

A PREZ RELEASE from AGTS

Monthly commentary from the President of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

The Powder Puff Follies May 2003

Orlando Sentinel columnist Kathleen Parker, recently commented on the now in-famous "powder-puff" football game between junior and senior girls at a suburban Chicago high school. Parker commented, "What's disturbing and frankly creepy about the powder puff explosion is the apparent lack of remorse, empathy or insight-either from participants or observers."

I am usually pretty calm when it comes to the pranks associated with hazing or initiations. This has been going on for a long time and this world has not been significantly altered by these shenanigans. Boys will be boys and girls will be girls and I usually yawn at the outrages of "concerned" pundits about these supposed dangerous activities.

For some nagging reason this episode caught my attention. It's hard to say what has caused my unwillingness to gloss over this incident as just one more outrageous teenage episode. My concern is not that this was a "girl-thing" That would be truly naïve. Both genders are fully capable of heinous activity toward other members of their own gender community. I'm not upset about media replaying the home video of this event ad nauseum. While we're usually desensitized by media over-kill-this time I'm glad for the extra exposure, because it reveals something very chilling to watch.

I've wallowed in mud and manure for a variety of good reasons like playing football and working with livestock. But I've never submitted myself to pig guts, mud and manure as dining delights. Beer, lack of restraint and alleged parental encouragement of this episode created a 2003 version of Lord Jim.

This is scary stuff. School officials were strangely silent, avoiding any involvements for fear of who knows what. Parents were strangely silent and students who observed the whole episode commented nonchalantly-"It's not like any one died!"

No one died, but something's dead. The very basis of civil society seems to have "exposed" at this suburban Chicago high school. Lack of respect for human beings, little awareness of the consequences of violent actions, breakdown of inhibitions and lack of remorse all lend themselves to a world best seen in the nihilism of some futuristic grade B film.

This is not some overly exuberant initiation-it's a glimpse of the "innards" of our world. It's bone chilling and we'd better keep tuned in because this powder-puff has revealed a powder keg!

Byron D. Klaus, President Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

Did you miss our latest Leadership Roundtable in Carlinville, Illinois? You will have another chance to hear Leonard Sweet at General Council 2003. Make plans to attend the

"Ministry on the Edge: The Mission to Post-Christian America" on July 28 (6-9 p.m.) and July 29 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.). Dr. Sweet, author of *Soul Tsunami* and *Carpe Manana*, will focus on developing and sustaining ministry for the changing culture for the new century. Graduate credit available. For further information or to register, call Randy Walls at 800-467-2487, ext 1044 or visit www.agts.edu.

Are you an alumnus/nae of AGTS? Join us for our alumni reception at General Council 2003-August 2 at 9:00 p.m. in Room 151B of the Washington Convention Center.