

## More Opinions

### Drastic Change in Courier's Format?

To the Editor:

For many years, I have been receiving and reading the Catholic Courier-Journal. I looked forward to reading about the church, church issues and the Rochester diocese.

However, in the last several weeks, I have not seen any of the special columns by any of the fine writers. In particular, I miss reading the columns by Fathers Paul Cuddy and Albert Shamon. Has there been a drastic change in the format of the newspaper?

I have enjoyed the writing of Fathers Cuddy and Shamon, and I hope they will be continued in the diocesan paper soon.

Chief John T. Costello  
Department of Police  
Auburn

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Many, many loyal readers like Chief Costello still seem unaware that the Courier-Journal is going through a difficult period of transition. During this period, in which we are completely restaffing all departments, the newspaper's size has

been reduced, and we have temporarily ceased taking advertisements.

As a result, the space available for articles is much smaller than we would like. We cannot publish all of the material we receive, but we do not want the transition to hurt those parishes and organizations that depend upon the Courier-Journal to publicize their events and programs. We, therefore, have chosen initially to publish articles of this type in preference to such timeless articles as the columns.

Never fear, however. The columnists are coming back, starting this week with the return of Father Cuddy's "On the Right Side."

And, we wish to note that the restaffing of the editorial department is complete. Two new members — News Editor Teresa A. Parsons and Photo Editor Jeffrey S. Goulding — joined us last week. In the coming weeks, look forward to your old favorites and the efforts of our energetic new staff members.

### R-Rated Movies Glorify Acts of Immorality

To the Editor:

Over half a century ago, G.K. Chesterton set out to write a book titled "What Is Wrong with the World?" Given the immensity of the topic, it was no wonder that the work ended up running about 600 pages.

This is why we must stand in awe at the literary accomplishment of one of your readers who, in a letter to the editor, paraged to set forth, in just a few short paragraphs, a near-perfect statement of the kind of attitudes that contribute so decisively to "What Is Wrong with the World" today.

I refer to the letter in your April 24 issue (Opinion: "R-Rating No Sin for Writer"), in which was sung the praises of the nobility and uplifting spirituality of R-rated movies. Now, some of us unenlightened types, when confronted with an R movie, see only a

glorification of an assortment of immoralities, but of course, we are conditioned by a set of out-of-date definitions and principles laid down a couple of thousand years ago, and which could not possibly be useful in our times. Furthermore, we lack the miraculous optical filter (apparently in the possession of the writer) to view the image in the R-rated screen and, somehow, see beauty and truth. Finally, we are hung up on that anachronistic concept called "sin."

And we'll stay in that rut unless we join with others in learning our moral theology from Hugh Hefner, our analytical powers from Donohue, and our aesthetics from Hollywood.

Greg Sampson  
139 Thomas Ave.  
Rochester

### Ministry Conference Scheduled in Waterloo

Ministers of the diocese are invited to the 1985 Spring Ministry Conference, Monday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Holiday Inn, Waterloo. The topic of the conference is the Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy.

Two guest speakers will join Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Father Charles

Mulligan in presentations about the pastoral letter.

Men and women, priests, deacons, and religious and the many lay ministers who serve the diocese are welcome. Registration, along with a \$7 fee (includes lunch), can be sent to Father Jim Schwartz, 314 Gregory St., Rochester 14620.

## On the Right Side

with Father Paul J. Cuddy



### Whither the Flow?

To: Ensign Michael Murphy  
Navy Pilot Training, Pensacola, Fla.  
Dear Mike:

I am in one of those explosive moods, and must let my hair down to someone, so you are that someone.

At the beautiful Easter Vigil, we at Holy Trinity received 12 adults into the Church with joy and ceremony. I was not there, since I helped Father Donovan at St. Mark's during Holy Week (where I was needed more), but the account was accurate. After spending hours and hours instructing people for entry into the Church, a dozen come forth, and precious each one is. Everyone seems happy — excepting myself.

Why? This very noon I was a bit hungry (a normal condition for me), so instead of settling for a dish of corn flakes, I decided to go to Tom's Diner for a cheeseburger. Before leaving I told Margaret Mason, (who was staffing the office while secretary Mary Ann Penlon, niece of Father Whitey Bialaszewski, was home sick): "I am going to Tom's Diner for a bit of food and to witness."

"You mean you are going to meet and talk to people," she said.

"Exactly. That's part of witnessing."

At the kindergarten boy. His name is Sam, and he rattled on wonderfully. His mother and three other women were in a nearby booth, amused by our conversation. The waitress brought the check for \$2.03, and a young man stepped forward and took it, saying: "I should like to take care of this."

"Well, thank you. That's very kind," I said. I did not know him and asked: "What parish do you belong to?"

"I go to the Assembly of God church."

"Weren't you baptized a Catholic?"

"Yes," he answered.

Then I exploded: "What's the matter with you people? Jesus gave you the Catholic Church. 'Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church.' The Catholic Church has been here from the beginning, for 2,000 years, and that's where you belong!"

