

Editorial and Opinion

Column produces 'weariness'

To the editor:

A weariness settled into my spirit after reading Father Richard McBrien's column of Nov. 24. This man's twisting and turning of words and ideas in order to further cloud the true issue of abortion is both desperate and sad, especially coming from a Catholic priest. Modern liberal theology continues to rationalize away the existence of sin and lean heavily upon the concept of an all-loving God who cares little about our moral choices. Father McBrien of all people — considering his years of theological training — should know that a loving God would not want us to run head-long into self-destruction by exercising our free will in such careless ways.

Both *The New York Times* and McBrien's blating about possible criminal punishment for women who have abortions are nothing more than straw men designed for pro-life activists to waste time and energy knocking down. The real issue remains the moral question: Is it right to destroy innocent human life for the sake of other's convenience or selfish pleasure?

There has been so much effort by pro-life people to reason with pro-abortion advocates; using both the truth and wisdom of God's Word and the testimony of historical experience.

However the resistance of hardened hearts remains, seemingly stronger than ever. Outside the supernatural act of God's grace there appears little room for change.

The weariness continues to settle down upon me. I can now understand the growth of the civil disobedience movement across the country against abortion. Somehow the words have lost their power to communicate. The ears of the opposition have been closed and they are not hearing. To many pro-lifers their body is all they have left.

But the voice of God again speaks through the words of His apostle Paul in Galatians 6:7-9. "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Thank you Lord for restoring my strength one more time.

Tom Bird
RD 2 Beaver Dams

Reader recalls all holocaust victims

To the editor:

It was with some concern that I read the account of the reaction of the members of the panel who were part of GeVa's Sunday Salon performance of "Edith Stein," and some of the remarks which were passed (C-J, Nov. 17: "GeVa panel addresses controversies encircling Edith Stein"). Stating that Rabbi Miller linked the play to a "disturbing trend toward forgetting the Jews who died in the camps," I would like to ask where has he been all these years? The media never lets anyone forget the

six million Jews who perished: for example, "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "Escape from Sobibor." Last year's airing of "Shoah" for one whole week on PBS, filmed by a French Jew, produced startling and not always flattering, portrayals of Jewish behavior in Poland. In the series "War and Remembrance," one could surmise that only Jews perished in the death camps. With their very vocal lobby in the U.S. and throughout the world, there is very little likelihood that any of us will ever be allowed to forget.

As for a Catholic priest claiming insensitivity to Jewish concerns regarding the building of a chapel at the site of mass murder, this shows a total insensitivity to the six million non-Jews who likewise perished in the death camps and who deserve some fitting memorial to the fact that they, too, passed through this holocaust.

There are non-Jewish concentration camp survivors in our midst. Why were none of these on the panel? The greatest evil is the fact that the media in this country consistently overlooks the sufferings of the non-Jewish, victims and, quite possibly, the controversy over Edith Stein may contribute to the public knowledge that an estimated 12 million human beings died as a result of Hitler's pure Aryan policies. This is an obscenity for our time and should never be forgotten. The voices of the victims are silent. Who speaks for them?

