

Editorial

Black and White But Not Easy

Congratulations to Chicago!

And to the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences!

Both have given recognition to blacks. True, the nation's second city only did so after a bitter and embarrassing racial confrontation. But now that the dust has settled it is necessary to look ahead and not back.

It is to be hoped that the city, particularly the whites, will give Mayor Washington the chance to prove his mettle. It is doubly incumbent on him to provide Chicago with the best possible leadership. More than his politics is on the line.

As for the movies, when Louis Gossett Jr. won the Oscar for the best supporting actor recently, it was only the third time in 55 years that a black performer had won an Academy Award for acting.

Why is that? It cannot be because blacks are less talented than their white counterparts.

It is unlikely that it is the result of extreme bias — show business is largely free of that.

Most likely the cause is that not enough serious, meaty and deep parts are being given to black performers.

To clarify, there are movies and dramas written about blacks — "Porgy and Bess," "A Raisin in the Sun," "Anna Lucasta." Obviously, these are not part of the problem.

There are movies, usually adapted from novels or based on real-life characters, wherein roles must by

necessity go to blacks — "Lilies of the Field" (in which Sidney Poitier won a best actor Oscar), "Ragtime" wherein the story line rested on black characters.

But left is the bulk of the movies where the characters can be any color. "An Officer and A Gentleman" is typical. The role of the drill sergeant could have gone to an Hispanic or a white and thus Mr. Gossett would not have won anything and the blacks would still have just two Oscars for 55 years of work.

All involved in the movie industry, black and white alike, must work to remedy this situation. Then the Ossie Harrises, the the Billy Dee Williamses, the Ruby Dees, the Brock Peterses, the Dorothy Dandridges, the James Earl Joneses would not be empty-handed when it comes to Academy Awards.

To repeat, it is a time to turn to a hopefully brighter future. But such is going to require effort, flexibility, some love and a lot of long overdue justice.

and Opinions

Column Criticized

Editor:

There is no hesitation to judge that "Open Window" is sincerely written with the best of intentions and some merit. However, at times it is a vehicle for false teachings which, not withstanding good intentions, are an attack upon the Church that contribute to confusion, and to divisions within and away from the diocesan Church. At such times, Pope John Paul II's recent exhortation (drawn from Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope Paul VI) is applicable to the "Open Window": "The most insidious perils and the most deadly attacks upon the Church are not those which come from outside — they can only affirm her in her mission and labor — but those which come from inside."

The "Open Window" response to the question on altar girls (C-J 3/9/83) contains not only incorrect information and assumptions but effectively rejects Catholic Church doctrine.

The discipline matter of altar servers is indiscriminately ascribed to "the will of our Holy Father" rather than correctly to Canon Law. Nevertheless, whether through the virtue of child-like "simple blind obedience" or the gift of wisdom, obedience to papal directives of discipline is mandated by Vatican I.

By accepting an erroneous, subjective "freedom of conscience" faith, rather than faith in the Church-formed conscience which fortifies reason and wisdom upon a rock foundation (Matt. 7:24ff), "loyal dissenters" portray the Church as being too legalistic; and they have misled many to consider it their duty to subjectively make their imprints by rejection of Church teachings and disobedience of its disciplines. Lay image priests and religious are the most conspicuous, misled victims of "loyal dissenters."

Catholic faith is the acceptance of the authority of God's revealed truth which He manifests through His ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC Church. It is participation in the life of God, our Father, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

Isn't mine is not to judge"

possibly a weasel-worded escape from uncomfortable duties 1. to admonish pastors who scandalously disobey and 2. to help alleviate the consequent burdens imposed on the parishioners?

Joseph J. Murray
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Let Refugees Decide Future

Editor:

Sister Maureen Finn's reflection on "The Way to Peace" (March 23) imprecisely states what is her valid concern for the peasants who have fled El Salvador. First, however, I thank her for sharing her impressive insights.

Surely the need for peace in El Salvador is great, as Sister eloquently explains. Of course, we ought to care more for the effects of sin because of our government's aid to the government of El Salvador in order to love the sinner and hate the sin of war. So I must question the point that "peace will not come by making refugees of peasants but by recognizing the rights and ability of people to choose their own future."

Certainly the need for peace is dramatically evident in the lives of refugees — in their loneliness and in our sense of their rejection. Our hearts must go out to them. Nevertheless, there are many roads to their salvation no less worthy than our humble recognition of their rights. It is true their choices may not be ours.

We cannot give the people there the future we think they want from us even though we share their desire for improvement if we cannot transmit to them our hope that they can recognize their responsibility to one another in order to find their own peace. This is more important than any efforts to steer them in our direction because we believe we know what is best for them.

For us to recognize rights — be they natural, human, civil or constitutional, people need maturity. To become mature, Christians we need to accept guidance and to become able to give selflessly of more than just "time."

Those living in the midst of Central America's social

changes and who are the victims of El Salvador's failure to solve their social problems need prayers and our acceptance that their quest for peace may not be finished overnight by their standards.

May we grow together with the patience of Sister Maureen. May God give us strength to listen as well as she. Those needing to find their individual acceptance both here and in El Salvador need more careful attention from all of us.

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Institutions Must Improve

Editor:

I recently read the latest annual report of the State Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled, which reminded me that our state psychiatric and developmental disabilities centers have yet to evolve completely from the snake-pit era.

