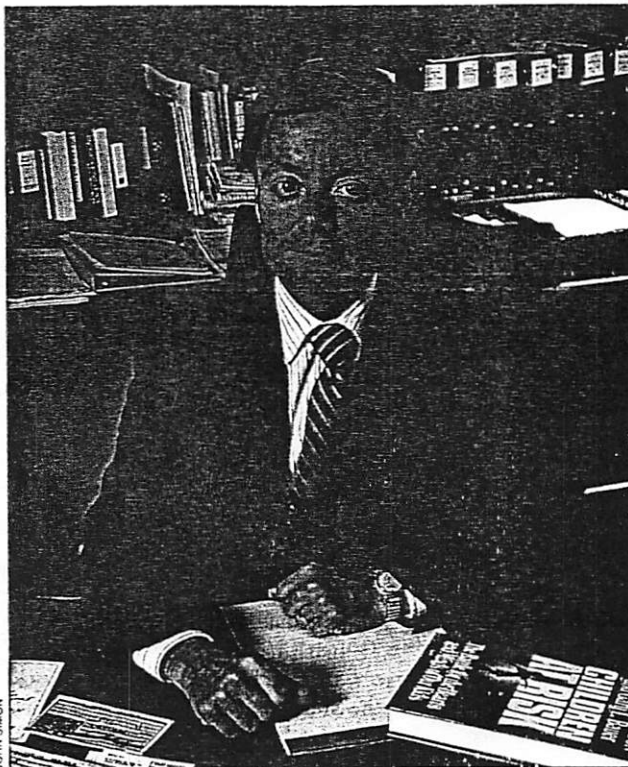


CHECKED FEB 10 1992

THE BATTLE OVER AMERICAN VALUES

One side wants a world where right and wrong are relative. The other side, a stable world built upon Judeo-Christian values. Gary L. Bauer, an expert on the family, says it's a second civil war. A report from the front.



JOHN SIMON

GARY L. BAUER
"Only a virtuous people can remain free."

THE United States now is engaged in another civil war, according to Gary L. Bauer, president of the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. It is a civil war with the forces of permissiveness, promiscuity, perversion and pornography.

Bauer has been in the front lines as a domestic policy adviser in the White House and as an under Secretary of Education. In 1986 he was chairman of a Special White House Working Group on The Family which issued a far-reaching report, "The Family: Preserving America's Future." He also is the co-author of the 1990 best-seller, *Children at Risk—The Battle for the Hearts and Minds of our Kids*.

Here is what Bauer has to say about the battle.

American Legion magazine: Mr. Bauer, is there a general assault on traditional American values like the family, patriotism, tough schooling and religion?

Gary Bauer: Absolutely, in fact it's not an overstatement to say that in some ways we are engaged in a second civil war. This one is not being fought on battlefields by standing armies; it's being fought in classrooms and editorial boardrooms, in our universities and among the families and intelligentsia of the country. It's a clash between two value systems—one radically secular and the other loyal to traditional American values. And in many ways it amounts to an all-out assault on the latter.

Q. What kind of people and groups are behind this assault?



COMSTOCK

A. There are all sorts of organizations that seem to have a stake in this. One that stands out is the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which in the past has done some very good things in representing individuals with legal problems.

But, particularly in recent years, it seems to have lent itself to a concerted assault on traditional values—whether it's on the role of religion in our society, the ability to teach reliable standards of right and wrong to our children in the classroom, any kind of norm about what a family is, or how it is we hope our citizens will choose to live. Time after time the ACLU has lent its considerable resources and talent to positions that undermine these standards.

Others include homosexual rights groups, which are very aggressive in this whole area. And not just in establishing the principle that homosexuals should be left alone, which I think many Americans would agree with, but in going the further step of saying that homosexuality ought to be subsidized and supported by our society and that we ought to accept such practices on a par with the heterosexual family, which has been the bedrock of civilization for thousands of years. You also have many politicians who have lent themselves to this assault. And many of the most influential journalists in our country, working for some of the most prestigious newspapers, have been active advocates in undermining traditional values.

