

BILLBOARD ERUPTS IN ANTI-CATHOLIC FUROR

The May 25 edition of *Billboard*, the music newsweekly, carried a piece by editor-in-chief Timothy White that congratulated Irish singer Sinead O'Connor for ripping up a picture of the pope on *Saturday Night Live* in 1992; O'Connor declared, "Fight the real enemy." In reference to the current scandal in the Catholic Church, White cheered O'Connor by stating "it would appear with each passing day that Sinead O'Connor has less and less to apologize for." The rest of the article condemned the Catholic Church for being intolerant, misogynist and fascistic. It even manages to cite Galileo.

The June 8 *Billboard* continues with its condemnatory remarks of the Catholic Church, this time allowing those in the entertainment industry to attack the Church in its letters section. Brian Philips, senior vice president and general manager of Country Music Television, praised White for his "sensitive treatment of the issue." Bob Leon, projects director of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, recalls his years in Catholic schools as being ones of "dread, anxiety and nausea"; he also says he remembers being whacked with a ruler. Sinead O'Connor wrote to convey her thanks to White as well.

Catholic League president William Donohue answered the critics today:

"*Billboard* is replete with articles on the music and television industry. One no more expects to read an article on Catholicism in *Billboard*—by either friend or foe—than one would expect *Field and Stream* to opine on Puerto Ricans. But Timothy White just can't resist the opportunity to sucker punch. Just as revealing are his fat-cat buddies in the entertainment industry. They, too, experience orgasmic delight in bashing the Catholic Church, all the while crying

over their bruised knuckles from yesteryear. There is a word in the English language for these guys—they're called spoiled brats."