

September 1997 Summit Journal

- [From the President's Desk](#)
- [The Month in Review](#)
- [Liberalism's Mark on America](#)
- [Russia, Then and Now](#)
- [Other](#)

From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

Please read the following statements and try to think where you heard this type of material before:

- (1) " Poor people in and outside of the United States are being `conditioned' to accept their place as the equivalent of `future sewage workers' in Aldous Huxley's novels."
- (2) "The victims of hunger and poverty are not primarily casualties of the Soviet Empire. They are victims of the international market economy which is being heralded as the savior of Eastern Europe and all of humanity."
- (3) "Together [Western Banks] ensure a continuous transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich."
- (4) "The third world poor blatantly subsidize the developed-country rich."
- (5) " The United States resembles a third-world country in its economic relations with its Western partners."
- (6) "People of faith and churches within the United States bear significant responsibility for the present crisis of poverty, militarism, and environmental decay."
- (7) "The dominant values of American life - affluence, achievement, appearance, power, competition, consumption, individualism - are vastly different from anything recognizably Christian."
- (8) "Racism is a pervasive feature of U.S. foreign and domestic policies."
- (9) "Wealth is an obstacle to the kingdom, not a sign of God's blessing."

(10) "Poverty is rooted in unjust social structures, not a sign of unworthiness or personal sin."

(11) "We can refuse military service or military-related employment."

(12) "Christians... must embrace and encourage tax resistance and nonviolence."

(13) "It is time to make nonviolence and refusal to participate in military service and military-related employment normative for Christians."

(14) "Praying and working for the defeat of our country [U.S.] in the context of its goals within the new world order is a gospel imperative."

(15) "Capitalism is not an economic savior, but oppresses the poor and may destroy the planet."

Okay, where did these statements originate? Are you seated?

These statements and many more like them are being offered to Christian young people involved with a program sponsored by the Christian College Coalition called the Latin American Studies Program.

The above quotes are from one of their textbooks - *Brave New World Order* by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer and published by a left-wing, pro-Marxist Roman Catholic order - The Maryknoll Order (fourth printing, October 1993).

As one concerned mother wrote, "This was the [C.C.C.] catalogue we received and sent our son to Costa Rica on the basis of the information in it and the credentials listed. Unfortunately, it was not as advertised."

Point of fact: the C.C.C. catalog advertising the Latin American Studies Program is a total hoax, deceptive in the extreme and an example of untruth in packaging. Even the ungodly world would protest such deception!

Next month we'll look at another one of the textbooks (*Latin American History, Contemporary Issues and Perspectives*). In the meantime, if your son or daughter is involved, make sure they have materials like P.T. Bauer's *Equality, the Third World, and Economic Delusion* and Ron Nash's *Beyond Liberation Theology* to combat such twisted propaganda.

The Month in Review

• "When Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who are the people saying I am?'

"'Well,' they replied, 'some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; some Jeremiah or one of the other

prophets.'

"Then he asked them, 'Who do you think I am?'"

"Simon Peter answered, 'The Christ, The Messiah, the Son of the Living God.'"

Matthew 16:13-16

- "Do not attempt to water Christianity down. There must be no pretense that you can have it with the Supernatural left out. So far as I can see Christianity is precisely the one religion from which the miraculous cannot be separated. You must frankly argue for supernaturalism from the very outset."

C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*

- "Carl Sagan organized and attended the Vatican [Pontifical Academy of Sciences] meeting... Carl was also one of my dearest friends... The days I spent with Carl in Rome were the best of our friendship... I dedicate this essay [Nonoverlapping Magisteria] to his memory. Carl also shared my personal suspicion about the nonexistence of souls [both Carl and Stephen were/are atheists] - but I cannot think of a better reason for hoping we are wrong than the prospect of spending eternity roaming the cosmos in friendship and conversation with this wonderful soul."

