

Spanos on ignorance

Christine Spanos

I would like to make a formal apology to Dr. Diana Hume George regarding my absence at the Race Relations Forum, March 15 in the Reed Lecture Hall. Had I not been committed to a previous engagement, I would have eagerly swallowed my Ibuprofen and gone in search of a new, "enlightened attitude." I do hope the invitation still stands for the next diversity event and I anticipate, if nothing else, a topic for my next column.

But enough of the old - on to the new. Ignorance has always been a pet peeve of mine.

I seem to recall a time, I believe I was in the sixth grade, in which our nation was up in arms over the terroristic acts imposed upon the American Embassy in Iran. I'm sure you all remember the Iranian Hostage Crisis.

I vividly remember the day they were released. It was a time when our entire nation came together as one to welcome home the victims of international hatred. While waiting for the school bus to take me home, I looked to my friend Janie and expressed my joy and relief over the much awaited release of the hostages. She looked at me as if I were from a different planet. Her blank stare gave me a strong indication that she didn't know what the hell I was talking about.

I tried to explain to her, as best I could, about the events that had been taking place in Iran over the last year. I've never forgotten how ignorant she was of major world events. But from that point forward I began to realize that Janie wasn't the only person who was ignorant of her surroundings.

On the right track

As I entered high school, a time when football games, cheerleaders, and parties are the dominating factors in most teenagers' lives, this realization of widespread ignorance became most evident.

I will never forget the day I sat in my American Politics/Current Events class and five students didn't even know the space shuttle Challenger had exploded.

So what can be done about such ignorance? Chris Whittle has the answer.

Whittle is Chairman of the Board of Whittle Communications and developer of Channel One. Channel One is a twelve minute news program for teenagers which brings state-of-the-art satellite technology into schools.

It sounds like a great idea, right? So why is it getting so much opposition?

Because along with \$50,000 of loaned equipment and daily news broadcasts, Channel One broadcasts two minutes of commercials. Does that sound so bad?

Time and time again, we hear how things should be done to better the education of American teenagers. We hear how so many schools are ill-equipped to offer top notch educations to their students. Here we have Channel One which offers the "opportunity to bump many schools from the have-not category closer to the haves."

Some educators seem to think that the two minutes of commercials, which are divided into four thirty second segments, are filled with bad education, bad business and basically unethical. Since one of the commercials is a commercial for the campaign against drugs I don't understand how anyone could say Channel One's two minutes of commercials are unethical.

While Channel One may not be for every school, the overwhelming positive response from parents and educators indicates simply that Channel One is an idea whose time has come.

Maybe with Channel One coming into our schools, the Janie's of my time will become obsolete.

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Ask Louanne

The Collegian Advice Column
by Dr. Louanne Barton,
Psychologist

Louanne says "Just say no" ... if that's what you mean

Dear Louanne,

Why do women always say "no" when they mean "yes"? What's a guy supposed to do?

Sometimes a girl acts as if she wants to be raped. If women are so liberated why can't they admit they want sex too? In the meantime men are damned if they do and damned if they don't?

Signed,
Confused

Dear Confused,

It is absolutely not true that all women say "no" when they mean "yes". It may be true that some women do but those women need to learn to make conscious choices and take responsibility for those choices. Let me quote Robin Warshaw from I Never Called It Rape (1988).

"When a woman says "no" that means "no". Stop...Do not try to cajole her or argue with her...If you think she's saying "no" to protect her "reputation" (even though you know she really wants to have sex with you),

so what? When (and if) she's ready to have sex with you, let it be her choice to make.

"If a woman says "no" and really means "yes, but you have to convince me," then you don't want to be with her anyway. She's playing a game and it's a game nobody wins. Forget about "losing an opportunity." Just walk away."

If you're into game-playing, you don't know much about good sex or love. You could score every week for a year with a different woman and never know the joy of a mutually agreed-upon and sustained relationship.

As for those unliberated women who still play games, if you walk away maybe they'll learn how to take responsibility for an honest relationship.

Signed,
Louanne

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Dr. Louanne Barton
Reed Bldg.

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