

Editorials

The Television Mentality

While flipping the television dial two Sundays past the violent movie "Rambo First Blood" appeared and seemed to leap out like a roaring lion. The shock of it was suddenly seeing the crazed Rambo as he appeared to be indiscriminately and single-handedly burning down, blowing up, and riddling numerous buildings with bullets from an automatic rifle. This too was a movie that grossed many millions of dollars while on the nation's big movie screens just a few years ago.

The shock of it also brought back to mind the many concerns that we adults profess to have about the potential harm of television, especially to children. In fact in his book, "Creeping Compromise," Joe Crews says, "Children spend one-third of their waking hours under the artificial, hammering influence of ideas and philosophies which their parents do not originate and often do not even know about." Crews adds, "Of all TV programming 83% contains violence, and (even) 98% of cartoons depict violent action...Western and detective dramas are not much better, because 97% of them contain violence."

Ironically, and yet not too surprisingly, even the nonviolent good life, good times side of television has contributed to violence in the real world. Writer Gary Willis reminds us that when some businessmen in the 1960s were blaming riots in the black ghettos on radical elements, he encouraged them to drive their cars quickly through black neighborhoods and to observe the "forest of TV antennas rising above most rundown housing." When these poor blacks saw and were exposed to the good life, via television, and had

their expectations raised but denied by the reality of racism and discrimination, riots occurred in our urban centers.

Likewise, journalism professor Jane Brown at UNC-Chapel Hill says, "While it's taboo to talk about sex in many family situations, we allow our media to talk about it, (and) to show it to us all the time." Brown notes too the so-called TV soap operas regularly expose their viewers to about 1.5 verbal mentions of sexual intercourse per hour, one act of erotic touching every two hours, and at least one reference to rape every 11 hours, and music videos are no better. While it probably cannot be confirmed, one has to wonder how much of this kind of television viewing has influenced the 54% out-of-wedlock of all black births since 1980. We have to wonder too is there any TV relationship to the fact that black women die in childbirth at three times the rate of white women in America primarily due to poverty and discrimination.

Undoubtedly, the biggest tragedy caused by TV is the breakdown of family communication - people talking to people. The lack of communication is a factor that helps lead the problems, noted herein - the tendency or potential toward violence and sex outside of marriage, to name but a few.

Parents, let's check up on what our children are viewing on TV and let's check up on what we are watching on the boob tube also. TV too can be a way to waste a good mind; don't let it be your's or your young ones'.

Academics And Athletics

We have observed with ever increasing interest the somewhat feasible efforts of the National Collegiate athletic Association (NCAA) to get on with the serious business of cleaning up the mess in collegiate athletics. The exploitation of athletes, chief university administrators who conveniently ignore violations of NCAA rules by their athletic directors and coaches as long as they keep winning teams, the often excessive commercial endorsements that coaches receive for the athletic shoes they require their players to wear, and the most ridiculous rule that everyone—the schools, the coaches, the television stations and some influential alumni—earn money from each sporting event played by the real stars, the student-athletes, who can get nothing for their efforts — a limited athletic scholarship. Yet the TV revenues from a single game can be more than enough to provide scholarships for four years for an entire basketball team.

We note too the distasteful but quiet struggle going on between the athletic directors and the university presidents for control of the athletic programs. This kind of friction, no matter how small, is not good for collegiate sports.

Lastly, and most disturbing to us, is the continuing opposition of the CIAA to the NCAA's Proposition 48 that requires higher academic standards for athletes. If there is anything that black youth need it is a greater academic challenge. Therefore, we cannot see for any reason why the CIAA would even consid-

er withdrawing from the NCAA over an issue that will particularly affect blacks since there are so many of them participating in college sports programs.

The fact is some athletic directors, coaches and some chancellors don't have the confidence and the strong enough commitment to challenge and prepare black youth both on the court or gridiron and in the classroom. Yet, the fact is such youth will for the most part rise to the level of expectation demanded of them.

Let's face it, in the final analysis college sports is, or should be, part of the life training and preparation process. Thus, values, habits and philosophies that may carry a youth through life should be taught along with running the football or shooting the basketball. Unfortunately, too little of this is happening in our colleges and universities. Therefore, it's time for parents, the high schools from which youth are recruited and others at the local level to speak out about what is happening to our young people.

Speaking Out

Something On Your Mind?
Then, feel free to speak out through an editorial. All letters to the editor should be sent to **The Charlotte Post**, 1531 Camden Rd. Charlotte, N.C. 28203

Miller Says:

Iran Manipulates America's Values For Financial Gain?

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post
President Reagan is often depicted in the black community as a demonic lunatic. Thus black Americans should be dancing in the streets over the current leadership crisis at the White House. On the other hand, foreign powers relish this golden opportunity to make all Americans pay dearly for the demise of President Reagan.

The current Iran/Contra aid scandal viewed as a tactical action in a global economic war suggests that the Iranians have manipulated America's moral values for their own financial gain. This deduction is based on a premise that the goal of war is to force one's adversary into a state of submissiveness.

