

Our children are at significant risk! Your action needed!



Is this some kind of bad joke? Naming the former director of GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), a highly controversial group of adult homosexual activists who promote sexual anarchy and tacitly work to normalize the criminal practice of pederasty to the position of Czar for school safety?

Many ministries have warned all along that once marriage is redefined, anti-family radicals will focus on indoctrinating our youth like never before.

One of the harsh evidences of this is the appointment of Kevin Jennings by President Obama to the position of Czar for school safety. <http://www.stopjennings.org/>

The Family Research Council stated the following:

“With each new nominee in the Obama Administration comes more and more revelations on how they seek to undermine America’s morals and economy. However no Administration official is more deserving of removal than Kevin Jennings, whom President Obama put forth to run his Safe Schools program at the Department of Education. What is Mr. Jennings’ definition of a “safe school?” He has proudly boasted of an incident (when he was a teacher) in which upon learning that a young boy in his class was having sex with a much older man, he did nothing to discourage him. The only advice this future “Safe Schools”

czar gave the young boy was “be sure to bring a condom.”

Additionally, according to Mr. Jennings, it is heterosexuality that is the problem in our schools. In a speech that Kevin Jennings gave to a group in Iowa, he said, “Every time kids read Romeo & Juliet or they’re urged to go to the prom or whatever it is, kids are aggressively recruited to be heterosexual in this country.” Recruited to be heterosexuals? Does Kevin Jennings actually believe that a child’s sexual orientation is the product of some educational conspiracy? The only conspiracy I’m aware of is Jennings’ attempt to indoctrinate kids with a pro-homosexual agenda.

Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) agrees. [Recently], he launched a campaign to oust Jennings (and his radical record) from the Department of Education. In a letter that he circulated to his House colleagues, Rep. King [told] the President, “There is more to safe and drug-free schools than can be accomplished from the narrow view of Mr. Jennings who has, for more than 20 years, almost exclusively focused on promoting the homosexual agenda.” ...

Of course, the extreme Left has been quick to defend Jennings and dismissed the steady drumbeat for his firing as a “witch hunt.” His homosexual allies say the Right is distorting his record. Even if that were true, who can blame people for confusing the facts when Jennings himself has never come clean? What he has done is given conflicting reports about the young boy who came to him for advice about sleeping with a much older man.

Whether he was 15- or 16-years-old shouldn’t matter nearly as much as the fact that this was a child under Jennings’s supervision. The main focus of the story is that a teacher, entrusted to mentor our children and keep them safe, encouraged a teenage boy to engage in sexual acts with an older man he met in a bus station bathroom. It

was advice that Jennings boasted about for decades. If that’s how Kevin Jennings defines “safe schools,” then he isn’t qualified to be a crossing guard--let alone oversee a \$690 million program to protect our kids. ...

We continue to learn still more about the extremism of “safe schools” czar, Kevin Jennings. First, it was how he was “inspired” by Harry Hay--an early homosexual activist who openly defended pedophilia. Now, pro-family activists in Massachusetts have publicized an online video in which Jennings’ homosexual partner, Jeff Davis, identifies Jennings as having been a member of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), a radical group that is highly controversial even among homosexual activists. ACT UP is best known as the group which, on December 10, 1989, sent 4,500 protesters to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York to protest the church’s stance on homosexuality, condoms, and abortion. Some invaded the cathedral and disrupted the Mass, and one even desecrated the Host during communion. There were 111 arrests, and even many liberal leaders and pro-homosexual groups condemned the demonstration. While those events were twenty years ago (and we do not know if Jennings was involved), it was only three months ago that Harvard University opened an exhibit titled “ACT UP New York: Activism, Art, and the AIDS Crisis, 1987-1993.” Among the key donors to the exhibit was Kevin Jennings. To the long list of questions Jennings must answer, we can now add the question of both his role in and his viewpoint on the extremism of ACT UP.

Jennings has shown a disregard for parental rights and for our children’s well being, yet he is the President’s choice to keep our schools safe! Safe for sexual predators it would seem!

