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VIEWPOINT

PUBLIC OPINION

The editorial cartoon you've seen and have read about was not printed with the intent of degrading a religious faith

It appeared as a pictorial outlook on the Catholic church and the future. You may disagree with the meaning For that matter, you may have a different understanding than others about it

Either way, we want our readers to know that it was not printed to offend anyone personally or his church If you've taken it to mean that, we apologize

Newspapers don't try to convince readers they do everything to the satisfaction of everyone What we do try to do is offer more than one avenue of thought

And in that respect we also offer you the Safety Valve It's our sounding board for public opinion on any issue and you're invited to use it at no cost

A chance someone will act

The current drive against excessive violence on television can only benefit the medium There are far too many shootings stabbings beatings etc that are presented solely for their shock value

But what is 'excessive"? For that matter what is "violence"?

Consider the highly acclaimed program Roots Its producers have said that they were aware that the series which portrayed the experiences of one black family dur ing slavery days, could jar possibly emotionally disturbed persons into acts of violence

What they and everyone else had in mind, however was racial violence No one remotedly dreamed that a man would take over a home for unwed mothers in Cincinnati at gunpoint in search of his son who had been born there 20 years before

According to the lawyer for Jessie Coulder, the fellow had been sitting on the thing all those years ' The fuse that lit the dynamite was 'Roots. Jessie told me that when he saw Chicken George (a character in the story) get his own family back together, he couldn't help himself

It wasn't violence per se that tripped a circuit in this man's head He had probably seen thousands of TV cops gunned down by robbers, and vice versa over the past 20 years. It was something wholly unpredictable something proceeding from the human condition itself — his own personal human condition.

Unless we present nothing on television more provocative than warm milk, there will always be the possibility that something will incite someone somewhere to an antisocial act And we can t even be sure about the warm milk

Grown-up energy solutions

Fourth-graders in a school in Ravenna Ohio, were asked by their teacher for suggestions on how to deal with this winter s problems of abundant snow and scarce fuel supplies

It would be wonderful to report that out of the mouths of babes came overlooked solutions to both problems especially the second one Unfortunately the suggestions ranged from the commonplace — turning down thermostats and closing off unused rooms — to the fanciful building a giant light bulb and magnifying glass to melt the snow

The most interesting suggestion in regard to the energy shortage, however was one that was NOT made Not one of the children said the schools should be closed

That seems to be a grownups idea

NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN

AS TIME GOES BY

$52 stolen

FORTY YEARS AGO
—1937—

A toal of $52 was taken from the Johnson Brothers store by a thief who used a telephone to aid in the robbery by luring a clerk from the store .Secretary B.M Spencer of the Chamber of Commerce said a school for 60 to 70 prospective tree surgeons would be held at Arbor Lodge .Italian poet and hero Gabriele D'Annunzio said he wanted his body dissolved in a powerful chemical compound when he felt death approaching .Secretary of State Cordell Hull voiced an informal statement of regret over the speech of New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia in which La Guardia had attacked German leader Adolf Hitler

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
— 1952 —

Mr and Mrs N W Morrow observed their 56th wedding anniversary Harold Fouts was elected president of the Nebraska City Rotary Club to succeed Edgar Lightbody Jack Windle was named vice-president The name of PFC Duane Hoyle of Nebraska City was added to the new Korean prisoner of war list Mrs V E Tyler was elected president of the Nebraska City Woman's Club

TEN YEARS AGO
—1967—

Chancellor Kurt-George Kiesinger proposed a meeting with President Johnson with a view to strengthening U S - German relations Mrs Walter Fetty attended the ETV steering committee meeting of the Nebraska Council at the Nebraska Center of Continuing Education Pete Christensen, son of Mrs Dorothy Christensen, Nebraska City, was awarded the Outstanding Young Educator award at the Distinguised Service award banquet in Falls City .Nelson Eddy, the blond baritone whose ringing songs of love made him an idol of motion pictures and radio died of a stroke

