

Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Both Deserve Support

BECAUSE they see little, if any, difference between Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, United Community Services (UCS) board members have asked that adult leaders huddle and decide which organization should disband and which should survive to retain UCS funding.

The only difference between the two organizations, a UCS official said, is that "one gives out badges and the other beads."

On a more informed level, it has been argued that boys get along with one organization—Boy Scouts of America—so why should girls need two?

The fact is scouting for boys offers a wide range of activities, notably in the Explorer Scout program for older boys (Air Scouts, Sea Scouts, Police Scouts, etc.).

To carry the boy-girl program comparison one step further, consider the way variety in opportunities comes about. Programs for boys are malleable not because adult leaders want it thus or because funding agencies demand it. Rather they evolve to meet the wishes of young participants.

It is not asking too much for girls to be allowed an equally varied set of programs. As Camp Fire and Girl Scout leaders have shown, the two programs ARE in demand.

Ironically, the funding struggle now under way was settled when the Girl Scouts became established here in the 1960s. Already funding the Camp Fire program, the UCS board first resisted, then added Girl Scouts to its list of funded services.

In this light, the goal to fund one organization and cut off another is inconsistent with UCS's fine record of wise and equitable treatment.

Not surprisingly, the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts and the Iowa Council of Camp Fire Girls have replied that they are unwilling to make such a decision.

If UCS pulls the funding rug, the organization taking the tumble will survive on its own.

This admirable resolve of adult leaders is bolstered by their compelling reminder that Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls are different in programs and objectives.

So, the leaders ask, in essence, why not continue funding both? Indeed both organizations emphasize camping; but Girl Scouts stresses community service and development of decision-making acumen, while Camp Fire stresses Indian lore and development of feminine qualities.

Also, the Girl Scout program's merit badge requirements demand more extensive planning and effort than is generally required for Camp Fire honor beads.

To view Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls programs as identical is to deal in stereotypes. But, as the UCS log book this year attests, such generalizing has occurred.

Saccharin on Trial

SACCHARIN, the only artificial sweetener left on the American food market, someday may be banned if tests on hamsters prove as foreboding as a recently-conducted experiment with rats. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), rats fed saccharin in carefully-controlled government studies have developed suspicious bladder tumors that may be cancerous.

a drug rather than food. So reports Iowa Sen. Dick Clark, who checked into the saccharin question on behalf of a constituent.

Special provisions for diabetics would be indispensable, because a total prohibition on saccharin would rob them of the taste satisfaction most of us take for granted. Given a choice between a totally bland diet and longshot risks with a possibly carcinogenic additive, many diabetics doubtless would go with the hazard.

Just how minimal that risk would be was indicated last year when some testing of rats in Wisconsin prompted the FDA to remove saccharin from the list of additives generally regarded as safe.

An average adult's saccharin intake should be limited to one gram, said the FDA. That may seem like a small amount, but actually it's the equivalent of seven 12-ounce bottles of diet soft drink.

Obviously, then, people can ingest about all of the additive they can stand and still not invite illness.

The possible blacklisting of saccharin calls to mind the commotion touched off in 1968 when the artificial sweetener cyclamate was banned under the seldom-used Delaney clause of the food, drug and cosmetic act. ("No additive shall be deemed safe if it is found to induce cancer when ingested by man or animal.")

Should saccharin fail to pass medical muster, the ensuing ban could keenly disappoint not only dieters but several million diabetics patients who need the sweetener as a sugar substitute.

But a federal saccharin shelving doubtless would include special provisions for diabetics, such as an option of buying the sweetener as

'For Pete's sake stop testing that thing . . . You just blew out the East Coast!'



The People's Forum

Handicapped... Abused... Dislocated...

To the Editor:

On March 1 the annual Easter Seal campaign started. As a client of the homebound training program of the Easter Seal Society of Iowa, I would like to express my appreciation to all who contribute by purchasing Easter Seals.

The homebound program teaches a handicapped adult to make quality items to sell in their home. A client may also send these items to the sales room in Des Moines at Camp Sunnyside. When an item is sold, Easter Seal sends the full amount back to the client. The goal of this program is to enable a handicapped person to be as self-sufficient as possible.

For nine weeks, I had the privilege of attending training sessions at Camp Sunnyside through this program. At the end of the nine weeks, they loaned me the necessary equipment to get started, at no cost to me. As a result, now I have a small ceramic gift shop.

I can never thank the Easter Seal Society enough for all the training and supplies provided to me; without their help I would have no income at all.

Through this year's Easter Seal contributions, other handicapped persons will be enabled to participate in this tremendous program and become more self-sufficient.

Jena E. Nemecek 77 West Post road NW

Unemotional

The writer (Forum, March 5), who felt that all had been said on the abortion issue still managed a sizable letter about it. But I must take issue.

First, how could anybody feel assaulted by a picture of budding life — the fetal child? This is a fact of life. Bringing it before the public to be recognized for what it is — a human life — should shocks no one's sensibilities.

As for the comparison of Hitler's death practices with our own adoption of abortion for the same reason — the quality of life — it is a historic parallel, a bitter truth. This is not to incite emotionalism.

