

Editorial

This Is Family?

Gov. Cuomo, in his State of the State message, refers to the citizens of the Empire State as "family," then proceeded to relegate some of his "kin" to distant relative status.

At least that's the sentiment of the State Federation of Catholic School parents which feels that the governor's proposed aid to children in nonpublic schools amounts to little other than tokenism. While boasting of increased money for public schools, the governor suggests only an increase in software to nonpublic pupils from \$2.50 to \$5 per child and another \$2 per pupil for library materials.

The Catholic federation has pointed out that in 1984, public schools received the largest state aid increase in history. Cuomo boasts that of that, adding "if you approve the State-aid package which I shall soon submit for the coming school year, state aid for elementary and secondary education over these three years will have increased by more than \$1.1 billion or 24 percent from \$4.6 billion to more than \$5.7 billion."

No one, and the Catholic federation stresses this,

begrudges such aid to public schools. "We have no complaint about this aid to public schools," a federation spokesperson said -- "in fact, we applaud this support for public schools."

But what the federation is wondering is how the governor can talk about strengthening "New York's educational mosaic," as he claims he is doing, by abundantly providing for one segment of the "family" while ignoring others.

"Ridiculous," says the federation of Catholic parents. Three times this group has written Cuomo asking his support for tuition tax credits, or at least for a meeting to discuss the issue. Apparently, the governor doesn't correspond with some members of his "family" for no reply as has been received.

Ever since the Sisters Sledge made money from their hit record "We Are Family," special interest groups from the Pittsburgh Pirates to more traditional institutions have misused the concept for ulterior motives. Frequently the application of the term to a heterogenous group means that someone for his own purposes is deceitfully attempting to appeal to the sense of loyalty inherent in the idea of family, ready bestow warm brotherhood on favorites and coldly make distant cousins or in-laws of those don't fit into his group.

In the case of the governor and aid to schools, the federation of Catholic parents describes itself as "angry, frustrated and hurt by the governor's apparent insensitivity." The governor should be aware that this wing of the family comprises the parents of 380,000 youngsters in Catholic elementary and secondary schools. Anyone resorting to the use of such sloganism as "family" should be at best sensitive to the needs of the cousins and at the least aware of their numbers.

Observation

Now that the Super Bowl is over, it may be time to recall something said on another such occasion by former Cleveland Browns football coach Sam Rutigliano. Confronted on the occasion of some other "crucial" game by hordes of sportswriters, scorched by television lights and perhaps a little weary of the need to weigh every word, Rutigliano observed, "300 million Chinese don't even know the game was played."

and Opinions

Chance to Host Young Visitors

EDITOR:

At a time when understanding among peoples of the world is so crucially important, it is heartening to be reminded that our community occasionally can truly "reach out and touch someone." Apparently such contact was made in the course of a recent visit of young members of Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries who came here through the auspices of the Rochester Association of the United Nations.

"Without exception," says a letter from the U.N. undersecretary general for public information to local RAUN officials, "the participants praised the visit to Rochester which, they said, permitted them to experience a side of American life not found in New York City."

"The opportunity to extend their professional contacts to Rochester's radio, television and newspaper people and to meet other

young people studying in the area was much appreciated, as were the discussions of the American political system with party officials.

"While the professional side of their visit was immensely rewarding, it was the warmth and hospitality experienced with host families that the young people will never forget. You can be certain they will take with them the memories of this visit to their home countries."

All of us, as their RAUN hosts, feel equally enriched by their visit and hope that the rewards of similar occasions can be extended to even more Rochesterians in the future. Planning is now under way for an October 1985 visit by a new group. Anyone who would care to share in any aspect of this rich experience -- planning, transporting, hosting, etc. -- could indicate an interest by contacting the RAUN office, 232-1080.

Nancy Sweet
RAUN Vice President
44 Sutherland St.
Pittsford, N.Y. 14534

Post Stand Supported

EDITOR:

The bishops' pastoral on economics is a disastrous repudiation of the capitalism which has brought so much freedom and affluence to so many people. It prescribes socialism, an already failed philosophy.

Even the far left liberal Washington Post criticized it as impractical and far to the left even of many liberal politicians and economists.

