

Philadelphia has been blamed for many things. W.C. Fields wanted a tombstone epitaph claiming, "On the Whole, I'd Rather Be in Philadelphia."

When American Broadcasting Company lost the audio at about 10:30 p.m. during the first Ford-Carter Debate, someone shrugged it off as routine. "Nothing ever happens in Philadelphia after 10:30 at night anyway."

In recent years Philadelphia has been the site for what used to be a classic football game in late November or early December. "Used to be," because the caliber of Army and Navy football took a classic nosedive since the late, unlamented Vietnamese War.

Army-Navy became a matchup between second-rate college football teams.

At the Coaches All-America game in Lubbock last June, Navy coach George Welsh blamed Vietnam for the demise of football at the service academies. But he warned the front line schools which have been beating up on his people that things are turned around.

"Vietnam changed the attitude of the young people," explained Welsh. "Service time commitment was raised from four to five years, and kids didn't want uniforms. The services academies were part of The Establishment. Everyone was anti-government, anti-big business and anti-service academies."

"We're coming out of it now."

promised Welsh. "And we're a couple of years ahead of Army. We are getting some of the blue chip players again. Maybe not enough to handle Michigan and Notre Dame and Pittsburgh, but we are getting more of the talent. If we don't continue to get them, and more of them, maybe we'll have to move toward Ivy League type competition. But our freshman class is the best we've had."

Welsh is not doing a public relations bit. His Navy team was 7-4 last year. Navy took a terrific 70-14 schalumphing from Michigan last month, but then Michigan is something else, and ratings-minded Michigan did not hesitate to run it up that day. A week later Navy gave Boston College all it wanted, although losing 17-13. That's the same B.C. that whipped Texas this year. On the same day, Army spotted Stanford a 20-0 lead, and came on to beat that well-regarded Stanford 21-20.

Navy last season had its first winning record in nine years.

It was the only service academy, Air Force included, to score a winning season in the last four years.

This sales pitch courtesy of George Welsh. "If the NCAA cuts down on grants-in-aid, or goes to the 'need' factor in scholarships, that will make the service academies that much more attractive financially. Our kids earn \$330 a month for four years in the academy. Our athletics are funded only by gate receipts and contributions. No government money involved. We sponsor 21 sports. And that's why we hope to continue scheduling Notre Dame, Pittsburgh and Michigan. Our kids live in a very controlled environment. You get the most out of kids that way. We don't need great athletes everywhere to win. We just hope to get our share."

"That's where it all starts getting the good kids."

"I think we're taking a step up."

Welcome back, Army, Navy and Air Force, to the major leagues of college football.

Bernard Haring who stamps his feet in temper whenever papal position is used to contradict his own theological views.

It is perhaps advisable to note that Msgr. Kelly is not joking. Among the other bad guys are David Tracy and Walter Burghardt and Theodore Hesburgh.

Honestly, he is not joking.

Monsignor Kelly, who used to be a socialologist, offers no proof for his assertions. There is a decline in Catholic practice and there is a struggle to recapture the old pluralism in theology—a struggle which is offensive to Msgr. Kelly's need for one official teaching and excommunication of everyone else. The pluralism obviously causes the decline and the Catholic universities where the pluralism exists are the places where the decline is the worst.

Not only does the monsignor caricature beyond recognition the position of orthodox and loyal theologians, he is not above outright falsehood. Referring to the National Opinion Research Center Catholic school report, he accuses me in the time before the report of having "raised unrealistic hopes about Catholic contraception, divorce, abortion, women priests, or popular election of the pope." Note in passing how easily Msgr. Kelly links such diverse things as abortion and popular election of the pope.

Now that statement is false in every detail. But let me take just one item for the sake of argument. Unless Msgr. Kelly can cite the place where I advocate change in the abortion teaching (I do not, incidentally) and suggest that such a change is likely, I will accuse him of lying and demand an apology and retraction.

Joint Service Planned by 2 Churches

A joint service of the Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal) and Holy Ghost Church (Catholic) has been scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 17 at the Church of the Epiphany, 3285 Buffalo Road.

The occasion will mark the 100th anniversary of the churches with a service of Thanksgiving and Praise, led by Rev. Robert H. Wilkinson, rector of the Church of the Epiphany, and Father Edward F. Steinkirchner, pastor of Holy Ghost who will give the homily.

The Holy Ghost Folk Group, directed by Jack Risewick, and the Epiphany Choir, led by Brenda Seidenschwartz, will provide music. A reception in the church will follow.

HOUSING TOPIC

Auburn — Michael Fitzpatrick, a representative from the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation, and a staff member of church-sponsored housing from Syracuse Catholic Charities will be guest speakers at the Oct. 13 meeting of Auburn Interfaith Ministries (AIM) at Roosevelt Memorial Baptist Church, 75 Fitch Ave.

AIM president, Father James C. Enright, associate pastor at St. Mary's, said the public is invited to hear the housing presentation slated for 8:15 p.m. The business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

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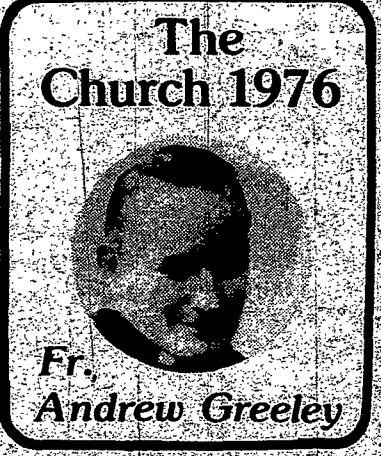
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There is if one is to believe Monsignor George Kelly, a battle going on for the soul of the Church. In a cry of rage in the current issue of "The Critic," Monsignor Kelly paints a picture of the battle between the forces of good and evil — the former represented by the pope and the bishops all too timid to use their resources to punish dissent, and "theologians" bent on destroying everything which is uniquely Catholic.

Among the bad guys, according to Msgr. Kelly.

Charles Curran who "thinks Catholics should get on with worldwide reality of divorce and second or third marriages."

Richard McCormick, who argues "that while heterosexual marriage is a nice ideal, the Church should not be too hard on committed homosexual unions."

Hans Kung who believes that popes are nothing more than "pedestrian functionaries."

Joseph Fuchs who "regularly tells the world's future priestly leaders how little he thinks of the pope's moral theology."

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