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Arabic people, seem less legitimate. It has hardly helped that Kurdistan is partitioned among five countries (Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria, and Armenia) and that Kurdish insurgents are too faction-ridden to form a single independence movement. In this first book-length history of the Kurds in English, Bulloch and Morris make clear that the Arab-Israeli conflict is neither the longest nor the bloodiest struggle in the Middle East.

**LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION:** Catholic Priests and the Sexual Abuse of Children. *By Jason Berry.* 407 pp. Doubleday. \$22.50

In the summer of 1983, in the heart of Louisiana's Cajun country, a nightmare became real when two parishioners of St. John's Catholic church learned that their trusted pastor, Father Gilbert Gauthé, had been sexually abusing their three sons, along with dozens of other St. John's altar boys. Horrible as the crime was, the response of the church hierarchy to its disclosure was nearly as appalling. Gauthé, it turns out, had been removed from a previous assignment for similar offenses. The vicar general of the diocese tried to downplay the more recent incidents, cautioning that too much talk might hurt Gauthé's career.

While journalist Berry devotes considerable space to the Gauthé affair and other similar scandals, his book is far more than a mere exposé. A devout Catholic, Berry is concerned with fundamental problems threatening the Catholic church, including the practice of celibacy and the evasive political machinations of an out-of-touch church hierarchy. Celibacy, Berry believes, and the allied opposition to women in clerical roles, are at least partially responsible for the declining number—and quality—of those choosing a priestly vocation. While there has been throughout history no lack of sexually active priests, giving rise to one scandal or another, seldom have there been so many as today. And according to several priests whom Berry quotes, there has never been so large a preponderance of gay clerics—around 40 percent, by many estimates.

To be sure, very few homosexuals are pedophiles, and heterosexuals can also be fixated upon children. The larger point of Berry's book is that an unhealthy, unventilated atmosphere now prevails in the Catholic church—one that could bring on legions of angry Luthers, far less temperate than

the loyal Erasmians of Berry's stripe. The Vatican would do well to listen now.

**A DAY IN THE NIGHT OF AMERICA.** *By*

*Kevin Coyne.* Random House. 316 pp. \$22

**THE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SOCIETY: Understanding Human Limits in a World That Never Stops.** *By Martin Moore-Ede.* Addison-Wesley. 230 pp. \$22.95

America's "new frontier," declares journalist Kevin Coyne, is the night. No nation in history (except, possibly, contemporary Japan) has ever had so many people working through the night—7.3 million—as America does now. To map this world, Coyne zigzagged nocturnally through 41 states, covering 18,000 miles and consuming, no doubt, about as many gallons of coffee. He accompanied oil workers on the Alaskan pipeline, Federal Express package handlers, and Las Vegas "working girls" on their nightly rounds. He soon came to view day workers "the way the military often sees civilians—pampered, undisciplined, ignorant of life's harsher truths." Most Americans who work at night do so not because they want to but because the job requires it. And the monetary rewards for night labor are meager, at best. Still, Coyne concludes his survey with an upbeat message: Humans can adapt to almost any situation.

Moore-Ede, a physiologist at the Harvard Medical School, disagrees. Why, he asks, have most notorious industrial accidents—Bhopal, Chernobyl, the Rhine chemical spill—occurred at night? Human sleep rhythms, millennia in the shaping, are ill-suited to a technological society that demands of everyone, from hospital employees to Wall Street currency traders, an elusive efficiency at 3 A.M. Moore-Ede, however, is not a Luddite who would (so to speak) turn back the clock. He proposes alternative night-work measures—ranging from artificial lighting that mimics the sun's rays to "polyphasic sleep" (strategic napping) to machines that monitor alertness. Such precautions, he believes, can save lives and billions of dollars. The growing world of night work has, until now, caught planners unprepared. No one foresaw that differences between day and night would become blurred in response to a global economy driven by telecommunications, computers, and faxes. "Societal revolutions," Moore-Ede comments, "have the habit of sneaking up on us."