Call the White House switchboard to voice your concern: 202-456-1414



**From the desk of
Bill Johnson,
president**

**He will bless those who obey and
curse those who disobey**

Will we ever see the peaceful, prosperous America that many of us have known?

If I were a betting man, I'd weigh solidly on the answer, "No."

We, like the Israelites, have squandered our great heritage. We have taken God for granted. Having been richly blessed year after year, we expected that no matter what we did - whether we worshipped Him or whether we turned our backs upon Him - would make no difference. We were, after all, America - the land of the Free. The home of the brave.

Though I wasn't raised in a Christian household, we did go to church on occasion. I know that in the 1940s and '50s and well into the '60s very few businesses were open on Sundays. The Lord's Day was honored even if many people didn't have a clue why businesses were largely closed on Sunday.

Little by little though that all began to change in the late '70s and '80s. Chain stores came into town. Fast food restaurants like McDonald's and Burger King bought property and set up shop. Department stores began to get a foot hold. In my community of Fremont, MI, I recall quite well that a chain department store named Fisher Big Wheel opened their doors for business on Sundays. There were letters to the editor in our local newspaper from Christians concerned about the diminishment of the Lord's Day. These kinds of letters came over a several week period of time. There weren't a lot of them but there was some controversy.

Many naysayers probably thought "Life moves on."

So the Lord's Day little by little became like every other day. The church was largely silent regarding setting the day apart for rest and for His glory and honor.



Bill and Jan Johnson picketing at the Justice Department in Washington DC with Bob Peters (President of Morality in Media) and others in 2008

I know, I'm treading in some turbulent waters. Very few honor the Lord's Day any more in America. And, that's the point.

Do you remember when you would see people bow their heads and pray before a meal at local restaurants? What a rarity that is today!

Not all that long ago multitudes of churches (most churches?) held both morning and evening services and a mid-week service as well. No longer.

Are these kinds of patterns reflective of a people, of a nation, that has lost its first love? I think the answer is clear.

I understand that it is possible to go through the motions in service - to have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof as the Bible says (II Timothy 3:5) Where that has occurred or is occurring, shame on us! God will not honor that.

Nonetheless, I am merely saying that when a people substitute other things for Him, God will let that people go their own way. Isn't that what we see today? [Romans 1]

Sports teams practicing and playing games on Sundays, placing more emphasis on our children's developing as athletes rather than as Christian men and women equipped to live for Him in our everyday world as pilgrims in a foreign land.

May we be bold enough to let God examine our hearts and show us what we need to see, do and be!

Finishing the year strong!

As we rapidly are coming to the end of 2009, I want to thank the many of you who have faithfully continued to support us as well as those who have recently joined with us through your financial support.

We stand amazed at the generosity of God's people even in the midst of such difficult economic times.

We are under no illusions, however, despite the generosity of many, October (if not for the match grant gift of \$15,000) has not been kind to us. Numbers of gifts and the gift total at this writing (10/22) are significantly down.

As you begin to prayerfully contemplate the various ministries that you support with your year end gifts, will you consider ADA in your plans for support?

If you would like a copy of our financial review for the year 2008, we will gladly send you a copy.

Thanks for all you have done allowing us to stay in the battle.

Super Citizens: The Power of the Collective Conservatives

by: Chris Johnson

He is perhaps the greatest reporter of all time. He is certainly the best known. The most truthful. The most ethical. And yet, no mere man has wielded more power. He can leap tall buildings in a single bound. He's faster than a speeding bullet.

Why are we talking about Superman? Hold on, give me a second. I promise I will make this relevant.

No one ever thought too much about Clark Kent being a reporter. The whole Superman thing really knocks that out of focus. Ignoring the obvious fact that he is a fictional character, I wonder which job he liked better? Which life was the life he really wanted to live? My guess would be that the mild-mannered, peaceful, non-violent times in his office at the Daily Planet were more suited to his personality. I think that Lois Lane was enough of a distraction for him. If he could have gotten out of it, I don't think he would have been a Superhero at all.

But, enough psychological analysis of Superman.

