



# F.A.C.S. Report

FOUNDATION for the ADVANCEMENT of CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
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## Under What Authority?

by Howard Phillips

**A**S AMERICA'S DECLARATION of Independence affirms, we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights.

But let us not ever forget that those who instituted the Federal government intended that it would faithfully safeguard those rights, not usurp, squander, or disregard them.

To the Creator, who is the author of our liberties, we owe a duty of stewardship, to assure that the civil government — which derives its just authority from our consent — is held accountable through us to the ultimate sovereign, God Almighty. It is in acknowledging His law-system that we — and the government for which we are responsible — manifest our recognition of God as our Lord, as well as our Creator and Savior.

The issue in politics today is not Republican versus Democrat, or conservative versus liberal, but rather it is *under what authority and by what standard shall we live* — as individuals, as families, as communities, and as a civil polity.

The laws of God are fixed for all generations. His Law-word is unchanging. It cannot be altered or amended by a

two-thirds vote of Congress, by a Presidential executive order, or even by the unanimous decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Abortion is always wrong — and no statute, edict, or court ruling which approves the destruction of God's handiwork can licitly contradict the Biblical

Homosexual conduct is not merely a threat to public health, it is an abomination in God's sight.

If America is to be blessed by God, if our nation is to be approved by God, we must not exalt, subsidize, or accept the legalization of that which He declares to be an abomination.

A crime against the law of God is, after all, more serious than the violation of an arbitrary government regulation. The judgment of God overrides the opinions of men.

The Bible instructs that whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed. That means capital punishment must be the policy. Public opinion may prefer parole, probation, or even building more prisons. But God's Word prescribes execution for murder, and, restitution, not prison terms, for offenses against property.

The land cries out for retribution. It's

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***"It's time to insist on a Constitutional budget, coupled with the elimination of the income tax, the corporate tax, the estate tax, and all taxes which unfairly and improperly enable Federal bureaucrats to invade our privacy, regulate our conduct, or steal from us. . . ."***

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injunction that the first duty of the law is to prevent the shedding of innocent blood.

*Under What Authority?* Was the keynote address at a national affairs briefing held in Memphis, Tennessee, January 19, 1996. Married with six children, Howard Phillips is founder and Chairman of the U.S. Taxpayers Alliance. He has also been Chairman of the Conservative Caucus (TCC) since 1974.

Previously, during the Nixon Administration, he headed two Federal agencies, the President's Council on Youth Opportunity and the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity.

During his service in the Executive Office of the President, Phillips earned national recognition for his efforts to terminate Federal programs which furnished ideological patronage for the radical left by promoting abortion, homosexuality, "welfare rights," and the

destruction of America's constitutional heritage.

A 1962 graduate of Harvard College, where he was twice elected president of the Harvard Student Council, Phillips is a former chairman of the Republican Party of Boston. In 1992, Phillips helped found the U.S. Taxpayers Party, which nominated him for President at its New Orleans convention.

His Book, *The Next Four Years: A Vision of Victory*, helps chart a course for returning America to its Biblical and Constitutional foundations.

Phillips is also editor of the bimonthly *Issues and Strategy Bulletin* published by his consulting firm, Policy Analysis, Inc.

time to stop letting those who have killed before kill again.

We have capital punishment — but, all too often, it's for the victims, not the criminals. We must sentence to death the guilty murderers, not the law-abiding innocents.

And, at the same time, we must never let our politicians forget that we have a



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God-given right and duty to defend ourselves and our families — which cannot be delegated and must not be surrendered.

The right to keep and bear arms must be preserved.

Today, our civil government is not accountable to the laws of God, because those of us who profess to honor God, and to accept him as the Lord of our lives, have failed, as stewards of God's justice, to hold accountable, through us, to Him, the officials of civil government who use our votes, and our taxes, to implement their anti-Biblical policies.

Let's take politicians off the pedestal and recognize that elected officials are supposed to be our servants, not our masters, so that we may better obey our Master in Heaven.

**T**HE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE is this: "What is the source of law?" There are only three possible answers: either the government itself is the source of authority, or it is flawed reason, or the Holy Bible.

The correct answer is the Holy Bible. God's Word is the source of truth and law. Only the Bible holds a true course; all other options are flawed, false, and imperfect.

For too many decades, Christians, conservatives, and Constitutionalists have failed to responsibly exercise our duties of stewardship in the political arena.

We have permitted our civil government at the Federal level to break the bonds of accountability to us.

