



New Coaches

Joseph Gigliotti (left) and Thomas Ralph (right) pose with Nazareth College director of athletics Elaine Brigman shortly after they were appointed to develop a men's athletic program at the college. Gigliotti will coach basketball and soccer and Ralph, coach of the Brighton Swim Club, will build a men's swim team. The college expects to be competitive with area colleges within three years.

The Church 1976



Fr. Andrew Greeley

"Dear Andrew Greeley: I have read your incredibly ill-informed column about 'The Village Voice' and would like you to know that there is absolutely no anti-Catholic feeling at 'The Voice' whatsoever. On the contrary, we feel that the Catholic Church in many ways is one of the most progressive forces in American life today. In fact, our new editor, Marianne Partridge, had a strict Catholic schooling and one of her goals as the editor of 'The Voice' is to do more reporting on Catholics and their world in New York City. Tom Morgan left recently to run his own publishing venture, but I know that he cannot be characterized as being biased in any way about religious preference.

"It is not the policy of 'The Voice' to be anti-Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, or any other religious preference. It is the policy of 'The Voice' to allow its writers free and full individual expression. What they say reflects their own opinions and not the policy of the paper. I think your attack on 'The Voice' is not only ill-informed but misrepresents in the extreme not only my position and Tom Morgan's but the position of the paper itself. Cordially, Clay Falker, Editor."

Dear Clay:

I note in your letter that you make no reference at all to the principal objection in my column: Archbishop Joseph Bernardin, the president of the American Bishops, is not the Archbishop of St. Louis, a fact that is known by virtually anybody who knows anything about American Catholicism.

Marianne Partridge, who had a strict Catholic schooling (I'm afraid

I haven't and I'm skeptical of people who have, but that's another matter). It did not apparently equip her to catch such a gross mistake, and I guess I would have to assert that it is a matter of fact, so the author's personal opinion is not an issue. I would suggest, however, that the personal opinion on the Catholic Church of a man who doesn't know where the president of the hierarchy lives ought to be viewed with grave reservations.

"I wonder if you would be surprised, Clay, if I told you that out here in the Middle West a number of Catholic bumpkins would consider the phrase 'strict Catholic education' to be a degrading and offensive stereotype? Not as bad as 'nigger,' perhaps, but as bad as 'pushy Jewish businessman.' It makes a judgment about Catholic education, the Catholic religion, and Catholic people which is rooted in the historic anti-Catholic nativist prejudice against Catholic schools. It has all sorts of patronizing and supercilious connotations. You would not, I am sure, use a similar phrase in writing to a black, yet you have no hesitancy about using it in a letter to me. Obviously, you are unaware of its overtones. I find myself wondering why.

"I suppose I should rejoice at the prospect that 'The Voice' is going to devote more attention to matters Catholic. But the thought that this attention may consist of the efforts of such people as Mr. Stokes and the editorial pencil of Ms. Partridge forces me to restrain my enthusiasm. I would submit that any national journal intending to approach the subject of the Catholics in the country (especially those of us living west of the Hudson River) ought to begin with the simple acknowledgement that it knows less in fact about Catholics than it does about certain African tribes. Having made this admission, it might set about the serious enterprise of self-education, looking not for those with 'strict Catholic education' but for those who have professional competence in the area. It may come as a surprise, Clay, but there are scores of younger scholars who have devoted their attention to this subject; they speak good English, they don't eat with their fingers, and some of them even go to church. They also know that Joe Bernardin is Archbishop of Cincinnati.

Area Homes 'The Worst' For Growing House Plants

In the midst of the season when parishes by the score are selling house plants at Christmas boutiques and craft shows, a St. John Fisher College horticulturist has said, "The home is probably the worst place to grow house plants."

He explains that the foliage plants generally used to decorate our homes are natives of tropical areas with high levels of humidity. He describes homes in the diocese as "hostile environments" for these plants.

Interviewed last week, Dr. Melvin J. Wentland, chairman of Fisher's Biology Department, offered some tips for keeping our greenery healthy. His instruction also will be given, starting in February, in the college's continuing education program.

"From 80 to 85 percent of the problems with house plants is caused by too much or too little watering," he says. Light and temperature are responsible for the other problems.

His approach to caring for house plants is not so much learning the "how-tos" but learning the "whys" — learning to create environments which approximate in our homes the natural environments of the plants.

The often recommended practice of "misting" plants, covering the leaves with a fine spray of water, "is an exercise in futility," he says. "You'd have to do it every half hour for the plant to benefit from it."

He recommends placing the potted plant on a tray of gravel which has been half filled with water as a better method of giving the foliage moisture.

Learning the temperature and light requirements of one's various house plants is another essential for the plant lover. Temperature sensitive plants, for instance, should never be placed near outside doors, he notes, no matter how decorative the effect may be.

The "Christmas" and "Thanksgiving" cacti require

carefully controlled light if they are to bloom on schedule.

"Even moving plants around in the same room can send some of them into shock," he said.

Learning as much as possible about their individual plants, Wentland says, people will better be able to care for them — and enjoy them.

Youth Seen As Religious But Not Tradition-Minded

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — The majority of young people today are not alienated from organized religion, but they are less traditional than in the past and "a confrontation with faith" occurs much earlier in their lives.

This is one of the major conclusions reached in a study commissioned by the U.S. Catholic Conference Education Department's Office of Research, Policy and Program Development, which focused on people aged 13 to 29.

Basically, it found that the concern for basic values of

autonomy and independence usually associated with college-age people has reached down to the ranks of high school youth and "affected their orientation."

The study noted that young people are "confused" by the very freedom they demand and that support systems of the family and/or peer groups are important factors in how they respond to freedom. "Organized religion, in union with these support systems, can be a major force but today's adolescent will assess it more critically than in the past," the study claimed.

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