

Trends

Here we go round the gooseberry bush

AS WE ALL know, mothers see things differently from other people. We are ever on the lookout for evils that may corrupt our young, and an evil that plagues me in particular is homosexuality.

We were hardly out of the hospital before I discovered that homosexual law reform was being debated again. I clutched the baby to my bosom desperately when I read this, and wondered what the world was coming to. I had already told her about Ronald Reagan so she'd feel secure, but this was one thing I couldn't find words to describe for her. How can you explain depravity to the young and innocent?

At any rate, I had a go at it. The first thing to know about homosexuals, I told her, was that they corrupt children. When she stopped sucking her fist, I explained how they went about it.

This was because, I said, homosexuals are all pederasts. They seek sexual contact with people who are under the age of consent, from babies upwards. They hunt them out in school playgrounds and in lonely parks, and then they do things to them.

If she could speak she would have asked what things I was talking about, but since she can't, I glossed over that one. Suffice to say that we all know what homosexuals do to children, and that it turns them into homosexuals when they grow up.

And then, what homosexuals do in bed together isn't nice, I said. They do rude things, vile things, contemptible things, depraved and corrupt things, things you wouldn't do to your worst enemy. They ... they ... I'm not too sure what they do, but I know it's filthy and disgusting because I can imagine. What I imagine is certainly filthy and disgusting.

The baby opened her eyes rather wide at that one. I had recently explained what heterosexuals do to each other in bed, and she had wrinkled her nose as if she thought it was pretty odd. She couldn't believe that her father and I could ... well, never mind. It's nicer not to talk about it, and in the dark you hardly notice.

I had explained to her that heterosexual sex is beautiful and meaningful because it leads to babies. She could relate to that. She nodded, and shook the rattle a bit. Then she paused. I knew what she was thinking. I had told her about contraception, and how people chose to have babies these days. Also, I had told her about certain common heterosexual practices that can't possibly lead to babies. She looked pretty confused, and I was starting to feel that way myself.



"Mother," her expression clearly said, "why is it, if heterosexual sex is beautiful because it makes babies, that you haven't had about fifteen babies by now?"

I slapped her for that impertinence. I didn't seem to have explained myself very clearly.

It's all right to sleep around with a lot of women because that's heterosexual

Well, in any case, I told her, homosexuals must be outlawed because they are promiscuous. They sleep around, I said.

"I know," the baby nodded through her tears of pain. "Like Uncle Wilbur."

It took me a while to explain that Uncle Wilbur is different because he sleeps around with a lot of different women. It's all right to sleep around with a lot of women, because that's heterosexual.

I could have sworn that the little cow raised an eyebrow.

I explained that promiscuity was bad, and for that reason alone, homosexuals should be discriminated against. They undermine the fabric of the society I hold so dear by having relationships that don't last, and don't uphold the beauty of the family unit.

That set her to dribbling on her stretch-and-grow for a few seconds.

"I know what you mean," she burred. "Like all those friends of yours who are divorced and separated after only a few years of marriage."

Something seemed to be going wrong with my argument, but fortunately I thought of something. I said that at least the people she was talking about had bothered to get married. Homosexuals don't do that, and marriage is the backbone of society. It's legal.

That wretched baby actually sniffed in disgust. She waved her rattle around as if to say, "It's the law that stops homosexuals from getting married and making it legal."

I knew what was coming next. She was going to say something smart about what sort of society I'd brought her into; if marriage was its backbone it must have slipped a disc by now, and that many heterosexual people live together without getting married.

There's nothing more frustrating than knowing you're right and not being able to get it across. I told her it was her bedtime.

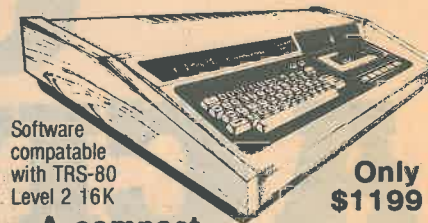
She looked slyly at me as I carried her to her cot, and I told her that no matter what she thought now, she'd be grateful to people like me in years to come when dirty old men offered her lollies.

The little wretch looked at me and said quite clearly, "I never heard of a dirty little old lady doing that."

The problem is, she's too young to listen to reason.

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