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# Education Gurus in Role of Propaganda Ministers for the Counterculture

## The 'Village' Could Actually Ruin Your Children

By THOMAS SOWELL

There was momentary shock recently at a news story about a teacher who had students as young as 12 watching a videotape of a rapist describing in graphic detail his sexual terrorizing of various women. Then the whole story faded away and has been forgotten, as if it were just another isolated happening.

There is nothing isolated about it. There was also nothing isolated about other stories this year about school children forced to strip naked against their wishes, and without their parent's knowledge or consent, for the school nurse—girls in Pennsylvania, a boy in Georgia. In none of these cases was the reason given anything other than a lame excuse.

Hearings held by the Department of Education back in the early 1980s showed systematic efforts to get children to lose all sense of sexual modesty, in schools across the country. The techniques have varied but the point has been the same. The only thing isolated about it is having some of this leak out to the media, which mentions it and then forgets it.

**The idea that strangers should be raising your children may sound very un-American, but that is hardly a deterrent to people whose whole orientation is counter to the traditional values of this country.**

Moreover, sexual modesty is just one of a whole spectrum of things taught to children in their homes which the schools think it is their job to undo by systematic propaganda to the country. Sometimes the children are shown movies of naked individuals engaged in homosexual activity. Sometimes boys and girls have been paired to talk about sexual matters. The methods vary with the teacher, the school and with what they think they can get away with in the particular community.

"AIDS awareness" programs are not about reducing the dangers of AIDS. They are about getting people to look more favorably on homosexual activities. Nothing is more likely to increase the incidence of AIDS.

### Undermining Values Taught by Parents

This attitude of undermining the values taught by children's parents is by no means confined to sexual matters. It extends to religion, morality, patriotism and other traditional beliefs. Such systematic undermining used to be called "values clarification"—until people caught on to what that really meant. Now new words and phrases are coined and used until they too are

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Left: Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, an organization that columnist Thomas Sowell offers as an example of those who advocate that children belong to the state. Right: First Lady Hillary Clinton, "who has been heavily involved with the Children's Defense Fund" and has written "disparagingly of the family," notes Sowell.



exposed.

There is a whole literature, going back many years, about both the methods and the justification for carrying on the brainwashing of children who were sent to school to acquire academic skills and to learn to use their own minds. The educational gurus believe that they are doing something "exciting" and "innovative" when they take on the role of local propaganda ministers for the counterculture.

The idea that strangers should be raising your children may sound very un-American, but that is hardly a deterrent to people whose whole orientation is counter to the traditional values of this country. The teachers may in many cases be no more than dupes, but the educational gurus know exactly what they are doing and how to do it.

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For example, giving students assignments to keep diaries is straight out of the original brainwashing programs that originated in China under the Communists. Very few of the teachers who make such assignments may know that, but those who promote such practices and programs built around them have followed many of the techniques developed in totalitarian countries.

The idea that the child belongs to the state has many other advocates outside the educational system. Organizations like the so-called Children's Defense Fund have been trying for years to get more "children's rights"—which of course will be ex-

ercised not by children but by lawyers and social workers using the name of children to enhance their own power to interfere in the home.

It is no accident that Hillary Clinton, who wrote disparagingly of the family more than 20 years ago, and who has been heavily involved with the Children's Defense Fund since then, has been promoting the idea that "it takes a village" to raise a child. In plainer English, outside busybodies want a piece of the action, even though they have none of the responsibility for the consequences.

The time is long overdue for us to start scrutinizing pretty words used to justify third parties taking over decisions for which they bear no cost. Although much of what these arrogant people do is open to serious criticism, such criticism can also be a distraction from the more fundamental question: Whose children are these? ■

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## HOW'S YOUR POLITICAL I.Q.?

1. Who was the last Republican presidential nominee endorsed by the Teamsters Union?
2. How many third-party candidates have been included in televised presidential debates?
3. How many third-party candidates have ever been included in vice-presidential debates?
4. How many former Republican national chairmen have ever received their party's nomination for President?
5. How many Democratic national chairmen have ever been nominated for President?

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