

Morality Forum Update

Standing up for family values in society

Issue 31

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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

By John O'Neill

The BBC recently received more than 35,000 complaints regarding the lewd and grossly offensive remarks made by Jonathan Ross and Russell Brand towards Andrew Sacks, a former actor.

The Sunday Telegraph has been running a campaign entitled, *Vulgar Britain* This campaign highlights the need for a thorough clean up of television standards, focusing in particular on the constant use of the "F" word. Well known media people etc. have supported the campaign. Gordon Ramsay the chef recently used the "F" word 80 times on a 50 minute Channel 4 programme! Julian Bellamy the head of Channel 4 has defended swearing on television saying he will not allow a "culture of conservatism" to stop presenters such as Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsay from using offensive terms. We cannot be surprised that Channel 4 condones swearing, as they are leading the way with programmes that are utterly distasteful and corrupting with their emphasis on gratuitous sex, violence and bad language. In a recent poll by ICM 57% said there was too much swearing on television and radio as well as the comedy programmes being too vulgar. Various reality programmes on TV degrade and humiliate some of the participants. Such programmes send out all the wrong messages, and set a very bad example. Media standards have been in constant decline for many years. The advent of the permissive society and the sexual revolution in the 1960's was where media standards of good taste and decency started to decline. All kinds

of gutter level offensive dross is allowed because of the "anything goes" thinking in the media, based on the euphemistic fig leaf headings entitled, "exploring," "art," and "freedom of expression."

Roy Hattersley the former deputy leader of the Labour Party was recently asked on *Question Time*, "Why was it that in your day there were no problems with the youth?" "That was before television," was his reply, which speaks volumes! We cannot blame everything on television for the ills of our "broken society". Other factors that are relevant include family breakdown and the lack of proper role models and father figures. However the decline of standards of good taste and decency in the media etc. is a major reason why we have so many social problems in our society, as the media can be a very powerful influence for good and bad. It is completely clear now how Mary Whitehouse was totally correct when she stated many years' ago that allowing gratuitous sex, violence and bad language to become predominant in the media and particularly on television would have serious consequences for our society. We are reaping the rewards now for the liberal, amoral thinking in the media over the past decades. It is quite pathetic as well as being very revealing that so many so-called "entertainment" programmes depend on lewd and inappropriate and insulting comments to obtain laughs from audiences which often unfortunately often contain many younger people. Media producers often say that, "we are just portraying life as it is," to justify their controversial programmes. Such remarks are excuses. What they really should be doing is portraying life *as it should be!*

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Sex Education

The government now wants to make sex education compulsory in all schools, starting with 5 year old primary school children! There is no evidence to support this policy. Teenage pregnancies are still the highest in Europe and abortion rates and STI's continue to rise, despite years of liberal, amoral, humanistic thinking on sex education. At primary school age the children's minds are not ready for digesting information about sex. Such information will only have a negative impact on the innocent children. Sex education should not be in schools at all, and would not be necessary if the government had the courage to clean up the media etc. which sexualises our young people. We are living

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The problem is that in general there are no shared moral assumptions anymore in our society as was the case when a Christian ethos was prevalent. In those days programmes were not offensive and people had to use their creativity to come up with suitable and inoffensive materials. The relevant people need to understand that there are only **one set** of laws in operation in our universe in relation to human conduct. They are the moral and spiritual laws given to us by our creator for our well being and protection. Those laws have stood the test of time as shown conclusively by various studies. When we ignore those laws, we end up with the kind of "broken society" we have today. Instead of the "me first" culture our society needs to adhere to the core message which is at the heart of all the major religious teachings, which is: "to live for the sake of others." If we were to live in such a way we can become beings of true love with true character and integrity. Our young people desperately need to understand that true freedom and happiness only comes through living in a righteous way.

