

ON INDOCTRINATION AND SPONTANEOUS TRANSVESTISM

I wish to commend the writer of “Some Library Content Needs to Be Dialed Back” that appeared in the September 1st issue of the Orange Town News for their concern for the welfare of children. Kids certainly need education, guidance and compassionate understanding. As an advocate for their well-being, the writer should be lauded for taking a bold public stand with their benefit in mind. I am sure that the writer will agree that our offspring are facing issues that previous generations dodged, and I am sure that the writer will join other activists dedicated to making their future as hopeful and secure as the golden one we anticipated when we were their age. Nowadays, children have much to be anxious about. They are living in troubled times. Small wonder they are experiencing an epidemic of depression and suicide.

Our kids must deal with the horrors of climate change. One can only imagine how they will cope with its consequences if we don’t take it seriously and do something about it.

Gun violence is a leading cause of child mortality in America. Certainly, any responsible adult places children’s lives and safety- the “well-regulated” condition of the 2nd Amendment”- above the prolific selfishness of irresponsible, willy-nilly gun indulgence.

Drug abuse kills thousands of children every year. Many others fall behind only to lead unfulfilled lives. Others endure criminal consequences as adults because of our failure to help them as kids.

Republicans and Democrats, conservative and liberal, used to hold at least one value in common: our shared dedication to and faith in democracy. Older generations had confidence that our system of government would always be preserved. In contrast, our kids are facing troubling political bleakness: the resurgence of authoritarianism verging on fascism, creeping grass-roots Nazism and white nationalism, civil rights and voter suppression, intolerance and discrimination in all its ugliness. History is rewritten to suit political expediency, books burned and censored, “uncomfortable” subjects banned. Some who claim to be “pro-life” would terminate Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid with no consideration for our children’s current and future welfare. Company pensions and health insurance are an anachronism. Meanwhile, teachers and librarians are intimidated and threatened. The prophecies of George Orwell, which many once considered nightmarishly fictional, are becoming all too real.

Our kids need all the advocacy they can get. I thank the writer for caring enough to make their voice heard in support of our children and I am confident that they will champion remediating the serious issues I have listed, as well as the many others there is no space to discuss here. I would also want to reassure the writer that as of this moment there have been no reports of children suffering spontaneous transvestism as a result of a library display or reading a book in Orange or indeed anywhere else in the world. Let’s focus on serious problems like the Case Memorial librarians and staff are doing, whom I admire for their continued work spreading

tolerance, awareness and sensitivity. I trust the judgment of parents who bring their kids to the library to make their own conclusions regarding which books are appropriate for them and am grateful the material is openly displayed so that all are free to make their own choices instead of having these personal decisions restricted by a strident few. I encourage Case Memorial to continue its work with a focus on additional vital topics that our kids will inevitably encounter. Thank you, educators and activists, for having the courage, wisdom and compassion to teach our children well in trying times.

Gene Burshuliak