

CATHOLIC DOCTRINE?

By Malcolm A. Kline

A nun at a Catholic college offered a reading of Church doctrine that could give those not raised in the faith a misleading impression of the creed.

"You can't be a Christian and a conservative," Sister Laura Leming of the University of Dayton told her sociology class. What prompted this pronouncement was a debate on illegal immigration.

Ironically, the princes of the Church themselves offer a more balanced view of this controversial issue. "Illegal immigration should be prevented, but it is also essential to combat vigorously the

criminal activities which exploit illegal immigrants," Pope John Paul II stated in 1995. "The most appropriate choice, which will yield consis-

tent and long-lasting results, is that of international cooperation which aims to foster political stability and to eliminate underdevelopment."

"The present economic and social imbalance, which to a large extent encourages the migratory flow, should not be seen as something inevitable, but as a challenge to the human race's sense of responsibility."

The papal statement of the

late pontiff is the Catholic Church's last known official pronouncement on the issue. A phone call to the Vatican embassy yielded no further reflections.

More recently, though, the Archbishop of Washington, D. C. weighed in on the issue and made a point that bridged the opposing sides of the question. "Let me be clear," Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick said at a press conference on March 1st. "The Catholic Church acknowledges and supports the right of a sovereign nation to secure its borders, most particularly at a time in which national security is in question.

"You can't be a Christian and a conservative," Sister Laura Leming of the University of Dayton told her sociology class. What prompted this pronouncement was a debate on illegal immigration.

It should be noted that for about at least three decades the U. S. Catholic Bishops have been demonstrably more liberal, particularly on political issues, than the Vatican has. Hence, they have issued pastoral letters on matters economic and military quite apart from the papal encyclicals which focus on faith and morals.

Sister Leming, by all accounts a busy personage at the Ohio-based Marianist university, never answered a long, respectful letter questioning her original statements and their parallels to Church policy. Her own website

indicates that she might be at odds with positions taken by Church fathers.

"Sister Leming's dissertation work focused on the 'religious agency' that Roman Catholic women use to stay involved in a church that they sometimes find patriarchal and hierarchical in a way that can be disempowering for women," the sociologist's web site reads. "She is now exploring this concept in other contexts, both here in U. S. Catholicism and in the developing world context, in Southern India."

"In the U. S., she is tracking the development of a Catholic pro-change group."

On ratemyprofessor.com, student reviews of Sister Leming's teaching are split right down the middle. Both the bou-

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Score One For Free Speech

A student-run conservative newspaper, *The Harvard Salient*, has become one of the few media outlets brave enough to run the controversial Danish cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed. The four cartoons appeared in the Feb. 8th edition of the paper under the headline “A pox (err, jihad) on free expression.”

The Boston Globe’s Kathleen Burge reported that while student editors called the cartoons “relatively innocuous,” Muslim students and others reacted with anger, saying that publication of the cartoons was disrespectful to Muslims.”

The Salient also re-printed two anti-Semitic cartoons, “including one that superimposed a swastika over the Star of David.”

With the exception of Fox News and The Philadelphia Inquirer, most major media outlets have decided not to run the controversial cartoons.

However, the cartoons have run in at least one other student paper, the conservative Daily Illini at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.



Elvis Impersonator, The King Of Debate

“A mutton-chopped Elvis impersonator who favors the death penalty bested his political opponents . . . at a recent Toronto high school debate,” according to The Toronto Star. “The self-proclaimed Most Rev. Dorian Baxter of Christ the King Graceland

Independent Anglican Church” connected with the crowd and was “by far, the most well-spoken,” according to reports.

Baxter, a candidate for a local political slot, told students that while his Progressive Conservative Party doesn’t favor the death penalty, “I do.”



UCLA Grad Offer Cash For Trash

The new year began at UCLA with a recent graduate offering money to students to record classes of left-wing professors.

“Do you have a professor who just can’t stop talking about President Bush, about Howard Dean, about the war in Iraq...or any ideological issues [sic] that has [sic] nothing to do with the class subject matter?” asks Andrew Jones. . . . “If you can help...collect information about abusive, one-sided or off-topic classroom behavior, we’ll pay you for your work.”

Jones has even drawn up a hit-list that he calls the “dirty 30” at UCLA.

UCLAProfs.com, a project of the Bruin Alumni Association, “is a long-term project dedicated to exposing UCLA’s most radical professors,” Jones explains on his website, adding that “the extensively researched profiles you will find here are proof of an increasingly radical faculty.”

“As a large number of the profiles also demonstrate, these professors are actively proselytizing their extreme views in the class-

room, whether or not the commentary is relevant to the class topic.