The time is long overdue for the government to act against the constant sexualisation of our young people and the coarsening and debasing of our society by irresponsible media people. Now is the ideal time to keep the momentum going. As Bryan Warner says so admirably in his article in this issue: "Just imagine the impact it would have if every caring, righteous person wrote to the perpetrator every time something unacceptable was printed or broadcast." The Ross/Brand controversy shows clearly what can happen when enough people say, "enough is enough." Let us all follow Bryan's advice and fight back. As well as writing letters there are other key things we all can do, such as joining one of the various moral groups who do excellent work in defending moral and family values. They all need and deserve much more support. Sign petitions and pass them on to others. Campaign in your local area if some key moral issue arises. Contact the local media and inform local religious leaders. Write to and thank journalists, MP's, religious leaders, who speak out in defence of moral and family values. Instead of thinking, "Why doesn't the government or the various religious organisations do something?" Let us all think, "Why don't I do something."

Especially for the sake of our young people, if we all play our part, we can get our nation back on track. Surely there could be nothing more rewarding or satisfying than to participate in such a noble venture. □

The Curse of Promiscuity

by Bryan Warner

My children grew up in the age of experimental education. That is what it was called at the time but, with hindsight, I can see that it was no such thing. Far from being advanced or experimental techniques, these were carefully planned and executed exercises in social engineering. The question of who was behind the plan is no longer of any consequence. Time has moved

on and the forces at work have become irrelevant. Now, my grandchildren are part of a generation, which has no respect for any kind of authority. We have seen so clearly how a few ideologies can force their agenda on the rest of society by a skilful mixture of persistence and salesmanship.

I tried to have some influence on what was happening to my children but I did not try hard enough. I was too polite and too anxious not to "cause trouble". As a result there was no one to mobilise the opposition to what many of us felt was wrong. I must bear the blame for the result.

The socialist activists sowed the wind and now the present generation is reaping the whirlwind. Every night we watch the television news and see the latest score of youths and courageous peacemakers who have been stabbed to death. Last night we saw CCTV footage of a gang of youths who blatantly and in broad daylight attacked jewelers' shops. Rape and abuse of the innocent and elderly are no longer of sufficient awfulness to make it onto the news!

There is no point in saying, "I don't understand how they can do this. There is no reason." No point in wondering why young people breed like animals. It is not, of course, without reason. It is beyond the bounds of anything that a decent, civilised person can understand but there is even a reason why it is beyond understanding.

When I was growing up, it was perfectly normal to have respect for your parents and expect to get a ticking off or a clip round the ear if you did something unacceptable. Honesty and discipline, both imposed and self-controlled were admired and appreciated. During my lifetime, generations have grown up, increasingly ridiculing and rejecting these. Our village parson often preached about the dangers of ignoring the influence of the devil. If your reaction to that is, "Oh, no one believes in the devil any more," maybe you have hit the nail on the head. The devil is hiding in the crowd. How many parsons preach strongly against evil now? How many people went to church last Sunday to hear any kind of sermon?

The purpose of living a decent, moral, disciplined life is to maintain a good spirit and use it to help society. The effect of living a promiscuous and self-centred life is to give power to a low and rotten spiritual atmosphere. Our way of life creates either a good or an evil environment, it does not create itself. The idea of good and evil entities is poo poed by most people these days, but they really exist and most people have no idea that either can influence them. Did you ever say, "The thought just came into my head"? Where did it come from?

The question is, are we going to let yet another generation be depraved or are we going to do something about our society? Helping those who are already corrupted is not so easy; but not impossible. Helping the next crop of teenagers is much more possible and much more urgent. No authority or government department can be responsible for the education of our children. We have already seen the damage done by centralising and standardising all educational planning.