Victor Yanatis
Harpington Drive
Rochester

F.M. Szwagiel
Drummond Street
Auburn

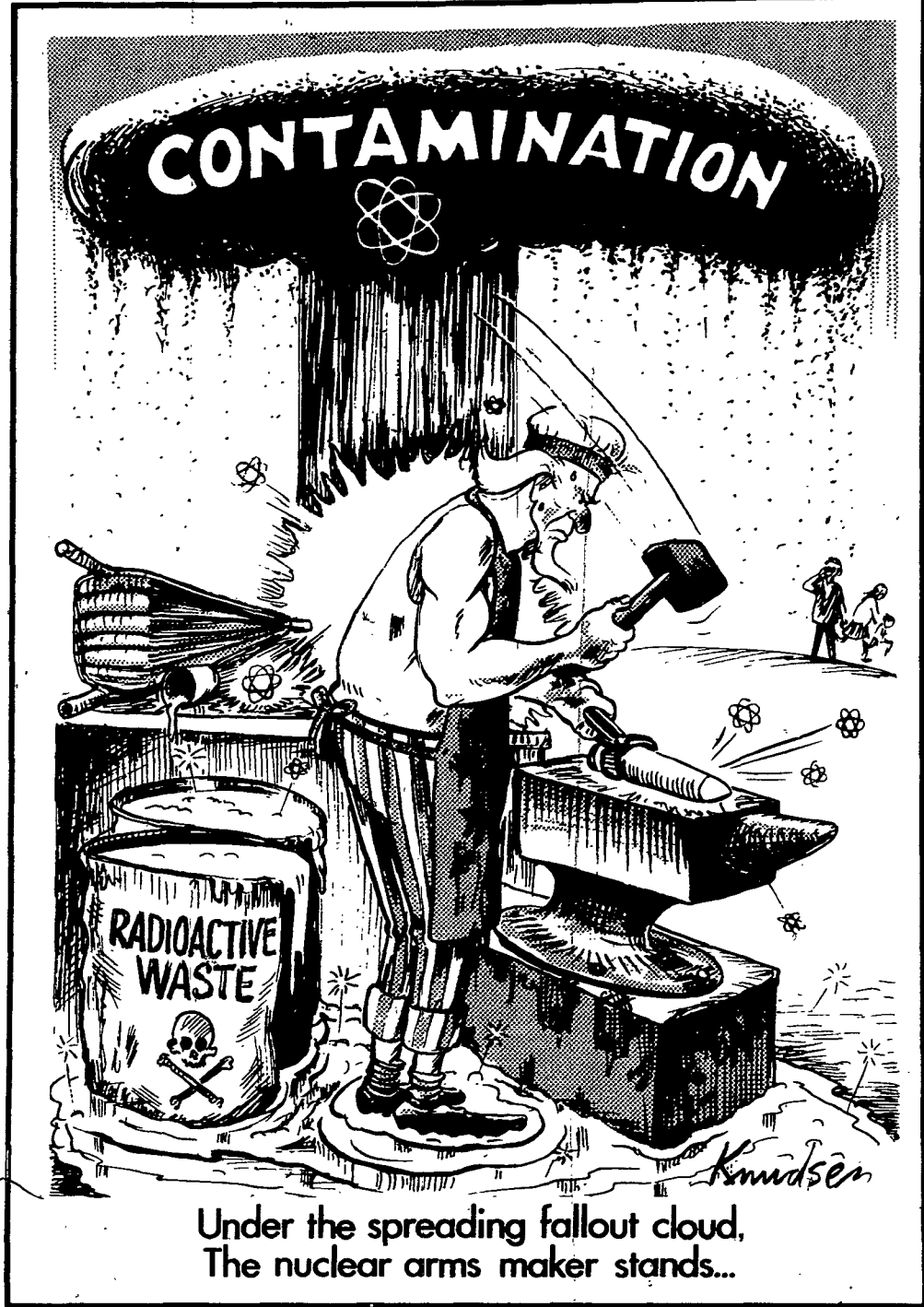
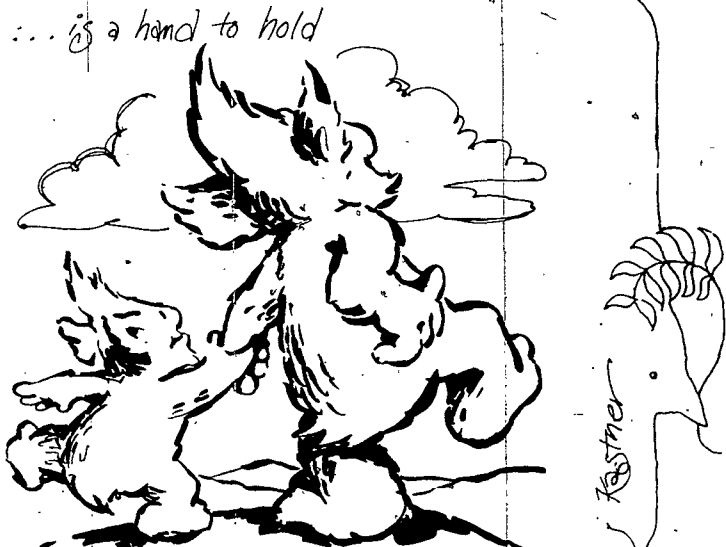
Courier-Journal Letters Policy

The Courier-Journal wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues-affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.

