

# MORALITY FORUM UPDATE

May 2003

## Morality Forum Action

### The Cost of doing Right.

*John O'Neill*

We all know that fighting a libel can be very costly and that the prospect of taking a powerful organisation to court prevents most people from even attempting to get justice. Now we find that doing what you feel is right can be equally expensive.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) were so concerned about the idea of offering the 'morning after' pill to young girls that they challenged the government's decision in court. The pill is called Levonelle and is made by the huge Schering drug company. Schering chose to intervene in the court case, to protect its commercial interests and consequently the costs of the action rose to a well over £200,000, of which £160,000 went to lawyers. SPUC lost the case and costs were awarded against them!

In a letter to supporters, John Smeaton (the national director of SPUC) makes the following points. "Because we did what was right and spoke out against a grave wrong, we came under sustained attack from many quarters. The stakes in this battle were enormous. For thirty-five years, abortion has been available virtually as a method of birth control. It is legal in this country to end a pregnancy by killing a child.

"The morning-after pill was first introduced on prescription, then promoted without prescription and is now being targeted at school girls behind the backs of their parents, plumbing new depths of depravity. Now we will challenge Schering to justify publicly why they think that it is alright to make a pill that kills tiny embryo's. We intend to take the national debate one stage further. SPUC is publishing an open letter to Schering asking them to withdraw Leveonelle from the market."

The warped thinking of the government is that the morning-after pill will reduce teen-age pregnancy. In fact all the evidence is that this, like the rest of their sex promotion, is rubbish. Mrs. Theresa Quarmby from Huddersfield writes, "We must

continue to save our babies and protect the welfare of our children. We must protect our young, vulnerable children from the government's evil morning-after pill, which sends a message to our young people that under-age girls are sexually available."

Mrs Quarmby suggests that it is a good idea to support SPUC with a donation toward their costs. SPUC drew a strong moral line in the sand, which made the country better informed and drew an outpouring of support.

If anyone doubts the degradation and mess which government policy is causing I could refer them to a full page in the Harrow Observer of April 24th [Harrow – not some deprived area]. Under the headline "Sex health check vital – but clinic can't cope", the article describes a leaflet assuring people that anyone can get a sexually transmitted disease and that it is nothing to be ashamed of!

Dr. Andrew Shaw, consultant in genito-urinary medicine and HIV says that over the last 12 months there has been a 70% increase in Chlamydia infections within the borough. This is an infection that can lead to pelvic-inflammatory disease, which shows no symptoms in 80% of cases and can lead to infertility. The area also has the highest concentration of gonorrhoea, also a cause of infertility. The highest numbers have been recorded in teen-age girls and young men.

Family and Youth Concern report that the Challenge team from Canada has gone home after a successful five-week tour. Sue Relf would like to help set up similar teams in the UK, to promote chastity and true love. The Challenge Team presentations were very well received by students, who appreciated a clear alternative to the current crude sex education.

SPUC can be contacted at: 5/6 Saint Matthew Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2JT

Dr. Hubertus Erlen, Chairman, Schering AG —Berlin, Germany.

Sue Relf, Family Education Trust, The Mezzanine, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London SE1 7NQ. Phone: 020 74001 5480

Articles in this update may be amalgamated from publications of various organisations, as well as original material.  
The views expressed are not necessarily those of any particular organisation.

## News Snippets

### Media March

The Next Media March takes place on Saturday, May 31st. The Media March leaflet says, "There is an increasing range of films, videos, TV and radio programmes, plays, computer games, books, magazines, music, adverts and internet web sites which masquerade as 'realistic', 'harmless' or 'entertaining'. Yet they feature brutal violence, explicit sexual activity – including perversion, nudity and all kinds of bad language. Incredibly, nearly all of this is condoned by the regulating bodies. Despite public outcry, the appropriate authorities have put up little resistance to such highly offensive and degrading material.

Whilst there is still time, ordinary citizens of this democratic nation must demand that the media be reclaimed for our children and our society. Despite the many individuals and organisations that have spoken out over past years, the situation continues to deteriorate. We therefore call on concerned members of the public, of all faith or no faith, young or old, of all cultures, to join together and to provoke the political will of Parliament to strengthen Britain's obscenity laws. Let the Government and all political parties be absolutely clear that we will not sit idly by while our children, our families, our society and our culture are stolen from us—."

A petition form to support the media march has already been signed by 90,000 people. For details phone: 020 8467 6452.

### News from Theresa Quarmby

Theresa is asking as many people as possible to write to their M.P.s regarding a government backed course, which is already in schools, encouraging pupils under sixteen to experiment with masturbation and oral sex, as part of a drive to cut teenage pregnancy. More than 100,000 children are now taking this course at one in every thirty secondary schools.

