

Moral Corruption

Editorial

The majority of Americans hold to the beliefs of their fathers and tradition, but there are attacks on those beliefs from television, movies, politicians, the judiciary, and minority pressure groups.

Steve Allen, Honorary Chairman of the Parents Television Council, has written to countless people, urging them to boycott the sponsors of television programs, run on prime time when families and children are watching, that undermine the morals of children.

Vulgar language and dirty jokes are common. The Drew Cary Show jokes about pedophilia. Dr. Pepper has an advertising campaign with "Up Yours." In "Malcolm in the Middle," Lois, the Mother, shaves her husband's body hair while he stands naked in front of his children. She walks around the house topless and tells her son not to play with himself. "Dharma and Greg" have a scene where a couple engages in intense foreplay and sink out of sight before intercourse. "Smackdown," aired Thursday nights at 8:00 P.M., shows a wrestler cooking another wrestler's dog and then feeding it to him.

We need not wonder why teenagers go on rampages killing fellow students or attacking women in New York's Central Park when they are fed a diet of violence and abnormality. Children six to seventeen watch, on average, four to six hours a day. By the time they are eighteen they have spent from fifteen to twenty thousand hours in front of the television set, more than anything else in their lives save sleeping.

The Republican Party in Minnesota is endorsing judges who are running for office, much to the dismay of those who say that judicial decisions should not be political; but the criticism is nonsense. Judges are politicians in black robes. They are supposed to interpret the meaning of the Constitution, either in their state or nationally if they are in federal court, but they do so in the context of their political beliefs. We know that, if Vice-President Gore is elected, he will nominate to the Supreme Court those who will rule in favor of abortion. We know that, if Governor Bush becomes president, he will nominate to the Supreme Court those who will limit abortion, while not preventing it.

A recent decision of the Supreme Court struck down by a 5-4 margin the Nebraska law that forbade "partial birth abortion." The Constitution says nothing about abortion, and decisions on such items belong properly to the states which have expansive rather than restricted duties. Justice Scalia accused the majority of operating outside the Constitution, following personal bias to prevent any limitation of abortion, and expressed his disgust at the hideous and brutal form of abortion that the Court sanctioned. For those who do not know, partial birth abortion means that the baby is delivered feet first. When everything save the head

emerges, the abortionist drives scissors into the head of the unborn child, inserts a tube, and sucks out the brain. That any court in this country would sanction such behavior demands that we appoint judges to the highest court of the land with at least a modicum of morality, those opposed to infanticide and brutal murder.

In a recent decision of the Supreme Court, student-led prayers before a football game were said to be unconstitutional. Chief Justice Rehnquist, joined by Justices Scalia and Thomas, said that the majority opinion “bristles with hostility to all things religious in public life.” Public prayer before a football game is out of order and in bad taste because prayer should be a private matter or public when the public approves, but it is not unconstitutional. Jefferson, with an animus toward religion, began the doctrine of the separation of church and state; he was in error. The Constitution forbade the establishment of a church as is the case in England and some Scandinavian countries, and that is all. There never was intended in the writing of the Constitution that religious activities were to be denied, publicly or privately, in secular as well as religious activities, including political activities. In the football game, or other sporting activities, if the local authorities bless prayer before a football game, or any other school activity, that is reason enough for their practice whether or not they are in good taste.

In April of this year, a Federal court in Ohio struck down the state motto which says, “With God all things are possible.” This, said the court, violates the First Amendment which dictates the separation of church and state. (As we said above, the U.S. Constitution says no such thing.)

The preamble to the Constitution of Ohio begins, “We the people of the State of Ohio, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom . . .” In the eighteenth century, Ohio was settled under the law of the Northwest Ordinance which stipulated that

Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.

That religion has been a part of our governance is demonstrated in historical and present practice, but it is obvious that the Supreme Court of the United States and many branches of our judicial system are eager to eradicate religion from public practice and they will go to absurd lengths to accomplish that purpose. The animus against religion, I suppose, is because some of the terms are ill-defined, have emotional as well as intellectual content, and pose a challenge to the supremacy of judicial authority. Religious commitment was one of the great threats to Communism and the cause of its persecution, as is the case today in China.

That legal decisions are made absurdly and contrary to the morality of the citizens does not mean we repudiate the authority of the courts. The game of civics is that we obey absurdity and even infanticide for the time being because the alternative is anarchy and civil war. We need to throw the rascals out by the electoral process. If the electoral process is denied, that is time for what Jefferson called a healthy revolution. One wonders what the citizens of this country will do when they realize that the Supreme Court of the country has authorized brutal infanticide.

