ments on the subject matter (that is, porno magazines) and immediately called a meeting because of the concerns these customers had and facts they had in support of their concerns. We were very happy to inform them of the results of the meeting—to remove all related adult magazines from our shelves or displays."

Six concerned customers got the job done.

### Inmate protests porno films

A prisoner serving five years at Leesburg State Prison in New Jersey for aggravated sexual contact recently wrote the warden of that prison protesting the showing of X-rated pornographic films within the prison.


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The films are chosen by inmate committees and financed by contributions from prisoners' savings and from the money they earn with profit-making ventures, such as vending machines and candy concessions.

Public Information Officer Jim Stabile responded by stating "Basically, if he doesn't like the movie, he doesn't have to go." Stabile went on to say that nobody is forcing the prisoner to see the X-rated films and said: "The inmates say they're adults and they want to be treated like adults." Research has shown that many persons are in prison because of feeding on porn and then "acting out" what they have viewed on some innocent victim. New Jersey residents may want to write: Gov. Thomas Kean, State Capitol, Trenton, NJ 08625.

### Playboy feeling pressure in their pocketbook

Playboy's financial statements of late aren't looking too good. The company lost nearly $39 million during the last quarter of 1985. Playboy attributed the loss to their ailing video division, so they came up with a new twist for marketing their porn via videos—a line of newsstand porn videos. The plan was to issue a monthly 30-minute "video centerfold" featuring the magazine's Playmate of the Month. The tapes would be merchandised on newsstands alongside *Playboy* magazine.

7-Eleven, the leading retailer of *Playboy* magazines, has not announced whether they will also market the Playboy video porn.

### Persistence pays off

It took almost a year, but two angry mothers in Parkland, Washington, have been rewarded for their commitment to bettering their community. The two women, Sue Clinton and Dianne Cambern, founded Community Against Pornography in December, 1984.

The pair rallied several dozen supporters, mostly women, and the group immediately began picketing the Sportland porn bookstore. Nearly a year later, the adult store closed its doors.

Even without picketing, the group also persuaded four other community stores to stop selling porn magazines in Parkland, a suburb of Tacoma.

Apparently, many people in the community were simply waiting for leadership to emerge to fight pornography in their town. Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Cambern assumed that position, and the rest is history.

The ingredients for success? Two concerned mothers, and firm commitment.

### Man calls porn service, beats woman

According to the Bucks County, Pennsylvania, *Courier Times*, a man who pleaded no contest to the hammer bludgeoning of a Northampton woman while she was sleeping made a number of calls to a phone sex service a short time before he attacked her.

According to Detective Robert Turner, Gregory Paul Johnson called a New York service known as Adult Line more than 20 times in two hours, the last call coming only about ten minutes before police were called to the apartment of the badly beaten woman.

### Humanist game on market

There are no absolutely right or wrong answers when it comes to moral decisions, according to a new board game on the market. A game called "Scruples" deals with ethical dilemmas such as:

"By mistake, your tax refund is too big. Do you tell the IRS?"

"You and your mate expect loyalty and honesty from one another. One night, out of town, you have a fling. Do you tell?"

There are three possible answers: "Yes," "No," or "It depends." The object of the game is not to give a right answer—since there is no right or wrong. The object is to guess how your opponent will answer his questions.

### Can morality be legislated?

Can morality be legislated? Ben Franklin stated "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more needs of masters."

U.S. Solicitor General Rex E. Lee puts it this way: "Legislating morality is not something that should be avoided. Instead, it is a responsibility...."

The U.S. Supreme Court, ruling in *McGowan vs Maryland*, concluded, "...nearly every criminal law on the books can be traced to some religious principle...but that does not make the present enforcement of the criminal law in any sense an establishment of religion, simply because it accords with widely held religious principles."

### Bible classes given boot at UT

The University of Texas system is asking its schools to sever ties with religious organizations and strike Bible classes from their spring curriculum. Kenneth Ashworth, a Texas College and University Coordinating Board commissioner, said a memo had been sent to universities asking them to disassociate themselves from religious organizations.

Ashworth said a question about separation of church and state is raised because the university advertises Bible study courses and offers grade credit without full control of teacher selection.

The Texas Attorney General had earlier ruled that religious organizations can fund Bible chairs at state universities, but should not exercise control over teaching selection.

The college of liberal arts at UT reviews

*Continued on page 14*



# CLRTV issues statement of policy, intent

*Editor's note: The basic draft for this statement was written by Bishop William Wantland, an Episcopal bishop from Wisconsin, and then refined by members of the Christian Leaders for Responsible Television executive committee and others. It was presented at the CLRTV press conference in Washington on February 3.*

The quality of life enjoyed by each individual is of deep concern to us as Christian leaders. We have this concern because our faith is focused in the ministry and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Our Lord teaches us compassion, love, and care for one another. He emphasizes loving concern for those around us. He charges us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and lonely, and minister to those in prison (Matthew 25). As part of that compassion, He also teaches faithfulness, kindness and honesty.

Not everyone in the United States is Christian. Nor do Christians have a monopoly on virtue. Many in other religions embrace the values of faithfulness, kindness and honesty. People of all beliefs desire a quality of life that lifts and strengthens the individual.

