

June 18, 2005

What's become of our world?

Jurors seek fame and churches to be taxed?

By Michael Coren

It's been another glorious week for our progressive, tolerant world. South of the border, Michael Jackson is found not guilty by a group of jurors who then tell their story to television programs across North America and Europe. Some even employed agents as soon as they knew they were confirmed on the Jackson case, but couldn't grab any cash until after their decision.

One wonders if they took their passing yet profitable fame into account when spending so long considering the verdict and whether their eventual ruling had anything to do with the potential offers of the more than 200 television bookers who gathered round them as soon as the trial was over.

As for Jackson himself, nobody disputes that he slept in bed next to children and that the parents of those children gave their approval. Remember, this is the man who made grabbing one's sexual organs in public a fashionable dance move.

The essence of the modern age: Ten minutes of notoriety for chat-show-educated jurors who believe the story of an abused pop singer who dangles his baby from a balcony and acts like some perverse Peter Pan in pyjamas.

In Canada, we have more style. Two male members of the military got married this week in the armed forces' first same-sex wedding. Major Beler of the Canadian Forces' Human Rights and Social Policy unit opined, "As far as the Canadian Forces is concerned it's 'who cares?' We've moved well beyond that."

Indeed we have. Moved beyond having an army worth the name to a group of men and women who are, forgive me, the laughing stock of the international military community. Urban myth has convinced Canadians that our armed forces are respected as peacekeepers throughout the world.

Nonsense! This hasn't been the case for 30 years. We rely on the Americans and the British and have shown ourselves unable to defend anyone and anything for a generation.

But we can defend same-sex marriage. Soldiers are forced to use food banks to feed their families, warriors struggle with outdated weapons and archaic equipment -- but thank goodness for that commitment to homosexual unions.

I think it was Field Marshal Rommel who said in 1942, "Mein Gott, the war is over for we Germans. The Canadians have mobilized their Human Rights and Social Policy Unit. Retreat my friends, retreat. Now there is no hope!"

No hope for anyone. The entertainment press has announced that by the end of the year there will be 100 "reality" shows on television. By "reality" we mean for the most part the rude, the vacuous, the greedy and the banal doing anything for money and fame.

The reality for most of the world's population is a daily struggle to survive and a constant fight against poverty, oppression and the type of living conditions that make the worst of Canada appear pleasant. Some people wonder why the poor nations resent the West. I wonder why they don't positively hate us.

Told you so

Lastly, we come to an "I told you so" moment. More than a year ago I predicted in this column that homosexual groups would challenge the charitable status of those churches that refused to perform same-sex marriages. Gay leaders called me hysterical and said this would never happen.

"If you are at the public trough, if you are collecting taxpayers' money, you should be following taxpayers' laws. And that means adhering to the Charter," announced gay activist Kevin Bourassa last week. "We have no problem with the Catholic Church promoting bigotry. We have a problem with the Canadian government funding that bigotry."

By bigotry he means any opposition to same-sex marriage. By government funding he means the donations of Christians to churches being tax-free. Yet the bulk of this money goes to maintaining the most elaborate and efficient system of welfare and relief in Canadian history.

So the poor and downtrodden will suffer. No surprise. This debate is not about right and left but about smothering any criticism of an extreme agenda. Go ahead. Tax me.

You can e-mail Michael Coren through his website, <http://www.michaelcoren.com>

- Have a letter for the editor? E-mail it to editor@tor.sunpub.com

http://www.torsun.canoe.ca/News/Columnists/Coren_Michael/2005/06/18/1093712.html