

WE'RE "PARANOID"

The *New Republic*, one of Washington's favorite liberal weeklies, doesn't like the Catholic League's Annual Report on Anti-Catholicism. We thought you'd like to know what we had to say in reply, so here is the text of the letter we sent to the editor:

"In your 'Notebook' editorial of April 22, you criticize the Catholic League for issuing an annual report on anti-Catholicism. You cite our complaints against recent college productions of the movies *Agnes of God* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*, as well as the 1995 release of *Priest*, as indicative of our 'paranoia.'

"That would suggest that Michael Medved (who is not Catholic) is also paranoid for branding *Agnes of God* as anti-Catholic. It would suggest that Blockbuster is paranoid for refusing to stock *The Last Temptation of Christ*. And it would suggest that scores of organizations and critics are also paranoid for labeling *Priest* as anti-Catholic. With regard to the last film, your charge also makes inexplicable the explicit statements of anti-Catholicism that both the writer and the director of *Priest* have made.

"The Catholic League does not complain about every *Sister Act*-type movie that is made. But if the *New Republic* can't distinguish between that movie and the films we complained about, then that indicates a tolerance for intolerance that the Catholic League is proud to fight against."

What is perhaps most interesting about the *New Republic's* response is that it charges that the Catholic League "has taken the lead of the Anti-Defamation league, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance and the NAACP" by issuing its report. This is a curious statement insofar as the *New Republic* has not been known for making critical comments about anything

those groups do, much less for releasing a report on bigotry.