

**Editorials**

**World Class**

Tai and Randy. How badly we felt for them when a pulled muscle dashed their Olympic hopes! And we sincerely empathized with other athletes whose big opportunities were erased by spills, freak occurrences, etc., after training for the games "for four solid years," as announcers repeated.

Indeed there was a measure of sadness to such mishaps and it is altogether proper for the rest of us to commiserate.

But we should also maintain the perspective that the Olympics, despite all the fanfare and attention, is still just fun and games. Entertainment. Diversion.

We should remember that there are countless others missing out on a much more important level — life itself. Through circumstances beyond their control. Through indifference. Through bigotry.

Think of it. Their one chance. Their one life.

And we must apply the thought to ourselves. We each of us has only life — one chance to do it right. We must practice faithfully every moment. We must develop the muscle of charity as well as the sinew of principle.

We all have the opportunity to become "world

class" human beings. But much as the Olympian in training, we must work at it assiduously.

We have been given a saving grace, however. When we fail, we can get up and try again. And we must if our individual times here are to count for anything.

**Nyet to Moscow**

A, B and C are neighbors. A is persisting in terrorizing C into doing something C finds objectionable. And A further announces the intention of continuing the campaign until C gives in.

B, as is everyone else, is aware of the situation. Can B continue to socialize with A and maintain that such has nothing to do with A's treatment of C because B does not really approve of that?

We think not.

And though obviously an oversimplification, we think the logic applies to our situation in relation to the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

How could we, in good conscience, or any other nation, socialize with the Soviet Union on its home grounds while it is busy brutalizing other people on other fields?

We find foolish the argument that it is all right to participate in the Moscow games because the Olympics are non-political. In fact, how can anyone claim the

Olympics are non-political when certain nations exploit them for self-glory?

Unless the Afghanistan situation changes dramatically, we feel that nations who participate at Moscow are either deliberately ignoring or condoning open brutality and disregard for law.



**Ironically, Mishka the bear, Russia's symbol of the 1980 Summer Olympics, smiles down on the scene in Kabul, Afghanistan.**

**And Opinions**

**How About 500 Prayers?**

Editor:

In the spiritual exuberance following the close of the Church Unity Octave, I was thrilled to read the letters from readers about Hans Kung, especially the one that ended, "One voice might not be heard. Let's hear from fifty voices!"

I agreed, "Bravo! Let's hear from 500!" But as the days went on, since I didn't write the letter, it seemed to have lost its value — until this evening — when I picked up the Courier-Journal and read that the collegiality among the Dutch bishops, the Roman cardinals and the Pope led to a total agreement, without anyone feeling pushed around.

This time I am writing to ask for those 500 voices that will call out the Holy Spirit to

ask His aid in overcoming the differences that can lead us astray and destroy the unity of the Church, but at the same time, to protect our individual differences and academic freedom that are the means of opening new insights of understanding, heights of learning, and inspired appreciation both in the church as a whole and in the hearts and minds of the individual members. A healthy, vital Church is a growing Church — growing in depth of understanding, growing in range of horizon, growing in numbers — as we drop the "barnacles of provincialism" and see the underlying oneness of faith.

To achieve this end, I propose that 500 people volunteer to write to Bishop Clark, promising that they will pray, in their own way, to the Holy Spirit, asking Him to enlighten all the leaders and theologians — from those known as well as Pope John Paul II and Hans Kung to the

obscure and even the unordained. No prayer goes unheard and a chorus of daily prayers will surely not go unanswered.

One consideration: to lighten the load of 500 letters coming to the Courier-Journal office, would each of you try to get as many people as possible to sign one letter.

If Bishop Clark gets 40 or 50 letters with 10 or 20 names on each one, I am sure he will be with us, in spirit as we offer our silent prayers.

Remember, "more is wrought through prayer than this world dreams of."

**Katherine M. Benn**  
188 Fairhaven Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

**700 Club Questions**

Editor:

Re the letter from Mr. A. Veith on the 700 Club in the Courier, Feb. 13, perhaps it would be well to take another look at this program in light of the view expressed by Father Frank Sheedy in the Feb. 17 Sunday Visitor.

"This program, as are most of the other TV 'gospel hours' is an outreach evangelism of fundamental Protestantism. Catholics do view it and some contribute to it and for this reason an occasional Catholic guest is included. While much of the fundamental biblical doctrine coincides with Catholic teaching, those who run the program are not Catholics and hence do not agree with Catholic claims or doctrine. For them, the Bible is the sole rule of faith and Catholic Tradition and teaching mean little."

As a consistent viewer of the 700 Club for many months, I have sometimes wondered if in the "vaudevilian antics" of Pat Robertson, Ben Kinchlow & Co. there was a lot of subtle, anti-Catholic propaganda, i.e. Kinchlow once commented to a guest that he (Kinchlow) had

gone to a Catholic high school, but nothing had turned him on there like his experience with the 700 Club.

