

Editorial



Courier-Journal photographer takes prize

Indulge us a moment as we sing our own praises. The above photograph, taken by Courier-Journal photographer Jeff Goulding at the burial of Father Charles Lavery, has been awarded first place for news in Region Two of the National Press Photographers' Association's December "Clip Contest." Region Two encompasses photographers on daily and weekly newspapers throughout New York state. Congratulations, Jeff!

Criticism is compliment to nation

To the Editor:

The Courier-Journal of January 30 arrived in my mailbox with a crossfire of right-wing reaction from Ray Guth and Robert Bart. Between these two letter writers, there is so much misrepresentation and distortion, it's impossible to adequately reply in the small space allotted here, but I will try.

Mr. Guth portrayed me as an "admitted" socialist — a half truth. In my letter of Jan. 9, I identified myself as a libertarian-socialist. Why does he ignore the libertarian nature of my socialism?

Guth also challenged me to prove that I am a defender of the American "experience" of 1776. OK. I honorably served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era on the U.S.S. Forrestal, a ship that sustained more casualties than other vessels in that war.

Since leaving the Navy and becoming aware of the evil forces the U.S. military serves, I've shown my devotion to nation in other ways. As Senator Fulbright said, "To criticize one's country is to do it a service and pay it a compliment. It is a service because it may spur the country to do better than it is doing; it is a compliment because it evidences a belief that the country can do better than it is doing."

Guth echoed Robert Bart's oft-repeated horror at the genocide in the Ukraine under Stalin, a human atrocity I, too, deplore. But Guth and Bart ignore the even worse genocide of American Indians in the United States. Is it genocide or Soviet communism they object to? Both letter writers also mention the well-propagated falsehood of Sandinista genocide of Miskito Indians.

Writer expresses disappointment in editorial

To the Editor:

I, along with many others who went on the March for Life, were truly disappointed that in your editorial of the Jan. 30 issue ("A rose by any other name...") you chose to focus on the requests to President Reagan to pardon the clinic bombers.

It is too bad that our peaceful efforts were overlooked to focus on what NOW, NARAI and Planned Parenthood hoped everyone would zero in on, the clinic bombings. The media has been dancing to the tune of these anti-life, anti-family and anti-child organizations since the Roe vs. Wade decision legalized the killing of unborn children in 1973.

It is really too bad that you had to follow suit and do what the secular press has been doing from the start — that is, giving or trying to give us who are anti-abortion a negative image.

Instead of slapping our hands as we got back to the city after that successful and peaceful march, it would have been really Christian to read some words of encouragement from the editor for our efforts to stem the tide of brutalization of the unborn, wherein the real terrorism lies.

Mary Ellen Frisch
Gillette Road
Spencerport

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editorial was not written to "slap the hands" of peaceful marchers, but to decry the unfortunate misuse of the March for Life by those who requested the pardons. We loudly applaud the efforts of marchers from this and other areas, hence our coverage of local groups' participation. We feel, however, that this peaceful event should not have been manipulated by those who made the request. One

Besides giving a distorted view of Russian history in his letter, Bart takes me to task for considering Vladimir Lenin as one of history's all-time heroes. This is not my verdict; it is the verdict of history. Lenin is just as much as a hero of the Second and Third Worlds as George Washington is here.

In my Jan. 9 letter, I made it clear that I'm not a Leninist. Furthermore, while I also consider Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony and Mohammed as all-time heroes, I'm not a Republican, a feminist or a Muslim, either. In my quest for truth, I separate wheat from chaff, taking the good and rejecting the bad.

On these pages in the past, I have presented reliable, expert testimony about the great efforts of the CIA to employ journalists, professors and authors to lie about any force that opposes U.S. state terrorism and the material exploitation of the world's poor.

Catholics — in the Church of the poor — should note the words of Paul the apostle (Acts 4:32) when contemplating true communism: "The community of believers were of one heart and mind. None of them ever claimed anything as his own, everything was held in common... nor was there anyone needy among them."

In closing, I take particular exception to Robert Bart's comment that I "evidently" share Lenin's disbelief in God. That is simply untrue.

John E. Milich
P.O. Box 333
Ithaca

cannot fault the secular media for focusing on a good story, and those individuals who made the pardon request certainly gave them one. As a result, the march's peaceful character was distorted, and the movement as a whole was undermined. That, in our opinion, was wrong.

Cites work of Dr. Schwarz

To the Editor:

On January 9, a letter appeared in the Courier-Journal in which the gentlemen writing said he did not know who Dr. Fred Schwarz was.

Dr. Schwarz founded and still is associated with the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade. He has been very instrumental in keeping the people informed about communist activity around the world.

I am enclosing a booklet he published, "Why Communism Kills — The Legacy of Karl Marx." I believe you and any of your readers will find it very informative. Dr. Schwarz's address is: CACC, P.O. Box 890, Long Beach, Cal. 90801.

Judy D. Snow
Sam Adams Lane
Auburn

Send literature to the missions

To the Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines directly to the foreign missions.