Perhaps we should glance back at how good British

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education was in the 1930's when the family was still paramount. The keystone to a stable society, nation and world is surely the family. The relationships between parents and children and among siblings are the determining factor in relationships on all levels of society. Whoever is disobedient to his parents is also usually disrespectful to his teachers and a trouble-maker in society. Those capable of anti-social behaviour are often rebellious against their nation as well. Parents have the authority and the absolute responsibility to determine whether or not their children are corrupted. My failure to protect my children was bad enough but, because of my lack of determination, my grandchildren are facing a terrible pressure of promiscuity. My son should definitely fight tooth and nail against plans to teach his seven-year old daughter sex. Not, you will note, moral behaviour or responsible social behaviour. SEX! School girls interviewed in Swindon, responded, "Well, what do they expect? They teach us how to do it!"

Where are the role models? Adultery is rampant in our society and is treated as normal by the media. One might almost say that they encourage permissive behaviour by printing salacious material that will sell their papers. Single parents get special treatment. The tax system is weighted against married couples and divorce is almost routine for those who find fidelity and responsibility difficult. All of this is striking at the very heart of God's building block for harmony, love and peace in the world.

Television has the ability to be a tremendously powerful way to set good standards but, sadly, it is failing to do this. There are many examples of good television but many of bad. The wholesome and exciting children's programmes of the early days have almost given way to programmes which ape adult rubbish and those which involve cartoon characters involved in all manner of violent behaviour. Almost all television drama now appears obliged to include totally gratuitous and pointless emphasis on sexual activity as well as foul language.

Do you think that this is inevitable modern progress? It is not. It is unacceptable behaviour. All right thinking people must be prepared to stand up and be counted, including our senior churchmen, before our society sinks into "the slough of despond" (John Bunyan. *The Pilgrims Progress*.) and is overcome by louts and criminals.

If you like the idea of being mugged, burgled and raped - do nothing. If you want a harmonious, loving and peaceful society and world - act. Join the growing number of wonderful people who are striving to change course. Just imagine the impact it would have if every caring, righteous person in the country wrote to the perpetrator every time something unac-

ceptable was printed or broadcast. Imagine the effect on a school authority if those same people made their views known. We have to show people that goodness is so much more exciting than the cheap, quick, dirty thrill. Only one standard is acceptable, that which allows us to stand unashamed before our God. Do you have a creditable alternative?

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in a very permissive society that ridicules most of our ethical and moral values such as abstinence. We are bombarded daily by the images and messages that are imbued with sexual connotations, from the media and advertisers-TV, magazines, videos etc. The sexual act is often portrayed as though it is a recreational sport with no boundaries or moral restraints. The government see cleaning up the media etc. as a vote loser, as they do not want to be seen as "moralising." What a terrible, tragic situation- inflicting yet more of a doomed, failed policy now even onto innocent primary school children!

Lap-dancing

The government has finally come to the conclusion that lap-dancing clubs should be classed as sexual establishments. This will give local councils and residents much more say in opposing licences for such establishments, and also better chances of getting existing lap-dancing clubs closed down when they re-apply for their licences. It is a pity that it has taken the government so long to recognise that women dancing naked with men sat a couple of feet away constitutes sexual activity! Recent evidence has shown women in lap-dancing clubs offering prostitution services to male customers. Evidence also shows increases in sexual attacks in areas where lap-dancing clubs are situated. Special thanks to *Object* who have been campaigning for a number of years about the degrading, highly offensive reality of so many lap-dancing clubs opening in our towns and cities. Let us hope the government will now do something about the curse of pornography, and also the Obscenity Law, which urgently needs strengthening. It would be a good idea to write to the Home Secretary Jacqui Smith to thank her for doing something about lap-dancing, and also to encourage her about pornography and the Obscenity Law. Address: Home Office, 2, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF E-mail: public.enquiries@homeoffice.qsi.gov.uk

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

The overwhelming majority of MP's and people in Northern Ireland were opposed to liberal abortion laws being introduced into their country via the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill which was debated in parliament recently. A petition was signed by over 121,000 people. The government dropped the proposed legislation and all credit to the MP's and people in N. Ireland for their righteous and noble stand on such a serious issue. Unfortunately the HFE Bill was passed by 355 votes to 129. Cardinal Keith O'Brien from Scotland described the