“The result for students is nothing less than a debased education,” says Jones. “Douglas Kellner rages about a “Bush Reich,” the vicious anti-Semitic troika of Gabriel Piterberg, Saree Makdisi, and Sondra Hale peddle hatred of Israel and Zionism, while Peter McLaren teaches the next generation of educators how to politicize their own classrooms... (read more at www.UCLAProfs.com)



Another Reagan Revolution?

Hillsdale student Hans Zeiger believes that the up-and-coming generation of new leaders he describes as “Reagan babies,” born between 1981-1989, hold the key to re-claiming our culture.

In Zeiger’s view, “Reagan babies,” who are in high school, college, on the frontlines in Iraq and Afghanistan, and emerging in the workplace, are far more conservative than their parents.

They are generally more cautious and responsible, more anti-drug and pro-religion. Gallup Polls show that Reagan Babies are the most pro-life group in the nation. And while their predecessors were intimidated by hippie-left professors, this generation’s activists have been labeled “the new counter-culture on American campuses.”

A Pace University/Rock the Vote survey of new voters taken before the 2004 election revealed

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that 54 percent were pro-life compared to only 44 percent who were pro-abortion.

“A 2004 Zogby poll shows that 60 percent of eighteen-to-twenty-nine-year-olds support complete restriction of abortion or minimal exceptions for the life of the mother, rape, or incest.”

Another important point: “Reagan babies don’t see abortion as liberation. ‘When I was their age, I thought abortion meant liberation for women,’ boomer ex-radical feminist Frederica Mathewes-Green wrote. “For them, abortion means violence against children. The meaning of abortion is changing, and as it does, minds change as well. It’s not surprising that this change would begin with the young.”



“V” Stands for Vulgar

Valentine’s Day has come and gone, but this year’s vitriolic “V-Day Campaign” continues on hundreds of campuses nationwide. The centerpiece is a play called “The Vagina Monologues” whose stated objective is to call attention to - and end - violence against women.

Playwright Eve Ensler’s website notes that the free benefit productions she generously allows during February and March have raised millions of dollars to fund anti-violence groups.

But there’s far more to this story.

At Yale, students marked this year’s “V-Day Campaign” by stag-

ing “Sex Week at Yale,” featuring an array of seminars, lectures, fashion shows and the debut of a glossy new publication called “Sex Week at Yale: The Magazine.” Marina Agapakis reported in “The Dartmouth” that contributors include Jim Griffiths, President of the Playboy Entertainment Group, John Gray, author of “Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus,” and others from Cosmopolitan and Men’s Health.

At Dartmouth, “V-Day Week” not only included two performances of the Ensler play, but also the 4th annual “Sex Festival,” billed as an event “started in the interest of promoting dialogue about healthy sex and sexuality.” Groups like Planned Parenthood and Mentors Against Violence were on hand, along with booths “on(sic) S&M, safe sex items and sex toys.”

Meanwhile, Smith College Republicans issued a report, urging women to seriously consider their actions before attending their school production of the Ensler play. Noting that the subject matter is degrading to both men and women, the CRS said that “a production that is supposed to end violence against women should” focus on building women’s confidence and intellect, rather than “telling women that their vagina is a village.”



The Other Side of Valentine’s Day

Strange but true, at least one Islamic separatist group has

“vowed to prevent couples [from] celebrating Valentine’s Day.” According to pcblogspot.com, Daughters of Faith leader Aasiya Andrabi has decreed that “we will not allow anyone to observe Valentine’s Day as it does nothing but spread immorality among youth.”

Her group is a 16-year old separatist insurgency against New Delhi’s rule in Indian Kashmir. This year, they kicked off their campaign against “Lovers’ Day” by “raiding half a dozen shops, confiscating Valentine’s Day cards and making a bonfire out of them.” Andrabi, who wears the traditional Islamic head-to-toe veil, has been waging a largely unsuccessful campaign to get women to wear similar attire.



Survey Mania

A recent survey conducted by the American Association of University Women’s Educational Foundation found that 62 percent of 2,306 college students surveyed said they had experienced sexual harassment. PCblogspot.com noted that in response, “the foundation will be rolling out initiatives at 11 colleges and universities aimed at building a sexual harassment-free campus.”

That’s all well and good. However, the major revelation of the survey was not that sexual harassment was rampant, but that no one seems to know what it means.

According to the Office for Civil Rights of the US Dept. of

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Education, sexual harassment is defined as “conduct of a sexual nature “so severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.”

The AAUW survey “provided students with 15 examples of difference types of sexual harassment, the first of which was unwanted “sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or looks.” The students were then asked whether they had experienced any of the listed examples of sexual harassment.

Their responses determined if

they had been sexually harassed. Not surprisingly, the students’ primary responses were of the “comments, jokes and gestures” variety. Other, more severe forms were far less prevalent.