If those who wish to do so will please send me self-addressed envelopes, I will send them the names and addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Those interested should write directly to:

Mary Conway
14 Castle Street
Cork, Ireland

And opinions

'Creativity' theory is prideful rationalization

To the Editor:

After reading David Markham's discussion on the creative ability of God as overheard in a bar, I wasn't sure whether I was the victim of a joke or was privy to an exercise in creative writing. I will assume that this was a serious and real conversation and make my observations on that basis.

Once again, we see the inadequacy of man's limited thinking in response to the mystery of an infinite God. Why must we lay claim to our rationalizations as being the centerpiece of knowledge and wisdom? Why do we try to bind God and force Him into the context of our narrow philosophies? I would admire the intellectual adventure these persons are taking in their quest to understand the character of God better. But a danger lies in taking their suppositions too seriously. Before long, we tend to regard such thinking as brilliant and are trapped in the age-old sin of pride.

I would not try to draw any profound conclusions as to how God created the universe. The physical dynamics don't excite

my basically unscientific mind. I just know He did it, and that's good enough for me. But it occurs to me this woman is treading on dangerous theological ground in her assumptions about the God of Holy Scripture. Her metaphysical conclusions that God is a "process" and not a person defies all description He has given to us about Himself. Again, God is being reduced to mere spiritual symbolism so we can compete with Him on our level. And again, sin is de-emphasized to some dose of "negative vibrations" instead of being rebellion against the will of God.

To say creativity is the same thing as God is to say we can create ourselves into a god. The reality is that we have just created another lie in our heart to justify the rebellious nature we've become so fond of.

Alas, Christ won't return to a completed and fulfilled world — only in His return will He make it perfect.

Tom Bird
RD 2
Beaver Dams

On the Right Side

Father Paul J. Cuddy



Wayne County Report

Last year, Father Richard Orlando, pastor of St. Michael's Church, Lyons, invited me to care for his parish this January. It was a happy mission, since I had spent 13 years of my priesthood in Clyde, eight miles east of Lyons, and have many friends and former parishioners in Wayne County. So when Fr. Orlando invited me for January 14 to February 7 this year, I was greatly pleased.

What preparations were involved in coming? A few T-shirts and shorts, socks and handkerchiefs, a shaving kit, and a car trunk full of prayer books, rosary beads, and sundry religious articles after the Masses. The gospel at each Mass included: "I come and I go, and am quickly forgotten, but these instruments of prayer and inspiration will remain, like fruit trees, continuing to bear spiritual fruit."

I had left word that I would arrive between 9 and 9:30 Sunday night, after a fine dinner in West Webster with Deacon Greg and Marj Doyle and family, who had assembled for a post-New Year reunion. However, I got to the rectory too early, at 8:30, and found it dark and bolted. Now what? I remembered from last year that attorney John Porter, president of the parish council, lived next door, and reasoned that he would know whom to call.

The Porters were relaxing from a big baptismal party, since baby Annaleigh Elizabeth had been baptized that afternoon, and relatives and friends had gathered in joy. Mr. Porter phoned the parish secretary, Pat Jelomono, who shot over to the rectory at once. At the same time, Joanne Gruchow, a great parish factotum who had been delegated to open up for my arrival, also arrived. The doors were opened. An hour of indifferent TV to relax, I figured, then off to bed downstairs in what was once the housekeeper's quarters, during the years when a devoted, ancient Lutheran lady, Irene Crossman, cared for Father Orlando like a doting mother.

A first week is always an adjusting week. On Monday, there was the funeral of Jerome Brown in Sodus, 14 miles north. The pastor, Father John Dillon,

had left for Florida with his mother, Mary (the former Moravia Duggan of Auburn, and a niece of my first pastor, Father Curtin, in Clyde), to visit his brother's widow and children. He had arranged with me to take care of the funeral.

When I got to Epiphany in Sodus at 9:50, the funeral was arriving, the church was locked up, and the undertaker was in a panic. Soon, a young man came and opened up, saying, "I thought Father said to open up at 10 o'clock." The mourners, at any rate, were kind and patient, and the funeral service was celebrated with a warm informality.

The Lyons church interior was being completely renovated to adapt to the new liturgy. Saturday/Sunday Mass was held in the basement hall below the church, with tin chairs, a peanut organ, and a bit of crowding. The funeral Mass for Peter Solenne was Tuesday, but because of the construction in the church, had to be held at St. Michael's, Newark, where Father Richard Beligotti had everything prepared.

In 1929, the Trinitarian Sisters came to work in Lyons. They left in 1969, and the convent was converted into a parish center for CCD meetings and other business. Since the chapel was intact, it was perfect for daily Mass, as well as for the 12 to 18 regular Mass-goers. I was happy to see that they used the Sanctus bell at Mass, and had competent altar boys. I wonder why there is such a passion to get rid of bells at Mass in so many churches, bells that add beauty and solemnity, and jolt wandering minds to attention. Hospital calls, walking the streets, shopping at stores, bars and offices are all part of "witnessing;" reminding the faithful, the unfaithful, the non-Catholics and the pagans that Christ and His Church are alive — and calling them all for Our Lord's fold.

In small villages, a man in a black suit and a Roman collar is local news by 6 o'clock in the evening. So the news, of my coming spread quickly.

More on the Lyons mission next week.

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 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 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.