

# MORALITY FORUM UPDATE:

“Purity is the first step to eternal love”

November 2005

Issue 22

In this issue...

News in Brief

Thank you! to the Watford citizen

The Curse of Pornography

True Family Values

Uganda tackles HIV/AIDS

Whatever is happening to fatherhood?

An Open Letter to My Schoolboard

The WAIT Interview

## The Jane Longhurst Campaign Against Internet Pornography

“We the undersigned object to the presence of extreme internet sites promoting violence against women in the name of gratification. We note the recent horrific murder of Brighton school teacher Jane Longhurst was by a man who had become an avid user of corrupting internet sites such as ‘necrobabes’, ‘death by asphyxia’ and ‘hanging bitches’. We support the call by the family of Jane Longhurst for the Government and Internet Service Providers to take action to block access to these sites; for an overhaul of the Obscene Publications Act to make it a criminal offence to possess such images; for better international cooperation to close down sites hosted abroad and for internet images in the UK to be included in the remit of OFCOM.”

Download copies of this petition from Martin Salter’s website at [www.martinsalter.com](http://www.martinsalter.com) and return to: ‘The Jane Longhurst Campaign’ c/o Martin Salter MP, 413 Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1HA.

## It is worth complaining!

Mediamarch Press Officer, Denise, wrote to a local supermarket chain about explicit new women’s magazine Scarlet, and it was removed from all branches!

## Britain (shamefully) - Europe’s porn capital

A survey of 14-09-05 reports that British TV viewers now have access to more pornography than any other nation in Europe - 27 adult-only channels on satellite or digital pay-per-view broadcasts, a number that has increased by one-third in a year. Sweden and the Netherlands have a few adult channels; France has 4, Spain 2 and Italy one.

According to the audiovisual analyst Screen Digest, porn is the fastest-growing TV genre in Europe. Bel Mooney writes about it in The Daily Mail (15-09-05) in an article “The 27 channels that make me feel ashamed of Britain.” Analyst Guy Bisson says, “adult entertainment is now almost equalling some of the major genres like news, children’s and documentary.”

As Bel Mooney continues, “porn has infected mainstream culture - magazines, TV. Channels 4&5 are showing social ‘documentaries’ about sex. Programmes like Big Brother and Celebrity Love Island should bother more people than they do. “If we cease to care about such attitudes we will, in the end, lose all claim to being a civilised society. Messages on the page or on screen affect our judgement (she says) otherwise what is the point of the advertising trade?”

Radio 4

The controller of Radio 4, Mark Damazer has said “sex and strong language are not something for Radio 4 to be frightened of”. Please write to Mr. Damazer at BBC Radio, Broadcasting House, Portland Place,

London WIA 1AA. The appalling decline in media standards is reflected in the immoral 'yob culture' that we are living in.

---

## **Morality Forum Action**

### **Thank you! to the Watford citizen By Diana Van der Stok**

Between October 2004 and January 2005 around 1100 people in Watford signed a petition against renewing the annual license of the sex shop (the Parade 96).

At the end of January however the Watford Council renewed the license.

I'd like to ask, did you, the ordinary Watford citizen who signed at that time, think that it went all in vain, and there is no point, anyway? Did you, at that time know that your signature will help decisively reshape the face of our town? Some time in the summer an article in the local 'Watford Observer' reported that a sauna called "Supreme" situated on Vicarage Road and described as "the sleaziest in town", closed down. The owner of the premises simply decided to redo the place for a food take-away. As people pass by it they can see the place being transformed. I believe it happened like that because of the strong condition of 1100 signatures for the sake of a family-friendly town, together with all the prayers of unknown concerned people. I believe when something good happens it is never a coincidence.

Sincerely thank you, that by signing you did a wonderful thing!

---

### **The Curse of Pornography By John O'Neill**

The government is bringing in new legislation to control "extreme pornography" following the horrific killing in 2003 of Jane Longhurst, by Graham Couatts, who was addicted to violent internet pornography, regularly visiting websites featuring photographs of women being strangled, hanged and abused.

Paul Goggin, a Home Office Minister stated..."We are not referring to what might be called mainstream

pornography or the kind of material classified for sale in licensed sex shops."

It is thought that framing the law will not be easy, and there are human rights considerations about what people are allowed to view in the privacy of their own home. Article 8 (right of a private life) and article 10 (freedom of expression) of the European human rights convention.

