Companies...

Continued from page 1

on a floor.

Other companies are now joining Topps Gum in appealing to child violence in promoting a product. The *Wall Street Journal* recently reported that American Greetings Corporation, maker of Care Bears, Holly Hobbie and Strawberry Shortcake toys, is introducing a line of eight different rubber balls featuring grotesque faces.

Some of these toy character balls will feature dislodged eyeballs, exposed brains, and cracked skulls. The toys are known as "Madballs" and are designed to appeal to the four- to nine-year-old children's market. For the six- to eight-year-old market American Greetings is introducing a toy entitled "My Pet Monster" which has white fangs, green and yellow eyes and warts on its nose. It comes with handcuffs so kids can chain themselves to the Monster.

Ralph Schaffer with American Greetings creative unit stated "that the market is going to go ugly." Mr. Schaffer also said that as an added attraction children could use the plastic chains and handcuffs separately on themselves.

Other companies are following American Greetings' lead. Hasbro is introducing Inhumanoids and Mattel is coming out with characters called M.U.S.C.L.E. Editor of *Toy & Hobby* magazine calls these "real vile toys."

Exploitation of children, which used to be subtle, is now becoming more fashionable.

American Greetings address is: Chrm. Irving I. Stone, American Greeting Corporation, 10500 American Road, Cleveland, OH 44144.

Government...

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young males.

Coupled with the sale of pornography in the Federal Penal System, this makes the U.S. government one of the leading suppliers of pornographic material.

Those concerned are asked to contact their U.S. senators and ask that the government get out of the pornography business. Senator John Stennis is the Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee. You can contact your senator and Senator Stennis at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

Church, State...

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Sabbath day. Even though an employee could declare any day of the week as his particular Sabbath, the Court concluded that the law "impermissibly advances a particular religious practice," specifically Sabbath observance, and voided the law.[17]

In short, while incidental effects, ceremonies, and traditions may be tolerated, laws designed to encourage religion will not be. This state of affairs has led to many attempts in our schools to rescue from the grasp of the Court some form of silent meditation, or other comtemplation of matters beyond self. While these attempts are indeed worthwhile, resort to them would not be necessary were the Constitution interpreted today as intended by the Founders.

The great irony of all this is that through the dethroning of God, the Court has enthroned man and placed him in a position of reverence as great as that previously accorded to Deity. In so doing, it has backed itself into a corner from which it is either unable or unwilling to retreat. Either God lives or he does not. Either we reverence him or we do not. Either religion is encouraged in our nation's public affairs or it is not. The middle ground is not "neutrality," for neutrality is a myth. The middle ground is that chosen by the Founders, who recognized the importance of religion, fostered it, and at the same time took care not to elevate one denomination over another. Only by adopting this course will the Supreme Court ever truly reconcile government and religion.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: L. Edward Robbins is a contributing editor of ***Constitution*** *magazine in which this article first appeared.*

CLRTV...

Continued from page 1

tive Director of CLRTV. The CLRTV Executive Committee will consist of Dr. Billy Melvin, Executive Director of the National Association of Evangelicals, who will serve as Chairman; Rt. Rev. William C. Wantland, Episcopal bishop from Wisconsin; Bishop Louis W. Schowengerdt from The United Methodist Church; Bishop Nelvin Hayes, Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago; Rev. Dr. Milton Efthimiou, Executive Director of the Department of Church & Society for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America; Dr. R.V. Haygood, Executive Director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana (Southern Baptist); Norman S. Marshall, National Commander, The Salvation Army; Dr. G. Raymond Carlson, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God; Rev. Leonard J. Hofman, Stated Clerk of the Christian Reformed Church; and Mr. Mark Taylor, Editor of The Lookout. The group also named an 80-member National Board.

The group commended five companies for "showing sensitivity and concern" in the selection of programs they helped sponsor during the fall of 1985: Dart and Kraft, Sears, Phillips Petroleum, Mars, and IBM. The group also said they would seek a meeting with four companies "which lacked sensitivity and concern" in the selection of programs they helped sponsor during the fall of 1985: American Motors, Wendy's, Noxell and Warner-Lambert.

CLRTV stated that they would make public the response they receive from all meetings with the networks and advertisers.

"What happens now depends on the response from the networks and advertisers," Mr. Wildmon stated. He said that the group should know by the middle of April the response of the networks and advertisers.

(See page 7 for complete text of CLRTV statement.)

Profanity rewarded?

When a publisher asked Lois Duncan to sprinkle a few four-letter words in one of her recent novels for teenagers, she knew the rules had changed.

The 51-year-old author remembered the publisher who in 1957 rejected a story because in it a 19-year-old drank a beer. "There were rules we had to follow if we wanted to be published," Duncan said, referring to earlier times.

Duncan has written more than 300 short stories for children and teenagers and 30 novels. *Killing Mr. Griffin*, which won the American Library Association's Best Book award, was the one with the added four-letter words.

Suspect has 'truckload' of child pornography

In Reno, Nevada, day-care center teacher Stephen Boatwright was charged with child molesting. The Reno police detective who pursued the case testified that there were 50 to 60 child victims over a four-year period.

Detective Lucky Burch said that when he searched the home of Boatwright, he found a "truckload" of child pornography magazines and other materials.

OUR READERS WRITE

Customers complain, porn is pulled

Dear Rev. Wildmon,

Just thought you would like to know that the local convenience store in our small town just pulled its porn magazines in the month of December. The Stewart Oil Company has several stores/gas stations in our county, all of which carry porn.

