

Standards of Decency Disappearing

A READER telephoned to ask what standards of decency are in effect to restrict broadcast of movies and other types of television programs.

Broad interpretations of the constitution by the Supreme Court of the United States raise questions as to whether any standards of decency are left in law. Publication and broadcast of lewd, profane and lascivious material is spreading almost uninhibited.

It is true the court upheld some vague references to "redeeming social values" and "community standards of decency." They mean little, as may be seen in the example of the district attorney at Lawton futilely trying to determine when nude dancing in public oversteps the bounds of community decency.

We had to tell our reader that while prayer and the Ten Commandments have been barred from classrooms, the Supreme Court in its wisdom has opened channels for practically any sort of lewdness to appear in schools, in movies, on TV, on mag-

azine racks and in homes.

The Wall Street Journal described the trend in advertising from sexual suggestiveness to pictorial explicitness.

"Now the veil of innuendo is being lifted and sales pitches are downright steamy," the article said. "Jeans designers, by turning prime time into a sea of undulating posteriors, led the way. But other advertisers quickly fell into step, using sex to push everything from travelers' checks to tea."

When publishers, broadcasters and pornographic promoters got court approval to peddle their obscene wares, they didn't seem to know when to stop. Instead of enjoying their freedom and allowing those who do not want to view such materials the privilege of avoidance, they have pushed pornography to the point that there is no escape from it.

After having their faces shoved into objectionable pictures, stories and programs featuring nudity, depravity, adultery, prostitution and perversion, many people are

saying they have had enough. They are demanding something more decent.

Librarians already are crying "Censorship!" That could come if the pendulum swings too far. Right now, the demand is only for freedom of choice to avoid obscenities and licentiousness.

While it might be virtually impossible for a citizen of any age to isolate himself from the current flood of pornography, many are trying to do so by individual abstention from books, magazines, TV programs and products of advertisers whose ads they find objectionable.

There are organized boycotts, too, initiated by groups who are demanding a general clean-up of the media.

The Supreme Court and Congress might be forced to acknowledge that decent citizens have rights, too, if the public outcry against abuses of freedom of the press and freedom of speech becomes loud enough to be heard above the many noises in Washington.

Prosecute Lawbreakers, Not Lawmen

TO THE EDITOR:

At the trial of Trooper Jim Pischel, District Attorney Bob Macy made an emotional appeal for old-fashioned "law enforcement." However, when the facts are considered, one realizes that this statement is without basis in truth: Trooper Pischel's accident was precipitated by at least two broken laws on the part of another motorist.

For over one year, motorcycle riders have been congregating in the area of Westminster, Wilshire and NE 63. Witnesses testified to the possibility of "about 100" such persons at a given time. These persons proceeded to block off a public street and hold drag races. This action constitutes illegal assembly for the purpose of breaking laws. Modern-day handling of such law-breaking is woefully inadequate.

Yes, Bob Macy, we need old-fashioned law enforcement. A few years ago, when we thought that "civil rights" meant that the law-abiding citizen had a right to be protected from thugs, law-enforcement officers would have surrounded such a group intent on law-breaking. The individual members of such a group would have been arrested and found guilty. The drag race, and the pursuit which followed, would have been nonexistent. Mr. Macy, what happened to that kind of law enforcement?

And — in the good ol' days — what happened when the elected and appointed "law" could not handle situations? Citizens banded together in vigilante committees, sighted in their guns and went out to see that the lawbreakers were eliminated. Is this the old-fashioned law enforcement Mr. Macy wants? It is the next step in the backward progression.

Justice in Oklahoma has been put on trial and condemned. Right now justice is on the guillotine and the blade has been released. I will not expect any law-enforcement person to put his life and future on the line to stop lawbreakers; what I do expect is that more and more citizens will revolt against the inaction of "authority" to stop the lawbreaker before he must be run down on public roads. This old-fashioned remedy is condemned by the likes of Macy, and rightly so.

What is the alternative? Mr. Macy, instruct the law-enforcement people in Oklahoma that you will prosecute lawbreakers — so that you will not need to prosecute law enforcers.

Jack C. Pischel, Bethany

DEC 14 1980 Enough Is Enough

TO THE EDITOR:

No columnist regularly appearing in The Daily Oklahoman can disturb me with more frequency than Fiedle J. Deering. The reason I don't respond more often to his columns is because his comments are usually vague, unjournalistic, inaccurate, illogical and downright confounding. They just don't deserve the dignity of a response. In fact, I hate to admit I'm a reader.

But enough is enough. After reading the Dec. 4 diatribe ("Standards of Decency Disappearing") my posterior was undulating. From where he sits, Mr. Deering sees the faces of his flock being "shoved into objectionable pictures," their bodies being pushed into clubs featuring nude dancing and their minds unavoidably poisoned by travelers' checks ads.

There is no escape from these forces of evil and indecency, he warns us. I'll bet he thinks the producers of "Dallas" have developed some kind of post-hypnotic effect which draws tens of millions of unsuspecting people to the tube each week only to be turned to pillars of salt.

I suppose I should be afraid to send my daughter to the supermarket for fear that a six-pack and a Playboy will jump off the shelves into her cart. My son will probably have to forego his love of football to avoid being drawn into depravity by those sideline sirens they call cheerleaders. Most likely I'm beyond redemption because 20 years ago I read "The Origin of Species" and found it quite intriguing.

If Mr. Deering will support any effort to "clean up the media" he had better cover his own flanks, because there are those who find his articles to be profane and objectionable, as well. It seems such a waste of Mr. Deering's time and energy, however, to do battle with imagined ene-

mies. The only real danger to his health and well-being is that he might trip and fall ascending the winding stairs of his ivory tower while wearing blinders.