Whilst the government should receive credit for bringing in legislation concerning violent pornography, what they absolutely need to understand is that all forms of pornography have a negative influence on those who use such material.

Pornography is a cancer poison with regard to stability in society.

When pornography was banned in Oklahoma city in the USA the rates of sexual crimes fell - whereas in the rest of the country the rates of sexual offences increased!

Many of the people who look at pornography are those who have not found lasting emotional relationships with real people. Porn leads people away from the real world into a fantasy world which offers sensation but no fulfilment. Porn lowers the value of human beings. It encourages men to regard women as objects and not as real people. Porn addicts lose self-respect and respect for others. Porn shops do not keep perverted people off the streets - they put them on the streets. Porn does not exist to satisfy a desire for sex - it exists to generate lust and destroys moral integrity.

Far from keeping potential murderers and rapists off the streets, porn encourages the state of mind which makes violent sexual crimes possible. More and more innocent children, young girls and even old ladies are being assaulted, murdered and raped by men with deranged minds owing to the influence of pornography.

Ted Bundy the infamous serial rapist and murderer testified as to how he ended up murdering and raping. He continually needed to go to higher levels to satisfy his lusts. He ended up looking at hard core pornography and then murdering and raping.

A study at Calgary University in Canada by Research Director - Professor Violata - reveals that pornography leads to behavioural, psychological and social problems. "Our study involved more than 12000 participants and very vigorous analysis." said Professor Violata. Over the past 30 years a considerable volume of evidence has shown the harmful effects of pornography on both the individual

and society in general.

“A boy of 7 - eldest of 4 children. His parents watched pornographic videos, allowed the boy to see them and were careless about putting them away. Through his childhood he tried to touch girls sexually. When he was 15 he raped and bugged his brother and sister.”

“A boy of 11 seriously assaulted a 4 year old girl next door. From the age of 7 he had been allowed to watch Sky Adult films. The abused child and her family are still undergoing counselling. Neighbours are frightened to let their little children out to play.” Superintendent Hames of New Scotland Yard’s Obscene Publications Squad: “The vast majority of murderers, serial rapists and child molesters indulge in pornography. We must fight to protect society from evil monsters who purvey pornography for profit...” Our British and European politicians need to wake up and understand that pornography also violates the moral and spiritual laws which have stood the test of time.

All the evidence shows that it is insanity to allow pornography to be treated as “adult” material, and therefore to be sold in sex shops etc.

What about the “human rights” of all the innocent women and children who have been the victims of men addicted to pornography?

Let each one of us realise that we all can play a part in challenging evil humanistic amoral legislation. It is surely our duty to do this. Too many lives have already been lost, especially the lives of innocent children.

---

## TRUE FAMILY VALUES

The following excerpts were compiled by Frank van der Stok and taken from the book “True Family Values” which can be purchased. (details, address, etc. on the last page)

Family Restoration: Necessary, but Possible?

A. How can rebuilding the home solve larger problems?

In the previous issue we pointed out the crucial realization that the answer to social troubles lies in restoring the family. Let us examine a few examples of how rebuilding the home brings natural solution to larger problems.

1. Solution to crime: Research shows that criminals are bred by broken homes, in particular where grandparents are not present. Happy families breed law-abiding citizens.
2. Solution to mental illness: Along the same lines, mental illness is bred by broken homes, in particular where grandparents are not present. Genetic and biological predisposition to mental illness determine only 30% of whether it will occur. The actual expression of mental illness depends mainly upon human factors. Happy families breed sane, balanced people. Divorces breed children likely to divorce.
3. Solution to drug abuse, alcoholism: Same point as that of mental illness: healthy family life ends drug and alcohol abuse.
4. Solution to the economy: Two-parent families do far better economically than one-parent families and divorced people. The extended family is the best environment for small-scale entrepreneurship. Small-scale entrepreneurship leads to large scale creation of wealth.
5. Solution to cultural decay: Good families create their own culture of family love. True parents do not enjoy decadent cultural products, nor do their children. In fact, they abhor them as more destructive than poison or lead-based paint. (If we spent the money and energy getting rid of sex-garbage TV that we do on getting rid of lead-based paint in our homes, the brains of our kids would be far better off.)
6. Solution to bloated and conflict-ridden government: Strong families do not require welfare. A society without welfare requires less government. A society without criminals and adulterers requires less government. Strong families create healthy communities which voluntarily care for the less fortunate, reducing the need for state intervention.
7. Solution to foreign affairs: As the family lives for the community, and community for the nation, the national leaders will guide the nation to live for the world, bringing world peace.
8. Solution to religious and racial strife: Good families live for the sake of other families, regardless of race or religion. This is because true family values transcend race and religion and culture. We’ve long known that children everywhere are the same. We should realize that husbands and wives and parents and grandparents are the same everywhere in the world.
9. Solution to environmental destruction: Good