What has happened lately with the grassroots coming into their own and realizing the consequences of their passive posture reminds me of our hero. These past few decades, we have watched our nation become the very enemy that it was built to avoid. The government has swallowed massive portions of her and continues to choke down much more than it was designed to consume. Oblivious to the extent of our puissance, too many of us sat with fists clenched and posteriors firmly glued to our chairs.

But, we are finally beginning to realize that no one is defending the peaceful, prosperous life that we love. Michael Berry, filling in as host on the Mark Levin Show, says this, "Never before do I remember civic activism the likes of which we have seen today" and, "we stopped letting the government run on autopilot because we realized it was off track." To back up his point, he draws attention to the best-seller lists in *The New*

York Times and *The Washington Post*. We see authors like Mark Levin, Michelle Malkin, Glenn Beck, Ron Paul, etc. And the top ten news show ratings are held by FOX News shows! So the reporter suit is coming off! Our true colors are blazing underneath, and our opponents had better learn to respect the S on our chest.

As we watch what the people with political power do to our country, we are in some very depressing times. Yet even as our rights and freedoms are stripped from us under the excuses of fairness and equality, we continue to realize our power. We can see right through those lies. As they throw up road block after road block to get in the way of us exercising our liberty, we find we have the strength to heave them out of our way. Insults, accusations, disrespect: it all bounces off our chest.

The United States was designed by our forefathers to be BY the people and for the people. They took great precautions to balance the power between the branches of government. The one thing that they could not



guard is the one thing they shouldn't have had to: the people's involvement. All the power that we have is by their design. In their state of mind, with their passion for liberty, and their resolve for justice, how could they imagine that we would just lay it down? That is why we are in the state we are today. It's not because the government just got too much power, it's because we gave it to them. It's not because power corrupts our officials, it's because we put corrupt officials in place and we keep putting them in place. It's not because there are just too many government programs out

there, it's because we let ourselves depend on those programs rather than on God and our own hard work. It's not what everyone else is doing. It's you. It's me.

Until recently, I worked in a car dealership, washing cars. My wash bay was next to the oil change rack, and I had many conversations with the guy who changed oil. He was a microcosm of the average media audience. Before the November polls, he moved from calling Palin "stupid" and McCain "too old" to refusing to vote for either party. After the election and the stimulus package, I heard him quoting Rush Limbaugh and talking objectively about the decisions of our president. Soon we were bemoaning the state of our country together like old pros. The only problem is my friend is still the average American. What's left of his paycheck after child support is taken out goes to pay the heat bill; and his energy goes to keeping his house fixed up. At the end of the day, politics is just another burden on his shoulders.

It's easy to "talk politics", but it is HARD after we put so much of ourselves into our jobs and families, to find the energy to put into our country. But it is not just a hobby or a pastime. It is our responsibility as American citizens to be active in making sure that our officials make the right decisions. Too long now we have left that up to "the other guy", whoever he is. But if everyone leaves it up to everyone else nothing gets done. For every outspoken American, there are a thousand without the will to speak.

Pick apart this quote by Thomas Jefferson and really think about: "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

Makes me think of a bright blue suit, my fists on my hips and my red cape waving in the wind...




Friday, November 13 at 7:00 pm. Movie showing. This 57 minute documentary was produced by the highly regarded conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation. Several of ADA's staff viewed recently while in Washington DC at the Value Voters Summit sponsored by AFA, Focus on the Family, Family Research Council. We were impressed and moved!

We will be making this movie available to all teenagers and above. The movie is based on significant research - powerfully challenging our politicians regarding the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The truth is brutal - no matter where on Earth a missile is launched from it would take 33 Minutes or less to hit the U.S. target it was programmed to destroy.

The challenges of protecting America and its citizens for President Obama's administration are great. Featuring rare footage and in-depth interviews with leading experts in the field, Nuclear proliferation around the world, and the threat of a ballistic missile attack of some kind is mounting as more and more countries obtain nuclear technology.

At the conclusion of the 57 minute movie, we'll be closing with a time of prayer led by area pastors. For more information or to reserve your seat call or email our office at: 888-733-2326 or kimberly@americandecency.org;

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You are blood bought bullet-proof!"

