

# MORALITY FORUM UPDATE

April 1998

## **Promiscuity**

The effects on young people of the immoral society in which we live is a continuing concern and *MORALITY FORUM* is actively campaigning to improve matters. The 'Herts & Middlesex Country Club' applied to Harrow Council for a modification to its entertainment licence as it had plans to introduce table top dancing (naked women). Letters were sent to alert all religious leaders in the Harrow/Stanmore area and many were visited. All were very grateful that we had brought this to their attention and promised support by writing to the council. Two Mosques and a Hindu Temple promised to send petitions. A Catholic priest commented, "On the theological side we have differences, but on these issues we can work together."

Local schools were contacted and the principle of 'Weald College', which is near the country club, wrote a letter of objection to the council. A letter to the M.P. brought the same result. John Mawdsley is a member of an inter-faith group and he spoke to them about the plan. A lady, who is also a member of the group as well as a councillor and on various committees, contacted a number of councillors, all of whom were against the idea. John also went door to door in the area near the club and had almost unanimous support from local residents.

The local newspaper carried an article two weeks ago saying that "the Herts and Middlesex Country club have mysteriously withdrawn their application to feature table top dancing."

This kind of issue is an excellent way for the FFWPU to serve the community and to make a good foundation with Christian and other religious people. Attacks on young women and other crimes always increase in direct proportion to the decrease in moral and spiritual values.

## **Pornography**

The *MORALITY FORUM* support for the campaign to contain the production and distribution of hardcore pornography continues. In the USA, dubbing machines and digital edit suites churn out pornography seven days a week for distribution on five continents. This material is marketed by way of video stores, mail order, the internet, hotel chains, satellite TV, pay-per-view and, especially lucrative just now, European cable. It is reported that 8,000 new titles appear in a year and clock up 665 million rentals in the USA alone. Americans spend \$8 billion a year on pornography, double what they spend at regular cinema.

Thanks mainly to the efforts of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, Chris Smith M.P., the government Minister for Culture & Sport, has issued a proscription order against 'Euroctica Rendezvous', an association of two TV companies which transmit hard-core porn across Europe. This a partial, but significant, success against pornography being transmitted into Britain.

Please take action by writing to your local M.P. supporting Mr. Smith's action and asking them to contract Mr. Smith, asking him to make sure that all pornographic channels are proscribed.

## **TV & Cinema**

It looks as if Lord Alton and the Movement for Christian Democracy will succeed in making the British Board of Film Classification more accountable to the British people. We supported this initiative by gathering petition signatures and encouraging the religious leaders in the Brent and Harrow area to do the same.

## **Harrow planning meeting**

Active members of **MORALITY FORUM** met on 18th March and, since the forum is proving effective, we are looking for people in different areas who would like to be regional representatives in some way. If you would like to help, please contact Robin Marsh. His Telephone and Fax is 0181 421 4220. His office is at 43 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NA (Please mark the envelope Morality Forum). His E mail address is: paffair gb @ ad. com

We are supporting the NVLA campaign which asks all members to contact their M.P. regarding the obscenity law, which urgently needs strengthening. Please write to your M.P. about this serious issue. John Mawdsley was asked, by NVLA, to write to the Broadcast Standards Commission about the film "Natural Born Killers", which was shown on Channel 4. Only 11 people wrote in, but the complaint was upheld. Every little counts.

The NVLA are at the forefront of campaigning for a decent moral society. Their speakers are often on TV & Radio defending moral values and campaigning for better standards in programmes. They are well worth supporting. Their address is: All Saints House, High Street, Colchester, Essex. CO1 1GU. and their telephone is: 01206 561 155.

Also, please write to prominent MPs (such as Ann Widdecombe, Lady Olga Maitland, Lord Alton and any others), and journalists etc. who have the courage to speak out in favour of a moral society and spiritual values. Thank them. Letters to the editor are a good way, as well as a personal note. They at least deserve credit and encouragement.

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