

Editorials

Not Funny

Now that time has provided some perspective and cooling down, some points should be made concerning the racial slur made by a disc jockey over a Rochester radio station.

We strongly agree that black people had every right in the world to be incensed over what the disc jockey thought was funny. At least one other minority was subject to the same type "humor" by the same person, although in not nearly as bigoted a fashion.

But the confrontation over the black "joke" seems to have been resolved, though not to the satisfaction of all.

We would like to consider the reaction briefly. First, as we have said, we think the black community, and by extension all of us regardless of color, were entirely correct in protesting strongly and publicly. We think all minority groups should follow that example, and that includes Catholics.

And we were edified to see non-blacks equally upset at the public expression of bigotry which most certainly has no relation to humor. It was rather a crude, insensitive, condescending insult to people of God.

Which brings us to another type of reaction we have read and heard before in such cases. This goes something like "We are being oversensitive. What the world needs now is a bit of humor."

Usually the person voicing such nonsense has not

been insulted and when they say "we," they are not really included.

True, it can be healthy to poke fun at oneself. But when such belittling is turned on others that is another story, and not funny at all.

To say that we should all learn to laugh at ourselves is platitudinous. The point is that insults passed under the guise of humor are unacceptable, particularly when aimed at oppressed and ostracized minorities.

We hope that those directly involved in the situation concerning the racial slur have learned this lesson. We further hope that all the rest of us learn the same lesson, for until we do, such embarrassments and the attitude they symbolize will persist.

and Opinions

Gannett Story 'Old News'

Editor:

It seems that every time the Gannett monopoly runs out of new news it digs up old news to reheat old controversies. The Upstate feature on women clergy (April 6) is a prime example. Once again, aspiring priestesses sobbed about how they love the Church but it doesn't care about them, the Pope is narrow-minded, they are victims of sex discrimination because the Church is run by men, etc., etc. ad nauseum.

Once again, Bishop Clark was put on the defensive regarding priestesses. Like a true shepherd, he defended the Magisterium from the wolves. All true Catholics in the Rochester diocese should defend him in this matter and sustain him with prayers and sacrifices. He assuredly has mine.

Some of the "Catholic" women interviewed in the Upstate article professed a deep love for the Church. If they really love the Church, they will ponder these words from the document Lumen Gentium (25) from Vatican II: "Bishops who teach in communion with the Roman pontiff, are to be revered by all as witnesses to divine and Catholic truth, the faithful, for their part, are obliged to submit to their bishops' decision, made in the name of Christ in matters of faith and morals, and to adhere to it with a ready and respectful allegiance of mind."

While professing their love for the Church, however, the "Catholic" women interviewed by Upstate want to change its whole structure to achieve their goal. As the Bishop pointed out, Church's structure will never change and they will "have to make some decisions." The logical conclusion is that they should realize they have lost their faith and should no longer regard themselves as Catholics.

Jean M. Lloyd 65 Glendale Park Rochester, N.Y. 14613

No Support For Chest

Editor:

With regret I have again decided not to continue my support of this year's United Community Chest Campaign. Last year the funding of Planned Parenthood, Inc., was my one and only reason in making this decision. This

year I have two.

The other reason is the Chest's refusal to fund Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester, a modest \$34,000. The request was refused because Planned Parenthood (receiving \$232,000 from Community Chest in 1979 in addition to federal funds) stated they could provide the instructions at less expense. This is difficult to believe since Planned Parenthood (a multi-million dollar international organization) has an all-paid staff whereas NFP of Rochester is all volunteer with the exception of the director. Support of Planned Parenthood and refusal to fund NFP also contradicts the purpose of the Chest as stated in the Organizational Handbook: "The purpose of the United Community Chest of Greater Rochester is to promote volunteerism and to support the voluntary organizations that provide services and opportunities essential to personal well-being and self-respect."

For those who are unfamiliar with NFP of Rochester, it offers an alternative means of family planning which enables a couple to plan their family in harmony with nature without the use of artificial contraceptives. NFP is a non-sectarian organization of about 50 actively involved people including: 15 board members, 16 teaching couples and 8 members of a special Medical Committee.

Most people are familiar with the name Planned Parenthood but are not fully conscious as to what they do. I suggest they take the time to find out.

To continue my monetary support to the Chest would indicate that I condone Planned Parenthood's anti-life, anti-family, anti-religious thrust. I will use the "Guideline for Giving" and continue to contribute directly to organizations which are not presently funded by the Chest, but provide a much needed service to the community; NFP of Rochester is a case in point.

I urge the Community Chest to discontinue the funding of Planned Parenthood. Their existence is not in harmony with human life and the betterment of the Rochester community. I urge all who share these views to voice their concern to the Chest and funnel their charitable contributions elsewhere.

Earl A. Knab 22 Southcross Trail Fairport, N.Y. 14450

Let's Stop Smut Movies

Editor:

So Judge Harold Burke has ruled in favor of the "peep show" operators continuing their indecent operations.

Unfortunately, this decision has struck another hard blow to decency and justice and is helping to drag this country down morally.