We have permitted a civil service bureaucracy to grow up which too often serves itself and not the citizens and taxpayers from whom it derives its authority.

Congress has unconstitutionally permitted that Federal bureaucracy to not merely implement decisions crafted by public officials electorally accountable to the American people, but to make policy on its own.

Congress has also authorized the establishment of a vast array of regulatory agencies whose very existence contradicts the requirement of Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution that "all legislative powers" shall be exercised by Congress.

In like manner, Congress has consigned, over the past three decades, many hundreds of billions of dollars of your hard-earned taxes to the control of private groups — accountable only to themselves — which have used the resources placed at their disposal to change American civilization to conform to their private predilections, using the courts, the streets, the culture, and the corridors of power to render the very process of elections, by means of which we are to exercise our stewardship, increasingly irrelevant in shaping the course of public policy.

Congress has, moreover, failed to exercise its role as guardian of the Constitution.

Presidents of the United States seek to transgress the confines of their legitimate authority. Presidential executive orders, which purport to make law, are unconstitutional from start to finish. The Constitution makes the President our Chief Executive, not our Chief Legislator.

**A**ND THE PRESIDENT'S role as commander-in-chief extends only insofar as he provides leadership in defense of the United States of America.

Congress was derelict in its duty in failing to oppose President Clinton's unconstitutional Bosnian intervention.

And Congress, which has the principal responsibility "to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces", has been delinquent in its failure to protect courageous American soldiers — such as Michael New — from being forced to replace their American I.D. cards with U.N. cards, and in failing to protect American military personnel from visibly transfer-

## The Gospel for the Milkman: Presuppositionalism in Action

by Steve Schlissel

"Good morning, Mr. Jones."

"Good morning, Reverend Schnitzel."

"That's Sch-L-i-SS-el, Mr. Jones."

"Er, uh, sorry, It is a nice day, isn't it?"

"Yup. God sure gave us a beaut today."

"Maybe we ought to keep to the weather. I know you're a religious man, but I'm pretty much convinced that we're on our own here. I think religion is basically a cop-out."

"'Opiate of the people,' and all that, huh?"

"Yeah, I mean, I've got nothin' against believin' in God if it makes them feel better, or whatever. But I'm more realistic."

"Oh?"

"That's right. When I was a kid I used to go to church and catechism class but now I see that life is what you make it. Experience has taught me a thing or two, and I guess if I had to have a 'religious' motto it would be 'God helps those who help themselves.'"

"Mr. Jones, do you have a few minutes to sit down and chat? These are very important matters that we're talking about and I feel that they deserve more than a front-door mention. Your eternal well-being is at stake here."

"My, we are getting serious, aren't we? All right. I'm about through with my run. 'Just have two more deliveries to make over in Bay Ridge. Why not? I suppose the milkman just might teach the preacher somethin'!"

"Fine, fine. Let's sit down over here in the living room. Good. Now I want to share with you something that Jesus said. 'I am the way, the truth and life. No man comes unto the Father except by me.'"

"Well, that may be fine for you. That's OK. I've got a lot of Christian friends, and I don't mind them really. A couple of 'em have even asked me to consider



ring their allegiance from the Stars and Stripes, and their oath from the Constitution of the United States, to the blue berets of the United Nations and the arm patch insignia of Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In Nazi Germany they took an oath to "the Führer"; but in America we obey not Bill Clinton, but the Constitution of the United States.

**C**ONGRESS HAS ALSO — in a most fundamental way, one that is not even widely debated or understood — surrendered control of our political system and the economic well being of every family to a Federal Reserve System which unconstitutionally exercises power over the value of the dollars we hold and the rates of interest we pay.

From 1787, when the Constitution was adopted, to the creation of the Fed-

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*"We have permitted a civil service bureaucracy to grow up which too often serves itself and not the citizens and taxpayers . . . ."*

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eral Reserve in 1913, the total cumulative rate of inflation for those 126 years was less than 20%. But, in the 83 years since 1913, our country has suffered under an inflation rate which exceeded 1000%.

America's standard of living is incrementally reduced, year by year, as the Fed collaborates with Congress and the Executive Branch to increase the amount of wealth controlled by government and diminish the resources which remain available to working American families.

Perhaps the greatest challenge to our ability to play a role of Godly stewardship over the affairs of our own government has been the relentless accommodation by leaders of both major political parties to the surrender of American resources and American decision-making authority to institutions of the New World Order — including NAFTA, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations, and other entities — which are in no way premised in the acknowledgment of God as the source of authority and the supreme law-giver.

