

**Editorials**

**Stay Alert To Nazis**

We empathize with West German novelist Gunther Grass who said recently that he is sick and tired of the cliché that Germany is on the verge of a relapse to Nazism. He feels that it is a harmful prejudice.

It is easy to understand why a German would feel as Grass does. But at the same time he should realize that whether or not Nazism is finding any sort of rebirth in Germany it is rearing its ugly (and the word is used knowingly) head elsewhere in the world.

For instance, the American Nazi Party has been running a tape-recorded telephone message in Houston, Texas, encouraging killing. One of the tapes, according to Religious News Service, states: "We are calling for an all-white war against Jews and other non-whites... We are beginning a battle by offering a \$5,000 prize for every non-white killed during an attack on a white person."

A temporary court order has banned the message but a Texas Court of Civil Appeals has the case on the docket for Jan. 11 to consider the Nazis' request to resume running the tapes.

So whether or not Nazism is dead in Germany it is very evidently alive in other places, such as Houston, such as Milwaukee where the Nazi party ran a candidate who did reasonably in a mayoral election, and such as the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

We feel that it is worth risking some over-zealousness in opposing Nazis whenever and wherever they rise from the slime to keep them from every again assuming any authority.

**Bigotry**

We have allowed Father James Hewes more space than normal for an Opinion contribution, elsewhere on this page. We had planned to do an editorial along the same lines but Father Hewes' letter says it all in fine fashion.

We, too, resent appeals to anti-Catholic bigotry over the matter of abortion. The Catholic Church is not alone in opposition to the killing of unborn children nor does the Catholic hierarchy run the pro-life campaign which is mostly a grass roots development.

In the same pro-abortion context, members of the Mormon religion recently were linked to the Ku Klux Klan. This kind of blatant and sloppy bigotry does no good for those who argue for abortion on demand.

Abortion is wrong. People who argue for its liberalization are wrong. But as long as they do so reasonably the rest of us must respect their rights.

They, however, risk that respect with prejudiced appeals to the anti-Catholicism that still exists in this nation.

**Hustler**

One of the pitfalls of Christian practice is that it leaves one vulnerable to naivete or even gullibility. The alternative would be skepticism.

So when it was announced recently that Larry Flynt, publisher of Hustler magazine, has been converted to Christ and will change the content of his sex magazine, it was incumbent on Christians to rejoice and sing hallelujah, for the essence of Christianity is that the errant, the wayward, the unbeliever finally see the light.

However, and even at the risk of playing the skeptic, we think we had better wait to see the fruits of this conversion before joining in the chorus.

**Opinion**

**Religious Prejudice Rising Again**

**Editor:**

On the Dec. 21 show The Advocates, Ellen Leiter of the ACLU said that the Hyde Amendment (the law limiting Medicaid payments for abortion) was a congressional attempt to legislate along the views of one group, specifically the Roman Catholic Church.

She gave no factual information to back up her statement. I would like to disagree very strongly with her statement for the following factual reasons:

(1) The Hyde Amendment is **not** the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic Church teaches that **all direct** abortions are wrong (the Hyde Amendment would have allowed some direct abortions.) Whether one disagrees or not with the Roman Catholic Church's teaching, it is not the same as the Hyde Amendment as Ellen Leiter falsely stated.

(2) The English law on abortion which the United States originally adopted (which forbade abortions until the 1973 Supreme Court decision) Roman Catholics were not even allowed to sit on the Parliament at the time the law was enacted. So it was never a "Catholic law" that was adopted in our country.

(3) The Roman Catholic Church is not the only group opposed to abortion. There are many groups that are opposed to abortion, such as the Mormons, the Lutherans-Missouri Synod, the Greek Orthodox, the Baptist Convention, Orthodox Presbyterians, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Orthodox Jews. The National Association of Evangelicals represents perhaps 40 million, theologically conservative Protestants, who oppose abortion, along with many fundamentalist Protestants, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism are all unequivocal in their opposition to abortion. The Anglican Church officially opposed abortion (as stated in the Lambeth Conference) until recently.

(4) This opposition was verified in the referendum in North Dakota where 78% of the people voted against abortion, yet only 12% were Roman Catholic. In Michigan 63% of the people voted against abortion in their referendum, yet only 25% are Catholic.

(5) Many leading Protestant theologians and religious leaders have opposed abortion, such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, Emil Brunner, Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Helmut Thielicke, Otto Piper, Albert Outler, J. Robert Nelson, George Williams, F. H. Henry, Paul Ramsey, Billy Graham, Bruce Waltke, Francis Schaeffer, Jessie Jackson and Jimmy Carter.

**Placement Test Set**

**Editor:**

The Catholic High School Placement Test will be given at Aquinas Institute on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 8:15-11:45. I would like to ask all eighth grade pupils and their parents to consider a Catholic high school.

The four years of a teenager in high school are among the most formative years of life. In a world today where so many people are mixed up and confused, every chance for proper guidance that has proved to be trusted and true should be carefully analyzed.

To you who are parents, I say, "Give your youngster

the chance to consider a Catholic high school education - it could be a chance and a choice and a life-long blessing."