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Bill as “Frankenstein science” John Smeaton the Director of the Society for the Protection of The Unborn Child stated that, “human life is threatened on such a massive scale by this evil wicked bill. It extends the range of macabre and sinister experiments involving the creation of embryos outside the womb by scientists.” Edward Leigh MP said during the debate: “...human embryos are emphatically not just blobs of cells; they have the entire genetic make-up of a human being. I believe not that they are potential human beings, but that they are human beings with potential. We are making ourselves less than human, in a sense, by viewing one part of human creation as a thing, a spare part, which I believe is extraordinarily dangerous.” We are indeed living in very challenging times for our nation which is not helped by amoral, humanistic thinking by parliament when making key decisions affecting family and moral issues, such as the HFE Bill. Let us all take heart from the fact that the abortion amendments were not passed. If they had been passed it would have made abortion more easily available, which would have meant more untold misery and despair for numerous women and young girls caught up in the tragedy of unwanted pregnancies.

Gun, Knife, and Violent Crime

66 teenagers have been killed on the streets of Britain at the rate of one every five days this year-almost two thirds of whom have been stabbed! Teenage killings have doubled in London in the past 5 years. There were 5,413 violent knife crimes in England and Wales between April and June 2008, up 0.5 percent on the previous year. Tragic and appalling statistics. One mother said recently at the funeral of her teenage son, (who was killed by a knife attack) “nobody should have to go through this.” A number of law abiding decent family men have lost their lives in the last couple of years through wanton, senseless, mindless violence, inflicted by violent youths who think nothing of kicking people indiscriminately about the head and body. The families involved in losing their loved ones in such a barbaric way often state how their lives have been devastated and will never be the same. Their grief is usually exacerbated by the kind of ridiculously lenient sentences handed out to the perpetrators of their grief. The average time spent in prison for committing murder is 14 years, which is totally inadequate. Recently families who have lost loved ones through murder have been campaigning for “life to mean life.” Proper sentences would be another major factor in helping to curtail the endemic situation regarding gun and knife crime.

Youth Crime

The following e-mail (writer anonymous) contains some very clear and relevant observations: “The problem is that there are dozens of ‘Wayne Bryan’s’ (he committed a very serious gun crime) in every district across Manchester. It’s just that they rule their neighbourhoods and people are too scared to talk about them. They see intimidation, violence and the use of the gun and knife as ‘real life,’ have respect for nothing and no-one and see the Police, Woolly-headed judges and soft prison sentences as nothing more than an

unfortunate ‘career hazard.’ They have been brought up on a daily diet of poor parenting, zero positive male role-models, negative, violent music, a lack of any sort of personal discipline or boundaries and the acceptance of using potentially lethal violence as a consequence of someone saying ‘no’ to them. They exist in an artificial ‘bubble’ that goes no further either morally or spiritually than the end of their street-the ‘endz’. Society, I believe has tried everything it can to tackle gun-carrying and the acceptance of using weapons by gang members. But it still continues-and innocent people will continue to pay the ultimate price for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. After serious thought, I honestly believe that the only thing that will change the mindset of these young men is if the death penalty is reintroduced. We’re running out of options.” (Morality Forum does support the death penalty being reintroduced, but only in the case of heinous crimes committed. J. O’Neill)

Abortion

Abortion increases women’s risk of mental illness by 30% according to research in New Zealand on more than 500 women over several decades. Otago University found higher incidence of conditions such as depression and anxiety. In New Zealand, almost all abortions are supposedly done to prevent mental health problems in women. □

MORALITY FORUM ACTION

John O’Neill, Theresa Quarmby, Finbar Murphy and Anne Hughes distributed leaflets on behalf of the Society For The Protection Of The Unborn Child, regarding the Human Embryology Bill.

