

Local programs refuse to accept Nestle funds

To the editors:

We would like to take this opportunity to let the staff of the *Courier* and their audience know that the article of Sept. 20 on the Nestle Boycott ("Boycott dialogue produces little 'sweet talk'") printed some misleading information. Corpus Christi Center and Webster Avenue Family Resource Center were offered a gift by P. David Finks in July, 1990, as a result of his efforts to air views regarding the Infant Formula Issue. Because of his commitment to issues around the needs of infants and children, he felt he would like to donate any profits to support our programs and the work we do to care for infants and

children. At that time, we felt that the forum would have had a panel of speakers from various viewpoints including organizers of the Nestle Boycott. At no time did it appear to us or the staff at WAFRC that this "gift" would be the result of Nestle funds.

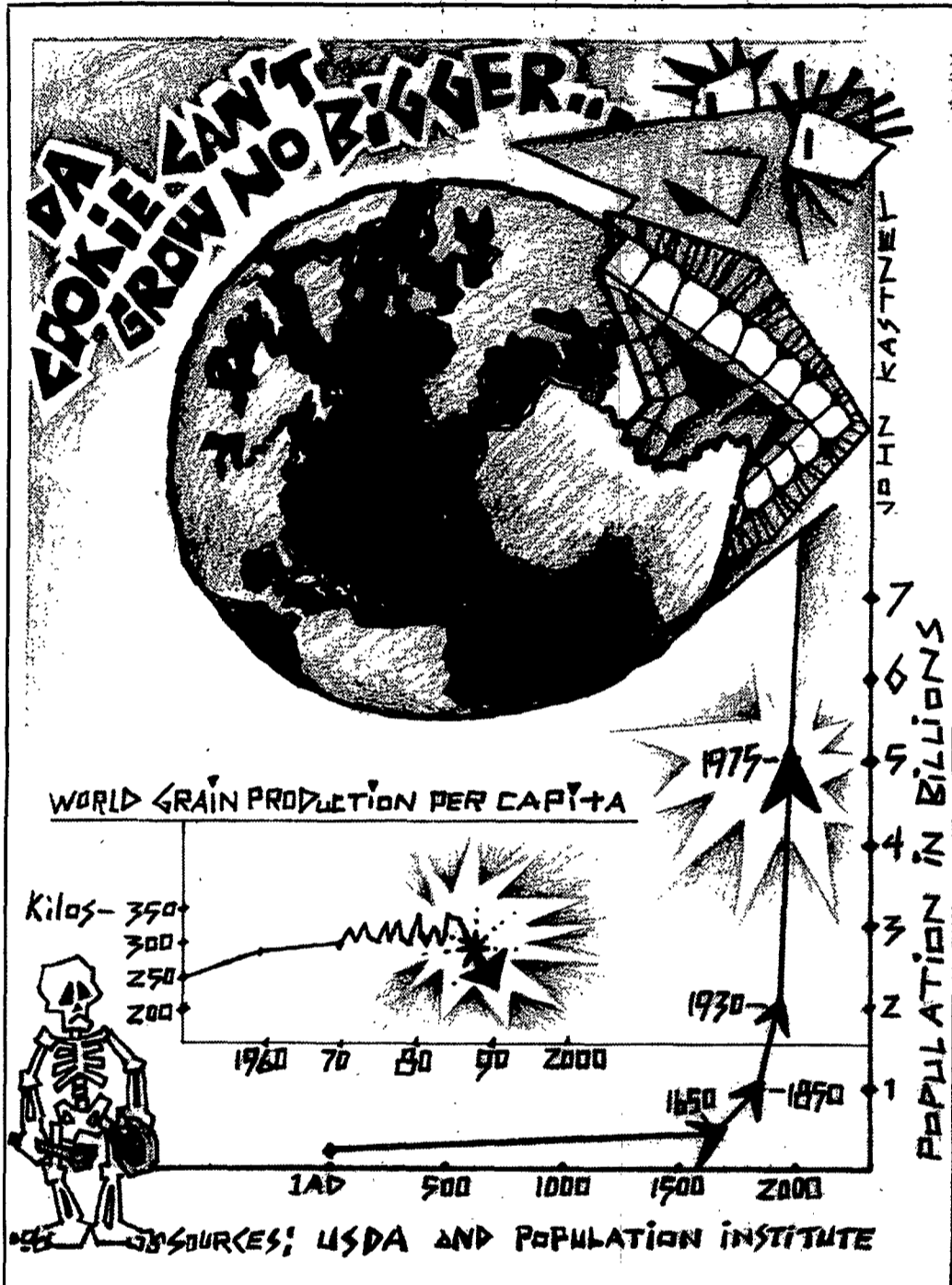
We were all surprised to discover that Thad Jackson was the only presenter and that P. David Finks would link our programs names with support for and from Nestle. The truth of the matter is that administrators from both programs have had a long history of supporting the Nestle Boycott both in the early '80s and now. We continue to support the Boycott against

Nestle products because of their continued violations against WHO guidelines regarding distribution of free formula to hospitals and other medical institutions. This practice reduces the possibility of breast feeding and increases the incidence of malnutrition, illness and subsequent death to babies throughout the Third World. Both Corpus Christi Center and the Webster Avenue Family Resource Center have refused to accept Mr. Finks' donations on matter of moral principal and have suggested to him that he donate his profits either to the boycott effort or to the Methodist organization that monitors Nestle activities with infant formula in the

Third World. We all hope and pray that the Nestle Corporation will seriously consider their activities in the Third World and change their policies for a just and human response and that they would lead other Infant Formula manufacturers to act justly as well.

