

Editorial

Vote Nov. 8

The policy of this newspaper prohibits it from endorsing political candidates.

However, we do urge all to get out and vote. Try to understand the issues, read up on the candidates, quiz them when you get the chance and then vote.

Many political issues have moral or religious overtones. Two such in the Rochester area concern pure waters rates and the debate over the transportation of private school students, who live in the city to schools outside of the city.

Learn the views of candidates for the County Legislature on the water assessment and the position of school board candidates on the transportation issue. Then vote accordingly. But, regardless, make sure to vote.

Nazis, Klan on TV

In the recent hubbub over the television show "Soap" we mentioned that we opposed censorship, particularly before a show is seen: We commented that television networks and stations have the right to decide their programming — and that viewers also have the right to protest those decisions.

"Soap" just happened to be the program in question in the context of the broader debate on censorship. Since then, a public television program, not shown here, has become the subject of a debate much more pertinent to the issue of censorship in a free country.

"Black Perspective on the News," a series which used to be seen over WXXI, recently presented on public television spokesmen for the American Nazi Party and the Ku Klux Klan in a panel format. Stations in Philadelphia and Long Island aired the show despite objections from Jewish groups: Some stations postponed it indefinitely.

If ever the theory of freedom of speech is to be tested, it would be in the case of such hate groups as the Nazis and the KKK.

Mostly the spokesmen for these nefarious groups voiced tired hate lines — white superiority, separate nation for blacks and anti-Semitism. Bill Haley, program manager at WXXI, viewed the program and in his opinion it was not cause for any great furor.

"There were the reckless statements one might expect," he said. "And maybe it was not the best journalism. But it was nothing to get excited about."

He pointed out that a panel had the opportunity to rebut the bigots and that a half-hour show following featured Jewish leaders.

Perhaps the producers were trying to provide the hate organizations enough rope with which to hang themselves (no reference to KKK methods intended). Or perhaps it was their way of alerting apathetic Americans that these sociopathic organizations exist and threaten the very freedoms they use to spread their hate.

As for those who would censor or ban the show before the fact of its airing, this, too, is wrong. Certainly it is easily understandable why Jewish people would object to Nazis on American airwaves, especially in the case of some 300 survivors of the holocaust now living in Philadelphia.

But the test of this nation's freedom comes in granting it to all, even those who abuse it or who would deny it to others if ever they got into power, heaven forbid!

We appreciate the stance of the American Jewish Congress which, according to Religious News Service, talked both with Jewish leaders and television station personnel to urge "restraint" on both sides, reminding the TV executives of their responsibilities in deciding whether to show a program in which racist and anti-Semitic views are expressed.

Opinion

School Issue At Stake

Editor:

One of the expressions of freedom which we have as citizens of the United States is the privilege to vote. This is also a responsibility. By using this right, we have a voice in determining the leaders who will make the decisions affecting the preservation or limitation of our basic freedoms.

This past year a significant number of parents selecting nonpublic education for their children experienced the power that elected members of our governing bodies have in regard to the accessibility of our freedoms. The fact that over 1,700 students attending Catholic schools outside of the City School District yet living in the city would not receive transportation to the school of their choice would severely limit FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN EDUCATION which is guaranteed by the Constitution.

I strongly urge all of our Catholic Community to use the right to vote in the elections that are approaching. The candidates for the Rochester School Board and the Rochester City Council have expressed their opinions on continuing the transportation service. This information has been sent to the city parishes and secondary schools by the Federation of Catholic School Parents. We urge you to read it and consider this issue as you decide on the candidates of your choice.

Throughout the diocese other important local elections are being conducted. The assistance given to Catholic school students is minimum. When budget cuts are necessary, School Board members and local legislators have the tendency to cut these services first unless they firmly believe in the value of freedom of choice in education and the value of an alternative system to the public school system. It is necessary for Catholics to unite as members of the community in which they live to use the power to vote as a message to the candidates that we believe this freedom should remain available.

We continue to be concerned that elected

members of school boards are men and women who will work to continue to offer these services and are also dedicated to improving the educational opportunities and programs provided by the public school system.

Nov. 8 is election day. Let us all take the time to show that we are interested in preserving our freedoms by voicing our support for candidates who share our values.

Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Sponsors Of 'Soap'

Editor:

"Soap," the much protested television show, is telecast in this area by Channel 13, at 9:30 p.m. when the audience is still largely made up of young people.