By Chris Johnson



One of the most amazing things about the Christian faith is the incredible diversity of its members. Out of every background imaginable, people come to lay their sins at the cross and broadcast the love of Christ.

One great example of this is Dr. Ergun Caner, who we had the opportunity of hearing at the Value Voters Summit in Washington D.C.

Dr. Caner is the President and Dean of Liberty Theological Seminary. He has four degrees including a doctorate. Under his leadership, the school has tripled in enrollment. He travels all over the country informing and encouraging Christians. Although the title and accomplishments are impressive, what's more impressive is how he got there.

Born in Turkey and raised in Cleveland Ohio, Caner belonged to a strict Muslim family. In fact, his father helped design and build the Islamic Foundation which has come into the news recently in the case of Rifqa Bary. Ergun had two brothers by the same mother, although their father did have different wives. Ergun was a confident, practicing Muslim until God called him out of his blindness.

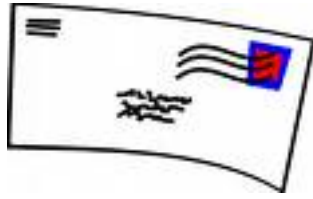
The rocket that launched Ergun Caner into orbit was a young man in high school who convinced him to come to a revival service at his church. When he was introduced to the pastor, Caner recounts, the pastor asked Ergun what he thought of Jesus. He replied that he respected him as a prophet. The pastor told him "you can either revere Him as God or reject Him as a fraud, but you can not respect Him." On the fourth day of the service, Caner gave his heart to the Lord. One by one his two brothers, his mother, and his grandmother all converted to Christianity. One of his brothers is a minister and the other is president of a Christian college. As Dr. Caner asserts, much has come from the faithful persistence of one high school kid.

Ergun Caner's story gives a unique perspective into evangelism. He comes from a culture where every aspect of life is saturated in religion. He went through school being ridiculed for being different. He has since his conversion worked hard to be educated in scripture and the history of the church. So what does he see when he looks at the church? "I am an American citizen by conviction, because America has the possibility, it has the opportunity to bring about revival. But the country won't do it and the secular government won't do it. The radio and TV won't do it. It has to be the church... We have never had more buildings, more Christians, more money, more organizations, and fewer voices."

That is why we are in the condition we are in today. God has blessed his bride, but we have turned away.

Seeing it through the eyes of someone coming from so radical and devout a background as a convert from Islam really emphasizes the lethargy in the church. Approximately 71% of adult Americans identify themselves as Christian. What would be the derivatives if these believers, if WE believers actually lived by our beliefs in the same way that the Muslims live and DIE by theirs. In Dr. Caner's words, "What's the worst that could happen? You are blood bought bullet-proof!"

Letters from our supporters



I have a simple solution in my house. I now look at previews before watching a show because what I use to do is just sit if I wanted to watch television and find something to watch. This however caused me grief for a few days because while channel surfing, I think it's called, I saw an image that stayed in my brain for days. Now there are only a few channels I look at. The cooking channel being one of them.

Whenever I read your emails I have to pray that what I am reading does not infect my brain because it can so very easily make it's own image.

I pray for you that have to watch these shows to SEE WHAT'S ON. I hope you have a team that prays for the WATCHERS because it does not take much to get hooked even while trying to save other people. You are actually placing yourself in the fire. Please be careful.

D.S.

Friend Bill,

Just in the way of encouragement I'd like to tell you that I went through the entire list of advertisers (for the filthy shows on TV) and wrote to every one with whom we have or are doing any sort of business, particularly purchasing their products. I told each one the same thing: until you stop promoting the destruction of our families (and thus, our culture) I will NOT purchase any of your products no matter how well I like them. There are alternatives (in products) and there are alternatives in companies that do not sponsor such vile, destructive programs.

Thank you for keeping us informed. We would not have even known that there were such programs being aired as we do not use those channels.

Keep up your wonderful work. Someday I

pray that the Lord will provide so that we can give to one of your "match challenges." How thankful I was that you made it! I prayed daily...sometimes many times daily that you would.