John O’Neill and Anne Koybayashi attended a pres-



entation on the topic of film classification, given by a lady from the film classification board. John and Anne both expressed their concerns from the audience during questions and answers about

the presentation, which contained gratuitous promiscuous and violent clips from various films. Films which were previously banned are now being released. It is clear that the people who classify films are often thinking from a humanistic, amoral viewpoint when making their decisions. Tragically such thinking has resulted in films being classified which contained scenes of extreme violence. People have lost their lives after being attacked by people who copied the violence they had seen in the films. Film classification is another area that needs urgent attention by the government.



True Family Values

(compiled by Frank van der Stok,
continued from previous issue)

The Children's Realm of Heart

A. Children's realm of heart.

1. *Every child is born out of the love of God. As he or she grows, he unfolds stage by stage the invisible nature of God in visible manifestation. After all, in adulthood, he is destined to fully embody God's divine nature as a temple of God.*

2. *As the child receives his parents' love his heart grows.*

- The child is innocent, curious and open. The child believes in others.
- Receiving parents' love stimulates the child's love and causes the child's heart to grow, as sunlight coming from the sky causes plants to grow and multiply. Children naturally offer love and respect, faith and trust, obedience and gratitude to their parents. Thus, the mind of filial piety develops. As a result of receiving parental love, they naturally develop among brothers and sisters. This is how love multiplies and fills everything.
- The parents are the primary conduit for God's love to the child. The face of his parents are the first image of God; in their love he can understand the reality of God. As he is receptive to his parents love, he becomes receptive to God's love and truth. He is filled with wonder at his world and is grateful for its blessings. We have the heart to love God because He first loved us through our parents.
- Grandparents' love is a valuable supplement to parents' love. Grandparents represent the larger world. They have more time. They have broader perspective than the parents, in general.

3. *Within God there is yin and yang, masculinity and femininity.*

- Children receive God's masculine love from their father, and His feminine love from their mother.
- Boys and girls grow in different directions. The older they grow, the greater the difference. Boys respond more to their mother's love. As they grow up, they must separate from dependency upon their mother and begin to identify with and inherit from their father. Girls respond more to their father's love. As they grow up, they must separate from their attachment to their father and begin to identify with and inherit from their mother. This means their love for the opposite sex grows, though latently, while their ability to become a husband and wife grows.
- As children, boys and girls persecute each other. They are not meant to manifest sexual love, by natural law.
- American educator Allan Bloom lamented the terrible effect of early sexual experience upon his students, calling youths who experimented with sex "flat-souled...unadorned by imagination and devoid of ideals." (Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*, New York, Simon and

Schuster, 1987)

- Explicit sexual education taught by non-family members is harmful. Children cannot deal with such thoughts and ideas.

4. *Learning to live by conscience.*

- The conscience represents God, who is the source of the vertical ethic. Therefore the conscience will promote the principle of life for the higher purpose. The physical body cannot transcend its own needs and appetites. Therefore the body will insist upon life for the self's purpose.
- Our conscience knows we should be able to get along with everyone. Its perspective transcends self-interest.
- In the conscience, the child has a natural compass to guide the growth of her heart.
- However, children need to be taught norms to educate the conscience.
- Filial piety is the basic standard of good and evil for children's conscience. In the story of Pinocchio, his conscience was always telling him to obey his father. When he realized the truth of this, he gained the power to sacrifice himself to save his father's life.
- Children have a desire to know right from wrong.
- Children have an innate sense of the difference between good and bad.
- They test the limits.
- They do not complain when their parents push them to study, because they know it is for their benefit. The heart of true parents is to pray for their children all night, shedding tears.