Remember the date of the entrance exam - Jan. 14, 8:15 to 11:45 at 1127 Dewey Ave. I assure you that you will never regret your decision.

**William F. McCarthy**  
Director of  
Public Relations  
Aquinas Institute

**Contributors Thanked**

**Editor:**

The Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities in behalf of the director, Catholic Family Center, the vicar, Urban Ministries, and director, Office of Human Development of the diocese of Rochester, are grateful to the Courier-Journal, Catholic Charities Christmas Fund for the "100 Neediest Cases" throughout the diocese of Rochester.

The board also wants to thank all contributors to the Courier-Charities Fund for their generosity for sharing themselves and their resources with the urban and rural poor of the diocese so that, hopefully, Christmas Day was radiant with hope rather than desolation.

May we, somehow, continue to be of service to the poor of our diocese in 1978.

**Maurice J. Tierney**  
Diocesan Director,  
Catholic Charities

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(6) One reason many people feel that most opposition to abortion is Catholic is that almost one-fourth of the people in the United States are Catholic. If, for example, one-fourth of the nation were Mormons or Lutherans, then people would probably think of abortion as a "Mormon" or "Lutheran" issue.

(7) When the Catholic Bishops or Catholic organizations testify before the Senate or speak out publicly on behalf of rights for migrant workers or for more equitable food distribution for the poor no one calls these "Catholic issues." Why isn't this considered "an attempt to legislate along the views of one group?"

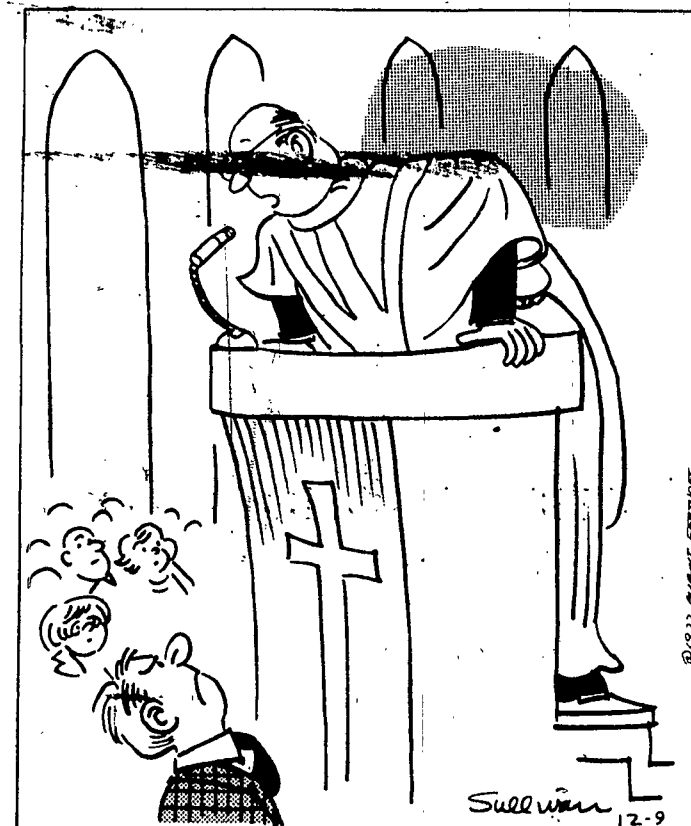
(8) The Catholic Church (as well as other Churches) is an assembly of people. It has its interests as many other groups do. American democracy is based on the interplay of divergent interest groups. It is invalid and biased to expect one substantial interest group—the Catholic Church—to be denied the right to speak their concerns (on abortion or migrant workers or other issues) to the government, as any other interest group might do. I am proud that the Catholic Church has spoken out and taken such a strong stand for life and against abortion on this as well as other issues of injustice.

(9) Our nation has been peopled by a majority of Christians, and to say that Christian morality may in no sense be reflected in law would be to say that morality as such may not be reflected in law. This would be an absurdity. Someone's morality is almost always reflected in the law. Clearly much of the criminal code is derived from principles of biblical, Jewish, Christian and other religious morality. Abortion is a human issue and an issue of justice. It is an issue that involves killing of innocent human life, which so many Christians, Jews, other religious people and even non-believers can commonly agree.

If the civil law happens to coincide with Catholic teaching it doesn't make it a "Catholic law." For example, laws against first degree murder and racial discrimination also reflect Catholic teaching (as well as Jewish teaching, Protestant teaching and even humanistic belief.)

(10) For these reasons Ellen Leiter's statement on Channel 21 is not only false but, as the data shows, a very bigoted and anti-Catholic statement that one would hope had disappeared after so many years in our country. As some of the studies have begun to show, religious prejudice against a minority has reared its ugly head once again.

**Rev. James E. Hewes**  
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"REALLY, SIR, THERE WASN'T ANYTHING PERSONAL IN THAT LAST REMARK... PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR PEW."

**Quicker Route**

An editorial in the Dec. 28 issue asked all interested in supporting the peace initiatives in the Middle East to let Menahem Begin know by writing to him in Tel Aviv. Undoubtedly messages sent to the Israeli prime minister in Tel Aviv would reach him but they really should be sent to Jerusalem, the nation's capital. The editorial also called for letters to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Cairo.

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.