Stephen Jay Gould, *Natural History*, March 1997, p. 62

- Question: how is it that Harvard's Gould can talk about spending eternity with Carl Sagan and he is considered part of the "in" crowd while if Christians talk about spending eternity with Jesus Christ they are considered religious right-wing fanatics and a danger to society? Just asking!

One cannot read Stephen Gould's article in *Natural History* (March 1997) without coming to the conclusion that the Vatican and the present Pope are deep into theistic evolution. Gould makes it very clear that only the Protestant fundamentalists are into Creationism. Says Gould, "I certainly felt bemused by the anomaly of my role as a Jewish agnostic, trying to reassure a group of Catholic priests that evolution remained both true and entirely consistent with religious belief." Even Bertrand Russell had to admit that evolution and the Christian's concept of God are totally incompatible. Said Russell, "We are told that 'evolution is the unfolding of an idea which has been in the mind of God.' It appears that during these ages when animals were torturing each other with ferocious horns and agonizing stings, omnipotence was quietly waiting for the ultimate emergence of man, with his still more widely diffused cruelty. Why the Creator should have preferred to reach his goal by a process, instead of going straight to it, these modern theologians do not tell us." Perhaps the present Pontifical Academy of Sciences will share with us their response to Russell's challenge. The theological problem, of course, is why God would use the most cruel of all methods (evolution) to bring forth man. Genesis says God's methods were good, not cruel, but then Gould says the trouble is having to believe the Bible is "literally true." Perhaps we can take the non-literal approach and say that good really meant cruel!!

When the 19th century idea of evolution was put into practice in the 20th century (it was labeled "social Darwinism"), it caused the greatest destruction of human life in the history of the world - 170 to 320 million dead (see *Death By Government* by Rummell). Why would Christians allow the atheists (Sagan and Gould) to push them into the evolutionary camp... literally a death camp?

- "For years the pundits, moralists and self-righteous, self-appointed preservers of our culture have told us that television is bad. They've stood high on their soapbox and looked condescendingly on our innocuous pleasure. They've sought to wean us from our harmless habit by derisively referring to television as the Boob Tube or the Idiot Box.

"Well, television is not the evil destroyer of all that is right in this world. In fact, and we say this with all the disdain we can muster for the elitists who purport otherwise - TV is good.

"TV binds us together. It makes us laugh. Makes us cry. Why, in the span of ten years, TV brought us the downfall of an American president, one giant step for mankind and the introduction of Farrah Fawcett as one of 'Charlie's Angels.' Can any other medium match TV for its immediacy, its impact, its capacity to entertain? Who among us hasn't spent an entire weekend on the couch, bathed in the cool glow of a Sony Trinitron, only to return to work recuperated and completely refreshed? And who would dispute that the greatest advancement in aviation over the last ten years was the decision to air sitcoms during the in-flight service?

"Why then should we cower behind our remote controls? Let us rejoice in our fully adjustable, leather-upholstered recliners. Let us celebrate our cerebral-free non-activity. Let us climb the highest figurative mountaintop and proclaim, with all the vigor and shrillness that made Roseanne a household name, that TV is good."

ABC (sponsored ad), *TV Guide*, August 9-15, 1997

- "My son, H., attended your session which began on July 13, 1997. I wanted to personally thank you for your work for the cause of Christ. Because of your ministry and its guidance, H. called me on July 24th to let me know that he was a Christian. I am sure that you will agree that there can be no greater news for a father to receive. It has been my prayer for him since before he was born that he would know Jesus Christ as his personal savior. In fact it was 20 years before almost to the day that I made my decision to invite Jesus into my life. God works in wonderful ways and He is certainly working through you and your ministry. My joy, gratitude and thanksgiving cannot be adequately encompassed in my letter so I hope one day to be able to visit with you personally in order to share my excitement.

"H. speaks fondly of all of you. He speaks often of the testimony of Brent and the courage to live for Christ. I can truly say that I believe he is equipped for the challenges of college especially those forces that try to undermine our Christian values. Thank you again for your work. I wanted you to be encouraged in the service that you are providing in promoting the Gospel."