God bless you and keep you and your family. I've appreciated the comments your son has made. Wish there were more 20 year-olds that had those convictions and that maturity.

D.K.

Iowa

I just wondered... does writing to the 'stars' themselves do any good? I would, in a Christian-like manner, like to tell Courtney Cox how her choices of roles will affect her income, how she sells herself to a world that doesn't really care. We know the Lord never blesses such activity. I do not know if she ever stars in movies, but regardless of rating, I would boycott a movie with her in it based on previous behavior.

... I can get my news online from reliable Christian oriented sites and that leaves me time to minister to others. I do write to some of the advertisers you request, however I already boycott most of them. I quit shopping Target due to their homosexual support years ago. Thanks for all you do,
Cindy in South Texas

p.s. I have seen the Pam Stenzel movies, and managed a few years back to get a public school copy into a local high school (one of our boys then saw it) and one in the hands of a Christian woman in an alternative school, where she was showing it as often as possible. I gave the Christian copy to the leader of our youth group at my church. I encourage everyone to casually slip these into places where God can steer them into the right hands. We do not have to be blatant about our intent, just faithful to plant the seed, letting the Lord water.

Match Grant Challenge met!



We rejoice at each and every match grant challenge extended to this ministry! It is God's great blessing and mercy upon us. In the case of the challenge just met, it provides us \$30,000 that we wouldn't have otherwise had. To God be the glory for the anonymous donor and his sense of calling to stand with us as he has many times!

Many of these challenges are very difficult to make as they are "challenging" people who have never given and others to give more than they did last year.

These last couple of years have been very difficult financial years all across America, but especially in the state of Michigan.

We made the match challenge that extended from June 15 through September 30!

It was a difficult challenge, but a great challenge. We received 289 gifts that qualified for the match grant totaling \$16,655.38

In times like this, we stand amazed at God's continued grace in our lives and in the life of this ministry.

Humbly, I once again say "Thank you, dear friends in Christ!" This match grant gives us a much needed financial lift to keep us going in the months ahead.

Sincerely,
Bill Johnson

PepsiCo & their iPhone app giving guys tips on picking up girls for s--

by Lisa VanHouten



“Can a company have a positive impact on the planet?” That’s the question asked on PepsiCo’s website as they tout their own environmental accomplishments. While PepsiCo boasts of their impact on the planet, their impact on our culture is a constant flow of contamination.

We’ve reported in recent months of PepsiCo’s unyielding promotion of homosexuality and gay marriage. Our friends at American Family Association developed a boycott petition that lists the numerous ways in which PepsiCo has relentlessly pushed the homosexual agenda. http://www.boycottpepsico.com/pdfs/pepsi_paper_petition.pdf

Let me recount just a few of the ways. PepsiCo continues to give large amounts of financial support to homosexual organizations such as the homosexual Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG); PepsiCo gave thousands of dollars to join the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, an organization that lobbies for homosexual marriage; and PepsiCo sponsors “gay pride” parades across America, including New York, Atlanta, Dallas, Phoenix and Cleveland. Within the corporation itself, PepsiCo requires all employees to attend sexual orientation and gender identity diversity training where they are taught to accept homosexuality.

PepsiCo is definitely having an impact on our culture - but it’s far from positive. Now they are at it again. The Wall Street Journal reports on a lewd and offensive

iPhone application PepsiCo has developed which gives guys tips on picking up girls for sex and then encourages them to post details of their sexual conquests online. (see article below)

Energy Drink iPhone App Gets Anger Flowing [Wednesday, October 14, 2009]

Energy drinks are meant to be edgy and cool, and drunk by young men. So PepsiCo Inc. decided to release an Apple iPhone application for its Amp Energy drink to appeal to guys out on the prowl.

Now the snack and beverage giant is facing a storm of criticism for “Amp Up Before You Score.”



The app, released last Friday, purports to help men pick up any one of 24 types of women, such as the “sorority girl,” “cougar,” “rebound girl” or “punk rock girl.” Users can choose the type of woman they have their eye on, then get coached on facts that might be useful, such as computing a carbon footprint to impress “the treehugger.”