Q. Is any group particularly active in political action?

A. Yes, there's one with the deceptive name of People for the American Way. It's not widely known by the average
Please turn to page 50

HIGHLIGHTS

Gary L. Bauer On...

What secularists want: "An amoral society—one incapable of telling right from wrong."

Freedom: "No right can be unlimited."

God: "That man gets his rights from a God, that liberty is God-given, that our nation is built on Godly principles—all these things are under heavy attack."

Journalists: "Many of the most influential have been active advocates in undermining traditional values."

Washington: "The values that predominate in this city are not the values of the average American."

The solution: "What needs to be done has to be done by individuals. Personal commitment must come first."

AMERICAN VALUES

Continued from page 23

average American citizen but, as one who has had to face them many times in Washington battles, I can state that this is a very active, effective and well financed group.

It receives quite a bit of money from Hollywood stars and movie moguls who have a very liberal agenda on these issues. It has been able to spend millions of dollars presenting its case in TV ads and other media, and has great influence in Washington.

Q. Is this assault planned and coordinated?

A. I wouldn't want to suggest that there's a conspiracy in the general sense that such groups get together in some secret meeting room to map out strategy. But I do believe it includes many individuals and organizations that share a particular world view and are totally committed to using our courts, our political process, our schools and our universities to promote their agenda.

And I think they do often talk about

what institution is going to come under attack next. For instance, in recent months we've seen what I believe is a coordinated attack on the Boy Scouts of America, an organization built squarely on traditional values.

Q. What kind of society would we have if these groups were successful?

A. First of all, these groups are successful right now, as they have been for the past 20 years. And if they continue their success for another 10 or 20 years, then we will have a society that is incapable of nurturing a new generation or of being economically competitive on the world scene.

It would be an amoral society—one holding that everything is relative, one that is incapable of telling right from wrong. All these trends undermine the foundation values needed to maintain a free democratic society.

Q. Is there an anti-Christianity tinge to this assault?

A. There is certainly a very hostile element to the whole notion of religion, whether it's Judaism, Christianity or whatever. The notion that man gets his rights from a God, that our liberty is God-given, that our nation is built on Godly principles—all these

things are under continuous and heavy attack.

Q. What about love of country or patriotism?

A. There was once a time when school students began the day by a moment of prayer, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, or singing "America." No more! Patriotism and prayer and morals instruction now have been virtually eliminated from the classroom—replaced by sex education and revisionist viewpoints of history that emphasize our nation's sins and failures instead of our forefathers' great contributions.

And who can forget the shock people felt when the Supreme Court in 1990 proclaimed the burning of the American flag as a form of free speech? Incredible!

Q. What can be done about these groups using the First Amendment to justify pornography?

A. That is a very troubling and difficult question to deal with. Unfortunately, I believe the radical secularists have been successful in convincing some Americans that our liberties are unbridled, that the founding fathers did not contemplate any restrictions whatsoever on things like free speech.

Yet our whole experience argues otherwise. No right can be unlimited. The analogy that's often used is you can't yell fire in a crowded theater. We don't allow pornography to be sold to 10-year-olds. And we discourage, and rightfully so, racist speech in our country.

I think we need a national debate to help educate the American people again about the fact that only a virtuous people can remain free.

Q. What about the separation of church and state? Hasn't that principle come in for extensive misuse as well?

A. It sure has. The founding fathers were very concerned that government would set up an established church—a church run by the government and subsidized by tax money. Yet today we've gone from that legitimate concern to where the very expression of religious faith in the public arena is considered to somehow be a violation of the constitution.

Everybody realizes that there's no longer organized school prayer. What many may not realize is that there have actually been federal court decisions that have upheld the right of a school

1,000 STAMPS \$2.95

GUARANTEED WORTH OVER \$30 AT STANDARD CATALOG PRICES!



REWARD YOURSELF NOW!

A great opportunity to increase the value of your present collection or to start a new one. You get 1,000 All-Different valuable Postage Stamps from over 55 countries — spectacular Old and New Issues included! Plus big illustrated Collectors' Catalog — Everything to Enjoy the World's Most Rewarding Hobby!