Liberalism's Mark on America

- "If liberals were inclined to murmur 'I am to blame,' to rend their garments, rub ashes on their foreheads and generally indulge in confessionals, they needn't reach back to the middle of the last century. There's more than enough on their consciences for which atonement is in order. Most abjectly, they should seek the nation's pardon for:

"The Sexual Revolution. From the early '60s, liberals told us that premarital sex was natural and healthy, monogamy boring, and anything two or more adults did in a horizontal position was salutary.

"Since, for them, this existence is the only reality, the heart's desire is the only guide. Michael Kennedy and Woody Allen are the perfect liberals.

"Success of the genital insurrection (against restraining social norms) may be measured in burgeoning rates of venereal disease, divorce, teen pregnancy and illegitimacy, as well as a new expression that's invaded our vocabulary - 'fatherless families.'

"The Crime Explosion. Liberal denial of personal responsibility and concern for the guilty (who were driven to murder and rape by lack of an enriching day-care experience) has had predictable consequences.

"Opposition to capital punishment, putting the rights of criminals above those of victims, the preference for rehabilitation over punishment, attacks on self-defense (gun control) and an ingrained distrust of law enforcement came with a price.

"In pre-liberal America, people could leave for the weekend and not lock their doors, honest citizens could stroll city streets at odd hours and not fear for their safety, riders on public transportation didn't glance anxiously at fellow passengers, wondering which wanted to murder and mutilate them.

"The Drug Culture. Back in the psychedelic era, liberals decided that mind-altering substances were cool, reality was a drag and drugs were a way to rebel against middle-class conformity. Tim Leary, Jerry Rubin, Abbie Hoffman and the entire cast of the Woodstock Nation urged us to turn on, tune in and drop out.

"This the hippies' children have done with a vengeance. Since the latter years of the Manchu Dynasty, there has never been a nation of addicts to rival '90s America.

"In the '80s, liberals took a short-term enlistment in the war on drugs. Their true feelings are reflected in the cavalier attitudes of the Clinton Administration.

"Last year, Secret Service agents testified that in 1993 and 1994 they tried to deny security clearances to at least 21 White House staffers for recent and serious drug use.

"Like Bill Clinton, liberals now deny they ever inhaled, a denial equally plausible.

"*Race Relations*. Thirty years after the end of segregation, race relations are increasingly poisonous. Liberals are the architects, general contractors and subcontractors of American race policy.

"They've spent decades reminding blacks of everything rotten that ever happened to them on these shores, and nurturing rage, resentment and a sense of entitlement in the process. This is reflected in the tendency to see racism where none exists, demands for racial spoils and the type of group consciousness the original civil rights movement opposed.

"It wasn't minorities but melanin-deficient liberals who devised the greatest injustice of our age - affirmative action. This has fostered rancor on the part of victims and outrage on the part of beneficiaries, when advantages are threatened.

"Look around you. America today is the soon-to-be-condemned house that liberalism built.

"Even Mike Tyson apologized (pathetic though it was) for chewing off part of Evander Holyfield's ear. But liberals, who've been tearing up our culture for decades, obsess on the crime of generations long dead while studiously ignoring their own capital offenses."

Don Feder, *Human Events*, August 1, 1997

- "Justice [William] Brennan died last week. He served for 34 years after President Dwight Eisenhower chose the Irish Democrat to help win the Catholic vote in 1956. Ike would later describe Justice Brennan and Chief Justice Earl Warren as two of the biggest mistakes of his presidency.

"Justice Brennan was clever, witty, affable and effective at building a court consensus. But his legacy is much more. 'One can agree with the Brennan opinions, and one may disagree with them,' said Justice David Souter, 'but their collective influence is an enormously powerful defining force in the contemporary life of this republic.'

"'Voice of Social Revolution,' *The Washington Post* called him. But Justice Brennan was more than a voice; he was an instrument of social revolution, a tiny tyrant who exploited his court seat to impose a radical agenda on an America that never seemed to measure up to Bill Brennan's standards.