PEACE



Monetary motives of doctors decried

To the editor:

On June 12, 1988, Dr. William Morehouse wrote a letter to the (Democrat and Chronicle) detailing the profit motive of abortionists. This was quite graphically brought out in the trial of the 42 Highland Hospital Rescuers.

Testimony brought out at the trial stated that the OB/GYN Doctors Group at Highland — which group was formed solely to do abortions — rents the fifth floor East Wing from Highland for \$38,50 a day. A day in this case specifically refers to Friday evening from 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday morning from 7 a.m. to 12 Noon. If we multiply this token fee by four, these doctors rent this floor for 154.00 a month.

The going fee for Suction Abortions averages about \$250. There were nine abortions scheduled for the morning of May 21, the day the

Rescue took place. This was a slow day. Let's round the figure out to 10. That means these doctors make \$10,000 a month doing abortions, minus the rental fee of \$154 and that leaves a profit of \$9,846 per month. Multiply that figure by 12 and these doctors, dedicated to providing a community service, make \$118,152 a year. Not bad for a few hours work each week!

Let no one deceive themselves. Abortionists are in the business for the money. They care nothing for the woman. The feminists who fought so hard for abortion on demand, to end their "exploitation" by the male members of this society, are still being exploited, by the very men they fought before. Ironic, isn't it?

Janet Parulski
Lakecrest Avenue
Rochester

Willing adoptive parents offer abortion alternative

To the editor:

My wife and I have been involved in the adoption process for over four years. We are practicing Catholics and have great concerns in promoting adoption.

On two occasions we have been very close to receiving a baby only to find out the mother had an abortion. I truly wish that the members of our community traveling to Washington convey that mothers about to abort their child can easily go to an adoption agency. Our community needs to be further educated on the counseling, free legal advice available and the need for couples not able to have their own child and adopt.

Dear fellow parishioners of St. John of Rochester and the Rochester community: I would like to congratulate all of the participating peo-

ple traveling on January 22, 1989 to Washington, D.C. for the March of Life. The hurt continues to grow in our world as we continue to abort these little children. Consider your efforts outstanding and courageous. And remember that there are many organizations ready to help. Unfortunately we are told babies are a rare commodity. One Rochester agency, even said, "Our inventory is low"! As you carry your wonderful message to Washington please keep in mind that in the United States alone 4,000 babies are aborted each and every day. There are many more than 4,000 families willing to give them the opportunity of life.

Chris Harvey
East Whitney Road
Fairport

Abortion opponent discomfited by conservatives' inconsistency

To the editor:

I, too, abhor abortion. But I'm afraid I can't join the mainstream America and become a Conservative Independent. In 1988 and 1960, many conservative Democrats automatically voted against Catholic candidates. To me, it seems, quite often, that conservatives of both major parties are against blacks, Irish, Italians, Jews and unions. Even some Catholics voted for Wallace. From my little knowledge and what I have read, I question that all Conservatives are against pornography and abortion — anymore than Liberals are in favor of same. Bush has wavered back and forth and Quayle

doesn't seem to know what's going on. And if (abortion) becomes illegal, the mother should also be arrested.

I, too, hate abortion and I detest the lack of compassion in other matters by conservative groups. Will Bush also give us as many sleazy appointments as Reagan did? Fortunately, the Right-to-Life people didn't suffer the complete abuse the civil rights protestors did. Remember the hoses, the clubs, the dogs and even death!

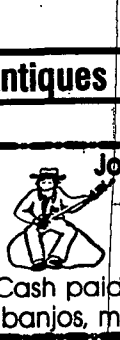
Thomas H. Dady
Brett Road
Rochester



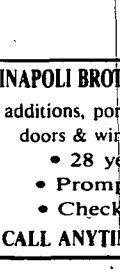
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