5. *However, parents who have not developed good character cannot give true love to their children.*

- Their children are deprived of the love which can nurture the children's realm of heart.
- Their children's personalities become crippled, unable to relate evenly with all types of people.
- When children's love is lost, later in life they distrust and disobey their elders and all forms of social authority.
- Worse, they lose their relationship with God, who is first perceived by a child in the love of their parents. Thus atheism comes about.
- Without receiving proper education as children with which to bear fruit in the children's realm of heart, none of the other realms of heart can develop properly.
- Parents who have distorted relations with their own spouse or parents cannot function within the parental realm of heart. They will abuse their authority as parents, even making sex objects of their children or young relatives (incest).
- One of the most sorrowful results of the failure of parents to establish the realm of children's heart is homosexuality. Homosexuality arises from the failure of true love within the family, especially in the relationship between father and son, mother and daughter.

6. *As we grow, we move into the realm of brother and sister love.*

(from the book "True Family Values" by Wilson and Pak)
(to be continued...)

Letters and Emails received

Dear Mr O'Neill, Many thanks for your letter and interesting inclusions. I am sorry to have caused offence. You are quite right. I should have found a better way to express myself. (Inappropriate phrase) Liz Hunt Assistant Editor (Features) Daily Telegraph.

Dear Morality Forum, Thank you for your news updates, they have been very informative. Pastor Seyi Olusile, World Harvest Christian Centre.

Dear John, I signed the petition (about sex education) and I could not agree more with this, having viewed myself what they teach to primary school children (In year 6) at the moment. I have withdrawn my children from these lessons that I felt were not appropriate at all. Well done John and keep up the good work. Louise Rawlence.

Dear John, I was very inspired by reading your latest Morality Forum Update. I have read it three times. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar (Imam, Wembley Mosque).

Hi John, This is brilliant what the Forum is doing and I look forward to upcoming events. Charlene Lowe. Beulah Apostolic Church

Theresa's Letter:

Theresa Quarmby had the following letter published recently in the Huddersfield Examiner.



"I understand that there is a call by a group of MPs-mainly Labour I might add-for compulsory sex education in primary schools starting from the age of four years. Very recently I read that government advisors stated that children

should not start formal education until the age of six years-that the schools starting age should be put back a year to allow the so-called 'nappy curriculum'. As was reported, we have a teenage 'time-bomb' threatening the NHS as teenagers are suffering catastrophic health effects of obesity, drugs, drink, abortion, casual sex and sexually transmitted diseases, which now cost the NHS £300m per year-up from around £100m. We have taken away the joy that teenagers should experience in their young lives with the 'free sex/condom culture'. Are we about to do the same with our innocent four-year olds? There are many people doing great things; but we cannot be proud of the fact that we are the abortion capital of Europe"

Twelve Ways to Improve Your Marriage

By Stephen Stacey

...continued from previous issue

In essence, the Walt Disneyian view-they married and lived happily ever after-is wrong. It is more likely that they spent the first fifteen years with learner stickers on their backs to remind each other that they were beginners in the art of keeping love alive in their relationship and that learning to be a good partner would take time.



So what does education for couples typically focus on? What kind of topics does it usually cover? What relationship programs focus on varies, but the majority of programs chose a mixture of topics from twelve key issues that seem to form the core of relationship education. Let's imagine a young couple, Anastasia and Bret and think about what they might learn to improve in their relationship over the years.

1. Relationship-related needs: Anastasia's relationship-related needs differ from Bret's. All voluntary relationships are based on desires, and the better they fulfil each other's needs and desires, the stronger that relationship will usually be. Imagine a boss who knows how to push the right buttons in you so that you feel motivated to do your best work. He fulfils your desires and you fulfil his by doing good work. Bret has needs. His fundamental need might be for the good things he brings to the relationship (perhaps his desire to succeed, his desire to initiate sexual activity, his practicality) to be valued and respected. His second major need might be to bond with Anastasia by doing something active with her. Anastasia's feminine nature might have quite different needs. She might want Bret to be a partner with her in creating a home, or to be a friend to talk with or to offer her closeness and affection to. If they fulfil each other's needs, they will inspire each other and both will want to strengthen their bond. This is related to how well, as partners, they live for the sake of each other.