Robert C. Zupp, City

Cartwright Boosted

TO THE EDITOR:

Reference is made to your editorial of Nov. 30, "Time to Clip His Wings" and the cartoon, "Time for a De-Horning."

It is my understanding that the Oklahoma Constitution makes it the duty of the attorney general to interpret the law to state officials upon request. He (Jan Eric Cartwright) has been doing just that.

The attorney general's opinions have made no laws and he has made no attempt to enforce his interpretations. If anyone does not agree with his opinion the courts will rule as to the correct interpretation.

So what has the attorney general done or failed to do that indicates his wings should be clipped? According to your editorial:

- (a) He has erred in some of his opinions.
- (b) He has stepped on some fingers with some of his opinions which have been upheld by the courts, and Oh! how those fingers ache.
- (c) Some of his aides have resigned.
- (d) Some of his opinions are long delayed.

None of the above points to any neglect of duty or malfeasance.

Oklahoma needs more state officials like the present attorney general. And the state auditor is also to be commended.

Sam G. Keim, Chickasha

Voters Wary

TO THE EDITOR:

In regard to the editorial in the Nov. 22 Daily Oklahoman concerning the Canadian County bond issue:

I am one of the voter-taxpayers that helped defeat this bond. In no way can I or many voters in Canadian County see spending \$6 million for a jail.

In the first place, we have ample courtrooms. If they had asked a \$500,000 figure for a jail, it is possible they could have gotten it passed.

However, the people have come up

Mrs. Herman J. Roleke

December 15, 1980

400 N. W. 35th Street • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

Dear Mr. Deering:

You do not know me; I know you only through your editorials which I never miss, but I have to express my dismay about the thinking of Mr. Zupp in his letter ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ Sunday's paper, (definitely mine not for publication - his should not have been). He read the "Origins of the Species" in 1960 and seems to be a child of that age, with never another new thought and certainly no knowledge of history since he cannot see our beloved country trying to go the way of Ancient Rome.

Keep up the good work. The Oklahoman isn't helping too much, putting most good news on back pages (not all), and devoting a half page in the same paper ^{as your letter} to find a designation proper for the improper relationship that should be called "my partner in immorality"; then today's Ann Landers "unendorsed letter". Usually she is too sane for that sort, and then I like her.

I had to get it off my chest!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and forgetfulness for all such diatribes.

Sincerely

Lenore Roleke.

ance Given Failing Mark

supportive. What Oklahoma accomplishes usually is despite The Daily Oklahoman, not because of it.

Weldon K. Davis, City
President, Oklahoma
Education Association

Ignore the Feminists

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing a quick note in response to the Dec. 7 article "Radical Feminism Advocated." Hannah Atkins stated that she believed the feminists were going to have to unite and demonstrate again.

I, for one, am ready to unite, on the other hand, with other women of God, moral women, women who love life, and love the role they play in it. I am ready to unite with these women and demonstrate against this minority group of feminists. I do not believe that they (feminists) are the main voice of American women, and I am tired of their misrepresenting the desires of the majority of women in this country.

America, quit allowing the minority to rule you.

People, you do have a choice in the matter.

Mrs. David W. Hines, City

Morals Rotting Away

TO THE EDITOR:

Ferdie J. Deering sure hit the nail on the head when he wrote "Standards of Decency Disappearing." As a senior citizen I ask myself "What is happening to us?" "As the World Turns" used to be a decent TV program to watch but it too is turning to the world of immorals. For some reason the program must show bedroom scenes of unmarried people.

The way women dress and expose themselves on TV is outrageous. Forty years ago a woman dressed as such was considered a prostitute.

So many men are no longer clean-shaven, not that there is anything immoral about a beard, but it just doesn't look good.

Then there is the disrespect that people have for each other. Parking spaces marked for disabled are overused by the able. Some people park crosswise in parking spaces, and on left sides of streets, and as

pedestrians, walk anywhere across a main street even though there are crosswalks and lights for that purpose.

America today is at its lowest ebb in honesty and morals and it will go lower and lower until we citizens will destroy ourselves from within. Yes, Mr. Deering sure said it right, "Standards of Decency Disappearing."

It is too bad that some of this generation can't realize that, for they will be the losers. As things are today, the dishonest, the immoral, the killer, the speeder, etc., have more rights than the citizens of honesty and high moral standards.

This all comes about because of separation of God and State. State laws must be based upon the Ten Commandments of God. It is a historical fact that when a nation does not abide by the laws of God, it will in time destroy itself.

Today we hear about the Moral Majority, but the way it appears maybe it is a Moral Minority. All I can say is that people of high moral standards have a great big task ahead if this nation is not to be destroyed from within.

What makes it so hard today for folks of high morals is that some of our high court judges rule in favor of the anti-God and immoral on the grounds of civil rights but the civil rights of the majority are thrown out of the window.

Joseph C. Coughlan,
Kingfisher

Direction Unclear

TO THE EDITOR:

In the Dec. 7 Sunday Oklahoman, Allan Cromley quotes Judy Bachrach in an interview with Mickey Edwards. Ms. Bachrach was said to have made Mickey out to be sort of a closet moderate who votes and talks a very conservative game.

About a year ago, Leland Gourley, in Friday, stated that there were some doubtful conservatives in Mickey's congressional district who believed Mickey might even be a closet liberal. Of course Mickey denied this charge a week or two after that, also in Friday.

Recently, Mickey has made public