self-esteem. The athlete trains, develops skills, competes and, as he succeeds, starts building a positive self-image. Because of this he also improves in the classroom, at home and on the job. We are asking you as our Christian community and lovers in Christ to respond to this. Call us soon at (716) 225-5630. We assure you, it'll be a rewarding experience as the joys of your special child will become your joys.

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Homosexuality Not Sinful Itself

Editor:

If by some stretch of the imagination, it were possible for Pope Paul VI to reach the high office he now holds, under the handicap of being a homosexual, I would say he deserved extra credit. The allegation is probably a falsehood, not a slander.

The editorial in the April 14 Courier-Journal alleging slander against Pope Paul VI, does itself unwittingly slander all homosexuals by falsely implying that homosexuals as a class are more sinful than heterosexuals.

There are probably more homosexual priests, nuns and laypeople doing God's work than we realize. People should be judged and commended for their good deeds regardless of whether they are homosexual or not.

If I am an Archie Bunker, that is my fault. But is it no achievement of mine that God created me a white, right-handed, American heterosexual? Since we heterosexuals have no temptation to be homosexual, we have no right to claim virtue. We are not homosexuals for the same reason we don't drink castor oil. It doesn't appeal to us. Morality has nothing to do with it.

We should thank God for creating us under such fortunate circumstances. But God thereby places upon us the greater responsibility to love and help all those whom He created under less fortunate conditions.

God created all mankind and proved by His crucifixion that He loves all mankind including homosexuals. Since we are all equal in the sight of God, we have the duty to accord all His creatures equal rights.

When Christ commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves, He did not make any exception, either of individuals or circumstances.

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'Crosswalk' Seen Poignant, Living

Editor:

On Good Friday the CYO Youth Development Program sponsored the Third Annual CYO Crosswalk in Durand Eastman Park.

The setting in the hilly park was perfect for retracing the steps of Christ with Stations of the Cross. Parish youth groups interpreted the stations with contemporary situations driving home poignant, living messages to each person joining the solemn procession.

About 85 youths and adults participated in Crosswalk 1976 and I'm sure that they were as deeply moved and inspired by the Crosswalk as was I. The thoughtful performances by the youth and their volunteer advisors were splendid.

The CYO Youth Development Program Services staff did a magnificent job planning this Crosswalk. They have proved time after time through their innovative youth programs that they are the most talented and dedicated group of youth staff in the Rochester area.

The Rochester CYO Crosswalk has received national attention in several national Catholic publications. I sincerely hope that next Good Friday more youth groups will spiritually enrich themselves by actively participating in Crosswalk.

Tom Cotterill
CYO Executive Director