

**Editorials**

**Unwitting Detraction**

When Barry Goldwater was campaigning for the presidency some people opposed to him made it a practice in New York City to give the cabbie a nickel tip with the remark, "Remember to vote for Goldwater." Designed to make the loquacious taxi drivers enemies of the Arizona senator, such devices later came to be known as "dirty tricks" when brought to more destructive niceties by later politicians.

This time of the year when adherents of this or that candidate begin plastering their cars, particularly bumpers, with stickers proclaiming the names of their favorites, it sometimes seems that dirty tricks may still be in vogue. For a rude, careless driver to display a candidate's bumper sticker seems almost a deliberate ploy to hurt his chances. Often rude drivers do more to

hurt than help a politician — so often it almost could seem purposeful.

The same applies to areas other than politics. A reader reported such an unhappy example recently. Driving along University Avenue in Rochester, he was cut off brusquely by a driver who changed lanes in front of him without even signaling. At the next traffic light, the driver now in front of him held up traffic to inspect his hair then made a left turn, again without signaling. He performed in kind at the next light before making an un signaled right turn.

Such ill-mannered deportment could be, and has been, the subject of an editorial in itself. But what makes this particular case even more disturbing is the fact that the offending driver had a sticker on his car's bumper reading, "Lost? Jesus Christ says I am the way."

Obviously someone assuming such externals should realize he is placing Christianity and Jesus himself on display. Such drivers probably are forgiven by Christians and others of goodwill but still do more damage than edification to the cause.

And this does not merely apply to discourteous drivers. There are many in other situations who

fearlessly proclaim their Christianity then act in an unkind manner. Being a true Christian is an extremely difficult undertaking. Bumper stickers and lapel buttons do not make it easier.

Let's not allow anyone the chance to attribute our poor manners to Christianity.

**Good Wishes, WHEC**

We are happy to note that this area will be the site of the first television network affiliated station to be owned by a black-controlled company.

We wish Broadcast Enterprises Network, which is purchasing WHEC-TV from the Gannett Co. for a reported \$27 million, the very best of luck.

And we are grateful to Gannett officials for giving a minority business the opportunity in Rochester.

**and Opinions**

**Church Music Deserves Care**

**Editor:**  
I am a born and raised Catholic that has found herself in and out of Protestant churches for the last seven years in addition to my Sunday obligation. Why? I am a church musician a pianist-organist-vocalist.

While the Protestants regard music as a very integral part of their worship, the Catholics regard it as an oddity. This is not something that has developed over night. Much of it goes back to the idea that as long as there is a Sunday obligation, and the Catholic musician has to be there anyway, he should play or sing without monetary reimbursement. This, of course, completely discounts the fact that the church musician could spend hours weekly in preparation.

Also, there are no authoritative sources of Catholic church music. While each Protestant church has its own defined hymnal, the Catholic church becomes vulnerable to the preferences of the individual musician. Thus, a Catholic can walk into a church while on vacation and not recognize a single song that would have been sung in his home church.

Lastly, there seems to be a real problem among priests to deal with the church musician. They seemed to be concerned with hurting feelings of previous musicians. There is no reason why every Mass cannot have a musician, with one of the musicians taking the responsibility of coordinator. The position of church musician is strictly a professional one. There should be interviews and auditions to select the best qualified for the job.

I propose that the Catholic church develop a program in which music is a vital integral part of every service. In order to accomplish this, the Church must first designate a budget for the purpose of acquiring music and paying the musician. If the church musician feels that he does not want to accept the money, he can turn it back into the

collection, but it should nevertheless be in the budget.

Secondly, we must strive for a reliable source of church music. This is something that comes over a period of years, but it will never happen if we don't realize that it is a necessity.

Thirdly, a "Code of Ethics" must be developed so that the parish priest knows how to deal in the professional world of the church musician.

My music means a lot to me; I find it disappointing that through negligence and ignorance other Catholics cannot share my joy in music.

Maria D'Alesio  
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**Study Asked On ERA**

**Editor:**  
As I was reading the "and Opinion" letters of Aug. 2, I was inspired to ask a public service of this newspaper. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murphy mention that in the ERA document there is no mention of legal rights for battered women and their children. This is true as I have also searched the ERA draft for the legal protection of women in this jeopardy.

It is also true that there is much ambivalence in the ERA draft and furthermore true that many people pro and con have not read the document when you actually question them on this.

I would very much appreciate if the Courier-Journal would consider publishing the ERA document for all to peruse and prayerfully evaluate.

There is so much in the first ten amendments and as was stated in the Murphys' letter, the 14th amendment protects the rights of persons. It would be well for us to also review the value of these in light of the proposed ERA.