families consume, wisely, products which are good for children. Good families value the environment above financial profit. Good families create good homes and gardens, creating a park-like environment in their own community. Good families do not litter; they respect cleanliness as next to godliness. (It is interesting that when we gave up godliness, we lost cleanliness in the bargain.)

10. Solution to AIDS: Good families practice sexual purity. AIDS is wiped out forever. So is abortion and illegitimacy.

### B. Why young people are avoiding marriage?

Unfortunately, today, many young people view the wreckage of the family and reject marriage and family as desirable goals. Our culture has become sceptical about marriage. One of the unintended side effects of our high divorce rate is that many of our young people are avoiding marriage. Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, "The Good Marriage: How and Why Love Lasts" (Houghton Mifflin, cited in Trudy Bush, "Happily Married with Children", "The Christian Century", Jan 2, 1996, p.109)

C. Sociologists can identify the external conditions which have caused family breakdown, but cannot explain the internal cause. Therefore they have no answers.

1. Economically, traditional society rewarded strong families, but modern urban society discourages them. The family, as traditionally constituted by religion, has not survived modernity, industrialisation, and the culture of affluence.

.....families (are) under siege because of the internationalisation of markets and the computer revolution. Everybody is affected by these changes... Clearly, there are social and economic factors that put families under stress. (Family values, Christian values: A roundtable discussion, in The Christian Century, Jan. 21, 1996, p.105.)

Studies suggest that young adults increasingly view marriage as an ideal that is beyond their grasp... .When the economic basis for marriage has been eroding so seriously among the non-educated,... marriage is still highly valued, but people don't think it's a realistic possibility. (Margaret L. Usdansky, Single Motherhood: Stereotypes vs. Statistics, New York Times, February 11, 1996)

2. Systematic governmental attempts to restore traditional, agrarian culture have let do horrors of social engineering, both Marxist (Cambodia, Stalinist Soviet Union, North Korea) and religious (Iran, Bosnia).

3. Problems have worsened by disastrous proportions even during government attempts to create a Great society in the United States.

4. And yet, few want to abandon the comforts and possibilities which modern industrial society provide. (To be continued....)

---

## Uganda tackles HIV/AIDS - the ABC model

### By Frank Van der Stok

"Uganda", according to a 2003 report from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), "has experienced the most significant decline in HIV prevalence of any country in the world."

Of the over 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, nearly 75% live in sub-Saharan Africa. Among the 20 million people who have died of AIDS, 14 million have been Africans. In the mid-1980's Uganda and Tanzania were the two countries in the world with the most reported cases of AIDS.

The Ugandan President implemented a low-cost, indigenous, and effective response. As a result, nationwide HIV rates decreased from 22% (1991) to 6% (1999).

Several studies identify President Museveni's direct, public, morality-based involvement as pivotal. He made fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic a personal priority by himself carrying the message to all of Uganda's 56 political districts. He also brought the national department of HIV/AIDS abatement into his executive office, involving leaders from many sectors of society and government departments.

In the speech "AIDS: The Greatest Leadership Challenge" the president says AIDS unlike other diseases "...is largely, an infection of choice. It is a largely sexually transmitted disease and can, therefore, be avoided through proper sexual behaviour."

Museveni broke conventions of thought and habit. He spoke openly about sexual behaviour while upholding abstinence and fidelity as both morally preferable and pragmatic in the face of the threat of AIDS.

Uganda's ABC model emphasizes three dimensions of sexual behaviour: A- abstinence, B- be faithful

(fidelity), and C- condoms. Here A and B relate to risk elimination or primary behavioural change, while C corresponds to risk reduction.

Pres. Museveni's strategy emphasized A and B (abstinence and be faithful), while it also allowed condom distribution under the Ministry of Health's program. The social marketing of condoms beyond the health sector however had low public profile, a policy the government termed "silent promotion", and targeted only specific layers of society.