"Our first revolution was a genuine people's rebellion against a distant and arbitrary king. Our political revolutions - Jacksonian democracy, FDR's New Deal, the Reagan Revolution - were the legacies of presidents with popular mandates. Their policies were validated in subsequent elections. That is how

social revolutions are supposed to happen in a republic.

"The Warren-Brennan revolution, however, was never of the people, by the people or for the people. It was a revolution from above, dictated by an unelected elite with life tenure that shredded the Constitution to fasten on society policies America abhorred.

"Whom did Justice Brennan's social revolution empower?

"Pornographers. Justice Brennan's 1957 Roth decision stripped a free people of the right to build a sea wall against a flood tide of filthy magazines, books, movies, videos and plays that have since made a running sewer of our popular culture and ruined countless lives in this most degraded and corrupting of industries.

"Justice Brennan next helped empower the abortionists. When he was nominated in 1956, abortionists were scum, the nadir of a criminal sub-culture. When he left the bench, a thriving industry had been legalized in which 4,000 unborn babies were being butchered daily for profit, thanks to this son of Irish Catholic immigrants.

"In the Green decision of 1968, Justice Brennan took the court beyond desegregating public schools into mandating racial balance. The forced busing that followed ripped apart America's cities. Justice Brennan then gave his blessing to racial discrimination against whites in everything from hiring to handing out radio and TV licences, despite the clear intent of the Civil Rights Act of '64.

"Any number of serial killers can thank Justice Brennan that they did not receive justice. For Brennan & Co. prevented capital punishment from being imposed anywhere in the United States for almost two decades. And if you wanted to burn an American flag, no one was a stouter friend.

"In New York Times vs. Sullivan, Justice Brennan said the press could libel public personalities with near-impunity. No wonder the media adored him. Thomas Jefferson's opinion: 'While we deny that Congress have a right to control the freedom of the press, we have ever asserted the right of the states, and their exclusive right to do so.'

"Justice Brennan's social revolution was America's worst disaster since the Civil War. Are our public schools better off now than they were in 1956? Is the criminal justice system protecting the innocent and punishing the guilty as it once did? Is the popular culture superior to what it was in the days when Walt Disney was Disney? Have racial tensions been eased by busing and affirmative action? Has press coverage improved with the press' protected power to smear?

"Justice Brennan considered the Constitution a living document: 'The ultimate question must be... what do the words of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights mean to us in our time?' But if conservative justices read the 14th Amendment as ensuring a right to life from conception, the journalists beatifying Justice Brennan would go berserk.

"'This legacy can and will stand the test of time,' said Justice Brennan on retirement. Let us hope not. For Justice Brennan's is the legacy of an anti-democratic revolution the American people endure only because their elected leaders lack the courage to strip social policy away from a court whose de-clawing and neutering should be the first order of business of a democratic republic."

Patrick J. Buchanan, *The Washington Times*, July 30, 1997

Pat Buchanan missed the U.S. Supreme Court's 1987 decision (*Edwards v. Aguillard*) which made the U. S. legally an atheist state. The decision was written by Brennan!

- "Gay and lesbian activists may have become the most influential single group within the NEA convention. They distribute their action plans displaying the NEA logo, they advertise numerous caucuses and convention events, they flaunt their buttons and booths, and they have succeeded in weaving their agenda into about a dozen resolutions passed by the nearly 9,000 convention delegates.

"For several years, `diversity' has been the code word for the gay/lesbian agenda. A one-word change in the Diversity resolution this year is significant and telling. Last year's resolution said that `education should increase tolerance.' This year, `tolerance' was changed to `acceptance.' One of the handouts boasted: `Diversity is the word and acceptance is the order.'

"The NEA Gay Lesbian Caucus (NEA-GLC) celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. Prior to 1987, the handful of gays who attended the NEA convention caucused under the name `Ichabod Crane Debating Society.' One of the delegates in Atlanta commented, `In the `70s you couldn't even mention the words "gay" or "homosexual" without getting booed off the [convention] floor.'