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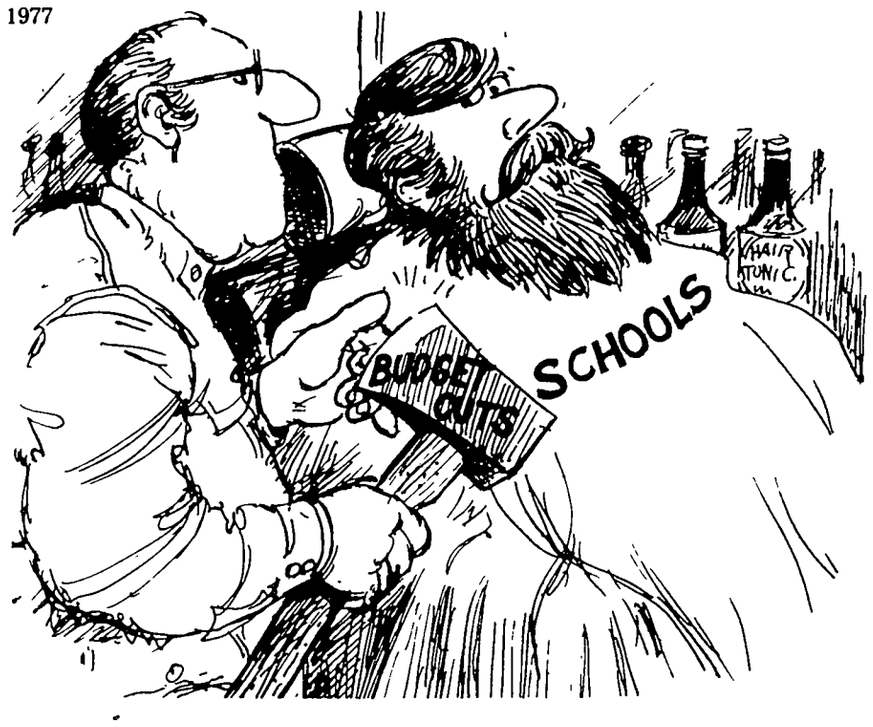
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The Prayer For Today From

The Upper Room

"The vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter so he made it again another vessel " (Jeremiah 18 4)

PRAYER Lord God, we have defaced the image in which You made us We repentantly present ourselves for recasting in the mold of Your loving grace Renew us for Jesus' sake Amen.



"Just a light trim, please!"

THE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

Flushed-out 'duck hunters'

By James H. Dygert
(Fourth in a series)

(Editor's Note: In 1975, while scanning the appendix of a SEC report on illegal political contributions, reporter Peter Gruenstein noticed a reference to the Northrop Corporation's duck-hunting lodge While the report mentioned, a number of free visits there by congressional and Pentagon personnel none of the recipients' names had been made public Gruenstein, a reporter for Capitol Hill News Service, finally tracked down the names of the recipients, and his stories, which led to probes by the FBI and GAO, were published in a number of papers around the country)

Following instructions, Peter Gruenstein drove to a dark street in a Virginia suburb of Washington, D C , and parked Gruenstein's visitor arrived about 2 00 A M and handed him a copy of a secret audit report by Pentagon officials on millions of dollars in defense contracts with Northrop Corporation, a Los Angeles aircraft manufacturer that specializes in jet fighters

Combined with documents that Gruenstein had pried out of sources in Congress, the Pentagon, and Northrop, the audit report gave him evidence he'd been chasing down for five months This was undisputable proof of illegal and unethical practices by Northrop officials, high-ranking Pentagon and Air Force brass, and powerful members of Congress

There was enough to fill several articles by the Capitol Hill News Service, which Gruenstein headed Published in the Washington Star and several other prominent newspapers around the country in October, 1975, the articles revealed

"Northrop had billed the government $24,000 for expenses at a goose and duck hunting lodge in Maryland where Pentagon and congressional VIPs had been entertained and the government had paid the bill,

'The Defense Department had reimbursed Northrop $8,-336 for tickets to Washington Redskin football games given to members of Congress, their aides, and Pentagon officials,

"The government had reimbursed Northrop $5.5 million, much of it in violation of Pentagon regulations, for payments disguised as consultant fees but actually made to lobbyists and political campaigns "

Gruenstein had received a phone call the previous week from a woman who wouldn't give her name "At exactly five this afternoon," she said, "a bunch of geese will be delivered to your door " At 5 02 P M ,a brown envelope arrived at Capitol Hill's office in the National Press Building Inside was a list of government big shots who had been entertained at Northrop's duck hunting lodge .

