

Editorials

Arrogance

The very fact that racist Dr. William Shockley is involved in it should give a clue as to the nature of the California experiment aimed at producing "super-intelligent" humans through artificial means.

The narrow-minded viewpoint of the very men planning the venture is proof in itself of its folly. The project is to use the sperm from Nobel Prize winners to produce mentally superior offspring. This is not a new idea; Hitler had the same germ of thought and he was no Nobel Prizist.

The tendency is to become emotional over all this and many already have, branding the scheme Naziism, racism, elitism and assorted and sundry other isms. So in the interest of not resorting to quick, passionate reaction, we present here some of the reasoned responses to the project.

The Rev. J. Robert Nelson, a theologian-ethicist of Boston University, said, according to the Associated Press, "The idea that you can breed superior people the same way you breed superior cattle inevitably leads to a doctrine of super-race... what it amounts to is, an engineered elitism." It has, he said, a "very limited,

distorted perspective" of what constitutes being human and reduces human breeding to "animal husbandry."

A conference of theologians last year condemned such genetic engineering, saying it wrongly presumes "the power to decide what kind of human beings are desired and what are not" and assesses them for "instrumental value" not their "intrinsic value."

We happen to like the reasoning of Father Richard McCormick of Georgetown University's Kennedy Institute for Ethics: It raises a whole scenario of frightful problems, among them it presumes "a preference for technical intelligence over other qualities such as moral sensitivity."

And, Religious News Service reports, Dr. Paul Ramsey Princeton University religion department made a very cogent point when he said, "The human race needs compassion more than it needs intelligence" and said that he would rather see more people like Mother Teresa than those with the "arrogance" of Dr. Shockley.

Why then, if so many can see through the superficiality of the project, has it gotten this far? Probably for two reasons: we all have an inordinate respect for scientific intelligence; a society that has already gone with such reproductive travesties as abortion on demand has already been made vulnerable for succeeding steps into immoral tinkering.

Consistency

Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, in announcing his support of the repeal of Virginia's involuntary sterilization laws, used the occasion to make several cogent, related points.

He said that anyone opposing such sterilization, to be consistent, must also oppose capital punishment, abortion and "in vitro" experimentation.

"We must be consistent in our response to all forms of injustice," he said in a letter to diocesan. "We can learn to be pro-life across the board."

This is a theme we have often expounded on and which, frankly, many fail to endorse. If one is pro-life in the case of the unborn, and everyone should be, how can one then support death in the issue of capital punishment? The reverse also holds. If those who see the death penalty as the ultimate violation of human rights, don't also oppose the killing of the unborn then their premise is questionable.

Beth Stone, managing editor of Religion Today, writes about Bishop Sullivan's position on the opposite page.

And Opinions

700 Club Supported

Editor:

After reading in the March 5 issue of the Courier-Journal, the article by Ed Briggs, entitled "The Electronic Church — Is Its Message Cheap Religion?", my heart resounds with an emphatic "No."

Since "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16), we should not question the means God is using to get this message across today. All we are and have comes from Him, so television is His too. Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born anew." The wind of the Holy Spirit blows where it wills, and we should thank our heavenly Father for His great love and mercy, that He is allowing souls who might otherwise be lost, to come to know His divine Son right in the intimacy of their own homes. Many of these people have never been in a church and many others have dropped out for various reasons.

The 700 Club and other Christian TV and radio presentations, are preaching Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead. God said if we would "lift Jesus up" He would draw all men to Him. His Name is being highly exalted on the airwaves today, through the preaching of the Word and personal testimonies of thousands of people, so we can expect the wonderful manifestations of God's love that we are seeing.

Rather than oppose God's work, let all of us who are Christian join hands and hearts, binding ourselves together to form a mighty bulwark against the enemy. God wants a united body!

