



WHEN DID YOU FIRST START LOSING CONTROL OF THE CHILDREN?

# Opinion

## 'Faculty Hits Broadcast'

Editor:

We, the faculty of Bishop Kearney High School feel we must speak up and challenge reporter Peter Dobrovitz's story of March 14 on discipline. We are in agreement that the story is a totally inaccurate representation of discipline in a Catholic school, and that the story's limited focus borders on sensationalism:

As educators, we are concerned about the quote that we are "unaware" of the problem of drug use and we question why not one faculty member, or our disciplinarians, were consulted on the matter. We also take issue with the statement made by students that they know of no students who had been recommended for counselling. Dobrovitz capitalized on this point to support his contention about lack of communication in the school. As teachers, we are frequently called upon to act in a counselling capacity, and we cherish the confidentiality of our relationships with our students. We would hope that no other students would know of our recommendations of this nature.

We take further exception to the representation of arbitrary statistics which were founded in opinion and were communicated to the viewing audience as fact.

Our goals as teachers are founded in a desire to communicate faith, integrity and honesty to our students. We question the journalistic integrity of such a story which twists the honesty of our students to suit the station's purposes, and which according to those interviewed is obtained under false pretenses. We object to the entire tone of the story.

We are not "unaware" of the problem of drug use at Kearney. At the same time, figures quoted by Mr. Dobrovitz that 50 per cent of our students use drugs socially, is unfounded in fact and is a profound disservice to the vast majority of earnest, hard-working students, not to mention that the interviewed students claim Mr. Dobrovitz distorted these comments also.

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We are also very much aware of the positive aspects of our student population, elements which the media all too frequently ignore. Bishop Kearney High School students are, and always have been, sensitive to the needs of their community; it is distortion of the truth to shield the community from these facts by presenting a biased story.

We feel that a strong injustice has been committed and that a public rectification is in order for all concerned.

The Faculty  
Bishop Kearney  
High School

Editor's note: 39 members of the Bishop Kearney faculty signed this letter.

## NFP Plan Urged

Editor:

We, the undersigned, support Natural Family Planning, and encourage the Diocese of Rochester to share in the responsibility of establishing a Rochester Natural Family Planning Program.

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Program Director  
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Rochester, N.Y. 14620

Joe Petracca, Mr. and Mrs. Richard O'Hara, Dr. and Mrs. Francis Foley, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Prinzing, Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Young.

Editor's Note: The letter was accompanied by petitions containing 459 signatures.

## Vatican II Quoted

Editor:

I would like to refer to the letter signed by many priests of the diocese in the March 2 Courier-Journal, commending Bishop Hogan as teacher.

Regarding the infallibility of the Pope, I quote the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Chapter 3, Vatican II.

"In matters of faith and morals, the bishops speak in the name of Christ, and the faithful are to accept their teaching and adhere to it with a religious assent of soul. This religious submission of will and mind must be shown in a special way to the authentic teaching authority of the Roman Pontiff, even when he is not speaking ex cathedra, (infallibly), that is, it must be shown in such a way that his supreme magisterium is acknowledged with reverence, the judgments made by him are sincerely adhered to, according to his manifest mind and will.

"His mind and will in the matter may be known chiefly from the character of the documents, from his frequent repetition of the same doctrine, or from his manner of speaking."

Mrs. H. Pikuat  
460 Chestnut Ridge Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

## On Communion In the Hand

Editor:

Several times the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has voted down asking the Holy See for permission to distribute Holy Communion in the hand.

Using Canada and France (who properly asked and were granted magisterial approval) as examples to help justify Communion in the hand seems less than truthful when our own bishops refused to do so. Being given this option is really receiving the questionable "privilege" of practicing or not practicing obedience to the magisterium.

The question is not how we wish to distribute or receive Holy Communion, but whether we will practice obedience to the magisterium. However, to make an informed decision in one's conscience, one should be given all the facts not just the ones that favor hand reception.

I have been told that hand reception was originally stopped because of growing sacrilegious and disrespectful practices to the Host. It would perhaps cause less consternation and conflict if someone with the proper authority would answer: What are the benefits of hand reception? Are the original reasons for discontinuing it non-existent today? Why is it being permitted without the proper magisterial permission?

Mass seems hardly the place for an open flaunting of the authority of the total magisterium to govern the Catholic Church. For the individual (who finds oneself as a member of a captive audience at Mass) where hand reception is an option, puts that person between a boulder and a large rock. The Church vs. the Church.