All the emotion in the world is not going to save a budding life from mutilation, suction evacuation or live pickling. This must be done by a people who care, who are awakened to the truth of the situation and what they can do about it.

The supreme court's decision has become final. We must now press for legislation which will protect the life of the unborn. All concerned should contact the people who represent them in congress and make the strength of their convictions known. . . .

To my view abortion has been responsible for much of the child abuse and neglect.

People look at the responsibility the child's presence brings. They see abortion as an escape that could have been theirs and they abuse the child for living. Statistics in one study indicated 90 percent of the children who are abused were wanted.

It is not as important for a child to be wanted as it is for a child to be accepted and loved.

The true quality of life does not rest solely on money and material possessions. It rests on human happiness. For those who cannot accept the child, there are many families anxious to welcome and love him. . . .

Unita D. Schliemann 1005 First avenue SW

Busing, No

To the Editor:

Along with many others, I feel it's high time to rid ourselves of some of the members of our Cedar Rapids Community school administration and school board. All they're trying to do is to make trouble, worry, grief and hardship for the people who have children and grandchildren attending school — I mean everyone, regardless of being black, white, or whatever color.

Before my son attended school, several years after World War II, I bought the closest home to a grade school I

Unleisurely Americans

Go-Go-Go... or Creep

By William F. Buckley, jr.

IT HAS BEEN my impression that the I American people are a nervous people, and that for all that this is a disadvantage, there are benefits to be got from it.

They tell you that a nervous people cannot sit still long enough to enjoy a poem or a sunset, and that is true, and deplorable. On the other hand, nervous people get quite a lot done, in a short space of time.

There are some Englishmen who are used to getting things done and are maddened to the point of senselessness by the law's delay. (I forget how long it took to build the great thoroughways that grid New York City, but under Robert Moses nothing ever took very long.)

However, they tell you in London about the great excitement when, approximately 20 years after it was conceived, they finally got around to inaugurating a two- or three-mile overpass leading toward the airport.

By extension, this is the very kind of thing that keeps the English from building ships, competitively, or even automobiles. Their pace is down to a slow, slow crawl.

The Swiss have long had the reputation of being doers. A Swiss engineer will look at a mountainside and declare that it should be penetrated, and the cartographers at that very moment begin designing new road maps.

Habitually the Germans are doers, and the Japanese, and the Chinese appear to be making considerable strides. The Chinese key is manpower. It is much easier, in China, rather than to manufacture a screwdriver, to produce somebody and use his fingernail.

Whereas in America everyone concedes that there is such a thing as the super-numerary worker, the concept is unknown in China. If snow falls on the street, you don't put five men to work clearing it, you put 500 or 5,000 to work, and, sure enough, the snow disappears.

The hyped-up tempo of American life is one of the things that have gone against the grain of the new generation, which is rather more reflective than its predecessors.

Here and there one sees an inchoate ideology of leisure, which is Luddite in its implications. The way they put it is: what is the real purpose of continued economic growth? Why not just let things go at the current rate, enjoy them more, and enjoy life more?

Surely there is much to be said for the ambler's alternative, and there is an American prototype in the storked whittler, who sits in the town square, sometimes silent, sometimes fantasizing Will Rogers.

But — and don't you forget it — there have got to be other types too. The world cannot get on without them.

Washington Star Syndicate

on the shoulders of Red China or Russia, but not America. . . .

Larry D. Berns

To the Editor:

. . . I do not think that aid should be given at all. Let the makers of their weapons build their houses. But if we must give aid, I agree with the terms put forth by The Gazette. . . .

Mike Canning

To the Editor:

. . . I think we should give them the money but give it to them at a time when we have the money to spare, because we have to consider what things need to be taken care of here, such as unemployment, slums and medical needs. . . .

Leigh Jones

To the Editor:

. . . For all these years we've been spending billions of dollars fighting against North Vietnam, while innocent Americans lost their lives. To turn around and support them would seem unreal. We have been fighting on the South Vietnamese side for years, and if we give aid to anyone it should be them. . . .

Debbie Lorel

To the Editor:

. . . Sending equipment and goods over is a better idea than sending money, because if we're going to spend several billion dollars, the economy might as well benefit. . . .

Laura Majerus

To the Editor:

. . . It is my opinion that no aid should be given to Vietnam or any of the surrounding countries. Why should we spend billions of dollars rebuilding a country which we have just spent billions of dollars to destroy? . . .

Mike Martin

To the Editor:

. . . When we have our poor people, our starving and our unemployed taken care of, then it is time to help others. . . .

Teresa Mohwinke

To the Editor:

. . . As Americans have always been willing to reach out and help another people, I hope that in this new need we will do the same, and, by careful and controlled help, add new life to a war-torn country long afflicted with the disease of hate and misunderstanding. . . .

Suzanne Selgel

To the Editor:

. . . On the whole, I think that the United States should give them aid. I know that if our country had been destroyed by war, we would want aid, too. . . .

Becky Turnis

Reward?

To the Editor:

As one who cares, I am writing about Guy Heckle, the lost boy whom I think so much about. If they really want to find him, why don't they put a reward of a thousand dollars, or at least \$500 to find him, dead or alive? — and I hope they would find him alive. That would ease so many people's minds.

