

LETTERS

**Capitalist theory**

It has been 50 years since the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japanese cities.

Earlier this year, there was much controversy about the Enola Gay exhibit at the Smithsonian.

The reason for the controversy is that documentation has been discovered by historians, which indicates the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki after knowing that the Japanese were willing to surrender. Further evidence is that this was done to intimidate the Russians and show them the terrible destruction wrought by nuclear weapons.

This theory corresponds with the fact that the United States and every other capitalist nation on Earth invaded Russia after the Bolshevik revolution. It sought to destroy the incipient rise of socialism and the threat that rise posed to the wealth and power of the ruling class in every capitalist country.

Also, it corresponds with the atrocities committed by the United States, either directly or through proxies, in Vietnam, Guatemala, El Salvador, Angola, Mozambique, Chile, Indonesia and East Timor.

This tremendous carnage, involving the violent deaths of millions of people and the starvation deaths of millions more, was done to stop the spread of socialism and ensure corporate access to cheap labor and natural resources.

This letter should in no way be considered a condemnation of the sacrifices of American soldiers who fought against fascism in World War II. I have the greatest respect and admiration for them.

Gary Sudborough  
Bellflower, Calif.

**Jesus pro-family**

I am responding to the letter "Jesus anti-family" (ODE, Oct. 3).

It has become commonplace for non-Christians to try to justify their dismissal of God and the Bible. They do this by utilizing bits and pieces of scripture. However, they take it out of context because they haven't stud-

ied the book as a whole.

You can't come to an accurate conclusion of the Bible this way any more than you can take one line from a medical journal and claim to be an expert brain surgeon.

Jesus does not want us to "hate" our families. What Jesus is saying in Luke 14:26 is that if we are going to follow him we must love him more than anything. Matthew 22:37-38 says that we must love the Lord our God with all our hearts, soul and mind. Matthew 10:39 says that whoever gives up his or her life, for [God], will find it.

When Jesus says in Matthew 10:34-38 that he did not come to bring peace to the world, but a sword, and that a man's enemies will be the members of his own household — he is explaining what can happen when an individual accepts Jesus as his or her savior.

The people who are usually the least receptive to a new Christian are the members of his or her own family. We still have a huge responsibility to them.

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 5:8 that "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Jesus did not ever "snub" his mother. In fact, Jesus' concern for his mother continued even to the cross. John 19:26-27 says "When Jesus saw his mother there [as Jesus hung on the cross], ... he said to her 'Dear woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple John, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, the disciple took her into his home."

Christ's last act before death was to ensure that his mother would be cared for.

Lastly, to Mr. Senyszyn, the most important fact is Christ's main goal ... If you had been the only person in the world, Jesus would have still left his throne in glory ... and died a horrible torturous death to atone for your sins. He did this so you could become part of his eternal family. But, the decision is yours.

Paul Blanche  
Springfield

**'Rickies' an insult to orthodox Catholics**

Betsy Ford's "apology" to Catholics offended by the Rickies' antics at the Eugene Celebration (Register-Guard Sept. 25), reads like a rationalization after the fact, a feeble attempt at damage control. Ford contrasts Rickies "raised as Catholics" who "were concerned that some might be offended," with "practicing Catholics" whom the Rickies consulted on their disgusting project.

Ford's contrast between "raised as" and "practicing" implies that the former no longer practice their faith. They are now ex-Catholics from whose ranks can come some of the most scathing vilifications of the Catholic Church.

As for the "practicing Catholics," who Ford says "heartily endorsed the idea," their counsel should be carefully weighed, especially if there is among them — as is likely — the smorgasbord variety of Catholic. These are the paradoxical practitioners of the faith, the moral relativists who attend Mass and receive the sacraments, but choose to obey only those Catholic teachings that do not conflict with their way of life.

At the polls, the smorgasbord assisted suicide. Many, like the members of that oxymoronic league, Catholics for a Free Choice, advocate abortion on demand. Neither the scriptures nor the Church influence them greatly. As one parish member told me, "I vote my conscience."

Register-Guard columnist Don Bishoff denies that the Rickies' float was a case of bigotry. In his defense of the indefensible article "Can't anyone take a joke?" (R-G, Sept. 29), he claims that Catholics in Oregon are "part of the mainstream, and neither a persecuted nor a discriminated-against minority" as are "blacks and Jews." The most elementary reference work would have revealed that Catholics are indeed a minority — and quite a small one in Lane County. So much for Bishoff's demographics. A superficial survey of the Guard's files would have disclosed the growing anti-Catholicism in Oregon. Any Rickies' claim to inno-

COMMENTARY

Guido Palandri

cence is belied by the title "Pope Fiction" on a book carried by one of them during the parade. The play on the movie title "Pulp Fiction" was obvious. There is however a deeper and extended sense, a sinister meaning that only a Rickies apologist would shy from — or that an imperceptive columnist might miss: "Pope Fiction" insinuates that the pope is a fraud, a fake, worthy of neither obedience nor respect.

That oxymoron Catholics think the Rickies' insult is clever does not astonish. These Catholics find delight in any word or action, no matter how mean or infantile, that ridicules the pope and erodes his authority. The Rickies and Bishoff have insulted all orthodox Catholics.

While the Rickies offer unconvincing apologies, Blithe Bishoff, weakly echoing outgoing Senator Bob Packwood, can only say: "Sorry, I just don't get it."

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