The founding premises of America's Declaration of Independence and Constitution were crafted by such men as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, while the charter of the United Nations

was given force and life by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, and his American spy, Alger Hiss.

Unless we wake up soon, my fellow Americans, it may be too late to extricate America from the yoke of an anti-Christian majority at the United Nations, dominated by the likes of Castro's Cuba, Kaddafi's Libya, the Ayotollah's Iran, Communist China, a reborn Soviet empire, and all of the other governments around the world, from Nauru to Namibia, each of which, separately, has a voice at the United Nations equal to that of the United States of America, and which, collectively, look forward to the day when the fundamental principles of our nation and the policies of our civil government can easily be overridden and redirected by the edicts of their hand-picked bureaucrats.

My friends, it's time for us to do our duty. It's time for us to put principle ahead of party, to put policy ahead of political personality, to put God and country before "political correctness", and for us to recognize that the duty we owe God ought to be of greater concern and priority to us than any stigma we might acquire by reason of our rejection of the conventional political wisdom.

There was a time in America when it was said, correctly, that "ignorance of the law is no excuse".

That was the time when our governing authorities acknowledged that the Bible is the source of law.

Now that Bible has been replaced, in the highest levels of our government, with scores of thousands of pages and micro chips of regulations, laws, and judicial rulings.

We need also remind the members of our judiciary that their job is to declare the law —not to rewrite it.

**L**ET US TAKE the Constitution at its word when it makes clear that Federal judges do not serve for life, but only during good behavior — that one need not be an attorney to be eligible for judicial appointment — that Congress can limit the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court — and that, like every other agency of civil government, the Federal courts are dependent on the power of the purse, which can be withheld when that purse is being expended in furtherance of corrupt, anti-biblical objectives.

Jesus, and to tell the truth, I've got no quarrel with most of his teachings. After all, who's against peace and love and everything?"

"Mr. Jones, some Christians might talk to you in a way that would encourage you to take a walk down that 'way' Jesus spoke about; some might even encourage you to vacation there, so to speak, while you maintain your permanent residence somewhere else. I want to make it quite clear that what I'm going to ask you to do is not simply consider Jesus, or entertain Jesus, or use Jesus on desperate occasions. No. What I'm going to try to present to you is the message of the Bible which teaches us that we have to move lock, stock and barrel from where we've become accustomed to living, straight into the Kingdom of the Father, and that the only way there is via the Son. God *commands* you to repent and believe."

"Whoa! That's quite a mouthful for openers! But I think I can handle it. Not many people know this, Reverend, uh, Sch,li,ss,el, Reverend Schlissel, but I'm an MIT dropout. Before becoming a milkman I wanted to be a nuclear engineer. However, after reading three or four books by Ralph Nader, I decided delivering milk was more productive for my society. You see, even if there is a God, He knows I'm a pretty good guy, so I'm not worried."

Mr. Jones, what's your first name?"

"Bartholomew, but you can call me Bart."

"Fine. And you can call me Reverend Schlissel. HA! Just kidding. You can call me 'Steve'. You know, Bart, what you said was a 'mouthful' (as you called it) at least equal to mine. Even in our first statements we've revealed that we look at life and interpret it in RADICALLY different ways. Now one thing's clear and for sure, don't you think? We can't BOTH be right. You talk about a God who may or may not exist, about the ability to be logical and rational without such a God as may or may not exist, and at the same time you seem to be concerned about justifying yourself before this God who may or may not call you into judgment. What I say, on the other hand, is that the God of the Bible is the God who created and sustains the heavens and the earth. Without him, nothing else could conceivably exist, nothing could continue to exist. That fact that you and I are here, first presupposed that he created us. Secondly, unless the God of the Scripture exists, there is no such



God instructs us that "thou shalt not steal". That rule applies to government as well as to individuals. When the Federal government spends even a single penny for a purpose which exceeds the powers delegated to it and enumerated in the Constitution of the United States, it is stealing from you and me.

If the expenditures of the Federal government were limited to those functions prescribed in the Constitution of the United States, we would have a balanced budget today — not seven or ten years from today — and the budget could be balanced without a single additional penny being extracted from taxes on individual American citizens or from American businesses.

It's time to insist on a Constitutional budget, coupled with the elimination of the income tax, the corporate tax, the

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***"It will be a profound disappointment if we fail, but it will be a tragedy if we fail to try. . . ."***

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estate tax, and all taxes which unfairly and improperly enable Federal bureaucrats to invade our privacy, regulate our conduct, or steal from us the savings and earnings to which we and our families are entitled, and on which civil government has no legitimate claim.