To deny the authority that Christ gave to His Church in order to "come closer" to Christ, or whatever reason, is a contradiction.

The Church is Christ-governed by His servants — chosen, inspired and protected by the Holy Spirit to govern and help show us how to know, love and serve God the Father as did Christ, who did all three. Christ did not quibble or negotiate with His Father. He was obedient until death.

Peace and all good.

Mrs. Shirley Schuhart  
1404 Whalen Road  
Penfield, N.Y. 14526

## Enjoys Columnist

Editor:

Nancy Murphy's column is an oasis expressing militant Catholic life in its confirmation of Christian principles in education and morality in society. Her respect for Pope Paul's teaching authority and for the competency of the magisterium in general are heartwarming.

The Church is not

democratic in the sense that we, the people of God, have priority over those whom the Holy Spirit has chosen to guide us in the perplexities of our "contemporary world." Too many are affronting us with their own opinions, degrading dialogue to rebellious disagreement and thereby violating St. Paul's admonition: "Let there be no divisions among you." (1 Cor. 1:10)

Teaching the truth is a sacred duty of the Catholic press. We are fortunate to have a Courier-Journal columnist whose purposeful commitment shines through her weekly well-documented articles.

Terresa M. Cameron  
509 W. Third St.  
Elmira, N.Y.

## Reconciliation Opportunity

Editor:

During this season of Lent, we are called to recognize our sinfulness and to prepare ourselves to celebrate in Jesus' Resurrection. How appropriate to print Father Robert J. Kennedy's article, "Sign of Reconciliation." Mother Church has been so sensitive to our needs to be called back to God, she has revised the way we celebrate Penance. Reconciliation is touching and joyful just as Jesus must have offered His forgiveness when He walked the earth.

Bishop Hogan says in his column, "Forgiveness: The love that sets free..." the human heart is too small to grasp the breadth of God's forgiving love."

Pray for our Christian family that those of us who are reluctant to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation will give Jesus a chance to change their hearts.

Karen M. DeLorme  
153 Holley St.  
Brookport, N.Y. 14420

## Difference In Souls?

Editor:

While the great minds of the Roman Church are pondering the important question of "how many angels can fit on the head of a pin?", it might also be worth their considering "What are the fundamental differences between the male and the female souls?"

This will surely be important to God when at the final judgment they explain why women were not suitable to be Catholic priests.

Kenneth Nielson  
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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.

## Editorial

### Fear of Press

It is no revelation that dictators fear a free press but it is puzzling that many of us still do not recognize suppression of the press as a despotic act and as a clear sign of unhealthy authoritarianism.

For instance, it is no longer surprising to read of Soviet Union suppression of the press, including some newspaper practices we take very much for granted. Recently, Soviet police detained and worked over a United Press photographer who had taken pictures of a hotel fire in Moscow. They also tried to confiscate his film.

Why be so concerned over a hotel fire? Of course, it is simply despotism run wild. The Soviets were afraid that the photographer was out to make their country look bad.

Another case in point is the recent closing down of a black newspaper by the government of Rhodesia. This was done under the provisions of the Law and Order (recognize that phrase?) Act suppressing the newspaper "and all other periodical publications consisting wholly or partly of political or other news or articles relating thereto or other similar current topics published by the Christian Council of Rhodesia or the Rhodesia Mission Press." These agencies published the black newspaper and what the government has effectively done, according to Doris Hess of the United Methodist board in Rhodesia is "kill off any black newspaper voice for people in Rhodesia or South Africa."

What we are worrying over is just when will such overt acts of aggression become recognized by the world as unacceptable. If we had recognized the danger when Uganda Gen. Amin shut down the Catholic newspaper in Kampala a couple of years ago we might have treated him as the despot he is and perhaps averted today's spate of horrors.

And we Americans should be particularly sensitive to such ills. Not too long ago it was tried here by a vice president and a presidential press secretary. The latter particularly tried to discredit a pair of reporters and a newspaper when they were uncovering the sordid Watergate mess, despite government suppression. Were Americans up in arms? No. We bought the government view until the whole story began to come out thanks to the belittled press.

God knows that the press is not impeccable and in some instances is downright shoddy. But we propose that one of the clearest symptoms of a despotic government is when it tries to discredit the press or begins shutting down agents thereof. We should begin recognizing that ploy and act accordingly.