According to Morality in Media, a newsletter, sponsors and addresses of the first two shows were:

Jovan Perfumes, 875 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill 60611; Vlastic Foods, 14 Mile Road, W. Bloomfield, Mich. 48033; Max Factor & Co., 1655 N. McCadden Place, Hollywood, Calif., 90028; Bic Pen Corp., Wiley St., Milford, Conn., 06460; MEM Co. (English Leather), Union St., Northvale, N.J. 07647; Filter Dynamics International, 18451 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, 44112; Presto Industries, Eau Claire, Wis., 54701; Whitehall Laboratories (Anacin), 685 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017; Cosmair (L'Oreal), 530 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10036; Monarch Wines — Maneschewitz, 4500 Second Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11232.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Hober
101 Lapham St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Benjamin Day Coverage

Editor:

I want to offer my rather belated "thanks" for that great coverage of our recent Benjamin Day here at McQuaid. The story and accompanying photos were wonderful, and the response to them was rather overwhelming. Seems that everybody reads the Courier-Journal.

Bob Kidera
McQuaid Jesuit High School
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Meat Harms Us In Many Ways

Editor:

Vegetarianism should be supported by our Christian communities because of our commitment to non-violence, love of neighbor as ourselves (which includes care of our bodies) and the elimination of poverty.



"GREAT RELIGION CLASS, POP! WE LEARNED ABOUT THE PROFITS AND THE PARAKEET."

beginning with starving children.

Children who are meat eaters are introduced to violence at an early age — the killing and abuse of helpless and dependent creatures which they very naturally love. Hunting has always been considered a sport and a challenge to many who feel we have the right to decide who shall die. This is part of our training as children, to be callous and hostile to cover up our own hurts. It's so understandable, yet so exhausting.

Secondly, we do not need meat for protein. There are sufficient sources of protein in soybeans, vegetables and dairy products in addition to the energy one derives from growing one's own food, getting close to the land, and then sharing it with others. It elevates us from physical and psychological survival to an opportunity for life. People who eat raw vegetables and fruits usually lose their taste and need for sweets. Cane sugar robs our bodies of vitamins (not to mention the high blood pressure, heart attacks and diabetes that it causes). Honey supplies vitamins B and C and never spoils. The Yoga philosophy has been around longer than Christianity and most Yogis live longer than most Christians (usually past 100). They usually die a death without disease. They consciously will their soul to leave their body. Their belief is that meat is bad for you. One who kills an animal takes on psychological imprints, impressions and fear syndromes of the slain animals as well as the toxic substances such as adrenaline, which are released into the animal's system as it is being slain. "One who inflicts pain on any living being is always restless."

Third: We have a moral commitment to the poor of the world. We subtly inflict violence on starving children by fattening animals for our consumption with food that is rightfully theirs. Tons of grain fed to animals could be used for people. Each U.S. citizen consumes, on the average, 1,850 pounds of grain per year, compared to 400 pounds in poor countries, mainly because we consume ours in meat and dairy products. Rich nations feed more grain to their livestock than the people of India and China combined consume directly, and these two countries represent more than one third of the human race.

More Letters On Page 12.

The Christian organization "Bread for the World" has provided me with another route for my social growth by giving me the facts as well as a means to provide financially and — most important — politically.

Karen Finucane McNamara
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Father Baker Delightful

Editor:

I would like to thank Father James Callan, the Knights of Columbus and all those responsible for the superb Magisterium Lectures at Our Lady of Mercy. Although unable to hear all three lectures, I was fortunate to hear Father Kenneth Baker, editor of the Homiletic and Pastoral Review. And what an inexpressible delight he was. How refreshing to hear a truly intelligent theologian staunchly defend the truths of the Faith; namely, the defense of Pope Paul VI. In an era where the very air is profaned with self-proclaimed infallible teachers, it was indeed a cherished rarity.

To all those whose efforts went into the success of the Magisterium Lectures, I thank you and truly hope it is but the beginning of many more. And from the more than 500 priests, sisters and laity at the first lecture, I cannot help but feel that I am far from being alone in this feeling.

Richard V. Hussar
340 Jordan Ave.
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Columnist Courageous

Editor:

Nancy Murphy's column is so intelligently written about subjects that should be read by every American that I wanted to compliment her on the courage she has that so many lack today.

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