Robert Whelan, director of the Family Education Trust, said "I don't think anyone believes that teaching pupils about oral sex will stop them from having full sex. It is more likely to make them want to try it and it does not protect them from sexually transmitted diseases."

Lynda Brine, a teacher from a Doncaster comprehensive school, who recently attended a training day for the course, says that she was primed to deal with detailed questions about oral and anal sex. "I was amazed. Are these really the sort of questions to which we as a profession should be responding?" She adds, "There was no framework for talking about responsibility or the emotional side of relationships. By following this course, I feel that teachers are implicitly supporting under-age sexual activity."

This teacher's comments sum up perfectly what any rational minded person would feel about yet another disastrous, immoral scheme dreamed up by our Government officials to solve the problem of teenage pregnancies. Let us all take Theresa's advice and contact our M.P.s about this sordid scheme.

Theresa also enclosed information about a book, which contains 'firm knowledge' on the whole pro-choice versus pre-life argument. She says, "If you only buy one pro-life (Abortion) book in your life—buy this one! The U.K. Life League have imported, and are subsidising, a limited stock of this outstanding book." Tel: 0870 240 3158. Price £9.99

### Starter Packs

Our **MORALITY FORUM** activity to prevent the wholesale degradation of society through lewd clubs and sex shops has drawn so much support that we have decided to make a simple starter pack for anyone interested in taking action.

We have discovered that the usual excuse, that councils cannot take moral issues into consideration when granting licenses is not true. There is no legal reason for not considering morality, but they know that they will be challenged and probably lose.

The government is about to bring in new legislation making it even more difficult to use the issue of morality.

The Christian Institute have produced a comprehensive a step-by-step guide to objecting to sex-shop applications. The book is entitled *Stopping Sex Shops* and is available from: The Christian Institute, 26 Jesmond Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PQ. Tel: 0191 281 5664.

## Approved Robbery

By Bryan Warner

If I took away your children's pocket money or their bicycle or clothes, I would very quickly find myself in police custody for theft. On the other hand, if I took away their childish purity, innocence and sense of wonder and mystery, I would simply be following government policy and the free-for-all commercial exploitation.

Children used to have a thing called childhood, which lasted until at least fourteen years of age. It was a precious time of purity, discovery, excitement and freedom to take all the time they needed to 'grow up' in a loving and safe environment. Learning, to relate to one another and society in a natural and harmless way.

The range of children was from angels to devils, just the same as now, but the church and the family quietly tempered any element of roughness, crudeness and anti-social behaviour. Children were not driven to become adult before they were mature enough to handle it.

The last fifty years have seen devastating changes in our country and, for that matter, the world. How many families regard religion as irrelevant? How many families are broken by divorce, infidelity or even not complete in the first place?

That good old word morality has been so degraded that, in the mind of many people, it has come to mean prudery. Actually it refers to high standards of behaviour. Who upholds good standards these days? Everyone is scared of 'political correctness' and EU directives. We have just been treated to the unedifying spectacle of four Spaniards performing vulgar sexual acts on the public stage and, far from condemning this as obscene, some critics regard it as a bit of a giggle.

Sex shops and lewd dancing clubs are springing up like pustules on the face of our towns. So called experts are forcing schools to teach our children the mechanics of sexual activity with no reference to responsibility, true love or the self discipline of abstinence. Children, down to 11 are being encouraged to use masturbation and oral sex as a means of satisfying their desires, in an attempt to cut teen-age pregnancies (The Times 22nd Feb.).

Personally, I remember very well being eleven years old and the first stirrings of sexual feelings. Nobody taught me about condoms and how to have sex. My father earned £3 a week but we did not consider ourselves badly off. My father died when I was 11 and my mother managed two sons after that on 10/- a week and small jobs. It never entered our heads to complain, much less to rebel

against society. We were respected and we respected others. I was a virgin when I married at 23 years of age and had no problems with my love life.

I have a message for all those who make a profession of interfering with the natural process of growing up. Mind your own business. Leave people alone to develop at the rate, which suits their character. Their family and friends must take responsibility for showing an example. The family, the Church and the school would be well employed re-establishing the (much derided) old fashioned standards of morality.

We have received a letter from Angela Appleby, the Coordinator of Parents Network, which begins:

"We believe we can not win the battle against contraceptive-based Safe Sex Education unless we confront Government with a united informed voice."

The letter explains that they have decided to form 'ABNET' (Abstinence Education Network) with cells all over the country and invite anyone who is concerned about this problem to form a local cell. Cells will be autonomous and operate as they think best. They can call themselves anything they like, for example, *Parents Network (Watford)* or *Morality Forum (Watford)*. Some cells will be exclusively professional, such as Medical or Teacher and others Hindu/Muslim/Sikh/Christian etc. The promotion of Abstinence Education will be the unifying strength and purpose. We have forwarded the name of *Morality Forum (London)* for inclusion.

