

Editorials



Jeff Goulding / Courier-Journal

Unfurling the Flag

Jack Titonack of St. John Kanty parish, Buffalo, keeps a close eye on the flag at Perkins Restaurant, Buffalo Road. Titonack, assistant manager of the restaurant, notes that because of the flag's large size, high winds can easily damage it or the flag pole.

and Opinions

Pseudo-Sandinista Reports Activity

To the Editor:

This letter is sent in response to the article about the group that plays war games in Rochester as make-believe "contras." ("Group Stages 'Terrorist Acts' To Show Effect of Contra Aid," C-J June 19, Page 1.) Here follows a make-believe letter to (Nicaraguan President) Daniel Ortega from me, a make-believe Sandinista:

Dear Comrade Ortega:

You will be please to know that I singlehandedly arrested four contras in Rochester, New York, as they raided the Dewey Avenue bus armed with heat-seeking water balloons. Though the task was a dangerous one, I neutralized their assault by using my newly acquired rapid-fire bean blower. I would not have been successful without it.

You will be entertained to learn of

Cuomo Letter Overlooks Cardinal's Pro-Life View

To the Editor:

In Governor Cuomo's statement applauding the elevation of Cardinal O'Connor (Opinion: June 12) it should be pointed out that while the governor praises the cardinal for his concern "for the poorest and most disadvantaged among us — the spiritually tormented, the homeless, the disabled, the despairing," Cuomo fails to mention Cardinal O'Connor's deep concern for and commitment to the unborn.

There is no doubt that the cardinal feels abortion makes the innocent unborn child one of the poorest and most disadvantaged of the human family. And while he has courageously upheld Church teaching on abortion, Governor Cuomo has attacked Church teaching by supporting "a woman's right to choose."

Small wonder then that the governor does not applaud Cardinal O'Connor for defending the rights of the unborn.

Rita A. Flansburg
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Lima

demands they made as prisoners of this great new state of Nicaragua:

1). They demanded to see an attorney. This, I believe, is a person who advocates for their release!

2). They demanded to be allowed to make telephone calls to Amerika! They said it's their right!

3). They also were demanding a hearing and a trial by jury. What do these terms mean?

Finally, we have arrested their families for further interrogation. Hopefully, family members will give us more information related to their activities. If not, we will be forced to torture these individuals by tickling them or, even worse, pop-gun firing squad.

Your obedient servant,
Thomas A. Maguire
61 Longview Terrace
Rochester



"TRY TO GIVE MORE THAN YOUR USUAL DOLLAR, HARRY."

Saving 'The Lady':
An Act of National Pride

In honor of our nation's 209th birthday, the Courier-Journal is pleased to present the following guest editorial written by Cindy Borrelli, who recently graduated from the eighth grade at Most Precious Blood School. Cindy's essay was named the overall winner in the "Save the Lady" essay contest sponsored by the New York District Kiwanis Club. During a special awards ceremony at Most Precious Blood School on May 14, Cindy received her award from Jack Harting, governor of the New York Kiwanis District. The essay is scheduled to appear in an upcoming edition of the state Kiwanis magazine.

I am an old lady. I have seen many things throughout all of the years I have been standing here. I watched as immigrants came to Ellis Island looking for a better life. I gave them something to believe in — the American Way. It was a new hope, a new dream.

I watched as they gazed in awe at my wonder. I was their refuge. But that would soon change. There came discrimination, and war. The dream of American love and unity left gasping for its last few breaths ... and I alone cried my silent tears of disappointment in my people. But I am still standing.

I love my people, but they are ruining this once-beautiful land of the free. The waters are polluted, the air is polluted, buildings bear graffiti, and people are becoming more and more violent. What have I done wrong? If they don't keep America beautiful, who will? I certainly can't. I am only a statue, but if they can maintain this country, then we together can maintain this dream. I pray that my people don't take America for granted because they have got to keep it clean. If they want to enjoy life, why not enjoy it in a healthy environment? I care about the people here. My faithfulness is their shield. That's why I am still standing, despite the way things are, in hope for a better life for people to come. They, too, will learn the American dream. They, too, will know of my hard times. Posterity will preserve this dream of unity. But for now, my tears are still falling.