Discussion groups that would come together to carefully examine these documents in the light of Christian ideals could render a valuable con-

tribution to us all.  
Ruth Hauser  
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**Editor's Note:** The proposed Equal Rights Amendment reads: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

**Is Christ Weeping?**

**Editor:**  
The King is Dead! Long live the King! Two million dollars budgeted for the elaborate preparations for the election of our new Pope, also chairman of the Board of our multi-billion dollar corporation. The world was witness to the royal pomp and circumstance and political deliberations involved in the transition. John Paul now resides in the Vatican "Palace" and will begin his reign as leader of our corporation which espouses the Christian message of love, justice, poverty of spirit, and selflessness. Somehow I don't believe it all fits together. Somebody should tell those old fellas (The Roman Curia) that their

display of strength and power is indeed real, indeed politically ingenious, and indeed newsworthy, but not necessarily Christian. And the conservative traditionalists cry out in wonder at why so many Catholics don't take all of the Papal encyclicals seriously! Christ wept at the sight of ancient Jerusalem. I wonder if he's weeping now at the sight of Vatican City and the proud, powerful, hierarchal Church built by men claiming to be God's only true voice. One thing's for sure; our Church has a long way to go.

Terry Sweeney  
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**Timely Notice**

**Editor:**  
Isn't it good that we have been alerted to the Bimillennial of Our Lady's Birth resulting in a special celebration by Legion of Mary members Sept. 8. Archbishop Sheen the piece de resistance. Special thanks are due Rev. Joseph M. Egan for sharing his insights last year via a St. Patrick's, Elmira, bulletin.

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**Original Sin Discussed**

**Editor:**  
The article "The Problem of Original Sin" by Msgr. William H. Shannon (Aug. 23) contains some very unorthodox statements.

Msgr. Shannon writes: "Original sin, many theologians are saying today, is not so much a matter of heredity, and therefore something that has to be washed away, but a matter of environment, and therefore something that we need help to overcome. It is not so much something unborn something as to be born into. It is the environment of evil in the world; a condition of alienation and selfishness built up by the abuse of human freedom. Our deliverance from it is not an instantaneous experience, but the gradual result of life-time experience."

What nonsense! By the sin of Adam and Eve, Original sin, mankind lost sanctifying grace, the divine life of God in the individual soul. Through baptism this divine life is restored to the soul. The soul is born again; this time in the order of divine life. The disgrace of being born a mere human being instead of a child of God is wiped away. This disgrace

is commonly spoken of under a metaphor — the stain of Original sin; baptism is referred to as washing away this stain. Actually, this stain is not a physical, or even a spiritual, reality: it is a lack of something, sanctifying grace or divine life. The stain is the disgrace of lacking the divine life at birth. When through Baptism the soul receives the divine life, the disgrace (or stain, or blot) is removed.

In speaking of Original sin, we must be careful to distinguish between the loss of sanctifying grace, a negative concept, and the corruption of our nature resulting from Original sin, which is inherited and which is a positive element. This concupiscence, or proneness to evil, is not removed by baptism. It is this concupiscence, the consequence of Original sin, which Msgr. Shannon seems to confuse with the actual sin, the lack of holiness, or grace, in the soul. Concupiscence is not removed by baptism; and if concupiscence is identified with Original sin, a possibility implied by Msgr. Shannon, then, obviously, Original sin is not removed by Baptism.

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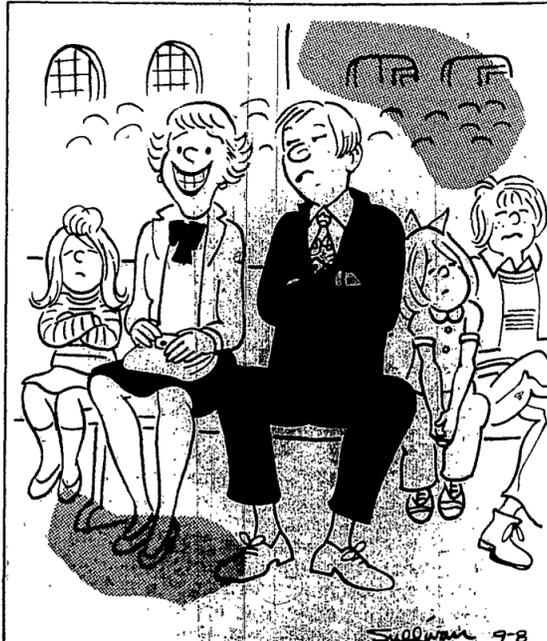
**Guidelines**

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1½ pages, typed, double-spaced, with names and addresses.

We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

We encourage readers to submit opinions but since we try to print letters from as many different contributors as possible we will publish no more than one letter a month from the same individual.



"THIS IS A SERMON ON DEATH, EMILY — STOP THINKING ABOUT THE KIDS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL!"