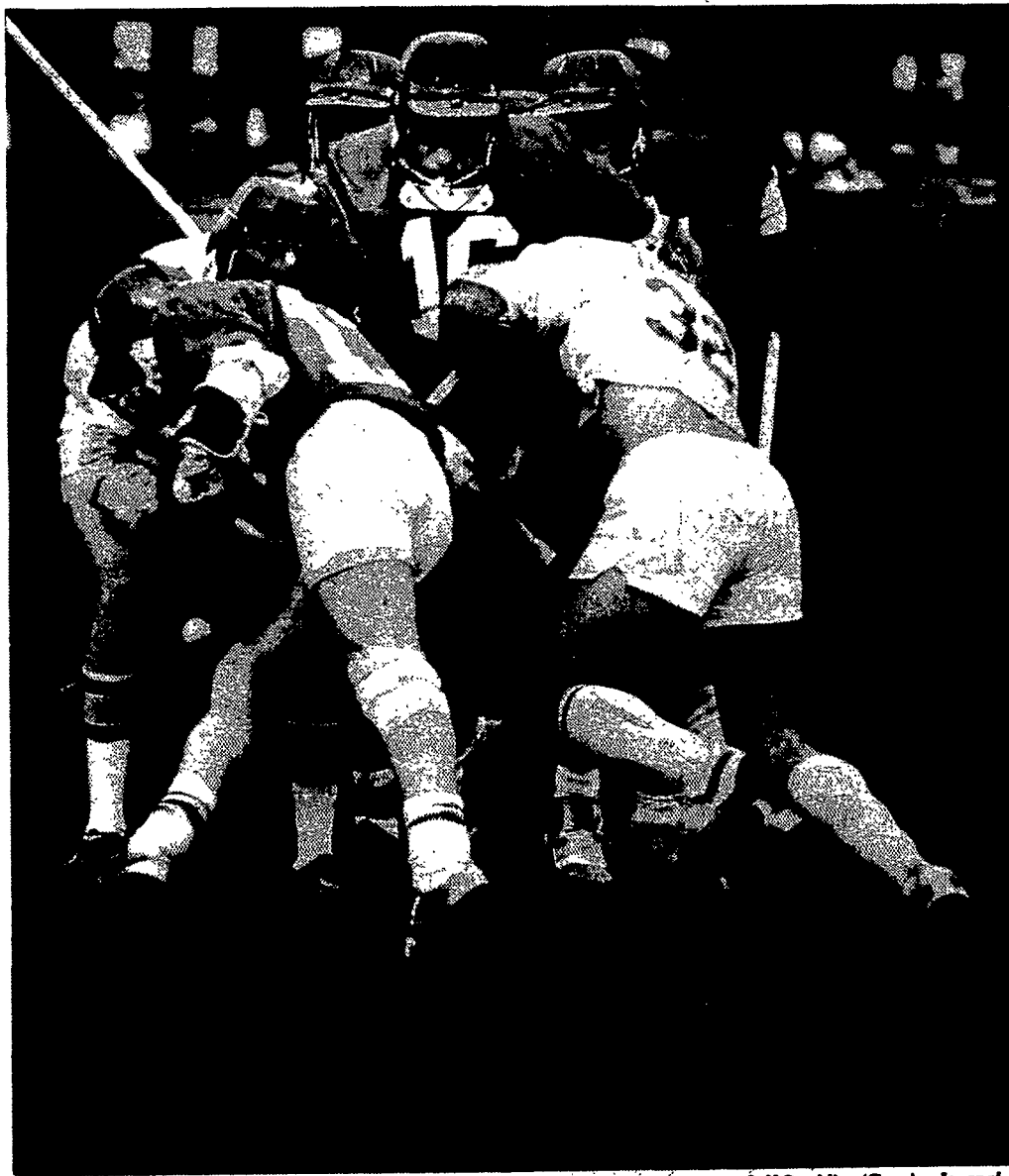
He nodded pleasantly, and I let him pay the check.

Our bishop's office reports that 499 were received at the Easter Vigil. What should the report be of those who have walked out? Why have they gone? I suppose some scandal from those poisonous movies like "True Confessions" and "The Thorn Birds," and from Father Andrew Greeley's sexy pot-boilers. It may be in part from those dreadful nuns and ex-nuns who haunt the TV shows to proclaim their pain and their hostility to "that Polish pope who does not understand American women."

On April 9, two ex-nuns got on the "Donohue" show to espouse sexual immorality. One was asked the question: "How could you have the vow of chastity and hold what you are saying?" To justify her position, her reply was: "They've changed the vow of poverty; they have redefined the vow of obedience. Now is the time to change the vow of chastity." Although these women have quit the Church, they bill themselves as ex-nuns.

Part of the problem surely is a non-disciplined Catholic life. Father Henri Nouwen wrote: "A real discipline never remains vague or general. It is as concrete and specific as daily life itself." (Quoted in Father Joseph Champlin's "Behind Closed Doors: A Book on How to Pray.") The dulling of a sense of sin, the dropping of the rosary and poetic litanies, the intrusion of vulgar music, and the suppression of noble music and hymns surely have had a deleterious effect.

Yet I think they do less harm than the frequent lack of appreciation of our Catholic faith among our own young people. When we have a convinced, zealous, prayerful Catholic people who can clearly and confidently answer the question: "Why are you a Catholic?" then we will have people flowing into the Church rather than out. "The object of the intellect is truth," wrote St. Thomas. Jesus gave the world the well of truth, wonderfully preserved by the Church these past 2,000 years.



Mike Murphy of Bishop Kearney (32) checks Penfield's Adam Volanth (16) in the second half of Thursday afternoon's home game at Bishop Kearney.



Lou Fusilli (33) of Bishop Kearney loses the ball temporarily as the rest of the field of players anticipate the scramble to retrieve the ball.



The Kings take a rest after the first half, with the score tied at 2-2.

### Penfield Defeats Bishop Kearney, 6-3