

# More Opinions

## Pot Lobby Assailed

Editor:

"There is widespread ignorance concerning the grievous harm which marijuana is doing to young people today. The cause of that ignorance is almost unbelievable, it is so pernicious."

That sentence is the chilling alert in Roscoe Drummond's syndicated column of Dec. 29, 1976, appearing in the Christian Science Monitor.

The "almost unbelievable" cause of ignorance of this drug's dangerous effect is the "Pot Lobby." Who funds this lobby and how is their propaganda orchestrated? Organized in 1970, this organization accelerated its tempo in 1976, most probably in anticipation of decriminalization and eventual legalization. At any rate, because of the inherent decency of the American people it would seem that a skillful "selling" campaign was indicated.

We are now faced with the decriminalization issue. It is possible to counteract the pot propaganda. This can only be successful through use of carefully documented facts.

The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation has issued a report, Pot: The Politics and the Propaganda. A free copy of this fascinating report will be sent to all who mail an addressed and stamped 10 envelope.

G. Newberry  
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## ERA Stance Defended

Editor:

Father Vincent Collins of St. John of Rochester is one of the few clergymen in today's church who has the courage to speak out on the issues that could adversely affect the spiritual welfare of his parishioners. It is for this reason that he chose to condemn the ERA and the

feminist movement for what they are—a threat to the family unit in our society. Since the Call to Action group in Detroit saw fit to endorse the ERA, it was only fitting that Father Collins spoke for the Vatican-based Catholics in his congregation.

In a letter appearing in your paper (3/30/77), he is accused of presenting his "personal" political viewpoints. Certainly, these "personal" viewpoints could hardly be considered exclusively his since they are exactly the same as those of the two-thirds of the voters in New York State who rejected the ERA in November 1975. There is no fear of father campaigning against something about which we already made a decision a year and a half ago. Instead, he was reminding us to see that our legislators properly represent us by rescinding our 1972 ratification of the federal ERA. (Some of our representatives in Albany tell us that they plan to vote on this issue "according to their conscience".)

Mary L. Griesen  
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## ERA Sermon 'Necessary'

Editor:

The letter appearing on the Opinion Page, March 30, stating abuse of the pulpit, among other accusations, publically discrediting our pastor Father Vincent Collins, warrants the voicing of another's opinion.

At St. John of Rochester on Sunday, March 13, I was very grateful to hear Father Collins give his colorful opinions of ERA and the feminist movement. Always do I find his sermons enlightening and concerned with what should be acknowledged "necessary" to open our eyes when we are losing our way, if not our souls, in this world of Movements and Activists and fights for Rights.

In this fight for their rights, there are those who would unduly attack anyone. There are those

who would say what should and should not be preached from the pulpit, what is or is not to be deemed necessary for the caring of our souls. There were those who did the same thing to Christ, Our God, more than 1900 years ago—accusing Him of politics. They rebuked, condemned, every truth He tried to teach them for their sake, for the love of them.

Dear God, shed Thy grace upon us, that we may not be so blinded by our "Rights" that we cannot see You. Help us to see that it's not You Who is far away and dim; but it's us who are far away from You.

JoAnne Taylor  
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## Abortion Sonnet

Editor:

My son, John, is a senior at Williamson Central High School. Recently, his English class assignment was to write an original sonnet. John is among the very few students in his class who are opposed to abortion, so he decided to use that as his topic. The following is the product of that assignment.

Who hears the unborn's cry when it is slain?  
Why would men slay this defenseless being?

Or is it with ignorance he does feign?  
Or does he close his eyes before seeing?

Every second we hesitate means death  
For right now a fetus is being slain

Slaughter of a child awaiting its first breath  
The halt of growth, the ceasing of the brain

No one will ever hear the baby speak  
Nor will anyone see the baby grow up

Never will the fetus anything seek

Or laugh with joy over a toy or a pup  
Who should cry for the butchered fetus?  
It shouldn't just be me, it should be us

Ann Scott  
94 South Ave.  
Williamson, N.Y.

## Devotions Promoted

Editor:

On March 30 my parish church, Sacred Heart, had Lenten devotions at which they sang Mother Dear O Pray for Me, To Jesus' Heart All Burning, O Lord I Am not Worthy and the benediction hymns in Latin.

I have been a shut-in for about a year, but how I wished I could have attended that service. It brought nostalgia for the old days and the hymns that were sung with such reverence.

How I wish our Churches would have more services like that.

Miss Florence Oehler  
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## Statements Illogical

Editor:

Nancy Murphy's column Life Liberty and Law might serve as a focal point for the conservative elements in this community if she were not immune to logic and if she were not "hung up" on sex. Her dismissal of the problems of the "population explosion" and "dwindling food resources" fly in the face of logic and destroy her credibility. Her statements on human sexuality are not much better.

A. P. Marchetti  
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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.

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