

# MORALITY FORUM UPDATE

September 2001

## Danger - Pupils Present

By Basil Gurney

### A Serious Teacher Shortage

The chairman of Family and Youth Concern, Arthur Cornell, is an ex Headmaster and so it is natural that the subject of children's behaviour in school should be touched upon at their annual general meeting in June.

Mr. Cornell said that children themselves know that they are better off with two parents. He also said that teachers are leaving the profession because they have to face almost daily confrontation with disruptive children who know that they can get away with almost anything.

With the new academic year only weeks away and thousands of teaching posts unfilled, maybe even the government may begin to listen to those, like the Family Federation of World Peace and FYC, who are determined to re-establish stable, ethical families as the only sound base for a happy and harmonious society.

We at Morality Forum are convinced that the majority of parents are blissfully unaware of the ways in which their good influence on their children is being undermined. A determined campaign is being waged to expose children to all manner of corrupting influences.

### Dangerous 'trendy' ideas

A government initiative called *Sure Start* has lavish state funding and a declared aim of promoting the physical, intellectual and social development of pre-school children to enable them to flourish when they get to school. In one area which has poor schools and housing and is short of money, *Sure Start* proposed building accommodation for teenage mothers in a primary school. The scheme was only scrapped after the parents of the teenagers protested that they wanted to take care of their daughters who had "got into trouble".

In Cornwall, and other local authority areas, the government is putting money into teenage pregnancy strategies. Unfortunately the kind of thing being proposed is sex education for children as young as four. The fear is that the morning after pill and similar anti-child devices will become the norm and abstinence education a lost cause. One councillor pointed out that some parts of the strategy bordered on child abuse. Northern Ireland was threatened with a so-called bill of rights which would have undermined parental responsibilities. At the same time the Family Planning Association is pushing sex education and has been granted a judicial review of the policy of no abortion.

### Health Danger

Bodyzone is a joint project of Oxfordshire Health Authority and the County Council Youth Service. Bodyzone provides a confidential clinic 'service' in school. This means that neither the family doctor nor the parents of pupils will be informed of anything which is going on. Startled parents learned of Bodyzone when they happened to see material brought home by children.

The school nurse can exercise authority beyond your control by giving your daughter the morning-after pill. No one will inform you, even if your daughter is having illegal sex with an older man!

The morning-after pill is known to have serious side effects. It can cause heart failure, nausea and fatigue and can lead to adverse drug reaction (ADR), deep vein thrombosis and stroke, ectopic pregnancy and foetal abnormality. It has already caused the deaths of over forty young people.

If you want to know more about this please contact: Parent Truth, P.O. Box 3195, Cumbernauld. G67 1YJ. ☎: 0131 669 2812.

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Parents should be alert to all manner of surreptitious ways that the sex mad and paedophile lobby is targeting children. One parent looked at her daughter's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme folder and was astonished to find a booklet on 'Sex and Relationships', recommending sexual permissiveness and giving anti-parent website addresses. The parent contacted the *Daily Mail*, who took up the story. As a result of this one action by a parent, the Department of Education had the book pulped.

### The bright side

Fortunately all is not doom and gloom on the anti corruption front. *Tamsin*, the wholesome magazine founded by teenagers for teenagers, is now doing well. It has a sponsor and a website and is being distributed in Singapore, Malaysia and Australia. We would like to suggest that you support this wonderful initiative.

A Cambridge academic, Professor Robert Rowthorn, who hold the chair of Economics, is delivering a public lecture in which he quotes a variety of statistics which show that the traditional married family is both the best social and the best economic unit for building a stable society. Thank you Professor Rowthorn.

### Write Letters

Letters to MP's, Managers and officials are effective in influencing the way that their organisation works. Public opinion still counts for a great deal

John O'Neill has been taking part in a bible study evening organised by Rev. Reynolds at his church in Hanwell. Rev. Reynolds has become so enthused by the stand that we are taking against table top and lap dancing that he asked for a supply of petition forms for his congregation to use.

Every church leader in the Ealing area is being contacted to alert them to what is happening and, as soon as possible all those across the rest of North London will be included.

After hearing John O'Neill speak from the floor at a meeting in London Miss Anne Whitaker, the Hon. Secretary of Cornwall's Community Standards Association, wrote asking for advise on how to tackle lap dancing clubs. He was happy to help. These clubs are spreading like a plague over the country and many people would appreciate a little help and advise.

Bryan Warner wrote to both the BBC and the BSC, when he felt that a particular TV broadcast had been totally biased.

The BBC replied that, since he had written to the BSC, they would leave any comment to them. The BSC sent a letter from a solicitor setting out legal reasons why it was none of his business.

Are they hand in glove? The argument seems to be that if you are not directly involved, you have no right to be agrieved!

## Teenage magazines

We are happy to be able to tell you that we have had a letter from Tony McNulty M.P. teeling us that "Mad about Boys", a new magazine for eight to twelve year old girls, which told readers about snogging, chat up lines and how to dress sexy, has ceased publication. A letter to Mr. McNulty resulted in him contacting the Home Office and the Teenage Magazine Arbitration Panel have ruled that the magazine gave an unbalanced view. Thank you to all those who took the trouble to write and compain.

Mr. McNulty's letter also states that there are no specific controls on magazines, but all published material is subject to the Obscene Publications Act of 1959. This makes it an criminal offence to publish an article which is considered to be obscene; that is, an article which, in the view of the court, tends to 'deprave and corrupt'. In the first instance it is the responsibility of the police to decide whether there are sufficient grounds to launch a criminal investigation and that of the Crown Prosecution Service to decide whether to prosecute. Lord Halsbury tried to reform the Obscene Publications Act by suggesting a specific list of proscribed material in a 1999 bill, but this was not accepted.

Baroness Young has said that a flood of well reasoned letters was an enormous influence on the MP's determination to retain clause 28. Many believe that the clause should be extended to include health authorities.