My fellow Americans, it is time for us to stop agreeing "to lose as slowly as possible". We must resolve not to be content merely changing drivers on a bipartisan Big Government, "business as usual" train, which, by its present course, will take us all over the cliff.

**B**EFORE IT IS TOO LATE to take our families and our nation off an ever steeper and more slippery slope, let us declare our independence of irrelevant partisan loyalties and cloudy political labels and resolve instead that our goal shall be unequivocally to restore this once great nation of ours to its Biblical premises and to, once again, confine our Federal government to its proper Constitutional boundaries.

Our Federal Constitution is a rule book for effective national government — a government which must be limited to the power delegated to it by the states and specifically enumerated in its pages.

Civil government is never an instrument of salvation, but we can stop it from continuing to be a force for moral, cultural, institutional, and fiscal degradation.

In the space of a single term, a President who earns the support of tax-payers tired of being enslaved to tax-users, a President who is prepared to govern confrontationally, using all of the power explicitly delegated to him, can get the job done, and win us back many additional decades of liberty, tranquility, and prosperity.

By appointing pro-life judges, vetoing funds for Planned Parenthood, and prosecuting abortionists and abortuaries for violations of Federal law, he can end legal abortion in America.

By proposing a Constitutional budget, and vetoing all expenditures inconsistent with it, he can balance the budget in his first year, while eliminating all direct taxes on American citizens and businesses.

Article I, Sections 7 and 9 of the Constitution make it clear that whenever a President, backed by as few as one third plus one of the members of either House of Congress decides to use his veto, not a single penny can be released from the Federal treasury for any purpose whatsoever.

By rejecting all appropriations with funds for the U.N., NAFTA, the World Bank, and similar entities, he can extricate us from the New World Order.

By cutting off the money for the Legal Services Corporation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the organized homosexual movement, he can undercut the tax-subsidized assault on America's families.

By terminating the Federal role in education, he can restore state, local and, above all, parental guidance of our children's values, their conduct, their training, and their future.

We don't need a new Constitution, my friends, we need a President and a Congress with the courage and integrity to use the one we have.

The Bible makes it clear that, to seek power for self-aggrandizement or self-realization is not merely unworthy, it is contemptible. There is a purpose to power. It is to glorify God. It is to help advance His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven. It is to implement those princi-

thing as "logic" or rationality or anything else. Statements, arguments, ethics, life — none of these have any meaning.

"Furthermore, your comment about your being a "pretty good guy" demonstrates that you know full well, deep inside you, that the God I declare to you is your God, that he made you in his image, that you are not on good terms with him, and that you seek, need, but do not find (on your terms) justification. I hope you will discover that Jesus Christ is the only solution to these problems."

'Oh, I don't agree at all. . . ."

"I didn't think you would (yet, that is, I pray)."

"No. That will not do. The evidence is on my side."

"What evidence?"

Why, science, evolution, history. Things continue as they have since the beginning, developing under the guidance of Nature. Man is obviously, to any unbiased view, the key player in this arena. God has, is and will remain at best a dispensable question mark."

"Letting your suggestive remark about 'the beginning' pass for now, I'd like to focus on that comment about 'any UNBIASED view'. Your statements and your current position are proof enough that there is no such thing as an 'unbiased view'. According to the Bible you have a very strong interest in denying the truths about God which know in virtue of your having been created in his image. When you look at the world, you seek not to understand it as God created it, but you first, before anything else, deny his ownership, though he's left his name on everything everywhere. Again, it is quite obvious we cannot both be right; and I urge you to consider further the things I am saying, hoping that God the Holy Spirit will show you their veracity and bring you to repentance. For it is very sinful to deny God and the knowledge of God. Bart, on your principles, how can you know anything?"

By tests and verification of tests by the community."

"Leaving for the moment the loss that definition leaves for you in the area of, say, historical data, which is not subject to repeated experimentation, let me ask you upon what principle the validity of tests rests?"

"Why, that's very simple; upon the continuity or regularity of events and things as observed by man since the beginning."



ples which we profess, and to practice the policies which arise from them.

If we are in any way serious, it would be as recklessly irresponsible for us to fail to provide for our political future after the Democratic and Republican Conventions, as it is for a father to fail to provide for the welfare of his wife and children by obtaining adequate life insurance coverage while he is healthy and strong enough to do so.

