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# Pope Issues encyclical; a Redemptive message for all

by Regine Nickel

On March 4th, the first Sunday of Lent, Pope John Paul II issued his first encyclical to the Roman episcopate and communities, and to all men and women of good will. Traditionally the popes' vehicles of making known their policies, first encyclicals have always attracted much attention.

In this Pope John Paul II's REDEMPTION HOMINIS (Redeemer of Man) is no different. In other points it is very different, indeed. Firstly, it was issued very shortly after his inauguration, and secondly, it is one of the largest encyclicals ever issued. Just to have a comparison, Pope Paul VI's controversial HUMNAE VITAE was 7,000 words long, whereas REDEMPTOR HOMINIS comprises 18,000 words.

Even though the encyclical's style is rather

heavy and therefore hard to read (which might be due to the translations from the original Polish into English) it bears a living message and demonstrates the strength and boldness of the pope's teaching.

The pope points warningly at Western and Eastern governments and societies, religious freedom is threatened both by Western consumerism and by Marxist economics determinism and persecution of the faithful. Though previous popes had pointed often and sharply at materialism, they had never quite as sharply reprimanded communist regimes. This was due to the fear that any such action might endanger the faithful behind the Iron Curtain.

Since Pope John Paul II is well acquainted with living under communist rule - due to his background of having been cardinal in Poland - he can

make a better and bolder judgment of how far to go.

The arms race and overkill, pollution, social justice, and Christian unity are also being dealt with. Christian unity and open dialogue among Christians, and non-Christians, is an act of faith. Recalling Vatican II and Pope John XXIII's desire to solve this problem of Christian unity with evangelical spirit, the pope points out that striving in this direction is the will of Jesus Christ. (John 17:21)

All through the encyclical the pope focuses on Christ as the redeemer of man, as the redeemer of the individual. Christ died for every one of us. This must not be forgotten, despite the dangers of the modern world.

With this major emphasis on Christ, the redeemer, the papal message is very paternal and, at least in this respect, important for protestants and Catholics alike.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I was glad to see in the March 29 issue two items relating to the Judicial Board and the proposed revisions of its procedures. These are matters that need all the airing they can get.

Dean White's letter in defense of present procedures provides an apt and timely reminder of the considerable time and effort devoted by members of the Board to the difficulties they must confront. I do not believe, however, that the dean is able to assure the community that "no student is ever" denied "the right to face her accuser and witnesses" or that "every precaution is taken to assure the rights of the person being accused..." In the only trial I witnessed this year the solicitor would in two separate instances have been allowed, but for the protest of defense council, to introduce written testimony by persons not present, one of whom was no longer connected with the college. It is also clear that no one is in a position to assure the community, as the dean undertakes to do, that "no one has or will be 'falsely accused'...." The Board can deal with accusations only after they are made and these may prove to be either false or true.

In regard to the article outlining proposed revision of Board procedures, I believe the idea of a jury of students to determine cases may be a good one. It seems to me, however, that the community should be made aware of whether a student summoned to jury duty may be relieved from it for reasonable cause (and what those causes are), whether the prospective jurors may be challenged by either side, whether the jury decisions must be unanimous, whether a jury may recommend leniency, become "a hung jury", have a forman, be restricted in duration of its deliberations, etc. Do the changes include a rule that a presumption of innocence is to be made in every case, which is not true of the present system? What criteria distinguish those cases "severe" enough to go from Mediation Panel to Judi Board proper? Will written testimony of witnesses not present in court continue to be admitted? It may be that these questions have already been answered but, in any case, the community should be made fully aware of what the procedures are to be prior to their enactment.

Sincerely,  
Tom Parramore

March 30, 1979

Dear Editor,

We wish to express our concern over the events of the last business meeting of the SGA on March 16, 1979. At this meeting, legislation was passed concerning the revision of our Judicial System. We are glad to see changes being made; however, we have some reservations.

Our primary concern is that a major revision of the SGA Constitution and By-Laws is being processed with very little student knowledge and input. As stated in the By-Laws, Article IV - Amendments "the proposed amendment shall be posted at least one week before it is voted upon by the association SGA." This was not done. Questions, which should be incorporated in the original legislation, remain unanswered.