Gruenstein had been trying to get the list for several months, ever since he had spotted a mention of the lodge in the appendix of a 700-word Securities and Exchange Commission report on illegal political contributions He had written two stories then — one about free plane trips by Northrop for California Gov Ronald Reagan and Arizona Sen Barry Goldwater, the other about Northrop's use of the lodge to entertain Pentagon officials, congressmen and senators

There had been 123 visits to the lodge by military personnel during 1971-73, 21 by Defense Department officials, 11 by congressmen, and 85 by congressional staff employes

But Gruenstein had no names A Pentagon investigation produced a guest list, which was surrendered to three congressional committees But no one on the committees would let Gruenstein see the list because it contained congressional names

In fact, the list delivered to his office had a serious gap The Pentagon names had been scratched out His source, it seemed, was connected with the Pentagon

Verifying which of the congressional VIPs on the list actually had visited the hunting lodge, Gruenstein broke the story without the Pentagon names That same day, a congressional source brought him an unabridged list

Gruenstein also revealed government reimbursements to Northrop for lavish parties given by Washington hostess Anna Chennault for Pentagon brass, and $100,000 in "consultant fees" paid to Mrs Chennault

The FBI began an investigation and the Pentagon promised a thorough probe by the Defense Contract Audit Agency Defense Secretary James R Schlesinger said policies and rules on "gratuities" from contractors would be reexamined Sen William Proxmire requested a GAO investigation of the five largest defense contractors In February, 1976, the Pentagon suspended payment on some Northrop contracts pending completion of an audit on use of government money for political contributions and entertainment of government officials

"The Northrop stories are of journalistic significance," says Joseph Nocera, general manager of Capitol Hill News Service, "because they meet the basic 'but for' test But for Gruenstein's work, it is unlikely that such a vivid case study of one contractor's relationships with top Pentagon personnel could have been drawn, or that any investigations would have resulted "

Gruenstein is a 28-year-old lawyer and bachelor who eased into journalism through free-lance writing while working as a congressional aide He set up Capitol Hill News Service with a five-reporter staff in September, 1974, on a $40,000 grant from Ralph Nader's Public Citizen Fund to provide hard, aggressive coverage of Congress for small newspapers and broadcasters that can't afford a Washington bureau. By late 1975, Capitol Hill had 65 print clients and a dozen TV stations

One series described the acceptance of lobbyist gifts — plane trips, vacation junkets, cases of liquor — by employes of congressional committees A Pennsylvania newspaper reporter's moonlighting as a $5,000-a-year public relations assistant to a congressman was exposed "We cover the delegations extensively," says Nocera, "giving our papers their stands and thoughts on various issues and votes in Congress Also their inconsistencies, double-talk, and other aberrations "



Don Oakley

COMMENTARY

Will Carter have secrets?

By Don Oakley

All the world now knows that the Central Intelligence Agency made secret cash payments to eight, 10 or maybe a dozen foreign heads of states or national leaders In the case of King Hussein of Jordan the "financial relationship" extended over a period of 20 years

The Republic has not fallen Soviet tanks are not rumbling in the streets of Washington

The same information would have been available to Americans several years ago in a book called "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," written by Victor Marchetti, a former CIA official, and John D Marks, a former State Department officer Would have been, that is, had it not, along with dozens of other still suppressed passages, been censored by a federal judge as a result of a civil suit brought against the authors by the CIA.

Would the Republic have fallen then, or Soviet tanks have rumbled in the streets of Washington?

Evidently the court believed the danger to the national security was great enough to warrant one of the rare instances of press censorship in our history No doubt the CIA would still be preventing disclosure of the information if it could

But the truth will out, as they say, and although the named recipients have to a man denied the allegations, such has been the recent experience of Americans with regard to official deception, lying and subterfuge that they are willing to believe anything about the cloak-and-dagger boys

We will probably never know what, if any, benefits accrued to the United States from these secret transfers of millions of taxpayer dollars to friends or informants overseas. If the CIA never admits its blunders, neither does it publicize its successes

All we know is that the revelations restate one of the most difficult questions that can face a democracy How far can a free nation go in defending itself against its enemies before it risks destroying the very bedrock principle on which it is founded, the principle that government ultimately rests upon the informed consent of the governed?

Since some things must surely be kept from common knowledge because of the nature of the world in which we live, the question can be answered by only one man — the president, the Commander-in-Chief, the People's Tribune.

For reasons best known to himself, former President Ford did not act on the information which all the world now knows. President Carter has acted, at least to the extent of ending the payments to King Hussein, and has announced an "intensive and comprehensive" review of foreign intelligence operations.

