

# Editorials

## Smoking

In our Raparound feature "Equal Time" this week students are asked if they consider smoking harmful. Naturally the consensus is that smoking is indeed harmful.

Yet despite medical evidence of the dangers of smoking, cigarette sales continue to boom, according to Religious News Service.

RNS reports that Worldwatch Institute, an independent research group, has found that this is true because of massive governmental subsidizing and the glamorous portrayal of smokers.

Regardless of the reasons, we wonder aloud about the morality of smoking. Quickly let us point out that we are not judging smokers but merely questioning the moral advisability of smoking in general.

Surely it is worth questioning a widely practiced pursuit that is harmful to the users and maybe even to innocent bystanders.

We hesitate to be too judgmental for there are other broad practices in our society that also are

harmful in much the same manner — overeating, for one.

Still we wonder. We ask our readers, what do you think?

## Aldo Moro

One of the difficulties of publishing a weekly newspaper is in keeping up with breaking events:

A case in point has been the kidnapping of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro. We have been trying to print the fact that Pope Paul VI has made several personal appeals for his release. But with the prisoner's death seeming imminent, we have not been able to do so for fear that he will be killed in the interim between our deadline and delivery. Hence we would have pleas for a life that had already been taken.

In his third appeal for Moro's life last week, Pope Paul said, "We cannot pass over the episode of the kidnapping of a man of such moral, political, academic, and social stature as Aldo Moro without fearing for the stability of our modern civic world. How can we stand by passively watching the anguish which has befallen this man? . . . We hope, in the name of God, that this drama will, in the interest of the aggressors, end in peace and tranquility."

We, of course, join the Holy Father in this simple prayer. We also hope that by the time this editorial is in our readers' hands, that Aldo Moro is a free man, safe from the bonds of terror.

## Bold Step

The general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, has applauded the approval of the Panama Canal treaties.

"We pray," Bishop Kelly said, "that the promise of greater justice and peace in the hemisphere symbolized by these treaties will be borne out in fact."

"As is well known, the bishops of the United States as well as those of Panama have not been absent from this discussion. We will continue to follow the new course of relations between our country and Panama over the coming years . . ."

We concur. We realize that the approval of the treaties does not guarantee smooth sailing for this country either in Panama or in the rest of Latin America. But our action is a bold step toward justice. And when justice is served, peace usually follows.

## and Opinions

### Gregorian Masses

Editor:

Father Ehmann's article on Gregorian chant in the April 19 issue, was concerned with the priceless liturgical treasure that is fast becoming an endangered species.

Since the first Sunday of Lent, the 12:15 Mass at Old St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester has been a Gregorian Mass. All sung parts are with Latin chants while the instructional parts are being done in the vernacular.

We hope to have a fuller participation of the congregation in the response and the ordinary in the near future.

Thomas Donahue  
Choir Master

### Fr. O'Malley Like Spring

Editor:

Thank you for giving us the freshness of Spring in your Courier-Journal (4-26-78) by allowing Father "Bill" O'Malley to share his thoughts with the entire Rochester diocese. For the past several years as a teacher in a neighboring school our paths have crossed. His dedication to the Church and its teaching mission, his warm and enthusiastic rapport with his co-workers and his untiring love and zeal is an inspiration for many of us in the field of education.

Fr. "Bill" is seen in the public eye much more than the rest of us because he dares to, and MAKES TIME, to stand up and be counted. What I and others can attest to, is his countless hours behind the scenes, his genuine love and respect for ALL persons, his mental and physical energies spent for

Christ and his commitment to his priesthood. So write on "Bill" for we are reading.

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### Columnist Criticized

Editor:

Father Hohman is truly a remarkable person; remarkable in that for one supposedly learned in the Catholic Faith he is quite at home uttering that which is opposite. It is extraordinary how he has managed to be in two diametrically opposed positions at the same time: remaining in a Catholic newspaper and standing amidst archaic beliefs no self-respecting Christian of any denomination would consider. In my humble opinion, and speaking for the Catholic point of view only, "The Open Window" can be viewed solely by those interested in the alternative to Catholicism.

Take, as an example, Father Hohman's handling of contraception. To justify contraception he states (COURIER-JOURNAL, MARCH, 29) that there are some Catholic theologians who maintain it uncertain "when precisely the human being becomes a human being." No, there are no Catholic theologians who feel thusly. There may be theologians who feel so, but there are no Catholic theologians who do, just as there are no Catholic theologians who feel it uncertain that there is life after death or sex after death or death after death. The whole thing is grossly meaningless. And although the Rev. Charles Curran's name was mentioned as presumably one of these "learned theologians" in all saneness, I cannot believe

any secularist of any worth taking Rev. Curran seriously, not to mention the practicing Roman Catholic.

Father Hohman states further that "it is not up to me to disturb their consciences," pertaining, of course, to those still practicing their ABCs (artificial birth control). Of course not. However, if St. Paul were here he would be bellowing our ears off as he did to the Corinthians "because your sadness led to repentance without regrets, leading to salvation" (1 Cor. 7: 9-19). If one's sights are on this world only and not the next, how easy it is to be like "mists whipped by the gale." (2 Peter 2:17)

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### Mission Literature

Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines direct to the foreign missions.

If those who wish to do so will send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature. Write to me.

Mary Conway  
14 Castle St.  
Cork, Ireland

### Improve Soil For Malnourished

Editor:

Recently I gave a talk at St. Augustine's in Rochester during which I deplored mankind's emphasis on human destruction as a valid means to reduce numerical population. My prepared text suggested several salivific technologies through which population stabilization can be achieved without resorting to the waste, debasement and mutilation of humanity

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Courier-Journal 1



"WE THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING IT CONVENIENT, BUT IT APPEARS WE'VE JUST CREATED ANOTHER LITTLE PROBLEM!"

itself. Subsequent discussion with a member of the audience that night revealed an additional scientific approach which I surely wish I had been aware of before I wrote the text. I hope to share this thought with your readers.

With proper and controlled treatment, top soil can be mined from the deltas of our large rivers — such as the Mississippi, the Colorado, the Sacramento or the Delaware — and can be used to reclaim soil-poor areas. Locations in the Gulf of Mexico, for instance, and thousands of land acres now unused, could become productive and life supportive. This is unquestionably a more humane step toward the elimination of malnutrition than the wholesale destruction of "unwanted" human life.

Mrs. Nancy Murphy  
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### Let's Print Ratings

Editor:

Thanks to John

Travolta and your April 19 article on the ratings of the film "Saturday Night Fever," we found that the Office of Film and Broadcasting (OFB) is still functioning. I can remember back to the time when the Courier-Journal listed their ratings each week.

Apparently the OFB has not given up its mission to "keep" the ratings business "honest," if they are reviewing 200 films each year. It would appear the Courier-Journal has given up on making these ratings available to its readers.

Let's give the parents and teenagers of the Rochester diocese the guidelines for film attendance.

John B. Spiggle  
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### A Holocaust Today?

Editor:

The T.V. series of the extermination of Jews is a frightening story of man's inhumanity to man. May it never be allowed again

is the wish of all good thinking people.

However, let us look at our life-style today. How many teenage girls are advised to abort the unwanted baby? How many married women take other forms of destroying their unborn child?

Is it any less a crime to scald an unborn fetus with saline? Hitler burned his enemies. Are our unborn children enemies?

Other forms of abortion also cause untold pain to the living child in the womb.

We tell each other "Let us not forget Hitler's sin, let us teach it to every generation."

I say we have forgotten and we are today copying the sin of genocide with even greater numbers. America is destroying herself with the blessing of the Supreme Court ruling on Abortion.

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