

MORALITY FORUM UPDATE

September 2002

Morality Forum Action

Corrupting the Young

By John O'Meill

Corruption is a bit like dry rot. The tentacles spread out unnoticed and hidden away until you suddenly become aware of the destruction they have caused and the difficulty and cost of repairs.

Dr. Claudio Violate is a professor at Calgary University, Director of Research for the National Foundation for Family Research and Education and co-author of a new study on the effects of pornography on viewers and society alike. The conclusion of the authors is that, "Our findings are very alarming. This is a very serious social problem since pornography is so widespread nowadays and easily accessible on the Internet, television, videos and print materials."

Researchers found that the use of pornographic materials leads to a number of behavioural, psychological and social problems. One of the most common and serious of these is a deviant attitude toward intimate relationships. Perceptions of sexual dominance, submissiveness and viewing persons as sexual objects were all evident, as were sexual aggressiveness, sexual hostility and violence. The myth that women cause and enjoy rape and that rapists are normal is widely held by males who habitually use pornography.

The researchers found that increasing numbers of children are being exposed to explicitly sexual materials.

Professor Violate noted, "There has been some debate among researchers about the degree of negative consequences of habitual use of pornography, but we feel confident in our findings that pornography is harmful. Our study involved more than 12,000 participants and a very rigorous analysis. I can think of no beneficial effects of pornography whatsoever. As a society we need to move towards eradicating it."

In Paris, of all places, it has been said that the growing intrusion of pornography into the adolescent world has set alarm bells ringing. Research has shown that in at least one French school half of ten-year-olds had watched pornographic videos.

Sex education specialists have discovered that 90% of 18 to 20 year-old males and 81% of females had watched pornography and 42% had seen their first video aged between 11 and 15. This particularly worried Denise Stagnara, a sex education worker, who found that a large number of ten-year-olds had watched them.

Bemoaning the growth of pornography on the internet, cable TV, cinema and literature, *Liberation* newspaper said, "Pornography is in fashion, almost chic. - - - to believe that this has no influence on the behaviour of immature adolescents would be naïve."

In this country it has been recorded that a thirteen-year-old boy attempted to rape a six-year-old girl after watching computer pornography at school. Parents who watched pornographic videos, allowed their seven-year-old to watch. As a child he tried to touch girls and at fifteen he buggered and raped his brother and sister. A boy, who had been allowed to watch Sky Adult Films from the age of seven, made a serious sexual assault on a four-year-old girl next door at the age of eleven.

If you want to know more, contact Family Concern, 39 Wellington Road, Portsmouth PO2 0HB. Phone; 0705 692 425 / 382 061

PLEASE make your home a pornography free zone!

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.

Failing our Youth?

By Brian Warner

In our last update, we looked at the evidence collected by Dr. David Paton of Nottingham University. His studies of clinic attendance, conceptions and abortion rates for teenagers produced no evidence that access to family planning has any effect on underage conception and abortion rates. On the other hand family planning raises the likelihood of engaging in sexual activity.

Tom Utley had some interesting comments to add to the discussion in the *Telegraph* of 29th June. Having posed the question; if the government handed out cricket pads in every school, would children be more or less likely to play cricket and more or less likely to play without pads? His answer was, more likely. His own experience of bruised and battered shins at a cricket-mad school bore out that answer.

The government idea of handing out free condoms all over the place to stop teenage pregnancies may not be seen as a true analogy by those who say that children will have sex anyway, and so need the guidance of highly trained government experts to avoid the consequences.

The analogy does, however, hold true. Mr. Utley says, "There are some schools where almost nobody plays cricket (my youngest two sons state primary among them). But equally there are many schools where almost nobody has under-age intercourse.

The sex urge is certainly a natural instinct in pubescent children, but it is by no means a pressing necessity for them to satisfy it. It is not like the need to empty ones bladder. Whatever dirty thoughts we may have about Claudia Schiffer, it is actually extremely easy not to bother the poor girl by leaping on top of her every time we see her.

So there are intercourse schools and non-intercourse schools, just as there are cricket schools and non-cricket schools. - - - The key to bringing down the number of teenage pregnancies in Britain is to establish a non-intercourse ethos in every school in the land. - - - Opening a sex advice clinic in a school is like announcing in the prospectus: *This is a school where the children are expected to have sexual intercourse with each other.*"

When a group of people in a pub were asked for their opinion, almost all were against the idea and a pub landlord summed up the ideas quite well. He said, "It only encourages the children to experiment. Whatever happened to the law that it is illegal to have sex with someone under sixteen? We are encouraging youngsters not only to behave in a stupid and promiscuous fashion, but also to break the law."

Another customer added, "When I was young it was unthinkable that you would make a girl pregnant. In those days we held hands."

Maybe our media have to bear a big responsibility for degraded attitudes. At the beginning of the twentieth century, it was said that the British media was the best and fairest in the world. Our free press was the envy of other countries and the standards laid down by Lord Reith, the founder of the BBC, were admired by all.

The century ended with people having a deep distrust of a print media printing opinions as news, a sleazy broadcast media churning out bad-taste comedy, chat shows offering perverse views of questionable taste and presenters of children's programmes who are sloppy, inarticulate and a bad example to the young.

Newsy Bits

The Canadian team, which gives presentations advocating abstinence until marriage, will tour the UK in November and December this year. If you know of a school where the team could speak, or would like information, please contact; Mrs. Sue Relf, 11 Coastguard Square, Eastbourne. BN22 7EE. Tel: 01323 638744.

An application was made to Harrow Council for a Lap-Dancing club. Morality Forum members led a strong local opposition and organised a petition, together with local religious leaders. One lady, from our interfaith group, was a member of several committees and she got councilors involved. The local MP was supportive and the local college in Harrow Weald joined in. A few weeks after the campaign, we read in the local paper that the application had been withdrawn.

A twelve-year-old boy, from Holme in East Yorkshire, died after drinking cider with friends in a playing field. His mother and stepfather said that children should be warned about the dangers of alcohol! By whom??