Writer Hopes Local Catholic Schools Won't Compromise on Church Doctrine

To the Editor:

In the June 7 Democrat and Chronicle, there appeared a letter to the editor by William Sullivan, associate professor in the religious studies department of St. John Fisher College. Writing about homosexuality, Sullivan says that we "should rejoice in the diversity of God's creation, male and female, black, yellow, brown and white, gay and straight."

This statement leads one to wonder how topics such as homosexuality are treated in the religious studies department at St. John Fisher. Is Catholic moral teaching and biblical morality accurately and faithfully conveyed to the students?

Sullivan's letter reminded me of a recent article in Fidelity magazine in which the University of Notre Dame's "Counselor" was discussed. Taped messages on various questions can be heard by dialing a certain number on campus. Tape No. 20 contains this message on homosexuality: "Neither I

nor anyone else can tell you what you should believe, but my own viewpoint is that religious and legal authorities have laid down rules against homosexual practices because of their own biases and fears and not because they have a more direct pipeline to the truth than you or I." The tape then goes on to say that homosexual acts "can be very beautiful and positive." One student writing in the school newspaper noted: "a Catholic university cannot retain its integrity by denying the very values which make it distinctive. These tapes clearly do this."

Many Catholic institutions of learning, be they on the college level or the high school level, have compromised and diluted Catholic values and moral teaching to such a degree that they have become Catholic in name only. As an alumnus of St. John Fisher College, I hope that this hasn't happened at Fisher.

Raymond N. Buonemani
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Writer Disapproves Of Aid for Contras

To the Editor:

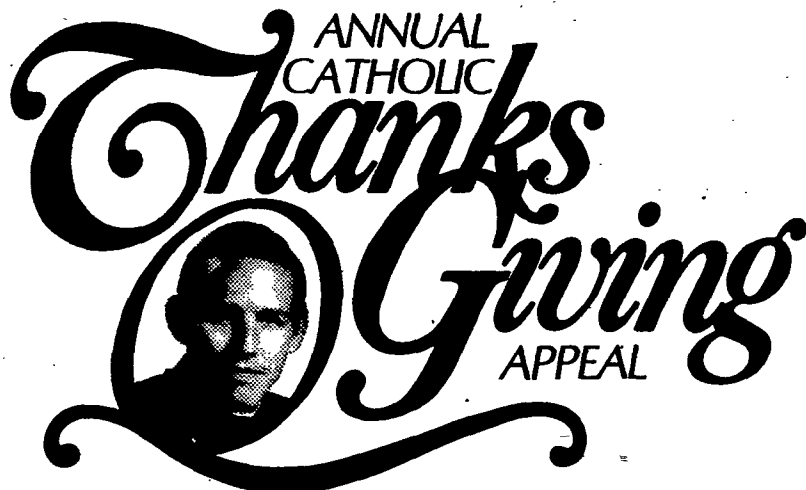
As a former theology student who 12 years ago lived a summer in Guatemala and two years in Bolivia and Chile, I have kept abreast of events in those areas. I am saddened to see yet another appropriation by our government of \$27 million of the cause of the contra military effort against the Nicaraguan people and government.

The contras are approximately 13,000 soldiers led by the officers left over from the repressive Somoza dictatorship which ruled Nicaragua for 35 years, collecting vast holdings for the few rich while keeping the masses impoverished. I feel the Reagan administration is morally wrong in supporting this military group which commonly

employs terrorist attacks against civilians in this country that already went through a bloody civil war in the late 1970s, resulting in the ouster of the dictatorship.

I am saddened to see our government, which was founded on the principle of self-determination, once again intervening and in a sense already invading this small country as it has done elsewhere several times in past history. Granted, the Ortega government of Nicaragua has sought Soviet aid, but what seems more out of a self-preservation defense. Would Jesus favor David or Goliath in this bitter conflict?

Dick Hanford
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Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writers' signatures, full addresses and telephone numbers. They should be sent to: Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, and 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 writers' own styles.

Because submitted opinions exceed the space reserved for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent to other publications or persons. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.