Suggested pick-up lines can be risqué. To pick up “the artist,” the app recommends the following line: “You know the Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. I wonder what else she shaves.”

The app then takes the coaching a step further, encouraging users who “score” to post details such as name, date and comments, for their pals via Facebook and Twitter.

Hundreds of people have criticized the app via Twitter, saying it contributes to the objectification of women. Adfreak.com,

a sister site of trade publication AdWeek, asks, “Does anyone not dislike Amp’s iPhone app?”

PepsiCo apologized in a Twitter feed, saying, “Our app tried 2 show the humorous lengths guys go 2 pick up women. We apologize if it’s in bad taste & appreciate your feedback.”

When asked if PepsiCo might pull the app, a spokesman said the company is looking at the situation and evaluating its options.

The spokesman said the application is meant for iPhone users who are older than 17. “The application was designed to entertain and appeal to AMP’s target,” the spokesman said. “We’ll continue to monitor the feedback from all parties and act accordingly.” ...

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703790404574471522737925470.html>

As revolting as this is, it is equally reprehensible that PepsiCo is playing coy and refusing to pull the offensive application. Their corporate actions indicate their alignment - and it’s not with promoting a culture of common decency. Rather, by choosing to demean women, undermine the institution of marriage, and promote illicit behavior, PepsiCo has proven they are a company not worthy of support.

Contact PepsiCo and let them know their products will no longer be found in your shopping cart. PepsiCo products include Pepsi soft drinks, Frito-Lay chips, Quaker Oats, Tropicana, and Gatorade.

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The passing of a friend and faithful warrior:

Alice “Loretta” Detamore President of Morality in Media of Muskegon

By Bill Johnson



Loretta Detamore with Bill Johnson

Every now and then a special person comes into your life and impacts you in a very special way.

I'm referring to my dear friend Loretta Detamore, former head of Morality in Media of Muskegon.

I first met Loretta at one of her first White Ribbon Against Pornography events in Muskegon, Michigan. The year was probably 1987.

During these many years of committed service, MIM of Muskegon, led by Loretta Detamore (1923-2009), fought valiantly to drive out pornography from the west Michigan community of Muskegon.

MIM of Muskegon hosted many events with featured speakers such as Alan Sears (currently President of Alliance Defense Fund), Robert Peters (President of Morality in Media, New York City), Bruce Taylor, one of America's foremost attorneys effectively combating pornography in the courts (formerly a prosecutor with the Child Protection and Obscenity Enforcement Section at the Justice Department). I, too, was extended such an opportunity to speak at one of her dinners.

On numerous occasions, Loretta and I met with Tony Tague, Muskegon County Prosecutor, urging him to pick up his efforts against pornography. Through the efforts of Morality in Media, Studio Blue, which had existed in Muskegon for many years, was driven out.

But, what I especially admired about Loretta was the burden that she so clearly carried for her country. For many years Loretta labored tirelessly for decency. I highly regarded her love of children and her desire to protect them from the insidious nature of pornography. She hungered and thirsted for righteousness, fearing that American was going to Hell and lamenting the lethargy of the church community around her.

She would state things like, “I can't hardly find a church or a pastor or a priest to stand up and speak up against pornography.”

“Where are the young people? We're growing old around here. We have these dinners and it's only the older ones that show up. We're busy, too. The younger parents – where are they?”

“These prosecutors. They say one thing and do another. Thankfully there are a few that will enforce the law.”



Loretta addressing her audience at her last MIM of Muskegon dinner

For many years, Loretta, would host WRAP (White Ribbons Against Pornography) caravans through the city, receiving significant press coverage – hosting press conferences and spring and fall dinners. She built significant community awareness regarding the plague of pornography in America and in her community.

As the years went by, her team was aging. Yet still she fought on until she was 84 years old when at her last public event she presented me, for the American Decency As-

sociation, with a beautiful “White Ribbon Against Pornography” as she urged me to keep up the fight for MIM of Muskegon in West Michigan and beyond.



