

can help deter future outbreaks of this bizarre copycat syndrome.

# ters

subtle criticism of the church missionary program. There is cause to ask of that fable line, "I would rather have a sister in a brothel than a brother at BYU!" Is the verse simply humor or tainted with serious tenor too?

Sacred cows often leave messy cow pies and scramble themes recurrently entangle and fetter lives and minds. One's academic pleasure somehow slides and becomes another's academic pain. Hark, Smoot answers the call stating "The problem is academics, that's all." And Lee takes one step forward and then seemingly one step back. Yes, politics and "citizenship" may have a leading part in the dark humored one act play.

The paradox is plain. The shining faces of students and professors always seeking truth and right but what's the truth to be? Orthodox edification, literate clean minds and occasional restrained commotion. Oh the beautiful grass and buildings, "Why should we question, let's just follow." "Yes the Y's the place for me."

When your sons and daughters grow send them to the Y — some call it the Zoo. They may come back tortured, tainted, trained or armed. And when the ghosts of Knowlton and Farr pass by, leave your personal calling card and shout, throw rocks or simply mile and hope the kids come back with lightened hearts and minds.

I feel deeply for the university but also relieve the likes of Knowlton and Farr. For how will they truly heal from this clamoringquisition and will the university and community convalesce too? Oh, 40 miles is a good distance to be, from Y mountain and at current ironic and strident collegiate

Steve Lewis  
Salt Lake City

## on't judge yet

tor:  
Everyone in our country seems to agree

# Who is in charge of children's minds?

During the recent controversy regarding state textbook guidelines, relatively little attention was paid to the state's proprietary claim upon schoolchildren.

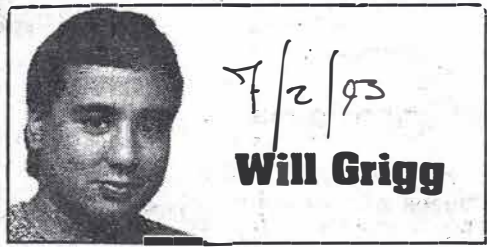
The textbook commission properly declined to re-write curriculum guidelines to allow the use of classroom materials intended to promote "acceptance" of homosexuality. However, little was done to challenge the assumption that moral education of school children is the government's privilege or responsibility.

Utah parents justifiably rebelled at the prospect of classroom lectures about the evils of "homophobia." Commission member Michael Bennett was unamused by the political pressure brought to bear against the board, describing it as an "insurrection." Imagine — the parents actually became involved in the education of their children! What inexcusable temerity!

An even more remarkable outburst can be found in the June 20 issue of Cache weekend magazine. Cache columnist Tim Vitale allowed that "Parent's have a duty to teach their children about morality" but insisted that it is "the school system's responsibility to teach kids the facts of life."

Furthermore, according to Vitale, there are rather abrupt limits to the prerogative of parents respecting the moral education of their children: "A narrow, one-sided education can breed intolerance. And that's where the schools must step in."

Vitale also maintains that Utah Eagle Forum, the conservative group that coordinated opposition to the proposed textbook guidelines, is a threat to "our chil-



## At Home and Abroad

dren." Writes Vitale, "Some day they will die off, and one more injustice will go away."

Earlier this century, a noted political leader made use of an educational formula similar to Vitale's. When asked about his political opponents he replied "when an opponent declares, 'I will not come over to your side,' I calmly say, 'your child belongs to us already...you will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time they will know nothing else but this new community.'" In such fashion did Adolf Hitler assert the primacy of his state in the lives of German youth.

In other American communities, advocates of "tolerance" have taken pains to limit the exposure children receive from the contaminating influence of their parents. During the debate in New York City over the "Rainbow Curriculum" (which teaches acceptance of homosexuality), New York State Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, an open lesbian, told CNN that

"most parents themselves have tremendous prejudice and bigotry that have been passed on for generations...and the reality is that we as a society, if we're to remain free and just, must provide a counterbalance to what kids are obviously learning at home."

Some activists have deployed similar stricture against private organizations that have been found guilty of promoting traditional attitudes. Thomas Payzant is Clinton's nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education. When he was superintendent of the San Diego Independent School District, Payzant ruled against classroom use of the Boy Scouts' "Learn to Live" program. Citing the Scouts' refusal to allow homosexuals in leadership positions, Payzant declared, "We can't tolerate that kind of organization working with young people."

What's next? In James Clavell's cautionary tale "The Children's Story," educators sought to eradicate the values instilled in children by their parents. One child asked his teacher what had happened to his father; she replied, "Your daddy has to go back to school for awhile. He had some strange thoughts, and he wanted other grown-ups to believe them. It's not right to want others to believe wrong thoughts, is it?" The children, enchanted by their young, idealistic teacher, "Wondered if all their parents should go back to school and unlearn bad thoughts." Clavell's futuristic story was written in 1963, so we're right on schedule.

# Private pilots unwitting victims of drug war

WASHINGTON — Oklahoma-based pilot Tom Quinn is an unlikely candidate to be caught in the cross fire of South Florida's war on drugs. But thanks to a federal undercover drug operation, he and other pilots have discovered that the friendly skies can sometimes be life-threatening.



This incident might not have been noticed if it were not for the fact that...