"They've come a long way since then. The NEA-GLC newsletter boasted: `NEA Board hosts GLC leaders.' The NEA-GLC's headline attraction in Atlanta was Candace Gingrich, lesbian sister of Newt. She spoke at the caucus dinner on July 5 and was one of the personalities featured in a video shown at noon on the Fourth of July.

"At another lesbian caucus, the big feature was a 90-minute video entitled `It's Elementary: Teaching About Gay Issues in School.' This video shows how psychological manipulation in the classroom can be used to change children's home-taught attitudes and beliefs about homosexuality.

"The NEA-GLC was not the only gay/lesbian caucus at the Atlanta convention. The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) advertised book and video lists and internet resources, and the NEA Peace & Justice Caucus promoted the video `It's Elementary,' calling it `masterful.'

"The NEA-GLC newsletters are informative. One article, entitled `Bill Clinton deserves our support for President,' listed many examples of his `genuine commitment on our issues,' such as, `Appointed gay/lesbian friendly Ruth Bader Ginsberg to the U.S. Supreme Court.' Another article showed a picture of a

New York City protest with demonstrators carrying signs stating `Fact: 74% of NYC school kids don't have "traditional" families.'

"The NEA's Human & Civil Rights Action Sheet (marked with the NEA logo) sets forth the NEA's gay/lesbian agenda, including the plans to change classroom instruction, counseling programs, libraries, school-wide events, in-service training, and attitudes. Its blunt recommendations to teachers are:

"Work with the school district, the parent-teacher organization, and community groups to provide information to other members, parents, and counselors about the development and health needs of gay, lesbian, and bisexual students.

"Provide training to enable selected staff to become resources to members on gay, lesbian, and bisexual student issues.

"Recommend to the school district that in-service programs address gay, lesbian, and bisexual concerns; and that the library include positive learning materials about gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

"Encourage the establishment and maintenance of peer support and community self-help programs for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students.

"Work with the school district to develop or expand school policy and curricula, including accurate portrayals of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals throughout history, and to ensure respect for diversity, including gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

"Participate in coalitions to improve support and services for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students."

The Phyllis Schlafly Report, August 1997

Russia, Then and Now

- "John Lewis Gaddis has been a professor of history at Ohio State and is now moving to Yale, where he will occupy the Robert Lovett Chair. His specialty has been the Cold War, and he has been at the center of the many controversies over the origins, the events and the conclusion of that great conflict.

"He has just come forward with *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History* (Oxford), in which, using recently available documents, he tries to resolve issues that have divided historians for years.

"Broadly speaking, the orthodox view among historians after 1945 was that the Soviets were responsible for the Cold War, that President Roosevelt was late to face the fact that the Soviets would not cooperate in the postwar effort to construct a peace, that President Truman was uncertain until clear Soviet aggression in Greece, Turkey and Iran concentrated his mind and he brought forward the Marshall Plan

and aided in the formation of NATO.

"Against that view, there arose during the 1960s a `revisionist' view to the effect that what appeared to be Soviet aggression was really defensive in character, that the Soviets responded with increasing hostility to aggressive moves on the part of Truman, and that Truman dropped the atomic bombs on Japan with an important motive being to intimidate Josef Stalin. Some revisionists even argued that South Korea was responsible for the Korean War.

"I would judge that in the universities by the '70s, the revisionist view had at least equal weight with the orthodox view.

"The always-careful Prof. Gaddis was at least open to the revisionist view - if not in its totality then at least in its various parts.

"In *We Now Know*, Gaddis bases his conclusions on archive work done since the fall of the Soviet empire in 1989.

"What we now know is that the orthodox view of the origins of the Cold War was correct and that the revisionist view was wrong. Stalin and the system he created were responsible for the 50-year conflict.

"`Once Stalin wound up at the top in Moscow,' Gaddis writes, `and once it was clear that his side would survive the war, then it looks... clear that there was going to be a cold war whatever the West did.'