For those who do not know about Pat Robertson, host of the 700 Club, get a copy of his book, "Shout it From the Housetops", and see how God called him into service when he was very young, and how he faithfully endeavored to follow God's will. We are seeing the results of an obedient servant on 700 Club today, and are reminded of

Isaiah 55:10-11: "As the rain and snow come down from heaven and stay upon the ground to water the earth, and cause the grain to grow and to produce seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry, so also is my Word. I send it out and it always produces fruit. It shall accomplish all I want it to, and prosper everywhere I send it."

Let's thank our merciful Father for renewing our minds with Christian television, that we need not be constantly badgered with negativism so prevalent in our various media today. Also, let's trust Him to complete the work He has begun in the souls He has touched on television or radio, — only He can do that and He will!

Mrs. Alice B. Maybee
101 Woodcroft Dr.
Rochester, N. Y. 14616

Editor's Note: Readers may be interested in a further article on the electronic church, Page 1.

Nestle Boycott Supported

Editor:

In response to the letter from A.W. Narducci, M.D., Albany, N.Y. on March 5, I would like to address the following points re: the use of infant formula in poor countries and the Nestle Boycott.

1) The suggestion was made that washing in contaminated water needs no distinction from drinking it. Having just returned from Guatemala where I researched the effects of polluted water, there is a significant difference between using it for external use and ingesting it. The immunities in breastmilk fight any external infection or break in the skin that may have been contacted with impure water. Also these same antibodies are vital in the early months to immune the child to the high bacteria level in the water, for when weaning time does occur. Dr. Derrick Jelliffe, former chairman of the Pan American Health Organization, author of a dozen books on malnutrition and having 25 years ex-

perience in practicing medicine in Third World Countries goes so far as to say that breastfeeding and its prolongation may well mean the difference between life and death to an infant:

2) Literally dozens of research data conclude that dilution of artificial formula contributes to thousands of cases of marasmus every year. In a recent PAHO report, a study in Barbados found "over 80 percent of the women who were exclusively bottle feeding had substantially over-diluted, making in several cases, a four-day supply last as long as three weeks." Similar studies and findings were found in Bombay, Indonesia, Kingston (Jamaica), South Africa, and Peru.

3) I too agree that these are not stupid people. It is merely a question of inability to pay for a full-week's supply. Alan Berg, a nutritionist with the World Bank, reports that "A laborer in Uganda may need to spend as much as 33 percent of his daily wage for a 6 month old baby's supply; in Chili, 20 percent; in Tanzania, 50 percent."

4) Company policy to print on can labels "Breast milk is Best" is in compliance with Third World government regulations. But it doesn't really matter what a label says when only 35 percent of the women between the ages of 18-35 can read. And if all parties agree, governments, doctors, scientists and even you and I, that breastmilk is vital in the first three months, then why are free samples and discount coupons given to new mothers in maternity wards? Why does Nestle pipe in music into the nursery of Filipino hospitals where their product is promoted?

5) No one is in favor of removing infant formula from the market. (It should be made available for the estimated, 5% of the women who are physically, or psychologically unable to breastfeed.) Rather it should be put on the shelf like lettuce no sophisticated advertising, no high pressured sales promotion, just there.

6) And finally, Dr. Narducci says the boycott is actually an indirect attack on the free-enterprise system. Such an "attack" was recently published in Oct. 1979, by the World Health Organization Unicef Conference on Infant Feeding Practices in A Third

World Countries. The statement by consensus reads "poor infant feeding practices and their consequences are one of the world's major problems, and to a great extent it is a Man-made problem and must be considered as a reproach to our science and technology and/or social and economic structures."

To put pressure on Nestle, the largest seller of artificial formula in poor countries, by supporting the international boycott is a very small but effective way of voicing our Christian concern for needless suffering.

Carol Crossed
Rochester INFACC
Infant Formula Action
Coalition
715 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Coming Impression

Editor:

Father Cuddy offered a mini retreat at St. Vincent de Paul's in Corning this week.

We offer the enclosed as a testimonial.

If you think the waters muddy.

We offer you, Father Cuddy.

The right side came through, loud and clear.