Yours Free! "Finder's Guide to Rare & Valuable Postage Stamps." This fascinating illustrated booklet will enable you to tell at a glance how to recognize rare stamps — stamps once considered relatively common and now worth up to hundreds and thousands of dollars each!

KENMORE, Milford OM-528, N.H. 03055

**90-DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE
IF NOT DELIGHTED!**

I enclose \$2.95. Rush me your 1,000 All-Different Postage Stamps from more than 55 countries (guaranteed worth over \$30 at Standard Catalog prices!) Plus big illustrated Collectors' Catalog and the "Finder's Guide to Rare and Valuable Postage Stamps." I will also be glad to receive other sensational selections from your 10-Day Free Examination Stamps-On-Approval Service from which I may purchase any or none — return balance in 10 days — with option to cancel Service anytime. (Limit One Advertised Offer Per Family)

Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____

principal to tell kindergarten children who are bowing their heads in prayer at lunch time, that they could not do that on school property. We've had a tremendous number of cases in the federal courts that come down to the idea that religion must never be allowed to be expressed in any kind of public forum. The founding fathers would be astonished by that.

Q. How about the misuse of the right of privacy to justify deviate behavior?

A. Most Americans believe they have a right to privacy. But, again, how far does that right go? We don't allow a man to beat his wife and, then, when the police come to his door, allow him to say, "Stop! This is my own home and I have a right to do what I want here." We don't permit someone to abuse drugs in the privacy of his own home and then cite that right as a defense. Again, here's a basic right that's being twisted to mean things that I don't think any reasonable man or woman would agree with.

Q. To what extent does the government advance these changes?

A. The federal government in particular has played a major role in these trends. I have been in Washington now for 20 years and the one thing that's clear to me is that the values that predominate in this city are not the values of the average American.

Second, legislation in many cases has made the problems worse. And even more outrageous, our tax money is often being channeled to the very organizations that have devoted themselves to undermining the values that most Americans believe in. If the average citizen was aware of where his tax dollars are going and how much ends up flowing to these extreme leftist organizations, he would be absolutely outraged.

Q. What's been the impact on the family?

A. The impact has been devastating, particularly on our children. If you look at the statistics on our children in 1960 compared with today, you find that in almost every measurable way, children are worse off today than they were 30 years ago. And much of that is because an increasing number of our children are being raised in homes where they do not have two parents present.

They're being taught in schools that are not arming them to deal with the

Please turn page

Vietnam Memorial Timepiece

NAM TIME... A memorial to the more than 58,000 U.S. servicemen and women who "failed" to make the return trip home. Its unique design contains more than 58,000 names inscribed on microfilm in a humble, but honest attempt to salute these brave, courageous and loyal Americans—they should never be forgotten...and much more, they should always be remembered.

Fellow Vietnam Vets:

"I am proud to offer Nam Time, a memorial, to all my brave comrades-in-arms, reminding them, as America begins to remember, we shall never forget."

Jack Stevenson
2nd Battalion
20th Artillery
1st Air Cavalry

(May 1967 to
May 1968)



- ★ Rolled Leather Black Band
- ★ Quartz Movement
- ★ Black Onyx Jeweled Stem
- ★ 2 Campaign Ribbons on Watch Face
- ★ 2 Microns of Gold Plate
- ★ Stainless Steel Back
- ★ Separate Piece of Microfilm Encased in Lucite for Viewing Under 150X Microscope

SEND ORDER WITH PAYMENT TO:
National Emblem Sales, Dept. W
P.O. Box 1050
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1050

SHIP TO:

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

() _____, ext. _____
DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER, PLEASE

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	TOTAL
	NAM TIME	\$99.95	

SALES TAX
(In these states only)

CA	7.25%
ID	5%
IN	5%
MA	5%
ME	5%
NE	5%

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$ _____ or
CHARGE MY: MASTERCARD VISA

SUBTOTAL	
SALES TAX See chart at left	
GRAND TOTAL	

_____/_____/_____
EXPIRATION DATE SIGNATURE (required for charge orders)

Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

AMERICAN VALUES

Continued from page 51

ethical and moral issues that they are going to face in their lives. They're living on streets where the breakdown of law and order has made playing in a playground in our urban areas literally a life-threatening undertaking.

