of several major religious bodies in the city that unmarried people, which includes most teenagers, do not have the right to have sexual intercourse. They teach that sexual intercourse out of wedlock is wrong. One can be sure that this is one "religious belief" the volunteers are being trained to cope with.

The process involves driving a wedge between children and their parents, both by telling the children not to accept their parents' values, and by not telling the parents what the schools are doing.

We are talking about a school system that has exhibited an impaired ability to carry out basic instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics; a system which now has a corps of security officers larger than the police force of the city of Boston to attempt to protect the students from physical harm. Instead of dealing with either of those problems, the school system is worried about molding first-graders' attitude toward lesbianism.

A crucial element in the schools' strategy is hiding from parents the details of their children's sex-ed courses. And by the same token, the starting point for stopping the damage is a recognition that the primary right to determine what a child is exposed to in school rests with parents. We have watched with fascination the disintegration of a political system, the Soviet one, built on the concept that the child belongs to the state. Now we see the concept taking root in our own schools. To stop it, we must press for two reforms: mandating that parents be informed of all course content to which their child will be exposed, and adopting a voucher system to give parents freedom of choice as to where to send their child.

If it is not already too late.

Pennsylvania schools lead in dumping traditional requirements in favor of 'understanding the self'

By Suzanne Fields
Los Angeles Times Syndicate

You should forget that most American 13-year-olds score below the international average in math and science.

Put aside the fact that many American students can't find the United States on the map or tell you in what century we fought the Civil War, or who was president during World War II.

Forget that for the last four years Scholastic Aptitude Test scores have fallen to a record low on the verbal section of the test.

Never mind. Our kids, who can't read or write, can still rap, rock and roll. But in surveys of the math and science proficiency of 175,000 students worldwide, the United States ranked almost at the bottom, behind Korea, Taiwan, Switzerland, the old Soviet states, Hungary and France.

The new standards also offer the option of doing away with letter grades, and allow a student to receive credit for community service and work experience.

That much is old news, and bad enough. What's new is the way some states are deliberately setting out to make the bad a lot worse.

Pennsylvania is dropping the traditional high school graduation requirements, replacing them with something called "learning outcomes." Understanding the self is in; math, science, reading and writing are out. Other states are following, not far behind.

Gone are the four years in English, three years of math, science and social studies, two years of arts and humanities, a year of health, and physical education, plus five electives. Instead, the Pennsylvania Board of Education has set goals or outcomes that sound a lot like they belong in psychological counseling.

An initial list of 500 specific "learning outcomes," for example, includes an evaluation of self-worth, a capability to adapt to change, skills in working with others as well as independently, and an ability to exercise ethical judgment. Most of these goals encompass attitudes, emotions and feelings and they suggest all kinds of interpretations.

Goal: "All students develop an understanding of their strengths and weaknesses and the ability to maximize strengths and compensate for weaknesses."

Translation: If a student can't figure out the formula for measuring the area of an isosceles triangle, he can at least understand why that's hard for him and switch to circles or squares.

Goal: "All students develop an understanding of their personal characteristics (e.g., interests, needs, attitudes and temperament)."

Translation: Find out what you're good at, if anything, and go for it. Why learn about right angles when you can figure an angle?

Goal: "All students understand and appreciate their worth as unique and capable individuals, and exhibit self-esteem."

Translation: Excellence is an unfair measure of your capabilities. Feelings are as important as fractions.

This could be a Saturday Night Live skit if it weren't real. But it is. The list of goals makes the mushy "Values Clarification" courses of the '60s sound like the requirements for a Ph.D. in quantum physics.

The original list of 500 "outcomes" has been narrowed to a fuzzy 51, leaving intact the emphasis on emotional learning and interpersonal-relationships. The new standards also offer the option of doing away with letter grades, and allow a student to receive credit for community service and work experience.

Pennsylvania is not alone in this conceptual approach to education. Washington, Colorado and Connecticut are moving toward "learning outcomes." Minnesota may be next to abolish traditional requirements.

It's hard to tell how this happened, but it reeks of the Politically Correct in its pursuit of "prejudice," cultural differences, "care-giving and child-care strategies" and the "intrinsic uniqueness, worth and rights of each person." The Bush administration wants national tests to measure what our kids learn, but the Pennsylvania approach moots that. Nobody has to learn anything.

