



john crowley

things that go bump on friday

Editor's note: Emerald feature editor John Crowley pointed out to us that his column "Things that go bump on Friday" isn't meant to run on Monday. We concede the point and have assured him that in the future we'll know what day of the week it is.

Jesus is coming back, as everyone from Garner Ted Armstrong to Bob Dylan keeps telling us. Nothing personal intended, but I think the Lord should skip this planet on his next spin through the galaxy. If he wants to stay out of court, that is.

Consider how we treat the Pope.

From around the country we read of otherwise-respectable citizens who plan to give the pontiff a hard time when he visits the United States this week.

As could be expected, the American Civil Liberties Union has hauled the church-and-state banner into court in Iowa to stop Polk County officials from closing Des Moines schools and giving county employees a paid holiday so that everyone can see the big guy.

The visit, the ACLU protests, is primarily for religious purposes.

And, naturally, famous atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair has sued the government to prevent His Holiness from celebrating Mass on a federally owned mall in Washington, D.C.

For good measure, she's suing the pope too. There's no report yet on what words the multilingual pontiff used when served with the subpoena.

As if assaults by the ACLU and the atheists weren't enough, John Paul has felt the wrath of his own flock, and not just little lambs.

In Washington, priests are being urged to refuse to help the pope hand out Holy

Communion wafers to the million or so people expected to show for the Mass — assuming, of course, the pope does his thing and splits before he can be arrested.

A group of priests calling themselves "Priests for Equality" is protesting a Vatican directive which calls for the use of ordained priests to help pass out the Body and Blood. The angry padres claim this snubs the laywomen who regularly serve as Eucharist ministers.

The image of the pope having to do all that work himself makes even a casualty of Catholicism like me feel a pang of Holy Guilt.

So if this is the way we treat the pope,

'If this is the way we treat the Pope, I'd hate to see how we'd welcome you-know-Who'

I'd hate to see how we'd welcome you-know-Who.

"Give us your poor, your round-eyed" Department:

This didn't start out to be an Only-in-America column, but while we're at it, let's hear it for the recent letter-writers to Dear Abby on the subject of the boat people.

Thousands wrote in to support "America First," complaining that the United States was foolish for taking in the refugees.

I keep hearing, usually from someone on the losing end of a poll, that people with negative feelings are more inclined

to respond to a poll or survey than are people with positive feelings.

But that hypothesis seems less than plausible in light of the 200-to-1 margin by which the writers pulled in the welcome mat. Some samples:

"... Are we going to let overbreeding Asiatics take over our country? We should help them only if they agree to be sterilized."

"... We welcomed the Europeans who have similar lifestyles, but let the Chinese go where they can get raw fish, rice, ride bicycles, live 20 to a room and smoke opium."

"... Assisting the boat people is like the motorist who stops to pick up an

attractive hitchhiker, only to have the husband, half-a-dozen kids, and aunts and uncles, oozing out of the bushes for the ride. I'm with 'America First.' I haven't changed my name or my nose, and I'm not anti-anything. (signed) Pro-Wasp in K.C., MO."

Sadly enough, it's a safe bet he won't change his alleged mind, either.

Speaking of the boat people, this column has received a letter from a correspondent explaining why John Lennon won't reunite with his old Beatle pals for a benefit concert to help the refugees.

Spokespersons for the United Nations, which is sponsoring the proposed four-hour show, say that McCartney, Harrison and Starr have already agreed to perform in the benefit, to be beamed by satellite around the world.

But Lennon has pooh-poohed the idea, and according to our correspondent, the reason is impotence.

"He just can't get it up anymore," says our writer. "He hasn't played in so long he's forgotten how to. He's been in New York State milking cows with his wife, Yoko. What does that do to a man?"

The letter concludes with some hilarious but possibly libelous anecdotes concerning Lennon and a transvestite stripper in Hamburg, Germany, in 1962. It's postmarked "Liverpool" and signed "Pete Best."

"Where are they when you need them" Department:

The American Civil Liberties Union, buoyed by its brave stand against the pope, is going to court in Florida to defend the right of a Ku Klux Klan leader to wear his white hood.

At issue is a state law prohibiting the wearing of masks in public, and the ACLU contends that anyone, even a Klansman, should have that right.

Clayton Moore, the Lone Ranger, was stripped of his mask by a California court after a movie company sued to prevent Moore from appearing as the masked lawman. It seems it has a younger man in mind to star in a new Lone Ranger movie.

Moore should consider joining the Klan to get his mask back.

I can see it all now: The pounding of hooves, a cloud of dust and a hearty "Hi-Yo Whitey!"

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