

Bishop Denied Entry

Bishop William C. Frey of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado approaches the main door of St. Mary's Church in Denver to find his way blocked by Jack Fried, an usher guarding the door. Attempting to attend a meeting during which the congregation voted to secede from the Episcopal Church in opposition to women's ordination, the bishop was told by Fried that he had to get a special ticket in the church basement, where the vote was held. Once there, he was denied admittance to the meeting. After the vote to secede, locks on the church doors were changed and its members began guarding the building around the clock. By its actions, the parish majority hopes to keep the property in its hands, said a member of vestry, and changing the locks will prevent "a key getting into the hands of a potential vicar." Bishop Frey called the vote illegal and, after forbidding the church's rector to function as a priest in the diocese, said he would appoint a temporary vicar to assume ministerial duties at the church. [RNS]



Churchmen Rap Moon

New York (RNS)— movement is a "deceptive" Despite recent public and "dangerous" denials by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Christian and Jewish leaders here have denounced his Unification Church as "anti-Christian, anti-Semitic and anti-democratic."

The charges were made at a press conference by officials of the American Jewish Committee, the National Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York.

Statements and supportive evidence were offered by the Christian and Jewish groups as "empirical evidence" that the Moon

organization. This is the first time in New York City that the three major faiths have joined in attacking the Unification Church.

However, Dr. Jorge Lara-Braud, executive director of the NCC's Commission on Faith and Order, said similar unified fronts have been publicly expressed across the nation in more than 100 communities.

Father James J. LaBar, county coordinator of the Office of Communications

for the New York archdiocese, said the Moonies have become widely known as controversial figures but the public has very little factual information about them.

He expressed hope that massive public information will be provided to clarify the doctrines of the Unification Church and show specifically how they conflict with accepted Christian beliefs.

Father LaBar said a five-member speakers bureau is now available at the New York archdiocese to speak to parish and other groups about the Unification Church.

Rabbi March Tannenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee and chairman of the meeting, charged that the Unification Church is deceptive when it projects itself as a religion of "love and reconciliation."

He said the Unification Church is divisive and "contributes to teaching anti-Jewish, anti-Semitic, anti-Christian, and fundamentally anti-democratic attitudes." He charged that the Moon organization uses some "60 front groups" in the nation and uses "deception and untruth to" penetrate the Jewish community.

Dr. Lara-Braud, referring to the working paper on the Moon movement of the Commission on Faith and Order, declared that Moon's doctrines "deny the classic Christian understanding of Jesus Christ" by depicting him as a "failed Messiah, half-savior who saved us spiritually but not bodily."

Father LaBar said Moon's teachings "are in direct conflict with Catholic theology and, therefore, render this movement suspect for Catholic participation."



Praying for Peace

Her wrinkles a roadmap of her life, an aged Christian woman in Beirut, Lebanon prays for peace in her war-torn land, ravaged in a civil war between Christians and Muslims that claimed more than 30,000 lives. The civil strife ended in Mid-November when an Arab peace-keeping force swept into Beirut, and an uneasy truce prevails. (RNS)

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

We have discovered in the past few weeks two new uses for the television set, both of which have proved far more satisfactory than eyeballing the tube.

The first television deviation from the customary use came about six weeks ago when this writer, put off by snow, ice and wind from getting any exercise outside, took to jogging in front of the set. By turning to Channel 5 which is set aside by the cable company for weather information and which flashes the time digitally, a less than enthusiastic jogger can be cheered to see just how fast the seconds speed by. Background music from WPXY also helps to buoy the flagging spirit and wilting limbs.

When watching the clock began to pall, we tried some of the morning talk shows which failed miserably. (The sight of Dinah Shore holding Henry Winkler's hand was not inspiring. Ditto for an interview with Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller, both of whom tend to give this jogger a pain in the nether region.)

Next we tried the game shows. No good. Too many commercials which tend to upset the rhythm. Finally we tried the soaps. Perfect! The agonized sighs, the covert glances, the distressed pauses, to say nothing of the affluent Kallikaks who people the half-hours of baths were so diverting that 30 minutes was up before you could snicker or hiss.

The second use for the TV set came Christmas morning when the kids tore off the wrapping from a present sent by an indulgent uncle and aunt.

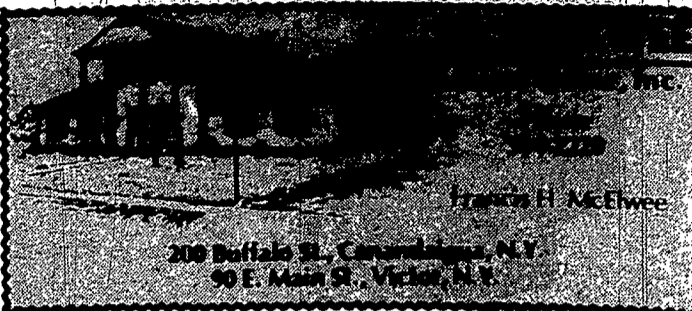
Inside was a small adaptor which the head of the house soon had affixed to the old black and white set and which allows two players to video-play ping pong while lying prone on the rug and moving only a finger and thumb kept placed on a dial.

Parents who continue to be frustrated by the lack of exercise in this new electronic form of entertainment must on the other hand give thanks for the relatively innocuous sound of "pong, pong" as opposed, for example, to the pseudo hip patter of Donny and Marie.

Nothing was said in this space previously about the Christmas programs for children featured on all the networks beginning early in December. But certainly somebody should speak up against programming which is first and foremost a vehicle to sell toys. After so many years of utilizing Rudolph, Frosty, et al, in cheerless and unimaginative cartoon tales, the industry would do well to give them a rest. Simply because the crudity of day-to-day commercial TV is not present in these Christmas shows, they should not be extolled. Continued screening of these poorly written little dramas must be abhorred by thoughtful parents.

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