AFA PASS-ALONG SHEET

Make copies of this sheet and pass along to others

Boycott Kmart–One of the Leading Retailers of Pornography in America

Kmart, through their Waldenbooks subsidiary, is one of the leading retailers of pornography in America. During the past few years thousands of Americans have asked Kmart to get out of the pornography business.

Before he was executed, convicted serial sex murderer Ted Bundy told Dr. James Dobson: "Those of us who have been so much influenced by violence in the media, particularly pornographic violence, are not some kind of inherent monsters. We are your sons and we are your husbands. And we grew up in regular families. And pornography can reach out and snatch a kid out of any house today."

Sam, a nine-year-old fourth grader, was walking home from school in Norman, Oklahoma, when he was abducted and carried to a remote field. There he had an eye gouged out and his genitals mutilated. Following the attack, police asked merchants in Norman to pull the November/December 1990 issue of Hustler magazine from their shelves. The porn publication had a five-page section headlined "How-To-Murder Manuals." The article told how to gouge out an eye and how to mutilate the genitals. The attack imitated the article.

On August 6, 1990, the Dallas Morning News had an article which told of the brutal molestation of two girls, ages seven and ten. Their stepfather had sexually used them in horribly inconceivable ways. According to the official who investigated the abuse, "the seven-year-old was forced to look at pornographic magazines depicting a woman performing sex acts on herself with tools, then act them out herself." A doctor later had to surgically remove part of a tool which had broken off in the little girl.

A 1984 study released by the University of New Hampshire revealed that states with the highest readership of pornographic magazines such as Playboy, Hustler, etc., also had the highest rape rates.

According to columnist Jack Anderson, the Michigan State Police found that pornography is used or imitated in 41% of the sex crimes they investigate.

From July 1980 through February 1984, the police/social work team of the Louisville-Jefferson County, Kentucky Exploited & Missing Children Unit prosecuted hundreds of adults for various crimes involving sexual exploitation of children. According to John B. Rabun, Jr., Program Manager at the time, over 40 major cases involved the successful prosecution of adults, each involved with more than 12 children. (In one case, investigators estimated 320 victims of one adult.) At the time of arrest and/or service of search warrants, all of these adult predators were found with various forms of adult pornography and in most cases child pornography.

Edna Buchanan, a staff writer for the Miami Herald, wrote an article concerning the Pillow Case Rapist, a person who committed a number of rapes in her area. Scientists at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, at the request of Metro police, studied the rapes and prepared a five-page psychological profile of the rapist. Among the characteristics which the scientists listed for the rapist was this one: "He collected Playboy, then Penthouse magazines...and dreamed of rape. Then he slipped over the threshold of fantasy into the reality of sexual assault." "Pornography was not the only negative influence in my life but its effect on me was devastating," said Arthur Gary Bishop. "I would do anything or take any risk to fulfill my deviant desires." Bishop said that if pornography had not been available to him in his early stages, "...it is most probable that my sexual activities would not have escalated to the degree they did...I am a homosexual pedophile convicted of murder and pornography was a determining factor in my downfall." Bishop was executed by the state of Utah for the murder of several young boys.

Since 1986, more than 25,000 stores—including all corporately owned 7-Eleven stores, have discontinued selling pornography. Yet Kmart refuses to order their Waldenbooks chain to stop selling pornography. Kmart does not sell the pornography in their Kmart stores, but in their Waldenbooks stores.

You are urged to let your local Kmart manager know, in a polite way, that you are joining the boycott and encouraging others to do the same. And your can write Kmart and let them know you are joining the boycott. The address: Chrm. Joseph Antonini, Kmart Corporation, 3100 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084. Kmart owns Waldenbooks, Pay Less Drug Stores, Office Max, Bargain Harold's, Builders Square home supply stores, Sports Authority and PACE Membership Warehouse stores.

Be aware that you will probably be told that Kmart has nothing to do with Waldenbooks. However, Kmart owns Waldenbooks and has the authority to tell Waldenbooks to get out of the pornography business at any time.

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