2. Respect: Both seek respect, the foundation for any deep relationship. Bret and Anastasia increase the amount of respect they have for each other in many ways. For example, researchers on respect typically recommend that he try to fulfil her requests more quickly and that she try to start conversations in a more respectful way. Respect also comes in many other forms-in words, in other modes of behaviour and in the way one treats oneself. Respect is the cornerstone of a relationship, and research shows that lack of respect is the number one cause of divorce. In other terms, this has to do with ones ability to see the unique divine value of both oneself and one's partner to be able to see from heaven's point of view.

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WAIT TEAM perform in Slough 4th October 2008

By Marshall de Souza

A Tanzanian community in Slough started a voluntary organization which is called Upendo HIV Prevention. Among more than 40 African participants, WAIT was invited to perform. WAIT, parents and a Social Impact Project focus group went there.



The event began with a prayer by Father

Andreas-St. Mary's Church of England. After the introduction of UHP (Upendo HIV Prevention) and some small talks by VIP and MP, Prof. Robert Pratt made a presentation about HIV/AIDS based on recent data.



The Professor pointed out that HIV spreads out mostly through heterosexual relationships and that mother-child transmission is a rare case in England, while in Africa the risk of infection is about 30 percent with children from HIV infected mothers. He emphasized that the more sex partners a man/woman has, the higher becomes the risk to get HIV virus. To one of his remarks about using condoms for 100 % secure sex, FFWPU member George asked a question whether we could really say that a condom was 100 % safe. The Professor answered that it was 100 % safe as long as we would use good quality products under perfect conditions, for HIV virus is smaller than the holes of a condom. But in reality there might happen an accident, such as that a nail could scratch a condom.

After this presentation, WAIT performed for 5 minutes of break dance and 8 minutes of sketch after which Marshall explained what WAIT was. People liked the performance. Dr. Mapara, who made his presentation

after WAIT, admired WAIT during his talk.

Dr. Mapara said that cultural traditions in Africa which caused women or men to have relationships with many partners, which made it impossible to stop HIV.



After the event, we had a good time with food and for networking. Among participants there was a peace ambassador who left early.

Before he left, he invited WAIT to his community of Sikhs just for "five" minutes. With a warm welcome we went into the building and looked at art works of his wife. Marshall explained about WAIT who also performed for a short time. It was a nice harmonious time of about 30 minutes.

Hastings Youth Celebrate their Diversity! HASTINGS GOT CULTURE, Part of Hastings Week and Black History Season 18th October 2008 at St Mary in the Castle, Hastings (edited version of a report by Tim Miller)

Young people of all races and cultures gathered at St Mary in the Castle to share their creativity through dance and song in this first Hastings Youth and Diversity Celebration - 'Hastings Got Culture'.

At the outset Deputy Mayor, Peter Armstrong, Owen Thomson of Hastings Intercultural Organisation and Peter Suret of Hastings College all offered their whole-hearted support to these efforts to bring young people into positive engagement through expressing their personal talents and cultural diversity.



personal talents and cultural diversity.

During the course of the afternoon and evening some two hundred and fifty young people and their families performed or came to support the event.

Lauren McFee of Respond Academy and Shavona Philips of Sunrise Church did a great job as joint MCs, linking together beautiful Nepali and Malayalee dances with singing from Anyme of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean, the WAIT team's message of respect and 'valuing myself' and Gizmo Worlds' smiling faces and uplifting lyrics.

from page 6 Stephen Stacey

3. Gender differences in communication: Bret and Anastasia can prove their ability to relate by learning about gender differences in communication. Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, was a bestseller for years because it rang true to peoples life experiences. The key gender differences in communication are caused both by structure in the brain and the kind of drugs released to give an emotional high. Concerning brain structure, a man's brain has far fewer connections between the left brain and right brain than a woman's. The drug that gives him a feeling of being alive, testosterone, is released when he feels he's achieved something. Her main highs come with the release of oxytocin when she feels safe and close. These differences typically lead to four main differences in communicating and relating- that is, differences in the intensity with which one begins talking about certain issues; in the speed one moves from doing or talking about one thing to doing or talking about another, in how stress is relieved and how love is perceived. These differences, when not understood, can cause arguments or misunderstandings.