Donna Del Santo, R.N.
Co-Director of
Corpus Christi Center

EDITOR'S NOTE: The article in question was written before Mr. Finks had received word that the funds would not be accepted by Corpus Christi and the Webster Avenue Family Resource Center.



Priest shortages should encourage new thinking about celibacy rules

To the editors:

Your thoughtful editorial about clerical celibacy (*Courier*, Sept. 13: "Catholics need guidance on troubling issue") should encourage the whole church of Rochester to continue this discussion in the light of changes in Sunday worship — already happening in some U.S. dioceses — caused by the shortage of parish priests.

Within the next couple of months, parish communities will begin studying a new (National Conference of Catholic Bishops') Liturgy Committee statement entitled, "Gathered in Steadfast Faith: Sunday Worship in the Absence of a Priest."

As this discussion continues, it may be helpful to know that there are more than 80 resigned priests living in the Greater Rochester area, most of them married.

According to a local survey done in 1988, these married priests and their wives are an exceptional group of professionals, well-established in families, careers, churches and communities.

I believe that this group of Catholic men and women can contribute unique resources and insights as parishes and di-

oceses rethink and restructure mission and ministries for the nineties.

P. David Finks
Veazey Terrace, NW
Washington, D.C.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Finks was vicar for urban ministry for the Diocese of Rochester under Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Pro-lifers requested to participate in vigil

To the editors:

I would like to encourage and invite our pro-life people to join the group at Highland Hospital on Saturday mornings, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. We walk and pray the rosary as a witness to our pro-life beliefs with the hope that there will be a change of heart on the part of the doctors and mothers involved in abortion.

This is a peaceful, prayerful effort. Let's hope more marchers will join us.

Mary Studier
Mosley Road
Rochester

Request for new columnist frustrated by limited space

To the editors:

Although I'm painfully aware of the present "no addition/no change" position of the *Courier's* editorial staff, I strongly believe that it's one that deserves rethinking. Please allow me to speak for the spiritually beleaguered reader in stating: *We need a new voice!* What we are now offered of the regular columnists is just that — regular, ordinary and woefully unchallenging. And Lord knows that there's nothing Christian about such a sorry mentality. Even Father McBrien's "Essays in Theology," once a bright spot, has fallen into an abyss of relentless self-justifications. While I will admit to having once been a semi-fan of McBrien's, I most often now find myself asking just *who* is he trying to convince: us or himself? It has been my own humbling experience that a true faith requires no such constant defense. Faith is, as we all know, a matter that must stand without a visible means of support. In the light of that understanding, forever quoting papal documents to uphold what should shine as pure grace serves only to belittle the whole enterprise — not to mention leaving the faithful feeling in-

sulted.

The *Courier* has proven in the past that it is a well-managed newspaper deserving of a respectful readership — and continues to do so, as evidenced in recent weeks by the new cover story/feature article format. How about showing us some of that innovation and consideration on the "column" page?

Martha A. Kelch
Westway
Rochester

EDITOR'S NOTE: We welcome the encouragement, but cannot take up Ms. Kelch's challenge at this time. In approximately 20 pages per week, our current average, we can accommodate no more than four weekly columns (in addition to Bishop Matthew H. Clark's "Along the Way" and periodic "Our View" editorials). Since each of the existing columns — "A Word for Sunday," "On the Right Side," "The Bible Corner" and "Essays in Theology" — appears to have a loyal and dedicated following, dropping any of them in favor of a new column would alienate certain segments of our readership.

Weekly rosary in front of hospital provides peaceful witness for life

To the editors:

When I first became active in the pro-life movement, the persistent and devoted folks who now say the rosary at Highland Hospital were visible every Saturday morning in wind, rain, snow, and every type of weather possible, praying the Rosary at Genesee Hospital. While all of us walked back and forth in front of the hospital praying, one of us would pass out simple flyers outlining fetal development. I often think how we must have looked to those passing by or going into the hospital — a motley crew of young and old, rosaries in hand, walking to the beat of a different drum.

Time marches on and things change, but that motley crew of Catholics with rosaries in hand haven't disappeared or been swallowed up by the noisy insanity outside of Genesee Hospital on Saturday. They can be found on South Avenue every Saturday, walking up and down in front of Highland

Hospital praying the Rosary for life — that those who are thinking of abortion will change their minds; that the doctors who perform abortions and those who assist in whatever capacity will have a softening of their hearts toward the unborn and give up the baby-killing practice. We usually have one sign, if the person who has it is there. It is not very exciting, but our reason for being there besides prayer is to give a peaceful, prayerful witness to those passing by or going into Highland Hospital.

I've come full circle in the pro-life movement. When I came back to the Rosary Group at Highland, I came home. To all those Catholic pro-lifers who haven't been to Highland for a while, I urge you to come home, too.

Mary Ellen Frisch
Gillett Road
Spencerport

Catholic Courier Letters Policy

The *Catholic Courier* 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: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.