

Readers Speak Up On Controversial Issues

What Is Wrong?

EDITOR:
 We of the older generation wonder what is "wrong" with the younger generation. What is "right" with us? What can we expect from them? What is their legacy? Here is some of the gap we have been feeding them:

1. This is a government for the people and by the people. Is it? Richard Nixon is not the people's choice, and the people know it. Hubert Humphrey is not our choice, and we know it. It is time we had some integrity and honesty in Washington. The electoral system is unfair, unjust and passe and should be scrapped as soon as possible. The people should choose their own President by popular vote; it is our right as American citizens. We cannot preach freedom around the world until we have it here—("do as I say, not as I do").

2. It is against the law to kill. Guns are manufactured for one thing only: To kill. Yet they can be bought anywhere. Does this make sense? I don't think it does. Within five years we have had three great men shot down in cold blood while they were striving to better their country.

Violence is becoming our way of life. It is being constantly glorified by films, television and all media. Children are being exposed to cruelty every day and will become inured to it. Our young people idolize Bonnie and Clyde instead of Rachel Carson.

Only law enforcement officers should have access to guns, and they should be permitted to use them only to enforce the law. Gun registration is a joke. Anyone who is planning a murder is not going to be foolish enough to sign up for it.

3. Another fallacy: In America we are all equal. Now, you and I know this is not true. If you are well-heeled you can literally get away with murder. It's been done before this and we see it happening more and more.

If your skin is a light hue, it helps too. I am glad to see black people are becoming proud of their blackness, and well they should be. There is a great history (why isn't it in our history books?).

4. How can we teach our youth, here. As a brother and soon-to-be grandfather, I am concerned about this country's future, driven everywhere. They

net little or no exercise. Instead of stressing a balanced diet, exercise and well being, they are exposed to cigarette commercials, still making the buck on the boob tube instead of reading good books. It is our fault, and let's not forget it.

We have let these things happen to our kids and we cannot duck the issue. Do you know what a vine-ripened vegetable or fruit really tastes like? Our foods are pickled green and packaged in plastic after they have been poisoned by sprays.

Pure water is a thing of the past. Our streams are all polluted by wastes from factories manufacturing more useless things we don't need. Everything is disposable: bottles, diapers, etc. We are running out of places to dump our refuse. So what are we doing? Making more and more disposables.

We are making beautiful America one big rubbish heap. The planned obsolescence of our cars by the automobile manufacturers is a slap in the face which we continue to condone. Our highways are strewn with head-on and billboards which ruin the landscape (making the buck, again). Kentucky is an exception, it is still holding out against billboards. More power to them.

5. Are we trying to ruin the so-called "backwards" (our word) countries, too? They were better off before we barged in where we were not wanted. If a country must have a revolution to right injustices, so be it. Where would we be without revolution? Or any country, for that matter.

Let other countries work out their own destinies as we will have to do. And, believe me, we have a lot of work to do. It is time we stopped trying to be Big Brother to the world. Get out of other countries (we are all over the world) and bring our people back here where they belong.

This will not bring back our two boys we have lost in our family in Vietnam, but it will save others -- both our boys and theirs. If we do not wake up and make our country a decent place for all Americans (black, white, red, brown and yellow) we are going to have our own revolution right here. As a brother and soon-to-be grandfather, I am concerned about this country's future, driven everywhere. They

I am an eighth-generation American, and I am ashamed of my country and what it is doing and where it is obviously headed. Let's admit we have made enormous goods (and we have). This recognition will be the first step toward redeeming ourselves.

Maybe we can restore some of the faith that our young people have lost in us. Let's hope it is not too late. It must not be too late.
 LORETTA L. McCARTNEY
 Westland

Chances To Learn

EDITOR:
 As a citizen of Wayne County do you wonder what all the talk is about Wayne County Home Rule? Do you realize what home rule means and how it will affect our county? Many people are discussing these questions among themselves, but the news media is not giving us its true meaning. Let's not be brainwashed by what the board of supervisors feel the board should be told but let's get the facts.

Have you read the newspapers or heard on television about the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments? Do you wonder what this organization is and what its functions are? If you have questions about home rule or Seneca why not come to Henry Ruff School on Sept. 27 to hear Senator Robert Huber of Troy?

MRS. LOUISE REBANDT
 Garden City

Controversial Play

EDITOR:
 As the musical director of "Anything Goes" I feel a responsibility to respond to the

letter stating that it was not an appropriate show for high school students. Several basic points must have been overlooked to arrive at such a conclusion.

First, the play is worthy of production because it represents an important musical era in the development of jazz, this country's principal contribution to the musical world. Porter's music is worthy of the acclaim that earned him a prominent place in our musical heritage.

Second, the script is very moral. It has no crude love scenes, no violence and no killing. It is a humorous, obviously SATIRICAL treatment of an era around the early 30's that has several interesting parallels to our own time.

People, adjusting to new affluence, substituted frivolous entertainment and an overly casual approach to life for lack of a more worthy purpose. Crime often seemed glamorous and exciting to the public. A

motion picture similar to "Bonnie and Clyde" enjoyed tremendous popularity. Even dress styles were similar and people enjoyed the notion that styles were a bit provocative. The script deals with the values of this time in a satirical manner. However, in the second act a perfectly good and pure leading lady condemns the permissive society and everyone happily married.

Don't underestimate the intellectual maturity of high school students and their ability to understand dramatic satire. Drama is a potent form of expression. It is especially likely to stimulate a strong audience response if it deals with the values or morals of society in a critical way.

However, drama students should occasionally be allowed to deal with the real world if they are to understand the effect and purpose of drama. It would not be fair to restrict their experience to only irrelevant and overly idealistic scripts.

Personally, I am most disturbed by the premise that high school students should have such a highly restrictive intellectual environment. If we expect the younger generation to deal thoughtfully with values and morals we must be

ready to express reasonable confidence in their intellectual maturity and try to lower the barrier that so often prevents kids and adults from talking together about things that are really important.

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