

Editorial

Violent People

Pictures such as the one with this editorial show the extreme physical violence of professional boxing and lend strength to the arguments of those who would ban the sport.

As with all such issues, there are two sides to the argument. Those who favor banning boxing can point to deaths in the ring, or can arouse painful memories of a Joe Louis, a national hero who became half a man from years of exchanging punches. These are graphic realities and hard to dispute.

However, those in favor of the sport do indeed offer rebuttal. They say the purpose of the sport is not to damage other people, that many more athletes die in other sports, that boxing can offer a poor boy his only chance out of the ghettó or slums. Boxing aficionados can point to professional football or car-racing as more violent and causing more injury.

It is almost impossible for the average non-fan to understand and to condone the bloodletting. And from this vantage point, it would seem that the violence inherent in prizefighting should be cause enough for its possible prohibition or at least for changes in regulations requiring headgear or bigger gloves or some such safety precautions.

But as far as society at large is concerned, the



whole debate is miniscule when compared to the overriding fact of the acceptance of violence in so many other spheres.

The sordid stories of rape, drug-use and violence so often the theme of even our large screen films — violent!

A movie review column in a Texas newspaper is becoming one of the most popular of the day. It refers to women as "bimbos" and uses a bigot's terms for minorities — violent!

Pornography, most of which in one way or another is demeaning to women — violent!

The language in even so-called acceptable movies — violent!

Nuclear armament — a curtsy to violence.

Capital punishment — the essence of violence.

Abortion — the ultimate in violence.

All of which can lead to some chilling thoughts. If this editorial were what passes for modern-day entertainment, perhaps at this point a disclaimer would be inserted — those who are young or squeamish probably should not read on. For there are some disturbing questions to be contemplated.

Could it be that whatever appeals to us about one man pounding another with the purpose of scrambling his brains also compels us in other scenarios? Could it be that the fans screaming for blood at a hockey game are reflective of a greater thirst for violence? Could it be that whatever it is that chains people to their television seats or movie chairs to watch bodies being dismembered, eyes being gouged, blood spurting from rips and holes in human bodies is only symptomatic of a deeper urge? Could it be that whatever reasoning condones innocents being incinerated by napalm or nuclear bombs also allows the same to babies in the womb? Even more frightening — could it be that this violence is not merely permitted but in some way appreciated? Can we separate the violence we seek in our entertainment from the violence we accept in our reality?

If we agree that boxing is violent and should either change or be abolished what then do we do and say about the other barbaric practices we embrace so morbidly? What do we say about ourselves? Are we merely hypocrites or are we essentially savages?

and Opinions

Sin Is Great Evil

EDITOR:

Regarding Father Survill's

letter of Jan. 30, I would like to respond that although his opening statements with separate reference to German Catholics of the 1930s and to the authority within the

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Parish Renewals Abound

Several people have asked me recently about renewals going on in their parishes or in neighboring ones. This time of year there are more renewals than at other times, partly because of the proximity to Lent and partly because spring is coming and it is naturally a good time to renew.

So what is renewal? Perhaps a good starting point is a reminder to the older ones among us. Remember the oldtime parish mission? A parish would bring in one or two priests from a religious order for a week or sometimes two weeks (one for men and one for women) and it would be out to church every night that week to hear a long sermon along with rosary and Benediction, and sometime during the week to make a special confession, probably to the missionary priest.

have you noticed that these kinds of missions are seldom around anymore? Once in a great while you can find one, but it takes some looking.

Now we have renewal weeks or weekends. The renewal week which has been so successful at St. Patrick in Victor under the founding leadership of the Johnstones who imported it from Buffalo, is based on eight consecutive evening sessions. The one called R&R (Renewal and Reconciliation) was, I understand, originally run by the late Father Bill Hickey. It runs slightly more than 24 hours on a weekend. A third

variety is the 44-hour weekend of renewal invented by Father Chuck Gallagher, Marriage Encounter leader. Then, of course we have the "biggies," such as Cursillo, Marriage Encounter; and perhaps one could call the charismatic movement a renewal, as widespread and ongoing as it is.

The difference between the oldtime mission and the various forms of renewal is, as I see it, the orientation or goal it strives for. The oldtime mission was more individually oriented and concentrated more on sin and repentance and renewal in Catholic practices. The renewal is more community oriented and focuses on the basic baptismal commitment of a Catholic Christian and the living out of that commitment in ordinary life.

These distinctions may seem subtle and in some ways they are. Each one, I think, meets the needs of its particular time in history in a providential way. The oldtime mission was important for first and second generation immigrants who were of strong but very simple faith which needed a new impulse.