But would he have done so if the stories about the payments had not first appeared in the press? Will he do so in the future in other matters which neither the press nor the public is yet aware of?

An affirmative answer to these questions can only be made on faith.



Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

Busy summer in works

Ivan D.E. Beaumont

The ball program

Charlie Doeden is making plans for the Jaycee summer ball program scheduling T-Ball, girls softball and boys baseball. It promises to be another busy summer with games every night on the three diamonds.

Joe Fletcher who coached the Optimist team for a few seasons, is getting itchy feet and thinking about coaching another ball team.

We had a "parents" part in one of his teams. That means we transported the neighborhood players to practice. Joe had to be at work at 8 a.m., each day and that meant 7 a.m., practices.

The boys put their hearts into it and their season record was good.

I helped once. Joe asked me to catch for Gary Nerison.

"You mean that little husky fella there on the mound?"

"Yeah," Joe said. "Go right ahead He needs some warm-up."

"Okay ...Gary ole' buddy, put her in there," I called to him.

"k-e-e-r-r-o-o-POW !(That smarted just a bit, but I didn't let him know).

"Okay, .Gary, stop messing around....grandma would have belted that one into Steinhart pond," I assured.

"k-e-e-r-r-o-o-POW ! "'

This went on for some time....too long a time, really. When I gave up the catcher's glove to Dave and walked away with a swollen hand, I could hear the chatter from David..."come on Nerison, now REALLY start throwing 'em."

David and Jayme Gruber alternated catching the entire season.

I never went back to the catcher's box again.

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A whole lot of thanks

The $1,000 checks from the three businesses in Nebraska City to the Rescue Squad was about as fine a start for a fund drive that we've seen.

The checks were presented to the squad by Ellsworth Merkel, president of Otoe County National Bank, Arvon Marcotte, executive vice president of Farmers Bank and Duane Hall, president of Midwest Federal Savings and Loan.

Rescue Chief Don Chapin said the new emergency vehicle will cost about $35,000 when fully equipped. The squad plans to phase out its 1967 vehicle when the new unit is put into service

Meanwhile, the squad is pepping up its training programs offering more first aid classes The only cost is for the books.

Anyone interested in taking Red Cross first aid class may call the squad's business phone, 873-3444 or drop a note to NC Rescue, Box 333, Nebraska City, 68410.

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A jazz session

They had an oldtime jazz session in Falls City the other night. George "Pee Wee" Erwin put his trumpet to his lips and Judge Al Maust tongued the reed of his saxophone.

It was old time jazz by "old-timers" played for the benefit of the Falls City teen-agers.

The late Vern "Pick" Pickering who worked at the News-Press for many years, spoke about "Pee Wee" many times. Pick would have fit right in the group.

He traveled all through this area for many years with his band, Pick and His Tophatters.

Others in the band at Falls City were Dr. Robert Hoban, Bob Shields, Harley Ridgway and John Bremer of Syracuse.

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From Germany

Harvey Varenhorst, a graduate of Nebraska City High School, writes from his headquarters in Munich, Germany, that he enjoys reading the News-Press and offers help to visitors.

Mr Varenhorst said, "I am always reading about the people of Nebraska City or Otoe county who are visiting in Germany." He said anyone from the area is invited to drop him a line and he will give them his phone number.

His address is:
Harvey Varenhorst
American Consulate General
DEA-Justice
APO, New York, NY 09108

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Mrs Arthur (May) Whyte

May Whyte died the other day in Hamburg She had lived 92 long and wonderful years.

We have always enjoyed her notes in the mail and her visits to the News-Press. She was here just a couple weeks ago on one of those especially windy days.

She was given some assistance with the doors as she entered the newspaper office, moving slowly but smiling her usual bright self She admitted only, "I'm not as strong as I used to be."

Her pleasant attitude toward life and her alertness to the world happenings around here constantly made us aware she was one of those special people in Dr Stonecypher's book who are growing older ..gracefully

We miss you, May



Dr. Lamb

Misinformation about vitamin A

By Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

DEAR DR. LAMB — We know that carotene is important for good night vision, that it has also to do with vitamin A, which occurs in many yellow fruits and vegetables other than carrots. The question is, does one get the benefit for eyesight also from these other fruits and vegetables or is the carotene contained strictly in carrots?