The latest attack on our morals comes from homosexuals who wish to be regarded as normal. One of Clinton's first acts as president was to invite homosexuals to the White House, which was a disgrace. George W. Bush has pandered to this group, no doubt to get their money, and this is a disgrace. Homosexuals and lesbians can behave as they wish because their private behavior is not other people's business, but when they attempt to legitimize their behavior as normal the citizens should take heed and rebuke them.

Linda Bowles, writing to defend Dr. Laura, who says homosexuals and lesbians are deviates, writes,

It is unconscionable that homosexual invectives and threats have effectively shut down most attempts to expose bogus research or address the cultural implications of the homosexual agenda. It should be, but apparently is not, a matter of serious concern, even shame, that so many of our politicians, our journalists and commentators, our scientists, our government schools teachers, our university professors and our clergy have either been seduced to advance the homosexual agenda, intimidated into passive assent, or cowed into silence.

The homosexual lobby is shutting down the proposed television program of Dr. Laura and attempting to shut down her radio program because she speaks the plain truth about homosexuals in response to questions she is asked.

Government schools advance the homosexual agenda. There was a "Teach Out" at Tuft University this spring organized by two employees of the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, for teenage children on "how-to" in oral sex and fisting. Children were delivered to the university in school buses.

There was an attempt to cover up the activity when it was known that the program was secretly taped, and there was a legal effort to suppress the evidence, but the news was broadcast in spite of these efforts, and the two employees of the Department of Education were fired. However, notwithstanding, a twelve-page booklet entitled, "Just the facts about Sexual Orientation and Youth" has been mailed to the heads of all 14,700 public school districts in America and has the blessing of the National Education Association.

Having gotten far more money spent for AIDS than has been spent on other fatal diseases affecting far more people, gay activists are now demanding federal research on the kinds of recreational drugs used in night clubs by homosexuals so as to make them safer. Imagine if alcoholics were to demand that the feds spend tax dollars to make drunkenness safer!

Morality in the United States is getting stupid. New York City is infested with rats but the papers and television pundits took notice of a protester who said "Rats

have feelings.” Dams are not being built because a small, rare fish might be affected. One of the latest fads aims to abolish fishing because, like rats, fish have feelings. Dawn Carr, of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) says,

We seek to shift the ways animals are viewed, from being a resource to be exploited to that of the community of individuals that they are.

Rough brutality remains a quality in the United States. We saw this crudeness in the seizure of Elian Gonzales and the treatment in time of war of those foreign born. Japanese citizens were removed from their homes because of their ancestry. So were those of German descent though they had been here for generations.

At the moment we have two faces of racial profiling. One the one hand, blacks are not to be assumed to be more troublesome than they are even in communities where they are the most common lawbreakers. On the other hand, we have crimes where any act against a minority is a “hate crime.” A hate crime victim can be any race or ethic group except a white male. It is not a hate crime for a black man to beat a white man, but it is a hate crime for a white man to beat a black man. Women of any race or group can suffer a hate crime. All this is nonsense. Any attack is a criminal act and has nothing to do with race or ethnicity. Until 1964, civil rights meant equality before the law. Today it means special privileges for designated groups defined by lawmakers, bureaucrats, and judges.

One of the chief causes of immorality in the United States must be the examples of President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, and Al Gore. One cannot deny that each of them is a liar. The president and vice-president have demonstrated their disregard for truth. Mrs. Clinton has not been proved to be a liar, though her role in Travelgate and Whitewater suggests this. She is well-known for her foul mouth, however. In an age that has rejected the role of the lady and the gentleman, her profanity is no small evil influence. We were shocked when we discovered that Richard Nixon used profane language. When Mrs. Clinton was charged with using a racist slur in the context of the most vulgar profanity, her racism was doubted but her profanity raised no eyebrows, illustrating a coarsening of American behavior. There can be no debate about the increased vulgarity of language on television and in movies compared with only a few years ago. We are concerned with political correctness but accept without blushing the most extreme vulgarity! I am the more shocked at such behavior in a woman, no doubt because I belong to the generation that thought women should be “ladylike.” There are no ladies today as there are no gentlemen.

Al Gore and his wife Tipper were once promoted as “squeaky clean,” but they changed their minds when he became vice-president, pandering to Hollywood with praise of homosexual Ellen DeGeneres:

When the character, Ellen, came out, millions of Americans were forced to look at sexual orientation in a more open light,
said Gore.

Early in his career, Al Gore opposed abortion as the killing of a living being. Now he supports the woman's right to choose in any circumstance.

