

Editorials

Maybe They'd Rather Be in Rochester, Too

What should be even more startling than the bold Page 1 headline in last Thursday's Times-Union, "Abortions hit record high" (in Monroe County), is the attendant subliminal disregard for the unborn as living entities.

Aside from those who openly endorse abortion on demand either to make money or because "it's more comfortable," as a Planned Parenthood spokesman was quoted, others in our community just don't seem to focus on the fact that abortion means taking lives.

Jeanne Sweeney of Rochester Area Right to Life made the point when she said, "Among the policy setters in Rochester there are very few who will speak out about the rights of the unborn child."

And the reason that they don't, sad to relate, is either that they do not believe that the unborn are indeed human beings or, if they do, that that do not have any rights. Or else, it is just comfortable — there's that word again — to look the other way.

And the term "policy setters" encompasses the community at large, not just elected officials. For instance, the County of Monroe in listing the top causes of death in Monroe County does not include abortions. Incidentally, the two top "killers," heart disease and cancer, together do not kill as many people as does abortion, according to the 1981 statistics — 3,535 as against 3,712.

While the Rochester Chamber of Commerce

superficially intones, "I'd Rather Be in Rochester," it simply doesn't care if that possibility is extended to unborn babies. Promoters figuratively cooing and dashing over an imaginative IRBIR creature ignore the destruction of human embryos in their own midst.

It is difficult to gauge societal mores during these fast-moving times. Perhaps 3,712 abortions a year does make a community inviting. If that is tragically so, why doesn't the Chamber of Commerce use the figures in its advertising?

A cynical attitude? Perhaps, but it is difficult to avoid such when the mental image of an unborn child is juxtaposed with promotional extolling of IRBIR, created in an advertising office.

More attention should be directed to the source of creation of our unborn population.

A Toughie

The shirt-sleeved Canadian ambassador to Lebanon, sitting amidst blitzkrieged downtown Beirut, asked a pertinent question: "What has happened to the Israel we all knew? What has become of that Israel?"

and Opinions

Editorial 'Puzzling'

Editor:

Your recent editorial berating Catholics who support the present administration's position on nuclear arms certainly puzzles this reader. Your sudden zealous reliance on papal authority is most welcome, but it is an odd stance for a newspaper which has rather ignored papal teaching on birth control, dissenters teaching theology, the ordination of women, celibacy, catechetics, sex education, liberation theology, intercommunion, altar girls — to mention but a few issues of importance to Catholics.

But if you do wish to appeal to papal authority, you should give the pope's view correctly. The fact is that there is no papal statement made by Pope John Paul II that can be said to agree with Archbishop Hunthausen's irrational proposal for "unilateral disarmament." Since the Reagan administration does not advocate an unlimited buildup of nuclear arms, its present nuclear strategy is quite in conformity with Catholic moral teaching calling for a gradual process of mutual disarmament.

What you very neatly "side-stepped" in your editorial was any evaluation of Soviet nuclear strength and intentions as well as the clear record of continued Communist military aggression.

Leslie A. Mills
883 Woodbine Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14619

Hope Lodge Praised

Editor:

Following a tumor operation, my husband needed 7-8 weeks of radiation at Strong Memorial Hospital. This meant going 70 miles each day for five days a week from our home.

Thankfully, we knew about Hope Lodge, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, 1400 N. Winton Road. Arrangements were made by his doctor for both of us to spend from Monday to Friday

at this facility. We have told many friends about Hope Lodge, both in Rochester and in the Williamson-Sodus area, most of whom knew nothing about this place which really gives hope and loving care to cancer patients.

Only patients and their spouses in the outlying areas of Monroe County may use the facility but Rochester area residents should be aware of this service, even though they cannot use it. It is one of few in the country and very efficiently run with Marie Rex as director, plus her staff and numerous volunteers.

The rooms are pleasant and adequate. Linens are furnished and changed weekly, and the housekeeper works diligently to keep the housing neat and clean. There are two lounges, an excellent library and a laundry room. Meals are prepared by the guests in a large brightly-lit kitchen, with three stoves and several refrigerators, which are shared. Each room has a numbered cupboard for food-stuffs. Cooking utensils, dinnerware, silverware and appliances are plentiful. Each person washes dishes and places them in a sanitizer run by members of the staff.

Patients are transported daily to and from their appointments in various hospitals by dedicated volunteers who will stop at grocery stores, pharmacies and post offices so patients may purchase needed items. They will also do the shopping for you, if needed.

A crafts class is held each week by a volunteer and several volunteers visit the patients and families each week to show they care.

