Letters

Sainthood Outraged

EDITOR
THE PRESS

Dear Anonymous:

Apparently you wish to remain anonymous after coming out with such a bold, unorthodox statement as you did in the article, "Public Oblivious as Censors Move to Steal Basic Rights,' Thursday, May 26, 1960. Why is it that you refuse to sign an article, which, after all, is not a news article but some sort of opinionated column? Perhaps this article is really the opinion of the Torrance Press and thereby it is an "editorial opinion." Whether it is a cowardly editor's opinion or a misguided editorial opinion remains to be seen, for we, the readers of this paper, have a right (a word used in that article) to see who it is, this defender of our rights.

Your first paragraph assumes that some dark and dangerous group, the "censors," are taking the "advantage"! They are taking every advantage! Do you mean they are trying to clean up the newsstands so that their children will have the advantage (the advantage I had when I grew up) to go to the drugstore without being in danger of being poisoned by filthy misrepresentations and misinformation about sex. Any fool knows that sex is not for the purpose of public display, of vamping and of inducing people to buy magazines—no, excuse me: I meant most fools know that.

"Censorship," a weird name, the purpose of that underground group trying to undermine your rights. Did you —whoever you are — realize that perhaps most of your readers were censors? They don't allow their kids to go to burlesque shows, nor read filthy trash, nor communist propaganda. Did you realize that they, your readers, were a group, a community? Yes, we're all in it together. We have to combine our talents for the common good of all of us.

Now, as a group, a community, we have a group consciousness. We are interested in what happens to the group —especially to the young, whose minds and wills are not as strong as our. Now, when some money-grabbing salesman or slick advertising man starts putting garbage on the newsstands which we from our common horse-sense know is going to infect the minds of and stimulate the passions of our young people, we as a group, as a community, have the right and duty to clean up the newsstands.

As a community, do we not have the right to clean literature on our newsstands? Do we not have the right of being free from the evil, money-making devices of some greedy publishers? When you —whoever you are—speak of rights, speak not only of the rights of publishers, but also speak of the rights and duties of parents, of educators, of the community as a whole preserving its heritage of the good life.

"There is not one scintilla of evidence that there is a relationship between so-called indecent literature and any criminal tendency." You wrote this sentence not knowing what you were writing about. You must not read very much. If you did read, you would have come across the many sex crimes caused by poisonous literature. I suggest you read the books in yuro public library, "The Circle of Guilt" and "The Seduction of the Innocent."

"The censors can give no definition of obscenity, of decency, of morals." I would laugh at this sentence of yours if, underlying it, there was not something tragic implied. You have renounced your heritage: you have let go of the truths of Aristotle (read his ethics), of Plato, of Christ, of Augustine, of Aquinas, of Jefferson, of, in short, all great men and women who cared for our common good and our common destiny. Your sentence is not a mistake; it is a lie. Ask the "censors," the parents, the educators, the churches, the men and women striving for good and trying to be good leaders of youth. Ask them for a definition if you dare!

—HENRY A. SMITH JR.

(We would suggest reading Dr. Theodore Reik, Dr. Benjamin Karpman, Dr. Albert Ellis, and Drs. Eberhard and Phyllis Kronhausen, but that would be pointless, since it might rock the boat of delusion on the sea of shame and guilt.—Ed.)

Coffee Assails Money Plight of Old People

Blasting compulsory medical programs for older citizens, Republican Congressional Candidate Tom Coffee noted today "that the Democrats would not only try and make the voter believe that the Republicans hate Mom, but that we even hate Grandma when she is sick."

"In a "Coffee hour" chat, he said he believed in putting the blame for the financial plight of our older citizens squarely where it belongs, "on the type of runaway inflation advocated by the Democratic party."

He said, "If a man in his earning prime in the thirties began to put aside a few dollars a month, now that he is of retirement age, he has seen inflation strip the purchasing power of that dollar to a third. And you can't live on a third of your plans on income."

Coffee stressed one point repeatedly: "It is a simple fact that we cannot get one cent from the government that it does not take away from us first.'

Osteopathic Society Backs Proposition A

"Because so many of the members of the Los Angeles County Osteopathic Society are members of the General Hospital staff and are familiar with conditions existing there, the vote of the board of trustees to support Proposition A on the June 7 ballot was unanimous," Dr. W. T. Sechrist, president of the group, said today.

In announcing endorsement, Dr. Sechrist added:

"Living quarters at the hospital are far below standards, and this makes it difficult to recruit and maintain a professional staff and it impairs the function of the hospital as a training center for personnel.

"As for the proposed outpatient clinic, it always has been needed. The idea of regarding a substantial number of patients as outpatients rather than bed patients was a good one, but it has never had a chance to function properly because the facilities were never designed with such treatment in mind. The result is that clinics and laboratories are scattered over several floors, with resulting costly confusion to staff members and patients alike."

GOP Opens San Pedro Quarters on Tuesday

Political activity in the Harbor area will increase next week with opening of San Pedro Republican headquarters at 1146 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro, Tuesday.

Informal ceremonies will be held, Headquarters Chairman John Sonnebend said, with the 17th Congressional District's two Republican candidates, Vincent Isham and Tom Coffee, and the 68th Assembly District candidate, Dick Glasier.

Hahn Wins Backing of Hawthorne Mayor

"I know of no public servant who has done so much for so many people—adults and children alike—as Supervisor Kenneth Hahn."

With that statement, Mayor Robert P. Reeves of Hawthorne this week joined public officials backing Hahn for re-election as Supervisor.

Douglas Kiefer Hangs One-Man Art Exhibition

Douglas Kiefer is featured in the new one-man show at the Artists Co-op Gallery in Redondo Beach. The current exhibit running through June 4 consists of colorful landscapes, figures, and still life in oil and casein.

Keifer attended the Cornish Art School in Seattle and was one of the early members of the Puget Sound Northwest Painters' Group. He has exhibited at Seattle and San Francisco.

The Co-op show is his first major show in the Los Angeles area. Keifer is employed as a commercial artist at the Northrup Corp. He lives in Manhattan Beach with his wife and three children.

Showing concurrently with the Kiefer show is a group show by Co-op artists of landscapes and marine depicting the South Bay.