

Where's the outrage?



From the Director

by Ann Dugger

Just when you think political idiocy in this country can't get any worse, it does!

A few weeks ago we learned about a school principal in California who prohibited one of

her teachers from using in class any historic documents mentioning God. That included the Declaration of Independence, George Washington's journal and John Adams' diary, among others.

The ongoing efforts of a few to remove any mention of God from schools, communities, judicial venues, currency and patriotic events are more and more frequently aired on news broadcasts.

And Christmas – just recently celebrated by much of the world's population – precipitated increased attempts to completely obliterate it from our culture. Added to banned nativity scenes and any mention of Jesus, this year Christmas trees were banned in Eugene, Ore., and Santa Claus was prevented from participating in a Maryland tree-lighting ceremony. Even purely secular and harmless trappings of the season (red poinsettias, red-and-green

cookies, holiday lights and Rudolph) were deemed inappropriate because they offended the sensibilities of a few.

ONE WOMAN many years ago filed a lawsuit and succeeded in getting prayer removed from public schools. Because ONE WOMAN initiated legal action over the right to an abortion, millions of babies have been mercilessly slaughtered in this country. ONE or TWO or a FEW succeed time and time again in overturning long-established laws or creating new ones that do not fairly represent the majority of Americans.

Where is the outrage? Why do multiplied millions of decent, hard-working, strong-principled Americans allow a miniscule number of perverse malcontents to dictate how the rest of us live? What can we do to change things?

Ten years ago Ted Hires believed that ONE PERSON could make a difference, and he set out to prove it. He founded the Justice Coalition, and we try every day, one day at a time, one victim at a time, to make a difference in our community. One of Ted's favorite quotes by Margaret Meade says: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing

that ever has."

What is citizen involvement?

It's being willing to go beyond the call of duty.

It's reporting any unusual vehicular activity in your neighborhood which you think might be drug traffic.

It's calling the police if you hear gunfire, even if you don't know what's going on. Someone's life might be at stake.

It's attending Neighborhood Watch and ShAdCo meetings with your neighbors to get to know them and keep abreast of goings-on in your area.

It's neighbors looking out for each other.

It's volunteering at service organizations that try to help hurting, needy people.

It's civic involvement – voting, writing your legislators to hold them accountable to their constituency.

It's being honest and hard-working and doing the very best you can to be a good parent, child, sibling, friend, neighbor.

YOU can get involved; YOU, too, can make a difference.

Inspirational Thought

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

- James 1: 5-8

On the Lighter Side

A recent email making the rounds shows a video clip of a would-be burglar entering a store and drawing a handgun from his bulky coat, only to drop it clumsily on the counter where the cashier picks it up and turns it on the crook.

Our Victims' Advocate, Sabrina Gouch, sent it to JSO Public Information Officer Rick Wood, who said the same thing happened to him several years ago. He responded to a report of a burglary in progress and found the bad guy at the front door trying to break in.

"When I drew my gun," he said, "it caught on my jacket, jerked out of my hand and flew across the deck where it landed at the suspect's feet. The man started screaming, 'Oh, Lawd, help me, Jesus. Pleeese, Officer, don't set me up for a shootin'!"

"We both started laughing and I let him go. He was, after all, trying to get into his own house."

Faith Corner

The Faith Community holds the key to true Restorative Justice for all mankind. Many churches and businesses support this concept.

The Justice Coalition wishes to thank the following for their support in our quest for this goal of compassion and understanding:

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