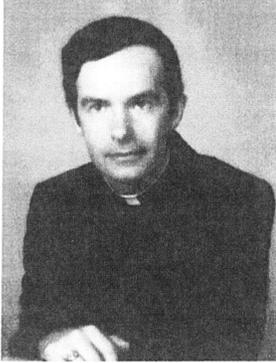


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6) The intention of this advice is for parents and pastors to assume the responsibility of inculcating, transmitting, and propagating religious and cultural

ethics, values, and morals through successive generations. In preparation for adulthood, youths are to be trained as soldiers proficient in handling the knowledge they are armed with, maintaining the ranks of society, and observing the wisdom and admonitions of their superiors. Unfortunately, those who seek to instill the next generation with detrimental attributes heed the same advice.

In Lawrence, Kansas, where the University of Kansas is located, the public school district has forbidden a high school student to display the Confederate flag on a car he drives to school, even though the district has no specific policy regarding the issue. The only excuse for the district's blatant violation of the student's First Amendment right of freedom of expression is a groundless charge that the educational setting was being disrupted and an allusion to a nebulous handbook policy promoting a discrimination-free environment for learning. In a statement, the superintendent said:

School staff see this issue as an educational opportunity for students and fully understand the school's obligation to respect students' free speech rights and protect students from racial discrimination and harassment, since the Confederate flag may be associated with racism, slavery, and violence against (blacks).

Note that he said the flag "may" be associated with racism. Who is making the association?

Was the intention of the student displaying the flag considered, or was consideration given only to the dissenters who oppose free speech? It is indeed "an educational opportunity for students" that is being wasted by pandering to propaganda instead of teaching what the flag accurately symbolizes. The lesson being taught is that capricious biases trump the First Amendment.

Similar incidents are occurring in other university towns, even in the South. The University of Mississippi has removed the state flag from its campus because it incorporates the Battle Flag emblem. Never mind that state tax dollars support the school, a petition bearing 1800 names sought to keep the flag, and citizens have voted two to one to preserve the flag's design. The whims of either a pathetically ignorant or arrogantly hateful minority are being shamelessly placated.

At Yale, an experiment was conducted on campus in which students were given an opportunity to sign a petition to repeal the First Amendment. In less than one hour, fifty students had signed. The university has also established a Center For Islamic Law and Civilization. Yale law school dean Robert Post proclaimed, "Islamic law has a long and proud tradition, that encompasses great intellectual achievements." How long would Post survive under Sharia law? Copies of *Reading the Koran As A Law Book* were sent to the alumni, compliments of an Arabian's \$10 million donation to the law school. The lesson to be learned at Yale is that curriculum content is for sale to the highest bidder.

Even benign children's books are being censored. *A Birthday Cake For George Washington* was removed from the market by Scholastic soon after its publication in January. The portrayal of positive images of chef Hercules and his daughter Delia was criticized as "sentimentalizing" slavery. Sensing blood in the water, School Library Journal recommended it not being sold because it was "highly problematic". Kirkus Reviews charged that it was "an incomplete, even dishonest treatment of slavery." The publisher, caving to coercive peer pressure, sniffed:

While we have great respect for the integrity and scholarship of the author, illustrator, and editor, we believe that, without more historical background on the evils of slavery than this book for younger children can provide, the book may give a false impression of the reality of the lives of slaves and therefore should be withdrawn.

An accurate translation of this quote would be as follows:

The publisher does not have enough respect for the fact that the author, Ramin Ganeshram, by his own account and documentation, based the story on historical research meant to honor Hercules' skill and resourcefulness. Therefore, this book does not conform to the stereotyped myth of universal brutality and might give young children the impression that many slaves were treated humanely.

For those promoting a predetermined agenda that contradicts the reality of facts derived from historical research, the truth can be "highly problematic."

The Nazis told educators, "From now on it is not up to you to decide whether or not something is true, but whether it is in the interest of the National Socialist Revolution." Today, it is whether or not it is in the interest of the liberal ideological movement for social and genetic engineering. Educational philosophy is increasingly less concerned with truth and falsehood, right and wrong. Public schools are ceasing to be laboratories of independent critical thinking where competing ideas are tested. They are becoming asylums of sanitizing censorship of all diverse opinions in order to indoctrinate, not educate, for the purpose of reordering society through its youths. Ronald Reagan once observed that freedom can be lost in one generation. The academic freedom being lost in our schools will quickly metastasize

throughout society. As a result, all thoughts and the actions they inspire will be formed and molded to flow with the current and move in uniform lock step rhythm within the suffocating confines of mentally crippling and severely restrictive conformity. America's youths are being used for their vulnerability due to lack of experience, knowledge, and emphasis on skilled reasoning that can only be accrued over time. Instead, is placed on exploiting feelings, emotions, and desire for premature independence and the questioning of authority. Young people seek to discover their limits; liberals tell them there are no limits. Incontrovertible wisdom and truth, legitimate and credible authority are discredited. Steadfast forms of objective and permanent absolutes are distilled down to a swirling mush of reality and perpetual change. Deprogrammed, disarmed, disoriented, and confused, youths are left defenseless in the face of the alternative that awaits them. Consequently, each individual flounders about developing their own values in accordance with their personal biases and ethics to suit the constructed current and prevailing situation. The result is social chaos that will produce the conditions necessary for the acceptance of a totalitarian state to restore order at the expense of freedom.

"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught..." (II Thess. 2:15) We do not need to win every battle to remain faithful. We do need to keep things in perspective and have vision to look ahead and consider not only temporal, but also eternal ramifications- - the bigger picture. Sometimes, as Peter Marshall said, "It is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed, than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail."

Fr. Richard Rudd

Hughes Camp Chaplain