Surely that much money must have come by this time from people sending in donations. I hope there will be some kind of reward as an incentive to find him.

Mary L. Gerdes 1100 Maplewood drive NE

Ideas on Aid

To the Editor:

The eighth grade class here at St. Joseph's recently read and discussed your editorial (March 1) on giving aid to Indo-China.

It sparked some thinking on their part, and I think some of their opinions deserve printing.

Sister Mary Kay Nicolay Social studies department St. Joseph School Marion

To the Editor:

. . . Why should President Nixon want to spend billions of dollars on our former enemies when we could do as much with it here? We could use it for poverty, pollution, hospitals and cancer research. It could go to help so many needy families that we have right here in the U.S. . . .

Gerianne Barry

To the Editor:

. . . What is the point in destroying a country and then turning around and helping it back on its feet? If North Vietnam wants to be built up, it can go ery

Conspiracy for Killing Sensed

Terrorists in Murder-Network Worldwide?

By Smith Hempstone

WASHINGTON — Twenty-six tourists, including 16 Americans, are slaughtered at Tel Aviv's Lod airport. A British soldier, guarding a day-care nursery in Belfast, is cut down by a sniper's silent bullet.

Two American diplomats and a Belgian are murdered in Khartoum. The British governor of Bermuda and his aide are assassinated in the garden of Government House as they take the governor's dog for a pre-midnight walk.

A rocket smashes into an isolated Rhodesian farmstead, killing a woman and badly wounding her husband. In Uruguay, Tupamaro urban guerrillas kidnap the British ambassador and hold him hostage for nearly a year in an underground "people's prison." In Canada, Quebec separatists murder a provincial cabinet minister.

Isolated events, separated by both time and distance from each other. Is there a linkage among them? Is there, in short, an international conspiracy of damned and dispossessed men, a legion of fanatical killers dedicated to the overthrow of lawfully constituted governments wherever they may be?

To say so would be over-dramatizing. There simply is not enough hard evidence to prove that there is an international conspiracy of violence. But there are, Western sources indicate, enough hints to suggest that there are loose links connecting various terrorist groups.

Take last year's slaughter at Lod airport in Israel. It was carried out by three Japanese fanatics on behalf of a Pal-

stinian Arab terrorist group. The Japanese had been trained at a camp in Lebanon. They had picked up their false passports in West Germany. They had received their Czech weapons from an Italian source.

It is known that members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine visited Tokyo secretly in November of 1971. There they established contact with the Rengo Sekigun (United Red Army), a splinter group of Marxist fanatics who have been involved in shootouts with the Japanese police. The three Lod terrorists later flew to Lebanon and were trained near Baalbeck.

Nor are the Japanese the only foreign group with which the Palestinian terrorists have links. One of the little-noticed demands of the eight who butchered the two Americans and the Belgian in Khartoum was for the release of Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof, leaders of the so-called Baader-Meinhof group of anarchists which troubled West Germany for two years before its leaders were arrested.

It is also known that the Arab terrorists have at least loose links with the Turkish People's Liberation Army (which has murdered one Israeli diplomat and kidnaped a number of American servicemen), the Provisional wing of the Irish Republican Army, Uruguayan Tupamaros and Italy's so-called "Red Brigade," whose activities are centered on Milan. Representatives of several of these groups conferred secretly with the IRA leaders in Dublin last May.

Insofar as there is a central headquarters or contact point for the various terrorists groups, it appears to be — or to have been until very recently — Zurich.

Last July, Hans Walder, the Swiss attorney general, reported that the Swiss police had uncovered a group headquartered on the Baendlistrasse which had associations with both the West German Baader-Meinhof gang and Milan's "Red Brigade." Some 41 people had been involved, about a quarter of whom were arrested.

All of the leaders and most of the

guerrillas of the three African groups operating against Rhodesia from Zambia have been trained in the Soviet Union, China or by Chinese officers in Tanzania. Their weapons and funds also are provided by either Russia or China, Rhodesian sources say.

It is not yet known if the murderers of Sir Richard Sharples and his aide in Bermuda were linked to any of these organizations. There are a number of militant black organizations on the vacation island.

What is clear is that international acts of terrorism are on the increase. As of Nov. 1, 1972, 39 airliners from 14 countries had been hijacked and 29 other hijackings had been frustrated, with the loss of 149 lives and 99 wounded (these figures do not include the 108 dead from the Libyan airliner shot down by the Israelis).

In the past five years, 32 diplomats from 13 countries have been kidnaped and 6 more have been killed. Deadly letter-bombs have been mailed to addresses in more than a dozen countries.

And although the terrorists have a network of "safe-houses" all over Europe and the Middle East, things do not always go their way. In Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, an Arab underground leader's telephone rang the other day; when he answered it, the instrument exploded, killing him. And from time to time, a Palestinian's body is found in an alley in Rome or in a Frankfurt cul-de-sac. And guess who's responsible for that?

Washington Star News

Another View



"Everybody's moving to the suburbs, so I said to myself, 'Why not be one of the sheep?'"