In April 2004 Museveni said, "it is behavioural change and not condom use that has led to the reduction of HIV infection". He also emphasized that students at the appropriate age should be encouraged to seek "a partner and start a lifetime relationship". As about "C", beyond not agreeing with "the [liberal] teaching of the Western countries on the use of condoms," he condemned their "distribution...to primary school pupils...[as] dangerous and disastrous."

Uganda succeeded because of the simple, uncompromising message of the president and his wife, sending the signal throughout the government and nation that AIDS is a presidential concern.

The president encouraged a broad consensus of representatives in both government and civil society to tackle the problem. Health professionals and religious leaders sat at the same table. As a result a strong alliance between political and religious institutions (Christian, Moslem, etc.) evolved in the process.

Working together, applying the ABC model, Uganda's government and the faith-based organizations (FBO's) did what no other country could then do: they tackled the evil of HIV/AIDS in all its complexity.

Uganda's story of honesty and integrity, faith and good governance attests clearly to the powers unleashed when government and FBO's join forces toward a common, righteous goal.

---

## **Whatever is happening to fatherhood?**

**By Dr. Michael Waldstein**

The following speech was given in London on June 25th 2005. Reprinted by kind permission of Family and Youth Concern.

Dr. Waldstein began his address by referring to some disturbing statistics on the rise in the number of families headed by a lone parent and the growing number of births outside marriage in the UK.

The statistics from the USA were no less disturbing, with 72% of American citizens considering fatherless to be the greatest social problem facing the United States.

Children who grew up without a father accounted for 63% of adolescent suicides; 71% of pregnant teenagers; 90% of all runaways from home; 70% of adolescents in public care facilities; 85% of adolescents with drug problems.

Progress in science and technology, combined with the growth of utilitarian thought, had led to a culture in which people were often used as means to an end. In this context, women could be reduced to objects for the use of men, children could be regarded as a hindrance to their parents, and the family could be viewed as an institution obstructing the freedom of its members.

Against this background of cultural decay, children had the ability to form and free the hearts of their fathers. Children had no interest in technological power and material wealth and were powerless to help their fathers get them, but they were experts in the science and practise of love. They had a great sensitivity for personal relationships and had the capacity to inspire love in their fathers.

The impact of the law

Developmental psychology and crime statistics confirmed the crucial role of the father in the formation of a child's personality. The main pillars of the law against fathers were: (a) no-fault divorce; (b) a strong tendency to give mothers primary custody for children, while reducing the presence of the father to a minimum; (c) generous maintenance payments by fathers for their children and former spouses, which could amount to around half their total earnings.

The law was having the effect of detaching financial security from the duty of loyalty in marriage. It offered security from a provider without the personal presence and involvement of the provider. If the father failed to keep up the maintenance payments, emotional extortion came into play, whereby the father was deprived of access to his children. The law had effectively introduced episodic marriage, transformed

divorce into a profitable transaction, seduced mothers to egotism, rewarded betrayal and disenfranchised fathers.

However, this external violation of the father's right to live with his children and share in their education was not the primary obstacle to the exercise of fatherhood. There was a much more insidious and internal problem that was destroying fatherhood from within. The 'teenager' was not an inevitable, natural, or God-given phenomenon, but was invented, fashioned permitted and promoted immediately after the Second World War, together with the so-called 'generation gap'. History showed that cultural and religious continuity between parents and children was the normal condition of human life. Our failure to pass on our cultural and religious heritage to our own children was without precedent.

The 'teenager'

Three factors had played a particularly significant role in the invention and formation of the 'teenager'.

(i) The absence of fathers.

The hearts of fathers were turned towards the pursuit of wealth and power and bent on constructing a civilisation of things from which adolescent children could only feel excluded.

(ii) The sexual revolution

Fathers had been the first to embrace a utilitarian ethic. Utilitarianism inevitably destroyed the link between sex and love, and between sex and procreation by reducing the other person to a means for pleasure. In this climate, the sexual passions of children were released into destructive premature relationships. Instead of being introduced into a culture of love, children were being abandoned to a culture of the use of each other for pleasure or "fun".

(iii) The rise of a new form of music, specifically produced for adolescent children. It was a form of music tailor-made for encouraging the expression of sexual passion outside the context of authentic love. American and European adolescents were perhaps the first generation of children who constituted a potent market by themselves because of the large amounts of pocket-money they received from their parents. Parents were happy to let the children do what they wanted while they themselves pursued their professional lives.