Q. What can be done to shore up the family and traditional values against this assault?

A. Mostly, what needs to be done has to be done by individuals. Many people may have been tempted by the experimentation of the 1960s—by the notion that we could somehow throw overboard the old rules and guidelines on how to live one's life and remake everything in a better way. But while a lot of Americans now realize this was a failed experiment, they hesitate to make a real stand for traditional values. That personal commitment must come first.

Second, I would hope that at least some politicians get a little courage and start giving voice to what I believe are the concerns and desires of millions of

Americans. It's been said that politics abhors a vacuum. But right now the biggest vacuum in American politics is the absence of public figures who are willing to articulate and fight for the traditions that made this nation great.

Q. Why?

A. Our politicians today are in many cases captives of their pollsters and their consultants. One shudders to think what would have happened if Abraham Lincoln had called in pollsters to find out the latest thinking on slavery. He knew what was right. And he chose to lead the American people in that direction—not to follow the latest fad or trend.

It's also clear that public figures have been intimidated by radical secular groups; they know they're going to be in for a merciless personal attack if they stick their necks out.

Not long ago a certain congressman was up on ethics charges because a male prostitute had operated a prostitution ring out of his apartment. When I talked to other members of Congress about this, many closed the door and said: "Look, I agree with everything you're saying, but if I do something on this issue, I'm going to have these radical groups hammering on my office

door and engaging in sit-ins and picketing my home—and I just don't need that trouble."

Worst of all, there hasn't been an effective response from the other side. So politicians take the path of least resistance.

Overall, we have a minority of the population which is very powerful, which controls much of the public debate and the public media and which not only intimidates our public leaders but is pushing the whole nation in a direction most people simply don't want to go. It's downright frightening!

Q. What about the use of boycotts against publishers of pornography or against corporations that advertise on questionable TV programs?

A. The boycott is an effective weapon, as was shown when it was used decisively by the civil rights movement. It shows that one way the American people can vote and influence public action is with their pocket-books.

If a TV show is undermining the values they teach their children, they should not only turn off the station but they ought to remember the sponsors of that program and simply decide not to buy that corporation's products.

Q. Are there other groups like yours that people can turn to for help in participating in this counterattack?

A. Yes, we're affiliated with Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo. It puts out a great deal of information about strengthening the family and helping people deal with problems in their own home as well as in the public arena. Concerned Women of America in Washington, D.C., is another organization that is attempting to organize women around basic American issues of tradition and freedom.

Q. How about the churches?

A. The churches should play a major role in this battle. Unfortunately, the same timidity that's infected public officials, businessmen and so many others has sometimes infected the churches, too.

I've come across many pastors who don't want to get into these timely issues because they fear they'll be divisive. And yet it's impossible to talk about matters of faith and ignore what's going on in the community around the church. So one would hope that churches will take a more active role—and one sure way to make that happen is for individual members of their congregations to press them to do so.

Special Get-acquainted offer...

TWO SILVER CLASSICS

ACT NOW & SAVE

OVER 60%

In 1916 a German immigrant named Adolph Weinman designed two U.S. coins which reflected the new American spirit. These coins—the "Mercury" Dime and the Liberty Walking Half Dollar—were so beautiful they instantly became Collector Favorites!



Giant Savings For You

You can now own BOTH of these .900 Silver Classics for only \$5—and save over 60% off our regular catalog price of \$14! You'll also receive our fully-illustrated catalog, plus other offers on approval. This is a limited introductory offer—please, one set to a customer at this special low price. Act now!



Littleton Coin Company

Friendly Service to Collectors Since 1945

Mercury Dime & Liberty Walking Half

Regularly \$14.00 (Limit 1 set—Dates of Littleton's choice)...Now Only \$5.00

Send coupon with payment to:
Littleton Coin Co.
 Dept. LML222,
 Littleton, NH 03561

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____

45 Day Money-Back Guarantee of Satisfaction