"Preventing and effectively addressing incidents of patient abuse and mistreatment are major problems ... physical plant deficiencies, housekeeping problems and ward overcrowding ... absence of safety precautions ... the problem of severe deficiencies in the availability of competent, medical care is an ongoing and life-threatening one ... need for more intensive programming and for an upgrading of clinical staffing ... too many instances of fiscal mismanagement or outright abuse of public monies ... quality assurance efforts remain haphazard and disjointed."

These centers have a long way to go before they become places we can be proud of. Let's keep the spotlight on these institutions and intensify measures to improve them.

Joel Freedman
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Send Letter To Moynihan

Editor:

After months of long, hard, often frustrating, effort, Father Neil Connolly, vicar of the South Bronx; Father Dean Brackley, SJ, of South Bronx People for Change, and a few others from the New York archdiocese, have been able to arrange a meeting with Sen.

Moynihan for April 25. The purpose is to discuss American involvement in Central America which is of concern to so many Christians as well as others who espouse humanistic values.

It is extremely important that this concern not be interpreted by the senator as of importance only to people from one area of his constituency. This letter, is therefore, being written to request all members of the Church of Rochester who feel they can do so in good conscience to write Sen. Moynihan during the coming week. Letters should support the following four points:

1. refusal of all military aid to Guatemala.
2. vigorous support of negotiations in El Salvador.
3. the termination of covert activity of the CIA in Nicaragua.
4. granting of Voluntary Departure Status for those immigrants coming from El Salvador and Guatemala.

Letters should be addressed to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, U.S. Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Thank you for your support at this critical time.

Jean H. Cardinali
Professor,
Sociology/Anthropology
Monroe Community College

Pastoral Team Praised

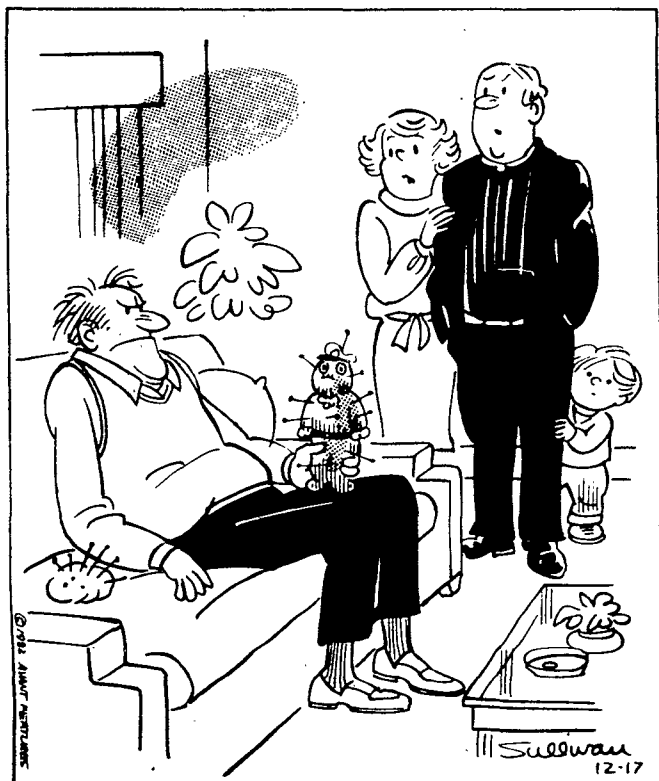
Editor:

We at Our Lady of Mercy have been blessed with two beautiful priests — Father Quinn and Father O'Malley. I can remember when there were only five or six people at daily Mass and now sometimes it is standing room only. Morning Mass is not only a spiritual experience but also an educational experience.

I really feel as many others in the parish that Father O'Malley has a lot of wisdom to share with us. Fathers Quinn and O'Malley make a wonderful spiritual team and I'm happy to be in their ballpark.

Please come to one of our daily Masses and you'll see why we feel so happy and blessed to have them as our spiritual directors.

Mary L. Cipro
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"IT BORDERS ON FALSE WORSHIP, ED, AND YOU'LL ALSO NOTICE THE GAS COMPANY HASN'T LOWERED ITS RATES ONE IOTA."

Help Prevent 'Throw-Away Kids'

Editor:

There are about a million "Throw-Away Kids" in the U.S. (cast out by parents and schools, broken home victims, runaway and child abuse victims, school drop-outs and drug-pornography victims); these, plus the thousands of high school graduates who hit the job market unprepared — all "borderline youngsters" — constitute the crime element and potential crime element, and the numbers are increasing, and something must be done.

The public fears the rising crime, which has reached the alarming stage, but there is an overall remedy for this tremendous problem and it's right before us — that of recruiting the mature, fatherly identification figure to help with these youngsters who are "on the fence." By their actions, these boys and girls are crying for help.

These youths need the firm and not the harsh hand from this man who would take up parental slack with a patient, understanding attitude and would give them only a couple of hours a week, for a short time — to steer them away from a life of crime.

This project's success — the long range panacea for the eradication of crime — right in its formative stage, is possible, and and once he contacts his juvenile court authority or similar

organization, he will be told just how he can help and he will be matched with his suitable youngster.

This dedicated person is urgently needed from coast to coast as a bulwark in this vital mission because there can never be any lasting peace until we have the needed understanding between peoples. If we're supposed to be our brother's keeper, how are these children going to make it unless volunteers get the word and take it from there?

Are you this man? If so, please help to save this nation — from within.

Walter Gray
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Rosary First Line of Defense

Editor:

With great respect and humility may I suggest the rosary as our first line of defense against nuclear weapons?

We, the laity, give a heartfelt thanks to the bishops of the United States for the hard work and courage to take a moral stand before the world.

Mrs. Grace Kanalley
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