The removal of mothers from the home and their induction into the workforce had increased the cultural vacuum in which children lived. The entertainment industry had exploded, aided by technological progress which saw the invention of the radio and the television. The hearts of children were abandoned to the formative power of a form of music which preyed on the most intense and immature passions of adolescents, above all on erotic passion and anger. The idea of 'the teenager' had been created. Children no longer returned to a home after school, but to a house filled with electronic appliances and entered an alternative world constructed by entertainment.

Practical suggestions for fathers

A true father must be generous in the amount of time he spends with his children. Quality time was a myth.

Television tended to take up time that could be better spent. Living without a television was perhaps the single most helpful external step towards a richer family life. Quite apart from its content, television served as an enemy of the family because it deprived them of time together.

Sharing music together as a family was a far more profitable use of time. As Plato had recognised, music has the power to form the heart on a deep level. Reading well-chosen books out loud to the family was another valuable contribution a father could make.

When fathers truly turned their hearts to their children, it would also have a deep impact on the father's relationship with his wife.

---

## **An Open Letter to My Schoolboard By Chantal Masada**

The following article from the USA shows how just one person can make a difference when they are willing to take responsibility.

"The following speech was written by Chantal Masada. It was read by her at District 20 Community School Board Meeting to the acclaim of the parents there. Also two members of the board were influenced to change their mind about the efficacy of the HIV

Curriculum and Children of the Rainbow.

Community School Board 15 also voted for inclusion of the pro-homosexuality pro free-sex agenda, when Beverly Freed took the floor and read from the same speech. The outcome was that the speech affected a groundswell of parental support and three of the staunchest advocates for this programme on the community school board have since announced their retirement from the board.

We urge people to get involved in their own communities by contacting Concerned Parents, an organisation which seeks to replace community school board members who do not reflect their pro-family views. Or better, run for community school board office yourself” - Beverly Freed.

Dear Members of the Board, Parents and friends: I am a concerned mother of 3 young children, a concerned member of my community, and of the United States of America. I hear a voice coming out of the land which was once a land of hope and opportunity. It is a voice of parents growing in numbers and strength, against what is the greatest abomination ever heard in American history: the K6 HIV/AIDS curriculum and the Children of the Rainbow curriculum. The LIE OF LIES: these two curriculum are lying about the original core of life itself: LOVE.

These two curriculum are nothing less but an invitation to children to go to their coffins by promoting the very lifestyle which gives AIDS: free-sex and homosexuality, the lifestyle which is a dead-end in itself: self-centredness, selfishness, self-gratification.

Then they give children condoms which do not always stop the HIV virus. Condoms are not safe. It is like playing Russian roulette. Safe sex does not exist. It is a fallacy, another LIE.

Furthermore these curriculum are promoting IRRESPONSIBILITY. Whatever you feel like doing, you can do it! You feel like having sex? Have sex? Members of the board, if you feel like stealing, do you steal? If you feel like killing, do you kill? Where are you drawing the line? The sexual relationship is meant to be a holy act of love between one man and one woman for eternity. Yet these curriculum treat sex as just another urge or instinct that must be fulfilled. This way of thinking is spiritually, physically and literally killing our children. This is a spiritually anarchistic, irresponsible decadent civilization.

Please Mr.Fernandez, stop lying to yourself, to us and

to our children!

America! Concerned parents are declaring the war against IMMORALITY! Any person with a conscience knows the truth deep inside himself. That one cannot live up to the call of his conscience is a major problem which needs to be addressed.

Some people think that it is impossible to ABSTAIN from sex. Actually, in reality it is much easier to abstain than not to, if we clearly know why to and how to. There are people all over the world already living up to this ideal, an ideal lying dormant in each individual. Everyone wishes to be able to have one unique love all throughout his life, and to give birth and love and raise up his own children: homosexuals are not an exception.

Abstinence is much more simple than fooling around trying to find a true everlasting love that is NEVER found this way. TRUE LOVE does not reside in free sex! True, ever-lasting love does exist, but you will not find it in free sex.

It has NEVER, EVER been found in free sex. Free sex is NOT THE SOURCE OF TRUE LOVE. People who indulge in free sex are never satisfied. Never! They always need more and more of it, to fill up some INTERNAL lack. They are in constant emotional turmoil. Am I wrong? I don't need to go through it myself to see that it is a common denominator among all people who indulge in free sex. They live in fear, in agony worrying about losing their love, or getting a new lover.

