

COURIER-JOURNAL

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School Slams TV Discipline Report

BY JOAN M. SMITH

On Monday night, March 14, Channel 8 NewsCenter aired a feature about drugs at Bishop Kearney High School. The story unleashed a protest from students, faculty and parents... not so much because of the topic... but the way the story, they said, was obtained and the way it was reported. Misrepresentation, use of sensationalism, irresponsible reporting, and "a put down to the school" were some of the outcries from the Kearney community.

Those particularly appalled by the program were the six students who had been interviewed by NewsCenter reporter Peter Dobrovitz. In an interview with the Courier-Journal the young adults said they had been "taken." They couldn't

believe the program which resulted from their 30 minute interview in which, they said, "a minimal time of five minutes" was spent in discussing drugs. They declared their statements had been used out of context causing a misrepresentation of the school. They pointed out certain instances where what they had said and what came out in the broadcast, differed.

To the question: "Do kids smoke on school property?" they gave an instance of pot smoking in a lavatory which was immediately taken care of by a teacher. The telecast, they declared, gave the impression that smoking on school premises was excessive.

In discussing the school's handling of those involved with drugs, the students said

they had told the reporter of one case they knew of where there had been an expulsion for drug use but noted that this information wouldn't generally be known by the student body because of the school's confidentiality policy in dealing with these situations. They insisted that by their statements being taken out of context the program deliberately implied a lack of awareness by the faculty and students about the nature and dimensions of the problem.

Channel 8's visual segment also came under fire. Flashbacks between the Principal, Brother William Stoldt, and the students during Brother's statements, "Made it look as if contradictions existed between students and principal," stated Brother John Walderman, vice principal.

Senior Lydia Riopka, who was not involved in the interview but saw the original broadcast agreed. "They would show Brother Stoldt and then go to the kids trying to make it look like they were contradicting each other. I thought it was pretty unfortunate especially when the kids were never shown speaking."

Margaret Mueller, Prefect of girls and in charge of girls' discipline remarked she thought it "strange" when she heard the story was to deal with discipline and they didn't request to speak with any of the faculty members connected with this area. Her reaction to the broadcast was one of "shock" and she felt the information was "totally distorted."

According to athletic



Brother Stoldt invites parents to visit BK anytime; just report to office for identification.

coach Don Della Vella it was a case of "talking to 17-year-olds for information, juggling questions around and taking the answers you want and doing a story." He added, "they played the percentage game and used the figures talked about for their use."

The interviewed students stated that during the informal discussion many figures had been thrown out in regard to drug use. They felt the resulting percentage focused on in the report had been exaggerated and used out of context to give the story its sensationalism.

Regarding what the Kearney community feels was Channel 8's unfounded projection of a discrepancy between students and faculty about the drug issue, Della Vella explained the ways disciplinary action could be carried out: expulsion, or make the violation public notice and embarrass the student. "But," he declared, "we have a loyalty to the person. He is still growing up."

He explained that in view of Kearney's positive discipline system the school

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Among students interviewed by Channel 8 were Bill Johnson, Kathy Weckesser, Sue Smith, Joe Russo and Joan Plukas.

New Roles Slated For Two Pastors

The Pastoral Office announced this week that Father Robert Donovan will become the pastor of St. Dominic's Parish in Shortsville, and that Father Joseph Egan has submitted his resignation from the pastorate of St. Patrick's Parish in Elmira.

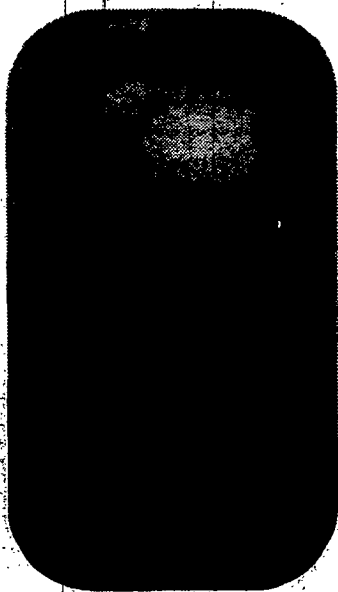
Father Donovan was ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney in 1953. He has served as assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Church Elmira (where he also served as chaplain to the Elmira Council of the Knights of Columbus); St. Thomas the Apostle, Irondequoit; St. Mary's, Canandaigua; Holy Family, Auburn; and St. Mary of the Lake, Watkins Glen. Father Donovan also worked for a year in the diocese of San Diego, Calif.