These issues are as follows:

1 - We believe the entire student body should be knowledgeable concerning this proposal both before and after it completes the legislative process.

2 - We believe that before changes are made in other boards (Legislative Board and Interdorm Board) their respective members should be consulted.

3 - We believe the original proposal should include not only changes in the Judicial System but also in the Legislative Board and Interdorm Board.

In conclusion, it is the right of all students to fully understand the effects these changes in the Judicial System will have on the Meredith community.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Clendenin  
Heather Ingle  
Mary McLeod  
Cindy Smith  
Carmen Warren

## Society goes to the dogs?

by Valerie Ray

I wandered into the theater wrapped in a blanket, unaware that my shivering would soon extend itself to the entire audience as we were plunged into a world of icy death.

In a future Ice Age the degeneration of society has left nothing but a game called Quintet. Unable to fight the elements, the people sink into a hopeless state of existence. The only release from

boredom is Quintet with its plots and counterplots. The expert players, soon tired of this monotony, adopt it to real life and murder becomes a game with rules and strategy.

They stage a tournament with select professionals and an order of play-offs. The result is a number of bloody, gory scenes. Black dogs are often shown eating abandoned bodies. The cameras zero in on slashed throats and stabbed faces. Grossness is

used to emphasize the futility of life. Life is only the prize of a well-played game.

While evil seems to be victorious in this progression, Paul Newman is the contradicting force. His ideas and values add the only spark of hope to a disastrous situation. His fate I will not disclose but let you tremble in the fearful cold and your muscles tense with the dissonant music to await the Quintet champion.

## The Meadowline Tales

by Ann Stringfield

"Well, hello stranger," Nan called as I entered the cubical.

"It has been a while, hasn't it?"

"Eons. Time infinite. In California I could have been married and divorced by this time. So what's new with our yellow press?"

"Absolutely nothing. Same old grind."

"Oh? You haven't changed coffees?"

"No, what about you?"  
"I don't drink coffee."

"No, silly, I mean your life!"

"Well, we here at Meredith have a new food manager by the name of Packer. And I must admit that he's working out quite well. We even had banana splits the other night. Yes, he's working out quite well. So well, in fact, that he might be open to my little plan."

"What earth-shaking plan have you devised now?"

"Well, as you know, many of us here at Meredith are soap opera fans. Sometimes, however, classes interfere with our shows so that we are forced to eat lunch within 10 minutes or simply go without.

This is a tragedy. I, with the help of a professor, have devised a solution to this problem."

"And what is that?"

"John-Boy could prepare us bag lunches to be delivered to our rooms by professors who aren't scheduled for class. This way, Mr. Packer will not have to employ extra help. Some professors could transport the drinks, others the food. A marvelous plan, isn't it?"

"Well...I think you might have a problem in getting the professors to comply."

"Not the male professors. What better change of getting into the girls' dorms! and what with Spring and sunbathing and bikinis... They'd love it. We'd love it. I think it's a great idea. Even better than the musical."

"The musical?"

"At the first of the year I wanted to write and stage a musical. I was going to call it 'Basically Baptist'."

"Really?"

"Yes. I had hoped that it would instigate calls for equal time by the other denominations. You know, 'Methodically Methodist,' 'Predominately Presbyterian,' 'Characteristically Catholic,' maybe even 'Awfully Anglican.' It

could have been a series on PBS. It could have been great. Sigh."

"What happened?"

"I had homework to do. I can't get anything done around this place for homework."

"I can see where it could be a problem. How's your social life?"

"Last weekend my social life picked up by leaps and bounds, for I spent the entire weekend with a fraternity."

"Any other developments?"

"I'm falling in love with my biology tutor."

"Oh? You have a tutor? Have your grades improved?"

"No, they haven't. I simply can't understand it."

"Maybe you should concentrate more on biology and less on anatomy."

"Cute, real cute."

"Any other monumental achievements?"

"I passed my lab practical."

"Good!"

"I wrote a paper on Milton."

"Good?"

"Not very."

"C'est la vie."

"Pour moi."

"A bientot."

"Si."

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