On the contrary, two people, a man and a woman who pledge their life to each other, clearly understanding why and how to, are two very happy people, free from fear and remorse of conscience. They live in peace of mind and heart. They live for each other. They are proud of each other. Where is True Love to be found? True Love is to be found in: LIVING FOR OTHERS. True Love starts only when we sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others; it may seem as if we will lose everything, but actually the opposite is true. Not only do we become the subject and master of love, but we also transcend to a higher realm of love.

Is this a new message? It is as old as the oldest religion, but it sounds new doesn't it? This liberal society is constantly promoting self-gratification and selfishness to the highest degree.

What are we going to teach our children then? The Rainbow curriculum? The K6 HIV/AIDS curriculum? No! LIVING FOR OTHERS is what we must be

teaching our children. Here I want to give a special thanks to the homosexual community, who, by its determination to destroy all moral values left in our society, is AWAKENING PARENTS. FORCING US TO TAKE OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN OUR HOME, AS WELL AS AT SCHOOL AND EVERYWHERE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY. THANK YOU!

AMERICA it is 5 minutes before midnight. 5 minutes before the possible annihilation of the human race. Are we going to continue on the road of self-destruction? Or, are we going to CHANGE?

America, the war against immorality has been declared! Members of the Board, we are asking you to listen to your conscience deep inside yourself and become part of the rising movement of concerned parents to save our children and save America.

---

## The WAIT Interview

(Interview with Kate Tsubata, Co-director, Washington AIDS International Foundation and initiator of the WAIT team, which visited the UK 16-26 Sept 05.

Taken by Diana van der Stok.)

Kate, you were asked by Dr. Yang, founder of the Washington AIDS International Foundation, to start the WAIT team, and your whole family embraced the idea. How did that happen?

WAIT is truly a full-family project. Our three children had decided themselves to commit to an abstinent lifestyle, and they were interested in encouraging kids of all backgrounds to use their creativity and to make deep friendships. Our family has been active in performing arts projects, and WAIT was the natural outgrowth of all of those passions. It must be said that WAIT is a health education organization, without any ties to any political, religious or pharmaceutical organization. We are humanitarian and non-governmental, and we will go anywhere and work with anyone who asks us to bring our message. The teens themselves raise most of the funds needed for the equipment, food and fuel to carry out our work.

Why do you think AIDS prevention is so important?

AIDS is the holocaust of our time, and is causing entire countries to disappear. In 8 countries of Southern Africa, the populations are shrinking, especially among those who would normally be the core of the workforce and the key childbearing population. Within the past 20 years, these countries

have experienced the elimination of this vital population. Only the elderly and the young children are left-often in dire hunger and poverty. This pattern repeats itself in every new population infected. The Western world is not far behind. Unless we reverse the trend-right now-our children will be the victims.

For whom do you perform?

Our typical audiences are schools, youth centers, health fairs or the congregations of various faith communities. We focus on youth, but the message is helpful for parents, teachers and public health personnel as well.

Performing arts has long been used for conveying messages quite different from yours. How do you go against the tide?

In any art, the purpose creates the effect. Our purpose is to save lives. When we sing, dance, act or create music, we're focused on helping kids understand their value. This is totally opposite the typical egotistical approach to art, where the performer is focused on being recognized for his or her value. We do a lot of inner work to develop the real heart that people can feel when we perform.

How do people accept this in the U.S. and in the U.K.?

It's basically pretty much the same everywhere we've been; people are initially excited by the fun of the performances: the breakdancing, the hip hop, the rap and skit. It's a lot of fun. But, after a bit, they also begin to relate to the message: that AIDS is serious, and that everyone is vulnerable. They get a chance to show off their own knowledge about HIV during the game show, and then they understand why we can't accept even one more person becoming infected. Then, during the songs and dances, they really listen deeply, and they see the way the WAIT members are totally giving everything to promote respect, personal value and courage. By the end, the audience feels hopeful, and they feel they have the power to make a change using their own talents. It's phenomenal to see the transformation.

How many people saw the presentations in the UK?

We performed about 17 times, and I would estimate that there were between 2,000 and 3,000 people that saw one or more performances.

What were the most interesting experiences in the UK?

Performing in Leicester Square and Covent Garden with the new trainees after only one day of training. Performing in schools where everyone had on a uniform-and having 30 kids come up after to sign up

for WAIT trainings. Packing equipment and so many people into one small microbus. Dealing with London traffic. Seeing the sights we normally only see in movies. Finding out that there are not one, but many, British accents!