In recent years Iran's stature in OPEC has grown although they still remain plagued by huge capital needs to finance their continuing struggle with Iraq. Iran, however, should be expected to strategically exploit this newly acquired influence. Iran then would look diligently for ways to eliminate any barriers (e.g., a strong U.S. presidential leadership) against OPEC's raising world oil prices.

The question becomes: How could Iran hope to finesse the destruction of a very popular U.S. President without raising the dander of the American people? We can better appreciate the Iranians' military shrewdness through the teachings of the great Chinese



Sherman

war philosopher Sun Tzu who wrote "The Art of War" over 2,000 years ago. In studying Sun Tzu's teachings, a strategic rationale for Iran leaking the existence of the clandestine Americans arms deal can be surmised.

"...Sometimes drive a wedge between a sovereign and his ministers," wrote Sun Tzu; "on other occasions separate his allies from him. Make them mutually suspicious so that they drift apart. Then you can plot against them."

The Iranian leadership must be taking great pride in their ability to rekindle Watergate's disenchanting fervor in America's moral consciousness since it is a proven method of destroying a popular U.S. President. They knew the American press would be gullible for any information that would tarnish Ronald Reagan's "Teflon Man" image.



"IF I CAN DO MY DUTY AS A CHRISTIAN OUGHT. IF I CAN BRING SALVATION TO A WORLD ONCE WROUGHT. IF I CAN SPREAD THE MESSAGE AS THE MASTER TAUGHT. THEN MY LIVING WILL NOT BE IN VAIN. I'D LIKE FOR SOMEBODY TO SAY THAT DAY, THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TRIED TO LOVE SOMEBODY"

1929-1968

HAS HIS LIVING BEEN IN VAIN?

As I See It

Preparation For Tax Simplification

BY GERALD O JOHNSON

The new Tax Simplification program became effective January 1, 1987. It is becoming quite apparent to everyone that the word simplification was a public relations stunt to sell the package. The new tax is far from being simple. The only consolation we tax payers have is that the IRS doesn't understand it either. But regardless of the difficulties we are going to face with the new tax laws, there are several things we can start doing now to ease the "end of the year" blow that is coming.

First, by October 1, 1987 anyone who is employed must file a new W4 form. A W4 form is the form that tells your employer how much to withhold from your paycheck each pay period for tax purposes. I would suggest that you file your new W4 as soon as



Gerald

possible. Under the new tax law, you could possibly get a bigger paycheck just by filling out the form and returning it to your personnel department.

When filling out the form, take all the deductions you are entitled to. Do not understate

your deductions to get a tax refund at the end of the year. Why? I'm glad you asked. By understating your deductions, you are giving Uncle Sam an interest free loan of your money for over a year. You would not do this for anyone else, so why do it for the IRS. Claim all the deductions you are entitled to and manage the money yourself. The W4 form will be your first experience with the new Tax Simplification law. It is by comparison a lot harder to fill out than W4's of the past. Hint! Hint!

If you itemize your taxes from year to year, then you will note that this year is the start of the elimination of interest deductions. Interest from loans, credit cards, and the like will no longer be tax deductible. Interest on homes was the only thing spared with this type of deduction. Therefore, if you own your own home, you should open an equity account with a financial institution. An equity account is a line of credit secured by the equity in your home. It works like this. Let's assume your home has an appraised value of \$80,000. Moreover, let's assume you owe \$30,000 in mortgages. Then financial institutions will allow you 75 per cent of the equity in your home to establish an equity account. In our example you would have \$50,000 equity (\$80,000 value less \$30,000 mortgage). Hence, you could open an equity account of \$37,500. This money would in effect be a line of credit for you. Whenever you needed money you would write a check and that check would initiate a loan in the amount of the check. Of course a financial institution could give you the details on the account. Our purpose here is to utilize this tool as a financial tax planning device. Equity accounts are considered home loans for tax purposes. Hence, an equity account could be used to pay off all of your other loans and credit cards, thereby retaining the interest deduction you currently receive. Another point worth considering is that equity loans are generally at much lower interest rates than credit cards and other types of loans. Therefore, they are better deals overall. As with any type of credit, though, you must use it wisely.

These are just two things you can do now as part of your tax planning for the new tax law.

Relapse Is Major Problem

Relapse is a major problem facing the alcoholism and drug dependence field. Although many relapse-prone patients do not respond to traditional methods of treatment, there is hope. A new method of treatment is reducing the frequency, duration and severity of relapse episodes in treated patients. This workshop will present the theoretical foundation necessary to understand and treat the relapse-prone patient, review the extent of the problem and explore the common myths and misconceptions that block effective treatment.

Terence Gorski is the President of CENAPS Corporation, a consultation and training firm that specializes in alcoholism, drug dependence, and mental health services. He is a Senior Certified Alcoholism Counselor and is a nationally recognized trainer and lecturer, as well as the author of numerous books and articles including "Learning to Live Again," "Counseling for Relapse Prevention," and "The Management of Aggression and Violence."

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