I do not know how any decent-minded person, especially a judge, who is supposed to uphold morality, can rule in favor of these sleazy operations. To those of us unschooled in ways of circumventing the law, it sounds as though he is bending over backwards to favor indecency.

I'm sick and tired of legislators, making decisions which, in effect, say it's all right to show any filthy, immoral X-rated movie but it's not all right to say a prayer in school.

As an overseas veteran of World War II, as well as a member of the community, I feel their responsibilities as public servants should be more toward protecting the moral good of the general public than toward those who will pollute the mind.

We veterans fought long and hard and many died to protect the freedom this country guarantees. At that time, the term "5th Column" meant subversion from within and this is just what this decision has done. It has legally allowed these people to attack human morals and has given them a license to show films and sell books depicting the most despicable and degenerate acts the mind can conceive.

When I read recently of the remarks made by the judge who sentenced the Mafia "B" team, I thought, "Here is a judge who calls a spade a spade and tells it like it is." He "gave 'em hell" in the Harry Truman tradition and he came through as morally tough. Then I read Judge Burke's decision to allow these smut peddlers to continue and I was disappointed and disgusted.

Larry C. Kleinhenz 4590 9 Mile Point Road Fairport, N.Y.

NFP Chief Sends Thanks

Editor:

With each new day, I am amazed at the phone calls and letters I receive requesting information and instruction of thanking us "just for being

there." I wish to acknowledge and pass this gratitude along to those involved in the Natural Family Planning organization. They provide a great and very needed service in our diocesan community.

In 1978 and 1979 (our first two years), 287 married and engaged couples received instruction from trained and certified instructors. In addition, 3,538 others received information and education on fertility awareness through information sessions and presentations in schools, churches and community organizations.

I wish to thank past instructors Al and Marty Cardona, Don and Joyce Fiorentino, Bill and Bobbie Jackson, Jim and Pat Robinson, Lon and Carol Snook, present instructors Frank and Marty Foley, Nick and Beryl Iven, Earl and Judy Knab, Ed and Maxine McDonald, Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara, Doug and Nancy Osborn, Norm and Sandy Pawlak, Bernie and Joan Weis, and Ron and Mary Young. More than 70 other volunteers assisted with program services. These volunteers provided an estimated \$16,000 worth of services in 1979.

Special thanks to Dr. Frank and Marty Foley, our Medical Directors who serve as medical consultants and train our instructors; and to the Natural Family Planning Education board of directors for their commitment to quality NFP services. Theresa M. Petracca, Director of Rochester, N.Y., Inc. 89 Genesee St. Rochester, N.Y. 14611

Urges Use Of Airwaves

Editor:

Re Mr. and Mrs. Tanguay's letter lauding CBN and the 700 Club.

Compare the marvelous affirmation of the Holy Eucharist contained in Dominicae Cenae, the most recent apostolic letter of Pope John Paul II reminding the Catholic, from the bishop to the humblest layman, of the profound mystery and reality of Christ's presence in the Eucharist and our duty to adore, reverence and love the Holy Eucharist where "Jesus awaits in this sacrament of love," with the outright denial of the true presence on CBN and the 700 Club.

Also compare them with other areas of our Catholic faith, such as forgiveness of sins by priests, even in artificial contraception, the primacy of Peter, indissolubility of marriage, baptism and the uniqueness of Mary, either directly, subtly, routinely and sublimely assailed by CBN. I am appalled at the un-



derutilization of the airwaves by Catholics. The only Catholic media presentation I can think of is Father Edward Shamon's "On Guard," which is pure gold. As fundamentalist Protestants are following Catholic example in starting Christian schools, we should be following CBN's example and set up a Catholic broadcasting network. Imitation, after all, is the sincerest form of praise.

Louis J. Pasqua 133 Exchange St. Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Unfortunate Insensitivity

Editor:

I wish to direct your attention to an article appearing on the front page of April 9, concerning religious vocation, which says in part:

"Not everyone can measure up to the challenge it offers; but for those who are called to it, that life-style provides greater fulfillment than most of us will ever know."

Apart from the presumptuousness of passing judgment upon the lack of fulfillment in life-styles other than religious life, the author displays a most unfortunate insensitivity to every other kind of Christian calling and life-style. By implication the author seems to be saying that those who somehow do not "measure up" or are not called to religious life, or perhaps even those who choose to leave it, are unlikely to realize fulfillment. The effect of such medieval ignorance is to promote and perpetuate unreal divisions between those in religious life and the laity, which are both inaccurate and inappropriate if one takes seriously the documents of Vatican II concerning the Church in the Modern World, and the Apostolate of the Laity, by which other life-styles are no less challenged

and called to holiness.

Implicit in this article is a presentation of religious life as the way to spiritual perfection. While this is in fact deeply rooted in our tradition, it is also true that there are other ways no less fulfilling. Roman Catholicism is one of the few world religions which also regards Marriage as a way of spiritual perfection, if by that is understood wholeness, fulfillment, and unity with God. This is understood in the sign of Holy Matrimony as a sacrament of co-equal dignity with Orders. Without intending to denigrate in any way the call to religious life and its richly deserved rewards, even within our own tradition it is but one way to fulfillment.

James Dombek 53 Genesee Park Blvd. Rochester, N.Y. 14611

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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