It almost made the people cheer.

The Church, a prayer and confession.

Went by too fast in succession.

Just simple words for simple folk.

And sprinkled here and there, a joke.

The love of God and love of man.

Will fit His very basic plan.

He left His Church to guide and teach.

Everything's within our reach.

Most fancy Dans will come and go.

They take you high and leave you low.

Lean to the right, enjoy the sight.

The Huckster's there with all his might.

Daniel Kilgrew
174 Fuller Avenue
Corning, N.Y. 14830

Looking Back . . .

75 Years ago this week — (From the pages of the Courier-Journal) Under a Page 1 headline "St. Mary's Hospital": "Patients in hospital Feb. 1, 1905, 127; admitted 113; births 4; died 8; discharged 114; remain in hospital, March 1, '05 — 118. No pay patients, 32; private, 51; city, county and towns, 18; ward-pay, 17; total 118. Total ambulance calls, 83; hurry calls, 11; cases transferred to hospital, 67; to homes and stations, 12; not taken nor cared for, 4. Two new names have been added to the staff, Dr. Philip Conboy, who succeeds Dr. Rider as oculist and aurist, and Dr. Kathleen Buck as obstetrician."

Witty saying: "A little man imagines his contrariness is will power."

And editorials of the day were a little more political and hard-hitting for a Catholic newspaper. "As might be expected the New York 'Times' finds much to criticize in President Roosevelt. It could not be representative of what it stands for and do otherwise . . . It is true that led by oily-tongued and Machiavellian bigots, Congress did vote to discontinue governmental aid to the only schools which ever did a particle of real, lasting good to the Indians — the Catholic schools began and fostered by the Society of Jesus, the greatest missionary force that has yet reached the great northwest." After absolving Teddy of any blame, the editorial switched to outright worship of the President: "One of the most remarkable of living men, indeed one of the most remarkable Americans of any generation . . ."

50 years ago this week — The lead front page story: "For the first time in the history of the Diocese of Rochester, an appeal was read Sunday at all Masses . . . asking priests and people to unite in doing everything possible to relieve the unemployment situation. This appeal came from the Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hern, DD, Bishop of the Diocese . . . As concrete evidence of the interest of the Church . . . Bishop O'Hern pointed out in his letter that a building program amounting to over \$2,000,000 will be gotten under way in the Diocese at the opening of Spring."

Listed among the projects: "A million-dollar addition to St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira; erection of a new church in St. Alphonsus parish, Auburn; erection of a new church in St. Francis parish, Phelps; new schools in Holy Cross and Lady of Good Counsel parishes, Rochester; new rectory for St. Patrick's, Owego; hall and convent for St. Mary's Church, Dansville; completion of new church now under way and the erection of a new rectory, at Seneca Falls; completion of St. Casimir is new school, now under way, in Elmira; completion of the new Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, now under way in Rochester; the erection of an infirmary to cost approximately \$400,000 at St. Ann's Home for the Aged, and other important work . . ."

Those were the days!

25 years ago this week — First basketball team, comprised (sic) of freshmen, to represent McQuaid Jesuit High School" were pictured. The names: Tom Doland, Jack Edwards, Jack Button, Tom Schaller, Bill Shea, George Vacca, Paul McGrath, Pete Geles, Anthony Yasback, Fred Hale, Frank Oberkoetter, Jerry Hickey, Jim Blood, Jerry Locklin, Jim Clapp, Cary Miller. Coach was George Monagan.

10 years ago this week — Headline! — Finance Problems Force Closing of King's Preparatory. And the story revealed, "Bishop Hogan announced the demise of King's Prep to students and parents on Monday. Students will be accommodated in other Catholic high schools of the county but no plans have been made for the use or the disposal of the Buffalo Road property." A bottle of Moxie to anyone who knows what the building is used for now.

Inside, back in 1955, "Z Voted Top Film by Church Critics" and "McQuaid Beats Mooney for Diocesan Crown (basketball)."