

Reader finds discrepancies in northeast quadrant plan

To the editor:

In January, I attended a meeting on the proposed reorganization of Catholic schools in the northeast quadrant. I think the discussion in that meeting as well as a reading of the draft proposal document raises some serious concerns for all of us in this diocese.

- There appeared to be a lack of knowledge among the diocesan representatives regarding the statistical facts used to make these hard decisions, e.g., declining first-grade enrollment vs. baptism rate was commented on as a reason for consolidation but no figures by parish could be provided.

- No response was given to an Irondequoit town councilman's statement regarding the apparent non-contact by researchers with the Irondequoit town board for data on demographics, housing starts, etc., that are unique to Irondequoit. A mass of current data exists as a part of the (town's) master plan update.

- I was left with the impression that Mr. Taddiken, the key writer of the proposal, as well as other representatives had not actually visited each and every school for a hands on look at facilities.

When one reads the draft proposal itself, the questions do not disappear. In fact it raises more questions, such as:

- One sees no independent engineering evaluation on the quality of the buildings being evaluated.

- There is no study regarding safety and traffic patterns, e.g. one school to remain open in the proposal has a massive mall being built in the immediate vicinity.

- In this day and age, when reduced

layers of contact and management are leading to vastly improved operations in all areas of business, hospitals and schools, etc., I counted no less than 13 layers of management or committees that will be in place with reorganization vs. the approximate six used today to run a Catholic school.

- The financing proposals are very incomplete and make some assumptions that are really questionable, e.g.:

- Parishes without schools would continue bingo and other fundraisers to support the system with the same enthusiasm as today!

- Income from sold or rented unused facilities would be given to the school system as opposed to retiring debt or improving long neglected other parish demands.

- Assumptions of giving levels remaining the same in parishes that close or have no schools.

- A return to an old unpopular assessment program that a parish must pay or else.

Unfortunately everyone in the quadrant is focusing on the issue of which school should close. I think we really ought to question the soundness of the whole study.

In closing, I'd like to urge all parishes in the diocese to learn more about these plans and proposals. There appears to be some real gaps in the process, and I hope the Bishop's commission asks some hard questions. Perhaps Peter McWalters is right in questioning studies by the Center for Governmental Research.

R. Thomas Ament
Plaza Drive
Rochester



Group urges alternative to Slaughter's appearance with Girl Scouts

To the editor:

We wish to express our concern that Representative Louise Slaughter is speaking to a Girl Scout troop, to be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish (on March 4).

While our group is not a Catholic organization, but rather an ecumenical/secular one, we uphold the consistent-life stand of the Catholic tradition as a morally coherent

ethic not found in any other institutional religion.

Indeed our mission statement connecting the violences of abortion, war and poverty reflects this courageous and often unpopular teaching of your faith.

We want to be clear about the positive issues Congressperson Slaughter represents. We applaud her promotion of anti-poverty programs, her no-aid to the Contras position, and her support of a nuclear weapons freeze, albeit weakened by her support of a first-strike weapons policy, which has been unequivocally condemned by the Vatican and the U.S. Bishops.

However, because of her adamant pro-choice on abortion position, the underpinnings of these non-violent positions listed above, are not based on respect and dignity

of the individual person. Rather they are based on political compromise. **This respect and dignity of every individual, no matter what degree of dependency or development is the very foundation of the social Gospel of your church.**

Allowing 4,000 deaths a day through abortion hardly qualifies for the oft-repeated statement by politicians that "at least I'm behind you on 90 percent of the issues." The destruction of life on this scale is nuclear war in the womb.

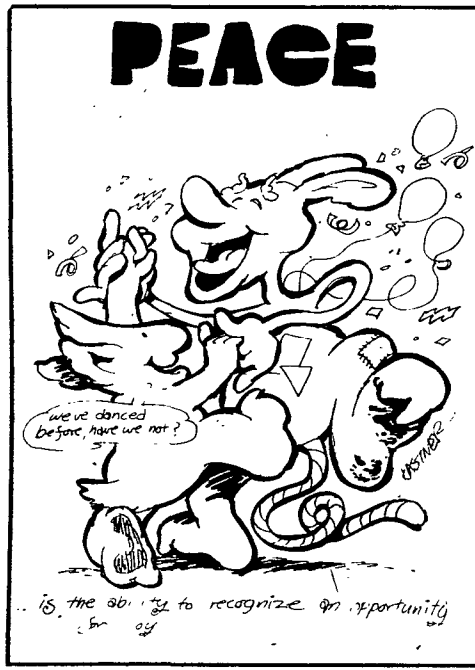
Are not our youth already too easily compromised in their values, whether it's drugs or sex, for we leaders, their real role models for everyday life, hold up such a compromiser as Louise Slaughter?

Common Ground did a survey for the 1988 election of all 55 candidates in our

area. We asked questions on the issues of war, abortion and poverty. John LaFalce is not a compromise and closely if not identically stands with the consistent-life ethic. We suggest him for an alternative speaker.

We understand how difficult it is to change plans when the event is on March 4, only two weeks away. But can we expect politicians to be courageous enough to break their promises to pro-choice constituents and to do what is unpopular, when we Church leaders and youth leaders do not have the same courage? Uninviting Slaughter, or at least disassociating the church from the event is the honorable thing to do.

Carol Crossed
Common Ground



Reader criticizes cartoon on Bundy, pornography

To the editor:

This letter is in reference to the cartoon in your February 9 issue, entitled "Expert Witness." Shown is (Ted) Bundy — although unidentified — sitting, head hooded, in the electric chair, saying, "Pornography leads to sex crimes."

Had I not just heard an audio tape of Bundy's conversation, just hours before his death, with Dr. James Dobson, noted psychologist and member of the President's

Commission on Pornography, I might have just ignored this. Over a two-year period, this commission studied the pornography problem in this country and concluded that there is a definite connection between pornography and sex crimes.

If you had heard this interview, I'm very sure the cartoon title would have been different or perhaps not published at all. I wouldn't be surprised to see things like this in a secular newspaper, but to see it in the *Courier* was a shock.

Bundy admitted his guilt, stated his remorse over the killings and told Dr. Dobson how he progressed through the various pornographic stages, always looking for a new plateau. He stated, also, that killing him was stopping him from committing further crime, but that there were other sex offenders — he called them other Bundys — out there, looking for their next victim.

May I suggest to you, the editor, and to interested readers that an audio tape, as well as a video tape, is available from "Focus on the Family," Pomona, Calif., 91799. The audio tape costs \$5 and the video \$25.

Pornographic garbage, so readily available in this country, is destroying our families, our children, and is a moral stench we must expose and defeat.

Howard Enkling
Gaskill Road
Owego

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since so many editorial cartoonists make their points through sarcasm, it is understandable that Mr. Enkling assumed the Knudsen cartoon was intended to ridicule Bundy's claims. Having followed Mr. Knudsen's work for some time, however, I can state with absolute



certainty that this is not the case. The cartoon merely observed that Bundy's first-hand testimony removes all doubt as to the connection between pornography and sex crimes.

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