Today we are confronted more with people who are more highly educated, who have an inherited (cultural) faith which they, in many instances, have not yet made their own. They need to be called to make the faith their own and begin to live it as such.

Each generation needs renewal. The special form that it takes depends on the generation. But the bottom line is that it is needed.

How about you? Have you been renewed? Try it! You'll like it!

Church are very persuasive, they are at the same time deceptive because he presents a good-glowing cause and something that seems right on the surface while the underneath subtlety is very destructive.

The greatest evil is not nuclear buildup or even the bomb, but sin. Evil comes from the hearts of men and deception is more harmful than all the bombs put together. And the evil that is so divisive to the Church today stems from pride, egotism and disobedience — the things that are the very opposite to Mary's fiat when she said yes. Nothing is more sinful than to divide the Church by disloyalty to the magisterium by belittling the pope.

Georgia Flansburg
1977 Lake Ave.
Lima, N.Y. 14485

CIA Tells Us Lies

EDITOR:

Real democracy depends on an accurately informed citizenry — a society that is able to participate in decision-making on the basis of intelligent analysis of issues. We have no such democracy in the U.S.

For several years, our nation has subjected the Nicaraguan people to genocidal aggression by satanically named "freedom fighters." And we have imposed economic sanctions against that sovereign country which amounts to massive starvation and deprivation. Our president justifies this by saying Nicaragua deserves such treatment because it supplies weapons to the rebels in El Salvador.

Yet, with Nicaragua under surveillance by the most sophisticated detection technology in the world — observed incessantly by air, land and sea — not one shred of evidence has ever been presented to prove arms flow from Nicaragua.

Rather we have the little publicized word of ex-CIA analyst Davie MacMichael, a specialist in Central American affairs, who stated last June, "The administration and the CIA have systematically misrepresented Nicaraguan involvement in the supply of arms to the Salvadoran guerrillas to justify its efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government."

And we have the testimony of the conservative city editor of the statewide Billings (Mont.) Gazette, who wrote, "What we saw and learned during our time in Managua and the countryside was alarming because it did not correspond with what we had been reading in U.S. newspapers, seeing on U.S. television and hearing from our U.S. government." Peter Fox contrasted the harassment he and his group received in U.S.-supported Honduras in stipulating that "our grup had complete freedom in our travels (in Nicaragua), talking with whomever we wanted whenever we wanted."

Peter Fox punctuated his series of articles by publicly resigning his commission as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army National Guard to protest our country's "immoral if not illegal" policy in Latin America.

Further evidence of high level disinformation was provided in September when career CIA analyst John R. Horton quit the agency rather than submit to Director William J. Casey's revision of a Mexican report so it would support administration policy Horton said, "There is pressure from Casey on subjects that are politically sensitive to jigger estimates." (Shades of Westmoreland!)

Yes, our government has lied to us for a long, long time through its various organs. John Stockwell, ex-CIA commander of the Angolan Task Force during the CIA's covert war there, has testified, "There is a whole wing of the CIA devoted totally to propaganda."

But, knowing about the pervasive censorship and disinformation of our government is not enough. We mustn't be apathetic about it. The instructions of Nuremberg make clear each and every citizen's responsibility for the crimes of their government.

We can't hope to reform our undemocratic economic system, our money-ruled electoral system, or our totalitarian and brutal foreign policy until we know the truth.

John E. Milich
PO Box 333
Ithaca, N.Y. 14851

Capitalism The Answer

EDITOR:



"LET'S TALK A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR CONCEPT OF PRAYER, MR. BRADSHAW..."

Your answer to my 1-23 letter was a typical liberal answer — a non-answer. My only reference to communism was to quote the enthusiastic approval of a Communist publication.

The bishops in their economics pastoral are pushing welfare state socialism which has already failed. See Sweden which cannot pay for its cradle-to-grave welfare and can't get out of its mess because the welfare recipients won't allow it. The end will have to be a dictatorship.

In their eagerness to follow a liberal/radical course, the bishops are late. Socialism has already failed around the world. Socialist governments that can be pulling back from socialism. Like Russia, they have found that under socialism they cannot even raise enough food to feed their people. Much of the reason for African starvation is the destruction of food-producing capacity by socialism which substitutes the decisions of bureaucrats for the decisions of the marketplace.

There can be no welfare without wealth. Wealth is goods. Only our extraordinarily productive capitalistic country can afford what welfare we now have. Imprudently-applied welfare rots the moral fiber. People must have the struggle to make a living or there is no meaning to life.

You talk about the excesses of capitalism. What about its

successes — like an excess of food? Wouldn't a balanced presentation serve your readers better?

John F. Starkweather
1840 Middle Road
Rush, N.Y. 14543

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 1½ 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.