You came to launch a UK WAIT team, and to train the kids and their parents. What were the main points you were teaching?

The nature of the HIV microbe, how it multiplies, how it destroys the immune system. How to perform in the skit and how to carry out the game show. Using your unique talents to give the message. Working as a team, honoring each person. Listening. Reporting one's research and activities to the group. The importance of adults and teens working jointly, keeping strong respect on all sides.

Why are parents important in WAIT?

Nothing lasting is accomplished without parents and kids working together. WAIT depends on the wisdom and long-range viewpoint of parents to help sustain the activities and to continually improve the level of the youth. By the same token, WAIT draws heavily on the energy and creativity of the kids, and their knowledge of what's current and what's interesting to their peers. Ultimately, this is a chance for families to work together to help their communities, which is a great way of having unforgettable experiences together that in turn bring the family closer together.

You have a rule on the team about negative comments, don't you?

Yes, it's one of our few, but absolute, laws: Don't speak negatively about yourself or others. If someone mistakenly lets a negative comment slip, they repay it with three positive comments. The reason for this is that humans tend to kill their own freedom and creativity with doubt. Permitting negative statements cuts off the natural desire to try new things and to take constructive risks. In most youth settings, kids immerse themselves in negative statements—often as a way of deflecting criticism from others. We've discovered that merely by refusing to allow negative talk about self or others, we can eliminate a huge amount of pointless waste of time and emotion.

After seeing your performance, I felt so hungry for more of this kind of positive cultural offerings.

Do you have other projects in development?

Of course! WAIT is about helping kids develop all their talents, not just those which currently fit into a live stage performance. We have kids learning video editing and production, original songwriting, music

recording and production, filmmaking, fashion, and many other areas. Within WAIT, kids can focus on the area they shine in: for instance, the website is created and maintained by several team members, and some are creating comics, logos, and stories that convey this message. We have kids creating raps and kids organizing benefit marathons. One girl is pursuing a career as a choreographer. One is working in television studio production. Eventually, I hope to see many new and original artists and entrepreneurs launched through involvement with WAIT.

You went to Israel and worked with young people there. What was your message to them and their response? We worked closely with a group from Jerusalem's At-risk Youth Department, the Multicultural Dance Troupe, led by choreographer Micha Nes. These are kids of every ethnic and religious background, spanning the entire spectrum of immigrants and native kids, from Palestinians to Ethiopians, Russians and Jewish Israelis.

These are kids who dance to break barriers and increase understanding. Although we are focused on the AIDS prevention through abstinence message, the dynamic is the same: breaking old concepts, raising understanding through the arts.

We not only felt that our messages could mesh well, but we found that the kids ended up teaching each other from their own cultural products.

We learned Arabic and Israeli dance and Brazilian Capoeira martial arts dance, and they learned hip hop and breakdance.

When we brought them to the U.S., the two groups of kids jointly choreographed a dance that celebrated all of our cultures, and showed a message of peace, to the song "Desert Rose" by Sting.

It was amazing to see that when kids work together with a common sense of value for each other's contributions, that it becomes a tangible demonstration of the ideals that are mostly just talked about. We don't just talk about peace, we live it.

What is your prognosis for the UK WAIT team?

Frankly, I think they may soon outstrip the US team!

There are a tremendous number of talented kids and parents already involved, and there are so many schools and youth clubs hungry for this information.

The level of HIV awareness is far lower in the general population than in the U.S., so there's a real need for accurate and empowering HIV messaging. Also, it's powerful to have your own countrymen speaking

it, rather than a group from overseas. I think if the response we got in Britain is any measurement, the UK team will be not only expanding into every city and neighborhood, but will be sending trainers over to the U.S. to teach us a thing or two!

I feel that with the US and UK WAIT teams working jointly, we can turn back the wholesale slaughter that HIV is wreaking upon the world.

As the great statesman and world leader Winston Churchill said, "One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half." Never run away from anything. Never!

Where can people find out more about WAIT?

Our website is [www.waitteam.org](http://www.waitteam.org). There is a special section on the English activities, including free testing sites, some info on our itinerary, and a reports and photos.

Thank you very much. It was wonderful having you.

*Morality Forum representatives give presentations with clear examples of how harmful promiscuous standards can be challenged and defeated. We are always grateful for feedback, articles & testimonies about moral issues. For more information contact: 43 Lancaster Gate, London, W2 3NA*