Last winter when I became aware of the magazines, and that I could do something about it I wrote a letter to Mr. Dean Stewart, President. I did not receive a reply but I did stop patronizing the store, as I know others quietly did as well. Last summer my 5-year-old daughter saw a porn picture hung in an outdoor outhouse in our forest perserve. At that time I wrote Mr. Stewart again.

This November our church had a Sunday focused on pornography. The congregation was challenged to write Mr. Stewart at that time, although I don't know how many actually did.

A man from our church got gas at the store and was about to complain once again about the magazines but couldn't see any. He was told that although the clerks and manager had always been against the porn, it was because there was enough letters and complaints from the citizens that caused the owners to pull the porn from the Mahomet store.

We are thrilled and once again patronizing the store. The clerks are thrilled as well. So score one for the Lord and His "turning the hearts of the kings".

Keep up the good work,
Mrs. Virginia Nurmi
Mahomet, Illinois

Porn battle is local issue of the year

Rev. Wildmon,

I don't believe that we are listed as a local chapter of NFD. However, we as a small non-denominational prayer group have been actively involved in battle against pornography since we picketed against local stores this past summer. We used information from the *Journal* as arguments against pornography. We gather one day a week and pray for one hour for guidance in our local battle against pornography.

We make our copy of Dr. Holland's VCR tape available to all local churches. We have passed out many videocassettes (dozens) to locals. We have viewed "War Against Pornography" and also make it available to local churches.

Because of your and our local involvement against pornography, a "30 minute special" was filmed and aired this past Saturday, December 28, on local TV. This "our battle against pornography" was selected by the local news media as the story of the year, locally.

Our current aim is to achieve enforcement of state laws against obscenity and pornography. To this end, we have gathered hundreds of signatures from local citizens in the form of a petition to pass on to our local county attorney.

As a local group, we boycott all stores which sell or sponsor obscenity or pornography.

We act as a voice in making members of our small group available to present facts about the dangers of pornography to any interested group; secular or non-secular. Using facts from the *Journal* we've been invited to speak to three local church groups this year. We already have an invite to speak to another church group in 1986.

We thank God that we heard of NFD and the Rev. Wildmon and his *Journal*!

Concerned Citizens for Decency
Linus J. Herrman
Great Bend, Kansas

Presbyterian pastor now depends on Journal

Dear Sir,

I have been receiving your NFD newsletter for quite some time now. I must admit I viewed it with a bit of suspicion at first, as I do any unsolicited newsletters. But I have come to depend on it for information that I am unable to obtain through any other source. Since we responded to the degrading quality of television by simply throwing ours away eight years ago, I need some source to keep me aware of current trends in network programming.

Sincerely,
Rev. W. E. Shields
The United Presbyterian Churches
Cooperstown, North Dakota

Calls, letters get porn out of drugstore

Dear Rev. Wildmon,

Praise the Lord! for the positive results.

Cavett Drugs has removed all pornographic magazines--as a matter of fact within a week's time after they started.

Many of my friends called the manager, as well as people from my church, and this certainly demonstrates what you have been saying in the NFD *Journal*.

Keep up the good work!
Yours in Christ,
Larry W. Bettenhausen
Midlothian, Illinois

Editor's Note: Mr. Bettenhausen's Letter to Cavett Drugs is reprinted below.

Mr. William Einhorn
Cavett Drugs
Chicago Heights, Illinois

Dear Mr. Einhorn:

I have been a customer of Cavett Drugs at 147th and Cicero since I moved to this area in 1968. I have never had anything but the best of service from your employees, and have never been dissatisfied with your merchandise. The pharmacy has always been "top notch" and their service has been excellent.

Sir, it is with regret that I find that Cavett Drugs has decided to start selling pornographic magazines, such as *Playboy, Hustler*, etc.

My first reaction is that you are a busy man, and are not aware of the contents of these sleazy publications. May I suggest that you take the time and look at what you are selling? I hope that common sense will tell you that selling these magazines in a Cavett Drug Store is a mistake.

Since I am convinced that this is an oversight on your part, I will wait a month, to see what action you will take. If you choose to continue to sell pornographic material in Cavett Drugs, I will be forced to take my business elsewhere.

Sincerely,
Larry W. Bettenhausen

Writer says one can make a difference

Dear Bro. Wildmon,

While in our local Revco store about a year ago I was shocked to see the disgusting magazines on sale there. I obtained a form and wrote to the headquarters. I received a phone call from Alice Bixby, their public relations director, stating that they would place the magazines behind the counter. As time went on the Lord burdened my heart with the realization that this did nothing to negate these influences...I wrote letters to headquarters speaking frankly of the deviant behavior these magazines inspire. I received no response.

Then the Lord spoke to me about talking to the manager at Revco. I told her I could no longer patronize a store which channels such material into the community. I transferred my prescriptions to a drug store which does not sell such magazines and drafted a letter to Revco headquarters (this time signed, "An angry Connie Miller"). Within ten days I received a phone call from one of the vice presidents of Revco stating that they were removing the magazines from that store. Please keep telling people they can make a difference!

Connie Miller
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

SEND NFD RESPONSES

Please send NFD copies of replies you receive from advertisers or other companies. Also send news clippings on related issues. Your help provides an invaluable source of informatrion for NFD.