After spending four weeks at Hope Lodge, with several more to go, we have nothing but good to say about the staff, volunteers, and the facility itself. Rochester should be very proud of Hope Lodge and the services it is providing for cancer patients with no charge.

Mrs. Ivan Symonds
Oak Ridge Manor
Williamson, N.Y.

All Ireland Must Be Free

The British government established a Fair Employment Agency in Northern

Ireland in 1976, supposedly to check the bigotry endemic since Ireland was divided into two Irelands. Since unemployment statistics show clear patterns of discrimination, and joblessness among Catholics is five times as high as among Orangemen, it was to be expected that many complaints would be filed.

In its second annual report, the Fair Employment Agency began to report on cases. It completed only 12, ridiculously small results. It declared unlawful discrimination was found in only one case. A Catholic job applicant applied for a position of junior clerk in a government office. Although she had a university degree, a typing certificate and clerical experience, a 17-year-old Protestant girl got the job.

When the agency ordered the Catholic hired, the Civil Service Commission appealed to the courts claiming that the reason for not hiring the Catholic was that she was overqualified. The judge agreed and threw the case out of court. This left the Fair Employment Agency with no accomplishment after two years of work.

Even if we assume that the British government has good intentions, it is a very weak government in Ireland. Administrative machinery is in the hands of local Orangemen. They make the day-to-day decisions. By now, Catholics are aware that it is futile to seek justice through the Fair Employment Agency or any office staffed by Orangemen. Only when there is a unified Ireland can they hope for a fair deal.

George M. Korb
Elderhostel,
Cornell University
PO Box 1000
Ithaca, N.Y. 14853

Nuclear Freeze Needs Support

Editor:

The nuclear arms race has been refueled by the federal government with President Reagan's refusal to negotiate a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons testing with the British and Soviet. Also, a congressman of Amsterdam introduced an amendment to appropriate \$1.14 billion of federal taxes for the production of nine MX nuclear missiles. It passed Congress, 212-209.

The moral judgment of the Catholic Church as expressed by Pope John Paul II and Bishop Hubbard of Albany indicates that the nuclear arms race is a threat to Christianity on earth.

Several thousands of people signed petitions supporting the nuclear arms freeze proposal that were sent to Congress. The State Assembly and Senate passed resolutions supporting the freeze proposal this year and sent them to members of Congress from New York.

Presently there are two political means toward controlling the nuclear arms race. One method is to request Gov. Carey to call a special session of the legislature whereby S10239-A is voted upon. The legislative proposal places the nuclear arms freeze proposal on the November ballot as a referendum.

Another means is to find out which candidate for Congress supports the freeze and vote for that person. Since congressmen stop appropriating federal taxes for nuclear missiles, then people should select representatives who will not appropriate money for the production of nuclear missiles.

Michael McGlynn
561 Second St.
Albany, N.Y. 12206

Fr. John Reedy

Looking for the Lord



"WE'RE DEALING WITH AN ENTIRELY NEW CONCEPT HERE, AND I'M ASKING YOU TO BE PATIENT UNTIL WE CAN WORK OUT SOME OF THE BUGS."



Living With My Responsibilities

When I was a boy, I probably had more interest in current affairs than did most of my classmates, but the fact that some kind of warfare was going on between Japan and China had no real significance in my concerns.

There might be some mention of it on Lowell Thomas' 15-minute radio news report. If it was mentioned at all in the Cincinnati Times-Star, the treatment showed that the editors saw that conflict as much less significant than were some of the bizarre antics of local politicians.

The war between Italy and Ethiopia was treated by the news sources as pretty much of a comic opera — a matter of natives throwing spears at tanks and planes, while Mussolini and Haile Selassie tried to outdo each other in posturing.

The Spanish Civil War

different way, with a different kind of immediacy, than they were to the men and women of my parents' generation.

This awareness involves not only war, but also natural disasters, ideological conflicts, economic turmoil.

In this kind of world awareness, the person with a Christian conscience has to strike some kind of a balance. We have to avoid a callous indifference which can come from the impossible number of needs thrust before our attention.

But we also have to keep free of a kind of spiritual masochism, a sense of personal guilt for all the hurts being experienced in the world.

To the extent that my political or economic influence might relieve suffering, of course I am called to act.

But I think I am also called to be realistic about the extent of my influence. I should recognize the difference between those consequences which are the direct result of my own decisions and those which are not.

We are called to retain some kind of peace of mind, some trust in God's providence, which will enable us to act responsibly in those matters for which we have responsibility.