

Editorials

Focus on Disabled

On March 4, the Courier-Journal began its series, Focus on Disabled, as part of its contribution to the International Year of the Disabled, a program enthusiastically endorsed by Pope John Paul II and Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Our purpose in running such a series was only partially to publicize the needs of our disabled or handicapped brothers and sisters. Our main objective was to show the tremendous contributions being made for society by those who work against greater odds than most of us.

We wanted to dramatize the therapeutic value of hope through the personal success stories of physically, mentally or developmentally disabled persons. We wanted to show the great achievements that human beings can make despite unfavorable circumstances, not only as individual stories but also as lessons to all of us in our own lives.

Frankly, we wondered if we had not set too ambitious a program for the newspaper. We launched the series with a special section on March 4 and then committed ourselves, editorially, to an article a week describing the work of agencies and individuals devoting their services to the disabled, but most of all to the so-called handicapped-themselves.

We asked community help.

The undertaking has been a success. In the nine

weeks since March 4, we have run 14 features and many other smaller news or service announcements focusing on the disabled. We are grateful for the support from community agencies throughout the diocese and especially for the advice and "tips" from individuals.

The stories have covered everything from a blind, single woman who has adopted a child, to accessibility problems. Most of the stories have been inspirational; some have concentrated on needed changes in policies or attitudes.

Yes, we were a bit apprehensive about fulfilling our objective but we now have enough leads to put the goal in reach. But we still need the cooperation of our readers and concerned agencies. We welcome any ideas and suggestions.

and Opinions

Beware Of SIQ

Editor:

Dr. W. Block's SIQ, "a curriculum for general sex education" (Courier-Journal, 4-29-81) deserves comment.

Some of the titles of his "storyboards" for sex instruction include: "Genitals in Use (male and female), Masturbation, Abortion and VD." The article indicates that Dr. Block is a humanist and echoes the teachings of the humanist manifesto.

Humanism, as described in the Phyllis Schlafly Report (Feb. 1981), is a secular "religion" which denies and rejects God, "traditional religious morality," and the existence of life after death. It (humanism) recognizes and accepts abortion, euthanasia, suicide and all varieties of "sexual exploration," immoral "lifestyles" and population control by government.

One of the main proponents of SIQ is Planned Parenthood. According to the publication "Intercessors for America Newsletter" (May 1981) between 1971 and 1976 when Planned Parenthood "services" to teenagers became widespread, sexual activity increased 41 percent and premarital pregnancies increased 45 percent among unmarried white teenage girls.

With proponents like

humanist Block and Planned Parenthood, SIQ sex education suggests careful scrutiny.

Nicholas Hober
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Ship's Name No Problem

Editor:

I am writing re Father James B. Callan's letter of May 13. I should also say in response to his parish staff as well. I am a veteran of the U.S. Navy and I am a Roman Catholic. The U.S. Navy names its ships, submarines, destroyers, etc., after famous people, presidents and famous cities. For example, our aircraft carriers are named for famous people - Nimitz, John F. Kennedy, Eisenhower.

It is not a slur that the nuclear submarine is named for Corpus Christi, Tex. Let me also add that we need our fast attack nuclear submarines and that we must protect ourselves, in any event, because it is no secret that our enemies have been building up their own nuclear weapons stockpile.

The peace of Jesus Christ is an inner peace, that is what we as individuals must search for, not the peace that we'll find in this world. A ship (nuclear sub) being named for a famous Texas city should

not be the subject of aggravation. Thank you.

Amu Maud Chadwick
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Death Penalty Endorsed

Editor:

Right or wrong, Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses have gained general recognition for devotion to their religious principles. Basing their contentions on the Bible, both believe in capital punishment. I belong to neither, but in this matter concur with both.

Edward A. Veith
2952 Atlantic Ave.
Penfield, N.Y. 14526

Appearances Deceiving

Editor:

I read "Wear Religious Garb" by Joseph Murray in the Courier-Journal, May 13. Would Mr. Murray care to comment on Bishop Matthew Clark's various modes of secular attire as seen in the seven centerfold photos of the same issue? Mr. Murray shows his preference for religious dress such as the bishop wears for the occasion honoring Lt. Col. (Father John) O'Connor shown on Page 2.

Many of us in the older age brackets understandably prefer to see our bishop and priests appear in the black suit and Roman collar to which we in North America, outside Quebec, have become accustomed during the past several decades. Still, older ones among us might prefer flowing black cassocks as seen even today on the walks at Notre Dame or the streets of Mexico City, Madrid or Vatican City.

I wonder if Mr. Murray would approve the choice of a priest who assumes prestigious army rank and dons the profane garb of the armed forces, lapel cross notwithstanding? If there is no objection, perhaps he would condone the choice of a young bishop who doffs the black cassock and the black suit at the starting line of a marathon run.

Generally, with regard to apparel, we learn, however slowly, that appearances are deceiving. Questions in the caption below the centerfold illuminate this topic, one which often enters the letters column. "Do you really believe what you are proclaiming? Do you live what you believe? Do you preach what you live?"

Matthew 25:34-46 has us asking the most searching questions of all, not of others but of ourselves: "... when did we see You hungry ... thirsty ... a stranger ... naked ... ill ... in prison?"

Francis Carver
Mill Road
Trumansburg, N.Y.

Honor the Blessed Mother

Editor:

I have to marvel at how little people actually know about our Blessed Virgin Mother, the mother of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. She who suffered and endured agony along with her son throughout his ordeal of the Cross and death, is familiar with many of the hardships that we face every day.

Our Blessed Virgin Mother was chosen by God from among many women to be the mother of his beloved son. There is no equal to our Blessed Virgin Mother, for her purity, her sincere devotion and love for God.