Father Donovan was named pastor of St. John's in Newark Valley and St. Francis in Catatonk in 1973. He will assume his new post during Easter Week.

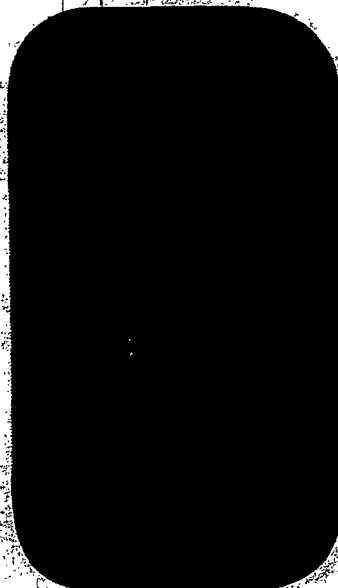
Father Egan, a native Elmira, was ordained in 1942. He had studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, the North American College in Rome, Italy, and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Ill.

Father Egan received a Doctorate in Sacred

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FATHER EGAN



FR. DONOVAN

OBM Sets Workshop

Pastors, principals of schools and parish personnel will gather Friday and Saturday at Corpus Christi Church for a unique workshop in the "styles of catechetical education and pastoral ministry related to the urban environment."

The workshop, under the theme of "Building Community Faith", is being sponsored by the diocesan Office of Black Ministries, and will feature Sister Toinette Eugene, PBVM; Father James Lyke, OFM; Brother Timothy Richardson, OFM; and Ms. Dixie Lee Baker.

The workshop opens each day at 10 a.m. Persons interested in attending the sessions have been encouraged to register with Father Jerome Robinson, head of the black ministries office, at 328-3210.

Regional Reports

All 10 regions are in the process of studying, amending and making suggestions concerning the Call to Action program. Staffers Michael Groden and Martin Toombs visited two of the regional assemblies and report on them as typical of what's going on throughout the diocese. For the reports on the Livingston-Stauben and Southwest assemblies, turn to Page 11.

St. Mary's to Be Part Of New Hospital Plan

By JOHN DASH

A voluntary association of Rochester metropolitan hospitals that includes St. Mary's Hospital last week unveiled a plan to reduce the number of hospitals in the area yet "maintain quality level of care being delivered to patients in the community," and "maintain the availability of a Catholic health care component in the system."

That St. Mary's would remain as a Catholic hospital facility was emphasized by Sister DeChantal LaRow, administrator. "We have absolutely no intention of merging with any other institution," she said. "We will work with other facilities, in planning and in community development, but a Catholic hospital presence will be there."

The association, the Rochester Regional Hospital Association, announced its ideas less than a week before yesterday afternoon's meeting of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency executive committee at which the long-debated proposal to close St. Mary's obstetrics unit was acted upon.

The RRHA plan calls for delivering health care

through four acute general hospitals of 500 beds each and one "tertiary" unit of 200 beds to take care of burn care, transplant, trauma and like needs.

The planners feel that containing the fast rise in hospital costs also makes the proposed system desirable.

The six hospitals involved in the discussions are: The Genesee, Highland, Park Ridge, Rochester General, St. Mary's and Strong Memorial.

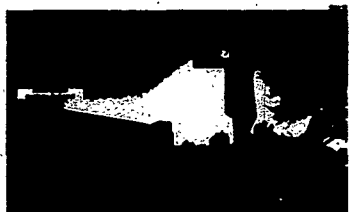
Of the six, Park Ridge and St. Mary's, for different reasons have been the subject of community controversy.

St. Mary's has consistently adhered to Catholic teaching on the sacredness of human life and reproduction. Neither abortions nor contraceptive sterilizations are performed at the hospital. State planning groups have noted that the hospital's obstetrics unit, based on its bed occupancy, could close without detriment to the community the hospital serves. St. Mary's has vigorously challenged this idea. The state is empowered to impose financial sanctions against St. Mary's if it continues its obstetrical program.

Details of the RRHA plan are far from concrete. At last week's press conference spokesmen consistently called for community input for their deliberations.

The RRHA planners feel, however, that their plan meets several of the national health priorities as

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Becket Hall Annual Report



This week's Courier-Journal includes a special four-page pull-out section which is the first annual report to be issued by Becket Hall, the diocesan house of studies for men considering the priesthood. The report describes the facilities and life on campus. A financial report is included. For Becket Hall's first annual report pull out Section B.