If there were ever a moment in history that required service and sacrifice, not servitude and servility, this is it.

In order to succeed, each of us must have the courage to risk failure, and each

time we fail we must vow with all of the strength which God gives us to rise again until success is obtained.

**O**UR OBLIGATION is not just to ourselves, to our families, to our states and to our nation, but to all the generations which will follow.

Our weakness and human inadequacies are such that, if we prevail, to God will go all the glory. No one could possibly believe we did it on our own. It will be a profound disappointment if we fail, but it will be a tragedy if we fail to try.

In taking our stand, let us be mindful of the inspired words of the first and

greatest President of this Constitutional republic who, at a similar point of decision more than 200 years ago, admonished his colleagues and co-workers, as I now admonish you, that, "If, to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disbelieve, how may we afterward defend our work? Our task is to raise a standard to which the wise and honest may repair, recognizing that the event is in the hand of God."

Let each of us, here and now resolve to raise anew that standard of Biblical truth and Constitutional liberty -- and may we never again let it drop from our faithful stewardship.

## The Gospel for the Milkman (continued)

"There goes that 'beginning' again! Be that as it may, how do you account for this 'regularity'?"

"Well, things ARE just that way. That's the way it is."

"But, of course, if things rest on no firmer foundation than that, tomorrow, conceivably, things may be entirely different. Furthermore, don't you maintain, as an evolutionist, that these entries of entirely different orders have happened and will happen again? What happens to scientific knowledge on that flimsy basis? No. It seems that you first account for creation on the basis of pure chance, and then you build your science on pure pattern. Now don't you see that such irrational thinking must be *motivated* by something? Bart, your explanation of life explains nothing! In fact, it makes explanations of anything impossible. I think, if we had time, that I could demonstrate to you that you do the same thing with moral precepts. If the Triune God of Scripture is not the ultimate determiner of what is right and wrong, morality is rooted in nothing, grows out of chance, and serves no purpose. A murderer is morally equal to a healer. Theft as theft would not be possible because, unless God is the original and rightful owner of all, no one could be the rightful owner of anything.

"Of course, you'd find it difficult in a world like that. Someone might take your milk route simply because he was bigger or stronger. On your principles, that should simply be the introduction of a 'new order'. You have no unchangeable standard, nothing that stands above you, settled in the heavens, (as the Scripture describes God's Law) of which that would be a violation. Yet, in your heart

you'd be outraged. You'd insist that what that bully did was unfair, not right."

"You bet I would!"

"But why? On what basis?"

"On the basis of, I've been doing this route for eleven years. I've got a contract with the dairy."

"What good is a contract in a world of ultimate flux, a world in which 'science' so-called has 'demonstrated' that the law of the jungle, 'might makes right,' is the one that 'nature' has established to ensure the survival of those most fit to rule, and to father the future generations?"

"Hey, hold on a minute. That sounds more like the Nazis than the good ol' US of A."

"You're quite right, Bart. Totalitarianism is precisely where the denial of the true God leads a society. But let's not get into that just now. Instead, let me ask you, if morality is rooted in nothing higher than social consensus, why is Nazism wrong? If the majority of a population accepts Nazi principles, who gives you the right to tell them they're wrong? They're just "doin' their own thing", as the saying goes."

"Yeah, but the whole history of the world, I mean, most cultures, uh, societies, er, you can't just go around killing people. You just can't. It's not right. It's horrible!"

"Oh, you know I agree! I'm simply maintaining now that I can provide a reason for calling it dead wrong, using my principles. On your principles, you can only say something may be wrong "for yourself" {wherein 'wrong' means nothing more than personal prefer-

ence). Yet, because you ARE created in the image of God, and because you ARE what He says you are (and NOT what you claim to be), you find yourself BEHAVING and reacting on MY Christian principles, expecting others to do the same. And all the while, you incur the wrath of the God who has made you and all the things you claim are here 'by chance'. So you ACT as if there is an Almighty God, but you deny him and refuse to serve him."

"I think I don't feel so good. What should I do? I'm confused."

"Bart, listen. You're no different from me. The whole race has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Apart from his grace we do nothing but abuse his gifts and kindnesses that ought to lead us to repentance. As I hope I've shown you in part, we even use the gift of logical thinking to try to do away with the One who gave it to us, gave it so that we may know him and love him. But He is so loving that He sent Jesus Christ, His own eternal Son as an atoning sacrifice for sinners. When we see Christ's death, we see just how hateful our rebellion is in the sight of God. God wants you to repent, turn away from pretended autonomy. Satan has deceived you and you've been following his lie with pleasure. God demands that you look upon his Son, trust in him, and be baptized. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ will never perish, but live eternally in God's favor and presence. I could tell you more, but I'm afraid your milk will get warm."