It is hoped that a register of cells will inspire the Department of Health to begin to listen. Angela is a very sincere and dedicated activist, who works tirelessly to stop the evil of contraceptive based Safe Sex Education. This campaign is really worthy of our support.

If you would like to start a cell, please tell; Chris Brennan, Truth for Teens, 2, Marchlands, Stoke Park Road South, Sneyd Park, Bristol BS9 1LS. Tel: 0117 968 7322.

For a copy of the original letter, contact: Bryan Warner, 88 Wembley Park Drive, Wembley HA9 8HW.

### Write Letters

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

## News Snippets

### Cheltenham ladies come out fighting.

Following the Cheltenham Borough Council's decision to license a sex shop in Running Road, Cheltenham, Pippa Smith and Rebecca Eden have formed a group called SAFE - Safeguard A Family Environment.

SAFE has taken legal advice regarding the decision by Cheltenham Borough Council and have been advised that procedures were ignored, grounds for refusing the application were not given proper consideration and objectors were not given a fair hearing. Twelve major and detailed complaints have been lodged against the council. If you want to know details or give support, contact SAFE, PO Box 353, Cheltenham GL53 7ZQ. Tel: 01242 582 770.

### Sugar is bad for your health.

Do you check what your children are reading? What do you know about a magazine called Sugar?

This magazine has a target audience of 13 to 17 year old girls. Their latest trick is that girls can send in a token and receive in return a free **CONDOM!** What is the purpose of this promotion? Is the idea to persuade the girls to see how it works?

If you feel that this is not the kind of dirty minded magazine you want your daughter to read, why not write to:

SUGAR, c/o Hacette Filipahi, 64 North Row, London W1K 7LL. Tel: 020 7715 7000.

A letter to The Teenage Magazine Arbitration Panel, c/o PPA, Queens House, 28 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JR would help as well.

## Real Families

*By Basil Gurney*

Everywhere we look we see reports on legislation for this, directives for that and legal conditions for the other! No wonder that the *Christian Institute* is looking for "Christian influence in a secular world". No wonder that Temples and Mosques all over the land are trying desperately to prevent their youth from being polluted by permissive consumerism and extremism.

I just hope that we can forget differences and concentrate on our common desire to stop the rot in society. In the fifties and sixties we, in this country, let go of our heritage of family values in favour of a promiscuity falsely labelled 'freedom'. We threw out the baby with the bath water, with a vengeance. Now we are all able to see the result.

Modern society has spawned a whole plethora of so-called social sciences, which have overwhelmed our historic experience and instincts, leaving us bereft of common sense answers. This is not a

complicated problem at root. The natural answer (which has not changed for the whole length of human history) is real, natural families. Nuclear families have been almost obliterated by those who think they know best, but should know better.

Dysfunctional families are at the root of much that is awful in our society but, before we blame the members of those families, let us acknowledge that a great part of two generations has missed out on traditional values. The malignant pressures of political correctness, human rights, easy divorce, acceptance of free sex and the drug culture, materialism and selfishness have replaced fairness, accountability, respect (for ourselves and others), faithfulness, decency and responsibility.

Those of us who observe the sabotage of our institutions with dismay, and understand the need and the way for a better approach to achieving harmony, peace and true love, have a duty to speak out and educate others. We must tell the truth and be proud of its religious foundation. Whatever the 'experts' might think, real families are the answer.

## ADDRESSES

Your MP:	House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Tel: 020 7219 3000
Adv. Standards Authority:	2 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HW Tel: 020 7580 5555 Fax: 7323 4339
Board of Film/Video Classification:	3 Soho Square, London W1V 6HD Tel: 020 7439 7961 Fax: 7287 0141
Broadcasting Standards Commission:	7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3LS Tel: 01233 237 700 Fax: 01233235 870
Head of Programme Complaints Unit:	BBC, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1 1AA Tel: 08700 100 222
Internet Watch Found'n:	E.View, Coles Lane, Oakington, Cambs. CB4 5BA Tel: 020 7233 0554 Fax: 7233 0397
Media March:	PO Box 53, Cheltenham GL53 7ZQ Tel: 020 8467 6452
Family and Youth Concern:	Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London SE1 7NQ Tel: 020 7401 5480 Fax: 7401 5471
Media Watch:	3 Willow House, Kennington Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0NR Tel: 01233 633 936
SPUC	5/6 Saint Matthew Street, London SW1P 2JT
The Christian Institute	26, Jesmond Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PQ 0191 281 5664 Fax: 0191 281 4272
Pure Love Alliance:	19 Rose Way, Lee, London SE12 6DN Tel: 020 8318 9313
Morality Forum:	43 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NA Tel: 020 7723 0721 Fax: 7724 2262