

Editorial

There's a Limit To Everything

We have long editorialized that New York City's Times Square district is prime territory for mission work. Witness the hookers, the walking zombies, the addicts, the bums, the muggers — human beings who are at once the victims and sociopaths of a heartless society.

Whether they would agree or not, these people need help — spiritual help. And the rest of us should not dare to be the least condescending — for we permit the aberrations, perhaps even condone, and, at times, exploit them.

These outcasts merit a humane empathy, but there are those who flourish on such conditions who deserve less. We refer to the pushers, the pimps, the amoral — the parasites who feed on human misery and despair.

We realize that if such basic rights as freedom of speech are to survive then the worst practitioners must be protected as well as the more proper. Thus the merchants making money from such odious pursuits as peep shows, porno movies, and "adult" bookstores must be protected under the aegis of freedom.

But something can be done. Detroit, for one, and New York City (believe it or not) have come up with programs to limit the scope and number of such purveyors while honoring the concerns of the Supreme Court at the same time.

Zoning ordinances to dilute the concentration of porno businesses in commercial sites and ban them in residential areas are on the drawing boards in Fun City. Although this may not be the optimum, such plans still have salutary aspects. One, they constitute a step in the right direction a long time coming; two, there is legal precedent for it, thanks to Detroit.

The Detroit ordinance, according to Religious News Service, prohibits the establishment of adult businesses within 1,000 feet of each other and within regulated operations such as bars, hotels, pool halls and pawn shops. It also prohibits the placement of adult establishments within 500 feet of a residential district without approval of 51 per cent of the residents.

This ordinance has been upheld by the Supreme Court and Detroit officials feel it has been progressively effective in curbing pornography.

In New York City, Times Square will be a prime target. At least 22 shops and theaters in that area now offer sexually-oriented material. Under the new ordinance, the number would be limited to six.

But, don't let's ignore our own house. Rochester, too, has been besmirched by the same kind of tawdry merchants. We know they have their rights but does that mean they can help keep people away from downtown? That they must be protected to the point of helping drive more proper merchants away from downtown? The Eastman School recently made the point that it was institutionally embarrassed to bring prospective students into the shoddy surroundings now characterizing East Main Street.

How about it, Rochester? Can we not limit the proliferation of pornographic undertakings? Isn't it possible for the common good and the general welfare? We are not injecting the question of morality into the problem. Common sense alone should dictate the proper action.

The Immaculate Conception

She knows  
The pains. The fears. The tears. That every woman is heir to.  
Childbirth. Suffering. Agony.  
The sweetness. The joy. The victory.  
She knows Mary, the mother of God. What a leader for today's woman! What an example for every person!  
The Immaculate Conception. The patroness of this country. Let's, all of us, turn to her for guidance. She knows what we are going through, she has been there.

Opinion

Truly Catholic Atmosphere

Editor:

As an avid reader of the Courier-Journal, and as a person who cares about your readers' idea of my school, I would like to express my opinion about the letter from a McQuaid student printed in December first's paper.

I have only been going to McQuaid for a few months, but I feel that I should express an accurate opinion on the "religious atmosphere" at McQuaid. It is true that we only have theology three times a week, but that three days is equivalent to five days of theology in content. I am very impressed with the theological curriculum. The teachers know the material and convey it very well to us.

Concerning the scarcity of Mass, I would like to point out that there is a Mass every morning before school and a Communion Service during recess every day. The "90-second prayer" conveys a different message every morning and has a great deal more meaning to me than a memorized prayer that you just recite (and usually don't understand). The atmosphere at McQuaid — a truly Catholic atmosphere — is one of the reasons I decided to go there, and I haven't been disappointed yet. The priests, nuns, and lay teachers all have a dedication about them that conveys the true Christian way of life.

I believe my picture of McQuaid is a more accurate one. I would encourage anyone who has the slightest idea of going to McQuaid to pursue that idea. I assure you, it will be a most enjoyable and memorable Catholic and Christian four years.

Bill Duwelen  
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Will Diocese Back NFP?

Editor:

We are writing to give our support to Natural Family Planning (NFP) and to the dedicated couples who have so generously given of their time over the past few years in promoting NFP in the Greater Rochester area.

There has been no "NFP Program" established as yet. The NFP Information Sessions which hundreds have attended were held by three or four couples who have seen the demand for this information and would like to share

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Courier-Journal



IT WAS ONE OF THE WORST FISHING TRIPS EVER. I CAUGHT ONE FISH—ONLY THIS BIG—AND HE GOT AWAY!

Nuns in Brazil Send Greetings

Editor:

Greetings at Christmas time from Brazil! We want all of you, our friends in the Diocese of Rochester, to know that though many miles of sea and land separate us, you will be warmly remembered by all of us and the Brazilians with whom we share life during these very special days of Christmas. We can never be grateful enough to you who show such care and concern for us through your faithful prayers and your generous financial support. Our gratitude is part of our daily prayer, and you share in the prayers of our people as well.

May you know the beauty of Christ's love, and most especially in the people and events that give such meaning to Christmas; may we all know that freedom which enables us to love, to rejoice and to be at peace with Him and with our brothers; may all of our lives be touched by the fullness of His coming. A blessed Christmas to all and may we all look to 1977 with grateful and hopeful hearts.

Peace, and our deep gratitude to you, our brothers!  
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester in Brazil  
Ann Lafferty, Carolyn Cardinal, Christel Burgmaier,  
Ellen Kuhl, Jean Bellini, Katherine Popowich,  
Mary Ann Mayer and Virginia Schmitz

their knowledge and experience with those who have requested their help. Hopefully, we will be able to establish an "NFP Program" in the not too distant future with the help of the diocese. A proposal has been submitted to the Diocesan Pastoral Council for their consideration. It asks for the support of the diocese. We urge all those interested in promoting this program to let your DPC representative know of your feelings. If you do not know who the DPC representative of your area is, you can find out by calling the Pastoral Office at 328-3210. This council has not seen the need or demand for this information that we and other couples have seen. We would also encourage anyone interested in NFP to write to the Courier-Journal or to us. Here is your chance to help!

We would be happy to hear from anyone with questions or comments regarding Natural Family Planning or our group.

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Church Should Promote Art

Editor:

I am working on a project which includes new and powerful characters in dramas for theater, TV, and movies.

My purpose is to promote art which can contribute toward the advancement of the human race and a new universalism.

How is it that in all the outreach of our religion there is not in

existence at least one Catholic book publisher for Catholic writers, especially for Catholic dramatists?

I know by a Catholic newspaper that our diocese made no official attempt during the last decade to help a publisher of Catholic books get established. Such a publisher cannot survive without support from the hierarchy.

Before one of my dramatized romances comes from the press, I raise this problem for the Catholic diocese. Catholic dramas could be exciting things for the good of mankind.

I am a struggling writer, dedicating my entire earthly life for a new incarnation in the idealism of art. I hope that every Catholic newspaper give a moral support as a good vanguard to the success of Catholic dramatists as I am, and live for the highest honor, devoted to all our glorious Christianity.

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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.