Television is one of the forces that directly affects the quality of life in our nation. It has great potential for good. Through television, people in all areas of our nation can be apprised of important events almost instantaneously. As the educator Mary Megee said, "Television is the supreme combination of all art forms." Television, as seen by its pioneer founders, has potential "as a university of the airwaves, a window on the world, and incredible opportunity to share the best in drama, art and culture." It also has the potential to promote values and morals which make a better society.

Television not only is a force affecting the quality of our lives, it also shapes our lives by defining what that quality might be. The power to shape lives and to influence the minds of our citizens carries with it the responsibility to enhance and improve the quality of life, not destroy or corrupt human values.

While much of television programming fulfills the dreams of its pioneers, and while we do enjoy that "window on the world", there is a growing concern that television has actually begun to destroy the fabric of society, and reduce the quality of life, not enhance it. More and more, television is seen as a purveyor of gratuitous sex and violence, undermining moral values and reflecting a perverted, corrupted caricature of human existence.

For example, in a long range study, Professor Michael Warren, of St. John's University, Jamaica, New York, found that acts of violence occur on an average of six times per hour in prime-time television.

The U.S. Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence has documented the great harm in this violence. The Task Force stated that "evidence is becoming overwhelming" that television and movie violence play an important role in causing violence in the American home and society. It says that the television industry "should voluntarily set limits on the amount and kind of violence allowed on television." Networks, broadcasters and cable TV bear "major responsibility" for reducing violence on television. It suggests that television executives and advertisers meet, "perhaps under the leadership of the Surgeon General," to discuss the issue and ways of dealing with it. It suggests broadcast standards be set and recommends that the motion picture industry re-evaluate its rating standards to make ratings more specific and informative.

*Let it be clearly understood that we are serious about our concerns and intent.*

The report came after the 1982 Surgeon General's National Institute of Mental Health report which also found overwhelming evidence of the harmful effects of television violence and the 1983 U.S. Department of Justice report noting that "virtually 100% of aggression researchers agree that there is a cause-effect relationship between the consumption of violent entertainment and an increased tendency towards anger and violence in normal viewers."

As to gratuitous sex and profanity, television monitoring by the National Federation for Decency (NFD) is most revealing.

NFD monitoring over a seven-year period shows that approximately 80% of all allusions to sexual intercourse are between people not married to each other. The NFD reported that during their Spring 1985 monitoring period, the sex incidents were 9.82 per hour, or a total of 4,096 during the 24-week period of prime-time programming.

Instead of using television to communicate wholesome moral values and promoting sexual commitment in marriage, which according to a recent Roper poll is endorsed by 72 percent of the adult population, television tends to endorse sexual permissiveness both before and during marriage.

NFD monitoring shows that the use of profanity during prime-time television increased more that 100% from the Fall of 1978 (1,005 incidents of profanity) to the Fall of 1984 (2,071 incidents of profanity).

Acts of adultery and sexual deviance, profanity, and violence against persons or property are considered immoral by Christianity and virtually every other organized religion in the world; some of these acts are also considered criminal in a number of our states. To depict as normal and acceptable acts which are immoral and criminal, and which surely undermine society, corrupting the quality of life of all citizens, is itself reprehensible. But to do it in the name of "entertainment" and for the primary purpose of monetary profit is to demonstrate moral weakness, utter disregard for the rights of others, and a selfishness that is unworthy of humanity.

We acknowledge that this situation did not occur overnight. We also acknowledge that no one person or group of persons is solely responsible. The television networks must share a large portion of the blame, as must the sponsors. Some sponsors are so interested in selling their products that they are willing to provoke any emotion, use any gimmick or shock any conscience to make a dollar. The viewing public has too long remained silent as the pollution of television continues to grow. Government, charged with the responsibility of protecting the health and welfare of society, has been slow to respond. Church leaders also have failed to act.

Now, however, it is our duty to take positive steps to reverse the pollution that is slowly poisoning our land. We call upon the television networks and advertisers to take immediate steps to reduce incidents of sex and violence and profanity by at least 35% in the fall of 1986, and to work for another such reduction in 1987. A consistent reduction of incidents depicting immoral, illegal acts as acceptable behavior is imperative.

Furthermore, we call for an immediate end to the anti-Christian stereotyping presented in network programming. The Christian religion, and persons depicted as Christians, should be treated in a fair and unbiased manner, as should all other religions.

We pledge ourselves to monitor the situation, and to engage in serious dialogue with sponsors to encourage them to join in the reduction of this moral pollution.

We are hopeful that men and women of good will who are a part of television—network officials, program producers and advertisers—will welcome the opportunity to join us in this campaign.

However, should the networks and advertisers refuse to take appropriate steps to stem the tide of filth that is now evident, then we will seek other means of combatting the forces of corruption that are engulfing us.

Let it be clearly understood that we are serious about our concerns and intent. We are organized and we will not go away. We pledge to continue our efforts for as long as it takes to reverse this unhealthy trend that is destroying the quality of life in our country.. To do less would be to betray our own convictions as Christians.