DEAR READER — Carotene is the pigment in carrots, leafy and yellow vegetables. When it is ingested, the body breaks the carotene molecule in half One half of it becomes vitamin A and the other half is not used. The vitamin A is the substance that is related to vision It cannot improve your vision unless you are deficient in vitamin A, which is unlikely in this age of foods enriched with vitamins A and D

You get no benefits from carotene other than from the vitamin A that your body makes from it. Vitamin A is much more important than just for night vision. It influences metabolism of foods to release energy to run your body It is important in stimulating growth because it is essential in the process of cell formation. It is even essential to normal production of sperm

I hasten to add that there are no magical benefits from popping vitamin A if you are already getting sufficient amounts in your well-balanced diet or are taking as much as one all-purpose vitamin tablet a day An excess intake of vitamin A can cause severe toxic reactions, including loss of hair, and in children a reaction that resembles the effects of a brain tumor Excess vitamin A will not increase sexual performance

Understanding what a balanced diet for health includes is important to everyone's health, and I am sending you The Health Letter 4-6, Balanced Diet, Recommended Daily Dietary Allowances (RDA), to give you the basic information you need. Others who need this information can send 50 cents for it with a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope for mailing

The yellow color you observe in fruits and vegetables is not vitamin A Actually vitamin A is white As a result, some foods that are white actually contain more vitamin A than yellow foods A good example here is butter When the carotene has not been converted the butterfat may be yellow and after it is broken down to release vitamin A the butter is pale or nearly white The pale butter is richer in vitamin A than the yellow butter The lesson here is that yellow is not necessarily better For the same reason pale milk may be richer in vitamin A than a more yellow appearing milk

Carnivores cannot convert carotene to vitamin A The carnivores get their vitamin A by eating the carcasses of animals that can convert carotene to vitamin A c

Vitamin A is stored in fat and is usually classified as a fat soluble vitamin, but in truth it can be absorbed from a water solution

In general, the fruits and vegetables that are green or yellow contain vitamin A You also find large amounts of vitamin A in liver and butterfat (in whole milk or in butter) and because it is added to commercial products, in fortified skim milk and other commercial milk products

Because of the volume of mail, Dr Lamb cannot answer your letters personally but he will answer representative letters of common interest in his column You can write to him in care of this newspaper, P O Box 1551, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019)

(NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN)

Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, March 6, the 65th day of 1977. There are 300 days left in the year

Today's highlight in history

On this date in 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, fell to a Mexican force after a 13-day siege Davy Crockett and the other defenders were killed

On this date·

In 1475, the Renaissance artist Michelangelo was born in Caprese, Italy

In 1857, the U S. Supreme Court ruled that a slave, Dred Scott, could not sue for his freedom in a federal court.

In 1945, during World War II, the German city of Cologne fell to the U.S First Army.

In 1957, the former British African colonies of the Gold Coast and Togoland became the independent state of Ghana.

Ten years ago: A Peking broadcast indicated that Communist China's agriculture was in serious trouble.

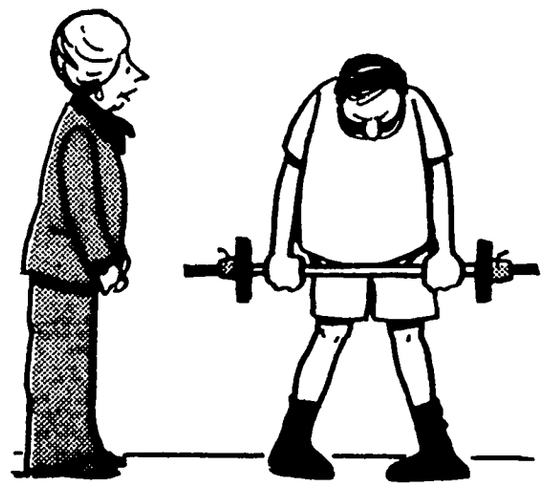
Five years ago: At least 52 people were injured when a bomb exploded in a parking lot in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

One year ago: Canada agreed in principle to end a two-year ban on nuclear assistance to India

Today's birthdays: Director Julius Rudel of the New York City Opera Company is 56. Country music singer and songwriter Bob Wills is 72.

Thought for today: Ask yourself whether you are happy, and you cease to be so. — John Stuart Mill, English philosopher and economist, 1806-1873.

Berry's World



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"I told your office you couldn't come to the phone — that you were 'pumping iron.' Right, dear?"