"That is the central, and unequivocal, argument of *We Now Know*, and Gaddis pursues it convincingly through one episode after another from 1945 forward."

Jeffrey Hart, *Human Events*, August 1, 1997

- As incense and chants filled Moscow's glittering new Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a long line of dark-suited politicians waited patiently off to one side.

"It was well past midnight, but the hour could hardly deter the prime minister and other top officials eager to be seen on national television being blessed by one of Russia's most powerful men: Alexy II, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia.

"After decades of suppression by the Communist regime, the Russian Orthodox Church and its patriarch have clearly found themselves at the apogee of political power in the new Russia.

"Scenes such as Easter's benediction suggest the church is stronger than ever. So does the battle over `foreign religions,' in which an Orthodox-sponsored bill to restrict other faiths, including Roman Catholicism and evangelical Christianity, nearly became law last week.

"But some observers warn that such appearances are deceptive.

"`A church that finds it necessary to appeal to the state to limit its competition is obviously a weak church,' said Martin McCauley, a professor of politics at the University of London.

"President Boris Yeltsin set off a storm of opposition and recrimination last week by refusing to sign the bill - the first time he explicitly and publicly rebuffed the Russian Orthodox Church on a matter of national policy.

"The incident opens a rift between the state and the church, whose fortunes have otherwise been entwined since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Patriarch Alexy was an open supporter of Mr. Yeltsin's even before the collapse and publicly blessed him at his first inauguration as Russian president in 1990.

"During last year's hard-fought presidential campaign, Alexy made a point of reminding believers of Soviet-era repression and urged them to `make the right choice' between Mr. Yeltsin and his Communist opponent.

"For his part, Mr. Yeltsin has given the church extremely high visibility, attending services at Christmas and Easter and incorporating Alexy into many ostensibly secular Kremlin ceremonies, such as treaty signings.

"The partnership was important for both sides: The nascent Russian state needed the legitimacy the church could provide, and the long-repressed church was eager to throw off its shackles and regain its stature.

"The church claims 80 million followers, or more than half of Russia's population, and, with the government's support, has restored hundreds of churches. But the battle over the religion law shows that the post-Soviet church-state alliance has weakened.

"For one thing, Mr. Yeltsin's regime is now primarily reformist, while the church has moved into closer alignment with nationalists in the hard-line parliament, as the strong vote supporting the religion bill showed. The bill allied the church with the Communists, its former atheist enemies.

"Although the church is enshrined in power at the top, it fears an erosion of support from below, particularly through evangelicals and other religious groups with a strong commitment to conversion.

"Proselytism was illegal in Soviet times, so while the church was unable to campaign for converts, it didn't have to fear that other churches would do so.

"That has changed dramatically. The number of Protestant evangelical churches has increased from 50 to 800 congregations in seven years. Religious groups pass out leaflets at subway stops. Hare Krishnas dance along historic Moscow streets.

"Patriarch Alexy argues that the law on religion is needed to protect Russians from `destructive pseudo-religious cults and foreign false missionaries.'

"Michael Bourdeaux, the director of the Keston Institute, which monitors freedom of religion in Russia, calls that impulse a kind of fundamentalism directed more at gaining political power than promoting faith.

"`They reckon they have one chance in history of reasserting their position in Russian society,' he said. `It's not a religious goal at all.'"

Associated Press, *The Washington Times*, July 29, 1997, p. 1

Other

- "The reason we are involved in these self-destructive negotiations [treaty on Global warming] in the first place is widespread propaganda that greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels (oil, coal, gas) are making a hole in the ozone and causing `global warming.' But there isn't any scientific consensus that there is global warming other than natural temperature fluctuations.

"Furthermore, there isn't any scientific consensus that global warming, if it does exist, is a big problem, or that humans caused it, or that government should act now to remedy it. Most of the alleged global warming occurred before 1940, before the widespread use of automobiles which are the chief cause of carbon dioxide emissions.