Loretta presenting White Ribbons Against Pornography to Bill Johnson, November 2007

Jan and I last visited her about 6 months ago. She was lying down when we came into her room in a retirement home. She bounced right up with that characteristic charming spirit of hers. One of the first questions coming out of her mouth was “How is the war going? I think of you so often. I miss you!”

I went to Loretta's visitation yesterday in Muskegon and visited with her husband Bill. I said to Bill Detamore, “What a wonderful woman.” He said “I know,” and he tried unsuccessfully to hold back tears. “62 years we were married,” he said.

Loretta is gone. However, my memory and love for her will never fade away as long as I live. I can think of only a few others that have that kind of caring, zeal, love of children and country who fight pornography.

Knowing Loretta as I do, I doubt she accomplished nearly as much as she would have liked in her campaign against pornography. But, my guess is that there are a lot of people who were impacted by her life as mine has been impacted. Was it worth it – all of the years of tireless labor standing up for children, purity, decency, righteousness? Going against the tide year after year as she did?

In my book, the answer is clear.

CBS's "Accidentally On Purpose": Just turn the channel?

By Lisa Van Houten

I had the opportunity recently to tell the story to a fellow believer of my calling to this ministry. I told how, as an elementary school teacher in the 1980s and '90s, I became increasingly concerned about the impact of television on children. I saw my little first grade students whose innocence had been degraded by the tawdriness to which they had been exposed. What we view does impact. It impacts thoughts, beliefs, and ultimately behavior. If you swim in a sewer, the stench is going to stick. It's ridiculous to think otherwise.

This was true when as a young teacher I saw the moral slide of television and it is even more so today as that slide has become a freefall. The line has been pushed further and further until we've reached the point that what was shocking merely a few years ago is no longer, and so Hollywood pushes the boundary of so-called acceptability further and further. The portrayal of illicit sex has become common fare on television, so now new taboos are portrayed as acceptable. The entertainment industry has attempted to separate sex from any significance or consequence, it's done a masterful job of changing an entire culture's view of homosexuality, and now it's working on breaking the age taboo by portraying sex between middle-aged women and young men barely out of their teens.

A theme that began a few years ago with the shocking portrayal on "Desperate Housewives" of an affair between a housewife and her teenage gardener, has become common fodder on this year's new shows "Cougar Town" on ABC and "Accidentally on Purpose" on CBS - both with the central theme of older women having casual sex with young men.

Yet there remain a few in the media who will call a spade a spade - or sleaze for what it is. The Miami Herald writes this about the two above-mentioned shows:

"There is something seriously wrong when [actors] Jenna Elfman and Courteney Cox, ... can't get shows on the air without turning themselves into tawdry clichés out of a 1965 Playboy jokebook.

"Back then, the characters they play in Accidentally on Purpose and Cougar Town would have been horny housewives, jumping the bones of mailmen and meter readers in between morning laundry and making the kids' lunches. These days, they're horny career women, prowling bars in search of young hunks for one-night stands. But the smuttiness and smallness -- the reduction of every human impulse to a cheap, hormonally charged punch line -- remain the same.

"Accidentally on Purpose, if nothing else, should get an award for truth in packaging. It establishes its sleazy bottom line in literally the opening seconds, with Elfman tweaking her nipples as she prepares to go into action at an office party. A friend applauds the results, but warns Elfman that she will have to fly solo: 'I've already slept with everyone here.' ..." <http://www.miamiherald.com/entertainment/tv/story/1243681.html>

"Accidentally on Purpose" continues with the sleaze from the opening moments on. The premise of the show is of a 37 year old woman who picks up a 22 year old guy in a bar and goes home with him for sex and then finds herself pregnant. Before leaving the bar with the guy, she asks her friend for counsel. The friend encourages the pick-up, telling her it's "empowering". She doesn't warn her friend that it's stupid, or dangerous, or immoral to have sex with a total stranger - but "empowering". Each episode continues with such themes - rife with crude, sexual verbiage and bathroom "humor", storylines centered on masturbation and orgasms, cleavage and sexual exploits.

Just turn the channel? "Accidentally on Purpose" - 30 minutes of toxic waste.



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