

EDITORIAL



COMMENTARY

Modern mores greater threat than Iraq

By Michael Cross

Several months ago, countless American communities celebrated the return of our troops and their victory over Iraq. That was well and good, but greater issues — greater threats to our future — existed then, and now, than Saddam Hussein. Regrettably, few seem willing to admit to the magnitude of the problem facing our very biological survival.

Two wars occurred in the 1960s and '70s. One was Vietnam: We didn't accomplish our goals there, but it is over. The other was a "revolution" that is still haunting us — the "Sexual Revolution." The casualties associated with it will dwarf Vietnam and Iraq.

The Sexual Revolution involved conflict with two opposing views: traditional and permissive. The traditional view held that sex outside the marriage was wrong. The permissive view was, "If it feels good, do it."

The birth control pill allowed for increased experimentation. Unintended pregnancy, traditionally the prime deterrent to sex outside the marriage, became less of a concern. Later, abortion served as a backup birth-control method. Forget the "noble" Madison Avenue phrases of "liberation" and "choice." The average Joe who supports liberalized abortion laws is concerned with convenience and protection from responsibility.

For a while it seemed the "new ethic" would evolve into even higher realms. Most sexu-

ally transmitted diseases could be cured — eliminating another barrier to realizing this "brave new world." Some enthusiastically predicted that the future American would be so liberated sexually that they'd even be unconcerned with the issue of gender for dating decisions. But now, biology seems to have caught up, and it's taking its toll on our people.

The prime casualties of the Sexual Revolution have been the young. As they were told that traditional values were outdated and boring, and parents neglected their responsi-

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bility to adequately teach their children otherwise, millions accepted this new "morality." Now, up to 50 percent of U.S. teens, according to *Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality* (Vol. 25, No. 2, p. 26, 1991), are sexually active by 18. And that's even with all the headlines about AIDS.

In 1987, sexually transmitted diseases infected 2.5 million teenagers (*Clinical Pediatrics*, Vol. 29, No. 11, p. 626, 1990). Diseases like chlamydia cause 250,000 teens to develop pelvic inflammatory disease, and according to *Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality*, annually cause 30,000 cases of permanent sterility and 10,000 ectopic pregnancies.

And as for abortion, 1.5 million lives are "terminated" annually. That's not all, either. Abortion may be a factor in increased risk of cancer (*Journal of Epidemiology and Commu-*

nity Health, Vol. 44, No. 4, p. 258, 1990), and seems to cause a great many women to become unable to have children once they decide they want them (*Child and Family*, Vol. 4, p. 305, 1988).

Unfortunately, while sex messages bombard us daily (television, music, etc.), most Americans are rather repressed in dealing with the issue — especially with their children. Most parents want their children to abstain until marriage, and regard abortion and "alternative lifestyles" as unacceptable, but fail to address issues

within their families, thus leaving society, peers and schools to fill the gap. Good luck!

Some expect their church to do the job: For reinforcement, that's

good, to a degree, because youth who are more active in church have the least permissive attitudes and are less involved in premarital sex (*Journal of Marriage and the Family*, August 1989, p. 641). But parents still need to be directly involved in teaching desired values.

Sex, reproduction and the biological destiny of any people are inseparable issues. The "values" of our so-called "modern" era are clearly maladaptive, anti-biological, and threaten to destroy our civilization's very foundation — which is probably more than Saddam could currently accomplish.

Michael Cross is a resident of Springfield and holds degrees in political science and history and a master's in health.

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