"THE MILK! I forgot all about it. You know, no one has ever told me about the Christian faith in this way. I think I'm beginning to see that I've been very



**V**IOLENCE ON TELEVISION has come in for its share of criticism. Following the Port Arthur massacre the issue was raised again. Television and movies, it is claimed by some, do not influence people to do evil. This statement, however, is based upon three lies. So says one of America's leading film critics, Michael Medved.

In an article in the January 1996 edition of *Reader's Digest* Medved claimed that "an overwhelming majority of people feel Hollywood is out of touch with their personal views." The folk in Hollywood, however, do not accept this statement. In order to maintain their position, there are three lies that Medved highlights in his article.

The first lie claims "it's only entertainment — it doesn't influence anyone." Medved claims this is a lie because although the statement is made by people in entertainment, when challenged they don't really believe it. He cites the case of one person in the film industry who suggested that the movie *Lethal Weapon III* "saved thousands of lives". The basis for this claim was a three-second section of the movie showing actors Mel Gibson and Danny Glover fastening their seat belts.

In response, Medved argues, that if a three-second shot can influence people so too can the other 118 minutes of violence.

Another argument offered by those protecting the film industry cite samples of children who have not been influenced by the pornography, the violence, and the absurd. Medved's response is telling: "Just because the media don't influence *everybody* doesn't mean they don't influence *anybody*. When an ad runs on TV, no-one expects it will sell that product to everyone. If the commercial influences just one out of a thousand people, then it's considered a success. In the same way, if TV and movies provoke just one in a thousand to behave in the irresponsible, destructive way that is too often glorified in the media, then those images have made a profound impact on society."

Unfortunately, it is not necessary for TV to influence even one in a thousand. It only takes one person in 16 million to create the havoc of Port Arthur and 35 lives end in tragedy.

The second lie claims "We just reflect reality. Don't blame us; blame society." Medved demolishes this lie with the claim that if Hollywood reflects real-

ity then it would take about 50 days for everyone in the United States to be killed. He bases this on the average number of killings in an evening's viewing; about seven killed for 350 people appearing on screen.

Further, says Medved, referring to a Centre for Media and Public Affairs study, "seven of eight sexual encounters in TV dramas involve extramarital relations." Real life does not match this statistic at all. A 1994 University of Chicago study revealed that sexual activity and satisfaction is greater among married people than the unmarried. Hollywood's reality is one of its own fabrication. Yet this is Hollywood's most surreptitious influence, since the "true power of mass media [is] the power to redefine normal."

The last lie that Medved lists is this: "We give the public what it wants. If people don't like it, they can always turn it off." Box office returns of recent times, however, would indicate that this is Hollywood's greatest fancy. R-rated films constitute over 60 percent of movies, yet G and PG rated movies have done better in receipts by a factor of more than two to one. Continues Medved,

The last part of the lie, which says "If you don't like it, just shut it off," has the same logic as the statement "If you don't like the smog, stop breathing." You may not listen to the pop singer Madonna. You never chose to put Madonna in your mind, but you certainly know who she is and what she stands for. Popular culture is everywhere, like the air we breathe. That's why the messages of popular culture are an environmental issue.

Only by cutting off the funds for the immoral, the violent, and the absurd can we hope to stop the moral pollution that permeates so much of the entertainment industry. For this reason good films should be supported, argues Medved. Good movies, like good art, require a frame of reference upon which to make judgments. This in itself requires the setting of standards, not just about issues such as sex, abortion, murder, etc, but also about the quality of the film work, the quality of the acting, and the scripts. Thus, it will not just be the churches which must be involved in the improvement in the quality of entertainment, but schools and universities too must insist that there are standards — standards of quality in every discipline that help us discern the difference between the good, the bad, and the ugly.

### Milkman (continued)

wrong in my thinking, in my attitude, in my, uh, in my heart, I guess."

"And I can see that by the grace of God your epistemological self-consciousness has just been accelerated (tee hee). Why not come back after your two deliveries and we'll talk some more."

"Could we! That'd be great. I'll be back in about a half-hour."

"Terrific. See you then. And God bless you."

"Uh, God, God bless you, too, Rev."

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