Despite the tremendous appeal of the 700 Club's ecumenical, non-denominational approach, I do believe that there should be a great amount of caution used in evaluating the effectiveness of the 700 Club.

**Catherine M. Quinn**  
2100 Monroe Ave, Apt. 225  
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

**No Room On the Bus?**

Editor:

Some observations by a concerned neighbor in regard to the recent decision of the administration of Waterloo Central Schools to perpetuate, illogically, a distorted and biased interpretation of our country's Constitution.

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, 23 sixth grade pupils of St. Mary's School, Waterloo, were anxiously anticipating a trip to Rochester to the Shrine Circus. This annual event is arranged through the generosity of the Shrine for all fifth or sixth grade pupils, public and private, in the Rochester area. Five minutes before the agreed upon arrival time, Sister Catherine, principal of St. Mary's, was informed that there would be no room on the buses for these children — thus cavalierly denying them promised transportation.

By what tortuous flight of misguided imagination could anyone seriously believe that, accommodating 23 students from a Catholic school on a school bus, for a circus performance, could possibly compromise the "separation of church and state"? Don't the parents of these children, many of whom have brothers and sisters in Waterloo High, also pay school taxes, including that portion allotted for the purchase and use of school buses? It would seem that Roman Catholicism in the United States now has the only alternative life style against which it is legally and

laudably possible to discriminate.

Legalistic rationalizations aside, this decision was a callous disregard of even the most elementary concepts of courtesy and cordial community relations. It not only was NOT in the best interests of the total community, it was discriminatory, bigoted, unjust and divisive. Parents have a right to expect, and a duty to demand, wiser, more rational and responsible judgments from those charged with the administration of their schools.

**Mrs. Marie Polzinetti**  
108 Troy St.  
Seneca Falls, N.Y. 13148

**Religious Illiterates**

Editor:

The Pope just got through calling the Dutch Catholic Church on the mat. Perhaps other countries should be requested to hold their National Church Synods in Rome.

We complain about high school kids in many states unable to read or write. Who's responsible?

How many Catholics are admitted to Confirmation — just because of age — who are religious illiterates? Children in the 3rd grade do not say their prayers simply because they don't know them — not even the Lord's Prayer. Who's responsible?

Candidates for the priesthood are passed for ordination, in dioceses all over the country, on the word of some liberal seminary rector. Push them through the assembly line. We're short of clergymen.

And take a look at our convents! And so on down the line — our whole gamut of Catholic education needs overhauling. The Dutch Church seems not to be the exception but the rule. How many argue that Judas got through under the eyes of Christ Himself. But are we sure the Rev. Iscariot was ever ordained? A subdeacon perhaps!

People of God, let us pray.  
**C. A. Irwin**  
125 St. Paul St.  
Apt. 1502  
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

**Editorial Assailed**

Editor:

Your recent editorial amazes me. Such concern for those on death row who have had a choice. A star for the Governor. How ironic. The Governor condones the murder of thousands of innocent children by abortion.

The Pope and Mother Teresa speak out often about abortion but in our parishes we have to choose words like respect life so not to offend the community. If we're lucky one homily a year may be offered up to the unborn child.

We are here for one reason TO PRAISE GOD; is this how we do it, sacrifices of unborn children. Christ have mercy on our souls.

**Sue Marcocci**  
Park Settlement Road  
Owego, N.Y. 13827

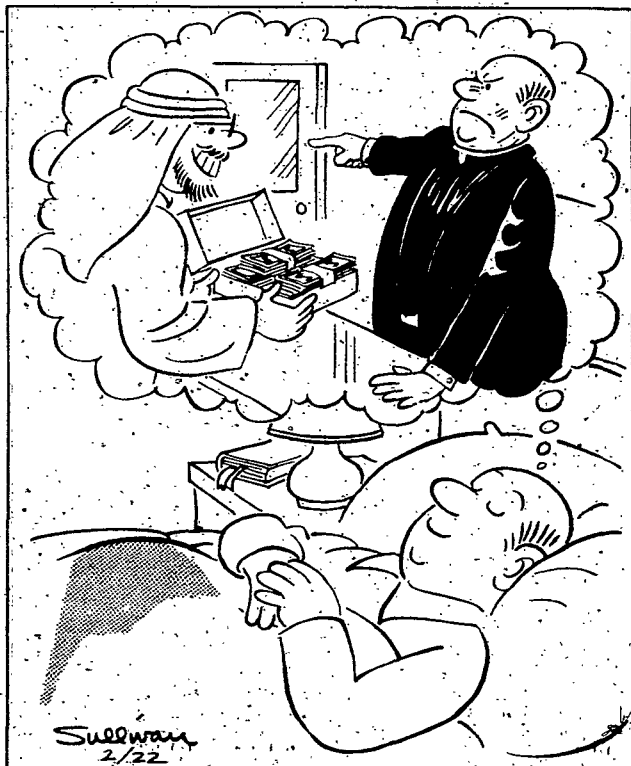
**Guidelines**

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 1 1/2 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.



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