



Letters to the editor

How TV Twisted Culture

With the untimely passing of Mary Tyler Moore, it should be remembered how TV (in its earliest years) transformed American morality. *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, along with other programs in the same era (*All in the Family* and *MASH*, for example), had a huge impact.

All in the Family was a frequently funny and well-written program, but it portrayed “conservatives” or Americanists as buffoons, and liberals as compassionate and intelligent. *MASH* portrayed standard military officers as hard-headed and obnoxious, and anti-communists as hysterical extremists.

Mary Tyler Moore pushed the envelope at a time when women were not ashamed to be chaste before marriage, and when abortions were considered morally reprehensible. Venereal disease, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and “swinging” were not socially acceptable. The writers of her program worked into the plot of a show where she stayed out overnight on a date that Mary, a single woman holding a highly responsible job, was on the pill. A scandal erupted after the episode aired.

Yes, Mary Tyler Moore was a TV icon. But one of the reasons she was so highly promoted by the mass media may have had to do with the moral dynamics of the early 1960s, when TV’s promotion of lenient sexual standards led inexorably to the decadent lifestyle of the 1970s, and beyond. The 1970s ushered in a wave of illegitimate births, abortions, and the abandonment of families by “boyfriends.”

Illegitimate births have now become common, along with the term “baby daddy.”

The Mary Tyler Moore Show and others initiated our descent into a society where being a “good girl” (a virgin) prior to marriage was out. Now the phrase “friends with benefits” indicates that extramarital sex is currently socially acceptable. The show helped transcend what had previously been high moral standards, and we have been paying the price of that for generations.

David Hammer

Sent via e-mail

Trump Intrigue

If you like the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the Order of Skull & Bones, the Bilderberg Group, and those infamous Rothschilds, you’re going to love the Trump administration.

Both Robert E. Lighthizer (for U.S. trade representative) and Elaine L. Chao (transportation secretary) are members of the CFR. Rex Tillerson (secretary of state) is not a CFR member, but his Exxon Mobil Corporation is a CFR Corporate Member. But wait, there’s more. Steven T. Mnuchin (treasury secretary) is a member of the Order of Skull & Bones, and Wilbur Ross (for secretary of commerce) is a former senior managing director of Rothschild Inc.

Now that’s quite a list so far, but it just wouldn’t be complete without throwing in a couple of Bilderbergers. Both Rick Perry (for energy secretary) and James Mattis (secretary of defense) have attended Bilderberg meetings, presumably to discuss how best to continue ushering in the new world order.

John J. Tobak



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Quit Breaking Stuff and Trust Trump

Ladies and gentlemen, students and parents, police and militia members, the Constitutions of the United States and of Maine are wonderful documents fully guaranteeing you and yours certain rights, while being the chains that bind government from infringing on your rights.

But your First Amendment right to freedom of speech does not include harming people, destruction of property, blocking streets, or in any other way interfering with the individual or property rights of others.

I know you were never taught that in school, but that's no excuse.

We have a new president who, unlike his four most recent predecessors, will enforce the Constitution. He is not one to turn a blind eye or, as Obama has done, give an encouraging wink. President Donald John Trump has sworn to enforce the law and he will.

Rev. Bob Celeste

Harrison, Maine



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