On the other hand, the Communist newspaper The Daily Worker greeted it with great enthusiasm because of its "strongly implied criticism of the capitalist economic system."

In order to get the facts, I subscribe to a number of conservative publications. In an issue of a few months ago, a French writer said that no one now pays any attention to the French bishops. American bishops seem to be bucking for this reaction.

John F. Starkweather
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Rush, N.Y.

Editor's Note: The U.S. bishops are not alone in their concern over the excesses of capitalism. Indeed, they may have taken their lead from Pope John Paul II who has addressed the subject many times. It should be stressed, and strongly, that criticism of capitalism does not constitute an endorsement of communism. One very reasonably can be opposed to communism and at the same time be critical of the ultra-materialistic life of Western society. The pope is a prime exponent of this train of thought. It is to be wondered if reader Starkweather is getting such facts from his "conservative publications."

Freedoms Limited

EDITOR:

Joel Freedman's letter (C-J 1-2) raised many interesting points about criminal rights, institutional responsibility, life in prison in general and Auburn in particular, and many will agree with the comments.

But the question which comes first to my mind is: Does Joel Freedman disagree with Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes (the Great Dissenter) in his opinion on freedom of speech? Does Joel propose that it is all right to yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater, as long as you do it with the best of intentions and you hope that no one will react.

John J. Clark III
RD-1, Box 61
Wayland, N.Y. 14572

Bethany House Needs Help

EDITOR:

Each day the needs of approximately three homeless women are unable to be met at the Bethany House because of a shortage in facilities. Due to this persistent and increasing need, we are planning to convert one of our basement rooms into a bedroom.

This renovation cannot be undertaken without the support of our extended community. Can anyone volunteer some time and skill toward this project? Primarily, carpenters, electricians and plumbers are needed. Donations of lumber, dry wall and other



"IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE SHOULDN'T BE UP HERE, AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, HE DON'T THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT."

building materials as well as paint, wallpaper and furniture would be appreciated.

Anyone interested in helping or in further information should contact us

at (716) 454-4197. We thank all for assistance in the past.

The Bethany House
Staff and Guests
169 St. Bridget's Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14605

the Saints *by Luke*

BORN IN MAS-DES-SAINTE PUELLES, FRANCE, AROUND 1189, OF A NOBLE FAMILY, PETER INHERITED A FORTUNE AT 15 WHEN HIS FATHER DIED.

HE WENT TO BARCELONA AND USED HIS WEALTH TO RANSOM CHRISTIAN PRISONERS FROM THE MOORS, WHO RULED MOST OF SPAIN AT THAT TIME.

REPORTEDLY IN RESPONSE TO A VISION, PETER DECIDED TO FOUND A RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION DEDICATED TO RANSOMING CHRISTIAN SLAVES FROM THE MOORS. THE ORDER OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM (THE MERCEDARIANS) DEVELOPED FROM THE DECISION. HE WAS HELPED BY ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PETER'S SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, WHO IS CONSIDERED THE CO-FOUNDER OF THE ORDER. IT WAS APPROVED BY BISHOP BERENGARIUS OF BARCELONA AROUND 1223, WITH PETER AS MASTER GENERAL, AND WAS SUPPORTED BY KING JAMES OF ARAGON; PAPAL APPROVAL CAME FROM POPE GREGORY IX IN 1235.

IN ADDITION TO THE THREE TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS VOWS, THE MERCEDARIANS TOOK A FOURTH - TO GIVE THEMSELVES IF NECESSARY IN EXCHANGE FOR A SLAVE.

PETER WENT TO MOORISH-DOMINATED SPAIN SEVERAL TIMES AND TO ALGERIA, WHERE HE WAS IMPRISONED FOR A TIME. HE RESIGNED HIS POSITION AS MASTER GENERAL SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE HIS DEATH ON DEC. 25, 1256, AT BARCELONA. HE WAS CANONIZED IN 1628. HIS FEAST IS JAN. 28.

ST. PETER NOLASCO



Ethiopia Aid

Address for anyone wishing to contribute to the efforts to combat the famine in Africa:

Catholic Relief Services -- Ethiopia
Diocesan Missions Office
123 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

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 S., 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.