"Greenhouse gas emissions in the developing countries exempted by the Kyoto treaty, such as China, Mexico, India, Brazil, South Korea, and Singapore, are increasing rapidly. They are expected to surpass U.S. emissions by 2015.

"Let's be clear about what this Kyoto treaty is designed to do. It would require us to deliberately reduce our energy consumption by one-fourth, causing a devastating effect on our standard of living and the ability of a million plus U.S. wage-earners to support their families, all on the basis of climate predictions that are at best controversial and at worst no more reliable than the weatherman's guess of how much snow will fall next winter.

"There must be an agenda behind this irrational plan. Let's try a multiple-choice question.

"Is the hidden agenda of the Kyoto treaty (a) to promote the presidential candidacy of Al Gore, who has

staked his political future on a platform of prioritizing the planet above people, or (b) to redistribute U.S. wealth and jobs to foreign countries because the Clintonian liberals support income redistribution, or (c) to con the American people into accepting increased federal taxes, regulations and even rationing?

"Or, is the answer (d) to reduce our standard of living because other countries are envious of our automobiles and our single-family dwellings that are heated in the winter and cooled in the summer, or (e) to save face for the social scientists who have been predicting climate catastrophe, or (f) to provide politically correct 'cover' for the multinationals that want to move their plants to low-labor-cost Asian countries, or (g) all of the above?

"Economic growth requires energy, and fossil fuels provide 85 percent of our energy. Tell your senator that Kyoto is a no-go."

Phyllis Schlafly, *The Washington Times*, August 2, 1997

- "'They lied to me,' says Madalyn McDaniel of Atascadero, California. 'They completely betrayed me.' At a parents' night at the local high school, McDaniel was told about a great opportunity for her son: the Interactive Mathematics Program, in which he would learn everything taught in traditional math courses - only in a more effective way. But after signing him up, McDaniel realized the program was not at all what was advertised. Instead of learning rules and formulas, her son and his classmates were presented with problems and expected to invent their own ways of solving them. 'He was very frustrated,' McDaniel says. 'I'd say, "Look in the book, it will explain." He'd say, "Mom, there is no book."'

"McDaniel had encountered 'whole math.' Also known as fuzzy math or new-new math, whole math is an instructional scheme based on the idea that knowledge is only meaningful when we construct it for ourselves.

"Trying to understand what was going on, McDaniel spent three weeks in a class using the Interactive Mathematics Program. As a member of a cooperative learning group along with three 15-year-olds, she joined in activities like cutting out pieces of graph paper, some two units by two, others three by three, all the way up to 15 by 15. The group then played a game that involved forming triangles with the edges of their graph-paper squares (known as 'manipulatives' in the whole-math trade). The object of the game was to see when two sides of the triangle would 'win' (that is, the number of units in the squares forming the two sides would be greater than the number of units in the squares forming the third side), when one side would win, and when there would be a tie. Since it turned out that ties always involved right triangles, the class, after two days, had developed a right-triangle rule: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. Having thus 'discovered' the Pythagorean theorem, students were given a single homework problem - which, McDaniel reports, only two students managed to get right.

"This could have been a great exercise,' McDaniel observes, 'if it had reinforced a concept students had understood and practiced.' But among whole-math advocates, she notes, there's a belief that 'if you work with these manipulatives, you'll arrive at knowledge that you so truly understand that you don't have to

practice.' This view fits rather neatly, she says, with student inclination, and with the realities of the whole-math classroom. Reinventing all of mathematics doesn't leave much time for practice, particularly since whole-math enthusiasts feel driven to link classroom math to real-world concerns and thus have students spend a good deal of time writing about subjects such as traffic congestion and oil spills. One Interactive Mathematics Program unit titled 'Leave Room for Me' begins by assigning a two-to-five-page essay on the world population explosion. The student might choose 'pros and cons to birth control,' for example."

Lynne V. Cheney, *The Weekly Standard*, August 4, 1997

[Return me to the Summit Ministries Homepage](#)

[Return me to ChristianAnswers.net](#)