

Yet more about anti-Catholicism in the American academy!

Item: Shortly before he died, Professor Jerome Kerwin was asked by a Catholic editor to tell the story of his years at the University of Chicago and

his conflicts with the Chicago chancery over his role as the unofficial chaplain to Catholic students at the university (since the archdiocese in those days would not appoint a priest as chaplain). Kerwin replied that the memories were still too painful 40 years later, not because of the opposition from the chancery, which he took for granted, but because of the anti-Catholicism of most of his colleagues at the university. A distinguished gentleman and fine scholar, Kerwin had to pay a price not only to the obscurantists in the church but to the obscurantists in the university.

Some of them are still around, incidentally.

Item: "Change" magazine will shortly publish a long letter from a professor at Temple University who argues that Catholic priests cannot be good scholars because they teach the divinity of Jesus (for which he says there is no proof) and because they collect a large amount of money from superstitious laity to propound that belief. The letter is the sort of ignorant trash which would be thrown in the waste basket reserved for crank mail if it had been about any other "minority" — blacks, hispanics, homosexuals or women. But "Change" is going to publish it.

Item: A professor at a major American college wrote to me about a recruiting session in which a faculty member from another university was asked why he wanted to leave his school for a new appointment. His response was that his department had a lot of Catholics in it. "Can you imagine what it is like working with Catholics?" he asked. My correspondent

said that he had the impression that the job aspirant was not really a bigot so much as someone currying favor — like you had to do if you were running for sheriff in the South 20 years ago. So my contact, asking God's forgiveness for a minor falsehood, said he was Catholic and watched the recruit squirm through the rest of the meal.

I can't understand why the American church does not fund research on anti-Catholicism the way American Jewish agencies fund research on anti-Semitism. For many years

Professor Charles Glock has maintained what is for all practical purposes a research industry on anti-Semitism at the university of California. One of the major books, "Religion and Anti-Semitism," was the subject of a devastating review symposium in the "American Sociological Review." A more recent book, "Adolescent Prejudice," was dismissed by one reviewer as failing "in its self-assigned task to delineate the causes of

prejudice." Still, the publications continue because the Jewish community thinks — quite correctly I may add — that research on and publicity about anti-Semitism are important. Their Catholic counterparts apparently see no such need.

But then if you are not going to spend money doing research on Catholicism in America, why should you spend money doing research on anti-Catholicism?



Scholarship Card Party

The annual Scholarship Card Party sponsored by the Rosary and Holy Name societies of St. James Church is scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, at the parish hall, Brockley and Brett roads. In charge are Mrs. Maurice Tette, seated at right, above, and Mrs. George Perrotta, left, with their committee heads, Mrs. Thomas Coughlin, Mrs. George J. Schum and Mrs. Gary Smith (left to right, standing). The two societies provide \$800 a year to help pay the way of eight young parishioners attending Catholic high schools.

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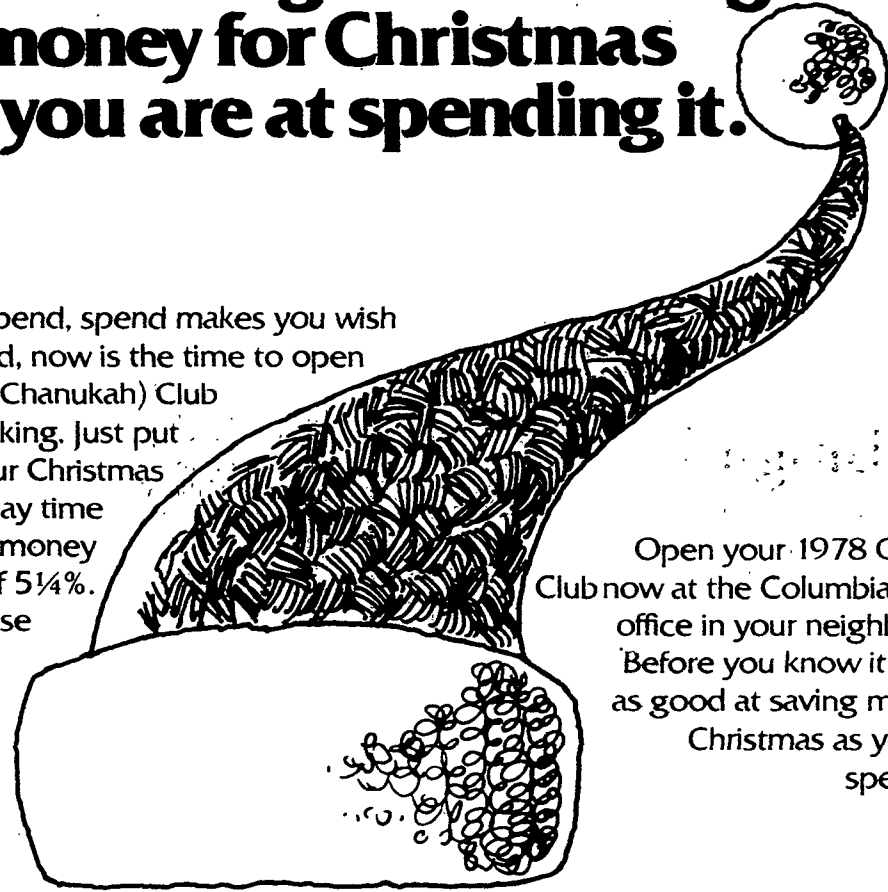
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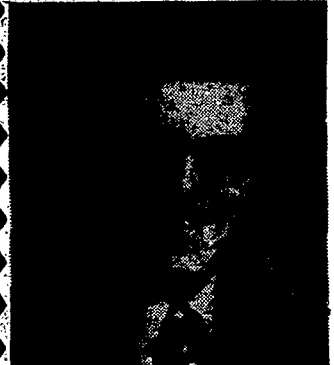
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