

Humor

TV Ad Smothers the Real Issue

C. W. Heiser

I was watching Morton Downey Jr. the other night. (That's right, I admit it--I watch the Morster. At this point, I could say that the reason I watch Morton Downey is that I endeavor to keep an open mind, and look to add to my store of political and social knowledge from any source. Or, I could say I want to feel the pulse of middle-America. I could say one of those things, but I'd be lying. I watch Morton Downey Jr. because I get a kick out of seeing right-wing fanatics and ACLU types lose it and scream at each other on national television. Anyway, its a whole passel of people we may justifiably feel superior to.)

I was watching Morton Downey Jr., and during one of the breaks this sleazy spot came on. You know the type: split screen, a couple of women begging for a phone call. But this wasn't a commercial for one of those glorified conference lines where you get to breath heavy and they won't trace the call. These women were telling me that my vote was important.

The issue was abortion, and I could call either a pro-choice or a pro-life number and register my opinion. As many times as I wanted. At two bucks a pop. (What a deal. For two dollars I can get a pack of smokes and ruin my health as is my God-given right as an American.)

I'm not going to discuss abortion as an issue here, and I'd rather not state my position while talking about this televised tripe, but to me, the spot seemed to have a definite pro-life slant. On the other hand, the pro-life people would probably feel the opposite. (Shh, I think I just tipped my hand.) Let's just say it was equally offensive on all fronts.

The results of this TV vote are to be tallied and rushed to George Bush in the White House. I'm sure that when he gets the voting decision about abortion-- from a bunch of yahoos who think Morty is a statesman and fall for this televised bunko--George will act on it immediately. Wouldn't you?

Now there are probably a bunch of people in this country who think that by voting in one of these scams they're making a difference in national affairs. Part of the problem is the difficulty in voting legitimately in this country. It almost takes a degree in Political Science to figure out who to call to register.

So, what can we do? Write somebody--your congressshuman or one of your senators. You do know who they are, right? If not, write me, in care of this paper. Just enclose two dollars and I promise to keep the money and throw your opinion away.

Comment

Child Care: The Time is Now

By News USA

Child care legislation is high on the agenda of the new 101st Congress. That's where it belongs.

The need for a nationwide approach to the problem no longer is seriously debated in Washington.

Members of Congress from one end of the political spectrum to the other jumped on the child care bandwagon in 1988, joined by George Bush who proposed his own plan.

Our political leaders are reflecting what millions of working parents have known: finding someone to care for a young child during the day can be very difficult. Add quality and affordability to your requirements and the task can approach impossible.

The problem has become acute in recent years as record numbers of women with young children have joined the work force.

Between 1975 and 1987, according to the Labor Department, the largest single increase in U.S. workers was among married women with children under age 3--from 32.5 percent in 1975 to 54.2 percent in 1987.

Working mothers had some 10.4 million children under age 6 in 1984--a figure expected to rise to nearly 15 million by 1995. Yet, according to the Children's Defense Fund, there are only about 2.5 million slots in licensed day-care centers.

"Our progress toward a sensible child care policy has been fragmented and tentative," notes Gerald W. McEntee, president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, which is part of a broad coalition pushing for a major child care initiative.

Only a few thousand of the nation's six million employers assist their workers with child care needs, says McEntee, and "Efforts by state governments depend largely on the health of state economies. But even states that are moving ahead cannot meet the demand."

These factors have tossed the child care issue into Washington's lap. The question now is what our lawmakers will do with it.

The biggest question facing federal child care legislation is not political consensus--though distinctly different approaches have been suggested--but where to get the money in a federal budget already awash in red ink.

President Bush, in his read-my-lips pledge not to raise taxes, ruled out that source of revenue even as he was proposing a raft of new social legislation during the campaign, including a \$2.2 billion child-care plan that features a \$1,000 per-child tax credit for low-income families.

Most child care advocates favor a \$2.5 billion plan that would distribute funds through the states in the form of direct aid to parents, grants for the expansion or creation of licensed child-care centers, and established standards to ensure safe and healthy facilities for children.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the Big Apple . . .

Bus adventure II

An honest, tongue-in-cheek account from the

Capital Times' highly unpaid New York Correspondent

By Derrick Stokes

There should be a yellow brick road to New York City; then maybe a certain pair of bus drivers from Capitol Trailways could get there.

They appeared to be competent gentlemen; but we were fooled. Just like the glorious sunshine created the illusion of a warm Sunday morning, we were duped. After a Saturday night full of Rolling Rocks it appeared wise to trust anyone wearing a blue uniform.

Linda Ross scheduled a routine trip to New York for her Modern Art class on the 19th of March. After last year, no art trip will ever be "routine." I still remember standing in the rain as the bus passed me, stranding me in Manhattan. I remember panicking because I couldn't find a MAC (Money Access Card) machine. I remember almost spending the night with a woman older than my mother. I remember this so well because the students at Penn State Harrisburg won't let me forget. I WAS NOT GOING TO MISS THE BUS AGAIN!

Ms. Ross had requested the buses this time. I chose a window seat near the front of the bus she wasn't on. Kevin Facer, a budding photographer with thinning hair and a vulgar mouth, sat next to me. With my Phil Collins cowlicks and dirty mind, we made a perfect pair.

A small terrorist and her parents sat in front of us. Four hours of non-stop bouncing, screaming and kicking made life enjoyable for her parents. I had skipped breakfast like usual, but I can imagine eating a whole box of Cap'n Crunch and feeling a little bit edgy.

I could tolerate the hyperactive kid, but not the driving.

The driver introduced himself as "Doc." He was our nightmare. This small man with a big moustache was our bus driver. Because of his inexperience and unfamiliarity with New York, Doc chose to follow the other bus. Unfortunately for us, the driver of the other bus was just as inept. Doc's paranoia of being left by the other bus caused him to run a red light.

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WPSH
TOP 20

For the week ending March 17

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Living Colour | 11. Enya |
| Cult of Personality | Orinoco Flow |
| 2. Fine Young Cannibals | 12. Edie Brickell & New Bohemians |
| She Drives Me Crazy | Little Miss S |
| 3. New Order | 13. Tone Loc |
| Fine Time | Wild Thing |
| 4. Nitzer Ebb | 14. Kon Kan |
| Control Im Here | I Beg Your Pardon |
| 5. Rob Base and DJ E-Z Rock | 15. Mike and the Mechanics |
| It Takes Two | Living Years |
| 6. Erasure | 16. Edie Brickell & New Bohemians |
| A Little Respect | What I Am |
| 7. Bangles | 17. Reivers |
| Eternal Flame | Lazy Afternoon |
| 8. Elvis Costello | 18. Guns 'N Roses |
| Veronica | Paradise City |
| 9. Paula Abdul | 19. R.E.M. |
| Straight Up | Orange Crush |
| 10. R.E.M. | 20. Sheena Easton |
| Stand | The Lover In Me |