4. Team communication: Because Anastasia and Bret are a team in such areas as creating a home and raising children, they work together better when they use healthy team communication strategies. They can improve the quality of their relationship by doing such things as finding time each day to touch base, by taking more time to plan for major upcoming events, or by holding regular informal meetings.

5. Enhanced communication strategies: In their relationship Bret and Anastasia will discuss their deepest values, hopes and dreams. These are not everyday topics and often involve very sensitive issues. Thus they need to be approached and dealt with using enhanced communication strategies that don't harm the relationship. At work, people often have to discuss sensitive issues in a principled manner, but at home, they throw these methods away and use ineffective ones. These principled methods include asking permission to talk, being entirely truthful and using non-attack strategies. If Bret and Anastasia apply these same principles to talking about sensitive topics at home, they are more likely to have a respectful discussion, and their relationship will be both protected and nurturing.

6. Conflict Resolution: When it comes to communicating, Bret and Anastasia will both be happier if they learn to look at the deeper issues behind the problems that just don't seem to go away. Most problems only re-occur because the real issue hasn't been uncovered and understood. When they learn to uncover their hidden needs, it's easier to find real, lasting solutions. The key to doing this involves knowing which questions to ask, so that both sides of the story emerge. When all motivations and what is being sought are clearly understood, they can begin seeking a solution both can accept along one of the five typical routes that negotiators use to overcome complex differences of opinion- reward, middle ground,

I'll fulfil your needs if you fulfil mine, exchange and times have changed.

7. Common: When Bret and Anastasia take time to create a vision statement for their relationship, one that describes the core values they want to bring into their home and relationship, they offer the best of themselves and encapsulate it into something that is both a beautiful dream and a practical, substantial act of life. There are also ten key areas in the relationship where a husband and wife might have differences of opinion (for example, children, finances, religious attendance, their respective roles). If they believed from the start that it is important to work hard to solve their key differences of opinion in each area once and for all, they wouldn't waste their precious energy and love on issues that should have been solved long ago.

8. Develop team player skills: Team player skills are of use within any relationship that has a focus or purpose. Bret and Anastasia could agree to work on those that are essential to maintaining a healthy relationship - skills like forgiveness, encouraging each other, giving their best, doing their fair share or keeping a positive to negative ratio of at least 5:1. They could also agree that to become great partners they would consistently work on improving other team player skills and spending three or more months working on it. For example, Bret felt a need to improve his ability to give his beloved full attention when she needed to share her difficulties, so with Anastasia's help and positive support he worked on it for four months. Meanwhile, Anastasia, with Bret's positive feedback, sought to develop her ability to start conversations respectfully. Over the next five-ten years of developing various team player skills, both can develop into partners who have the abilities necessary to build an enhanced relationship.

9. Strengthening their commitment muscle: Bret and Anastasia realized that since there was no social stigma or economic reason to stop them from separating during challenging times, which are part and parcel of a typical lifelong relationship, they needed to develop their own commitment muscle so that it was strong enough to keep their relationship together during those difficult times. They took the approach that their relationship was like an expensive car, a car that needs regular servicing and to be treated with respect if it was to be even more valuable fifty years later. Thus, they agreed in their early years together to find an older, respected mentor couple to go to for advice in difficult times, to attend relationship seminars every three years, to read together a new educational book on developing as a couple every year and to spend more time with friends, other couples who also see the value of developing that relationship. Among other things, they also learned about the possible negative effects on children of separation and regularly found ways to fondly speak of what they value about each other's contribution to their relationship.
(to be continued...)

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