Gore insisted that the 103 White House coffees were not fund-raising tools, though a Senate panel found in 1997 that supporters who attended these events between November 1995 and October 1996 contributed \$7.7 million within one month of having attended them. Gore recalled that he had been to a few of these coffees and remembers only one that he attended briefly. The Senate panel found he had been the host of twenty coffees and attended eight with President Clinton. When questioned about fundraising in the White House, Gore claimed innocence because he said he was probably in the rest room while fundraising was discussed among his aids, because he had been drinking too much iced tea, and so he knew nothing about any illegality that took place.

Gore denied under oath that he knew his going to the Buddhist temple was a fund-raising event even though \$65,000 dollars in illegal money was given. Under questioning, the investigator said his responses were of contentious elusiveness and misstatements.

When the price of oil sky rocketed, Al Gore said in June that the oil industry's profits were outrageous, though he had no facts to substantiate that claim.

It takes somebody who is independent from Big Oil to take on Big Oil, and I'm independent from them.

Gore has been in the vanguard of environmental policies to limit the production of oil, cast the deciding vote in the 4.3 percent tax increase on gasoline, opposed oil drilling in northern Alaska, and supported Clinton's executive order prohibiting roadways in 43 million acres of government lands. Bill Bradley accused the administration of asking OPEC to raise oil prices to help Russia when Gore was active in policy toward Russia. *The Washington Times* reported that Gore pushed to privatize a federal oil field so that it could be sold to Occidental Petroleum, a company in which his father's trust owned \$500,000 worth of shares. The value of the shares jumped ten percent. After his mother, Gore is the sole beneficiary.

If he were not in politics, Al Gore might have been a decent man, but he has compromised his beliefs to pander to his electorate and he has been tutored by Clinton whose only principle is success. Bill Clinton is a liar. He lied to the American people and to the courts about his sexual conduct with an intern, and he encouraged other people to lie on his behalf. His office has threatened workers who report on misconduct. The Senate of the United States were almost unanimous in saying Clinton was guilty as charged, though they voted against removing him from office.

Mr. Clinton has relied on the teacher's lobby for his support and he has given them huge amounts of money, but education in the United States is one of the poorest in the world among industrialized nations. We have dumbed-down so everyone can be a graduate. While our graduate schools remain the best in the world, we fill the slots for doctoral studies with foreign students because we do not teach our citizens well enough for them to pursue advanced studies. We do not

teach as well as did the Soviet Union. While that country lacked political wisdom, it trained students well in the physical sciences and developed world-class scientists.

Under Mr. Clinton's watch, we have given sensitive computer data to China which has been used to threaten our security. A critic can build a case that the sale of our national security was a return payment for campaign expenses of the Democratic Party given by the China Lobby. Security of the national interest has been broken many times over several years and there is little confidence that the problems have been solved. The Energy Department is a disgrace.

The treaty-making power of the United States has been abused by Mr. Clinton as he bypasses the Senate by signing international agreements to the United Nations or other nations. This year he signed two protocols to the unratified Convention of the Rights of the Child. Whether or not this treaty is meritorious is beside the point. It was ratified without the consent of the Senate. In June of this year he signed agreements with then President Yeltsin to amend the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Once again, the merits of the act were irrelevant. He took it on himself to negotiate the foreign policy of the United States. He told the UN General Assembly on September 22, 1997 that he wants to take America into a "web of institutions that will set the international ground rules of the twenty-first century." This is the province of the United States Senate.

The armed forces are in a deplorable condition, suffering from aging weapons, low wages, inadequate training, maintenance backlogs, and shortages of qualified troops. He has pushed to place women into combat positions, lowered physical standards so women won't fail, and subjected the fighting forces to sensitivity training. There can be no adequate fighting forces under these conditions. During the forty-year Cold War, the U.S. military was deployed ten times. During the Clinton years, the U.S. military has been deployed thirty-four times as a social service organization rather than a fighting entity. If the armed forces are limited to being policemen we should state that. If we want a fighting force to defend the national interest, we should reject the Clinton point of view. We may properly downsize the size of our military, but we should define its nature rather than change its character surreptitiously.

All of the above paints the United States in a bad light. We may well be concerned because we have many problems. We have few to no organizations dedicated to upholding our morals and historical principles, but we have many citizens whose traditional beliefs remain. They do wonderfully well and can be heard in comments from strange places, even from the Supreme Court and lesser judges. Our political corruption is real, but not all politicians are corrupt. Our television is largely trash and newspapers are biased when they claim to be objective but we have had an increase of better television programs and sensible books, and even simple, patriotic journals such as *The St. Croix Review*. The citizenry can be deceived, but not forever. Hopefully, decency and common sense will return to good favor. Ω