The love of our Blessed Virgin Mother, for the poor and the suffering down throughout the ages. Blessed are the humble and the burdened, who seek her in their prayers, for they will be comforted and not forgotten on judgment day.

Our Blessed Virgin Mother has been crowned Queen of heaven and earth by God because of her love and compassion for the human race. Her answers to prayers are well known throughout church history and from the chosen few who have had the glory of seeing her.

Man's mortal tongue can never portray her attributes. For she beautifies the countenance of the ugly and her love for God above all else for her. Her garments are embroidered with gold and are the finest in heaven befitting her as a queen.

Her rosary which she always carries with her, is the symbol of her love for us and world peace. When the rosary is properly recited, she will hear and respond, replacing fear and anxiety with sincere peace.

The angels in heaven stand in awe at the miracles of our Blessed Virgin Mother and the regal lady of purity that she represents. She will stand on the threshold of heaven to view the great victory of her son over Satan and his demons during the final days.

May is the month of Our Blessed Virgin Mother, which has been set aside for special devotion to her. We should all

Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writer's signature, full address and telephone number. They should be sent to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, no longer than 1 1/2 pages.

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

Because submitted opinions exceed the space for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent elsewhere. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.

take time out of our busy schedule and turn to her in earnest prayer, for she will surely intercede with her son for us and answer many of our petitions to her.

Anthony Liccione
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Attica, N.Y. 14011.

Manipulation Deplored

Editor:

May I share two observations concerning the Courier of May 6.

1) Although the goodness and charity of the late Sister Grace Giglio shine through her Page 1 article, it was chilling to read her dogmatic pronouncement: "A New World Information Order must be established to counteract the dominance of biased First World reporting." (Emphasis mine.) There are many trying to establish just such an order that would sound the death knell for freedom of the press. Think about: censorship or manipulation would be inevitable. News would be "released" from a country that that country deemed suitable for its desired image or political or economic plans. Then could come manipulation by some central office. I cannot think of anything that would be more inimical in the long run to the cause of the poor.

2) Along the same lines of manipulation: The Nestle problem has been with us for years. Everyone surely agrees on the basic issue. However, it would be in the interest of the freedom of all dioceses to be given both sides of the problems as it now stands. We should all be able to read the agreements that the Nestle Co. has made to date, and we should all be informed of its continuing efforts and troubles in the implementation of correctness in policy. All the letters provided in the Courier were very vague statements of interest

and complaint without any regard for possible recent progress. It is not enough to say "for further information, write ..." We should all be given the information I have requested here. If not, then those who participate in the boycott do so, not as an intelligent decision, but out of admiration for our good bishop or a vague fear for babies. **THIS IS THE HEART OF POLITICAL MANIPULATION!**

Judith B. Echaniz
347 Barrington St.
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Why Ham On Easter?

Editor:

I'm a widower with married children. My mother and father came to this country in 1904 with all their customs and traditions. Can you please tell me when ham became the Easter typical meal? And Christmas, too?

My mother never served ham on Easter or Christmas. It was always leg of lamb or mutton or leg of veal. I'm Greek Catholic and married a Roman Catholic girl in my younger days. All the children were baptized Roman Catholics.

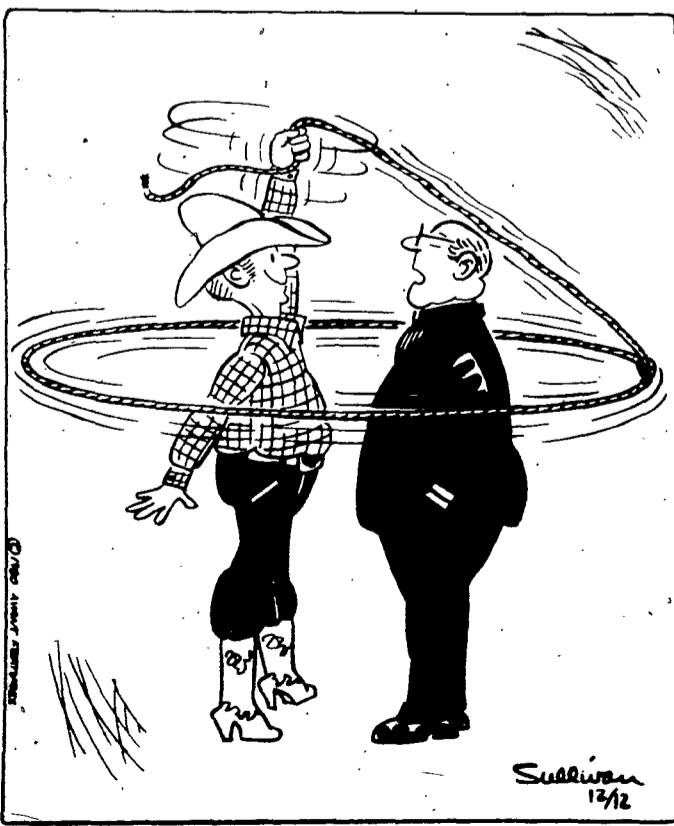
Whenever the daughter or daughters-in-law invite me over they have ham for the holidays. I hate pig meat.

For 12 years in the Depression that's all we had to eat. Couldn't have beef because the cow gave milk. Couldn't have chicken; they laid eggs.

My grandchildren will one day, perhaps, serve hamburger, hot dogs, pizza or TV dinners for the holidays.

Does anyone know why ham is always served on the holidays?

John Yuhas
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"YOUR WIFE WANTED ME TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS URBAN COWBOY NONSENSE."

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