According to the report, the main reason that students gave for not reporting sexual harassment is that their experience was not serious or “not a big deal.”

The Supreme Court says that the offense should be serious enough “to create an objectively hostile or abusive work environment.” If the so-called victim perceives the unwanted joke or comment as “not a big deal, it does not constitute sexual harassment.”



*Deborah Lambert is a regular columnist for **Campus Report***

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quets and the brickbats are anonymous.

“She is sooo nice!!” one reviewer wrote. “You have to do the assignments and the reading but it’s a pretty easy A.”

But she has her detractors as well. Their viewpoints are just as vividly offered.

“This woman is so confused herself it makes it hard to focus on the class,” another student wrote. “She is so disorganized and absent-minded.”

“Homework assignments were always unclear, and she would send us last-minute things on e-mail. Nice lady, but I would find someone else.”

GRADING TEACHERS

By Julia A. Seymour

Students training to become teachers at Washington State’s College of Education will no longer be subjected to a disposition evaluation that prompted allegations of bias in the past.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the school has revised their evaluation forms which all students seeking to graduate from the program must pass. The previous form required “that students in training to become teachers exhibit ‘an understanding of the complexities of race, power, gender, class, sexual orientation, and privilege in American society,’” but have now been revised to evaluate students’ “willingness to consider multiple perspectives on social and institutional factors that

can impede or enhance students’ learning,” reported the Chronicle.

Greg Lukianoff of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) told the Chronicle that Washington State College of Education finally did the right thing by changing the dispositions evaluation and that such evaluations are dangerous because “they mandate subjective and politicized evaluations of students.”

Ed Swan, a Washington State student, told the Chronicle that the previous dispositions exam was “used to crucify me.” Swan failed the exam four times, and was once called a “white supremacist” by a professor on his evaluation. Swan has seen the new evaluation and

believes they are 100% better. The 42-year-old Swan is a conservative Christian who contacted FIRE last fall because of his problems passing the evaluation, the Chronicle reports.

“He argued that in failing him on the dispositions evaluation, faculty members had based their decisions on his political views rather than on his aptitude for teaching,” according to the Chronicle.

The article also noted that such criteria as dispositions exams are not rare among teacher-education programs.

*Julia A. Seymour is a staff writer at **Accuracy in Academia***

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The American Journalism Center (AJC) is an intense, 12-week internship training program for aspiring student journalists, and students seeking careers in the marketing and/or public relations fields. Interns who are chosen will spend their first six weeks working at the offices of Accuracy in Media (AIM) and Accuracy in Academia (AIA), and the second six weeks working at another media, public relations or marketing organization. The AJC offers assistance to those seeking jobs at the end of the program.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Malcolm A. Kline



April, 2006

Dear Reader,

As you can see by our cover story, we are still investigating colleges and universities that might be “Catholic in Name only.” Recently, the president of Providence College refused to allow a production of *The Vagina Monologues* on campus. PC is run by the Dominican Friars.

I learned of the decision by the school while being interviewed by a young lady from Brown. Other Catholic colleges and universities are less clear cut in echoing Catholic principles. A recent Boston College graduate does not recall seeing a single crucifix on a class or dorm room wall in the four years she spent at that Catholic institution of higher learning. And BC serves meat in its cafeteria on Fridays during Lent.

For its part, the Catholic University of America hosted the 19th annual conference of the American Collegians for Life this past January. On the other hand, devotion to Catholic dogma on campus is not always as universal as that religious designation implies it is, even in theology classes at the only college in North America chartered by the Vatican.

“In my short career as a writer, I have encountered a fair number of textual assignments that, while exigent, I have aced,” Townhall.com intern Katie Favazza writes. “Last semester, for example, I researched my own argument for clerical celibacy and received an A on the paper, though the teacher admitted that his personal opinion was opposed to mine.” Favazza is an undergraduate at CUA: The grade on the theology paper actually came from a teaching assistant majoring in theology.

At Catholic Villanova, *The Villanovan* asked its readers, “Do you think the University should do more to promote safe sex?” Only 26 percent said, “No; it’s inconsistent with Catholicism.”

Then there’s Georgetown. Pope John Paul II worked closely with the Solidarity trade union to overthrow the Soviet-backed communist Jaruzelski government in his native Poland. So, who did G’Town’s School of Foreign Service just hire? A Jaruzelski appointee: Alexander Kwasniewski.

We will be monitoring developments at all the apparently CINO colleges and universities as carefully as we can. In this, as in all we do, we appreciate any help that you can give us. We are most grateful for the support that you have already given us.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mal Kline', written in a cursive style.

Mal Kline
Executive director