

**SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF
COMMUNITY STANDARDS INC.**

(SPCS is a registered charity)

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Newsletter: Sept. 2008 Issue 108

Executive committee: David Lane
(Executive Director), John Mills (President),
David Wilson, Tony McCall

ANNOUNCING

Free Public Lecture

(SPCS Sponsored)

by

UK Barrister Mark Mullins

Topic: *“How should we respond to
legislation that undermines the public
good and attacks Christian values?
A legal perspective*

Venue: Central Baptist Church,
46 Boulcott St, Wellington

Date: Friday 3rd October 2008

Time: 7.30 – 8.15 p.m.

Followed by questions



Mark Mullins

Mark is a Barrister and a member of Christian Lawyers UK. Mark was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1995 and specialises in immigration and crime. In 2003 Mark became chairman of both the London and the Public Policy committees of the Christian Lawyers Fellowship and a member of the National Council.

Mark has spoken at the House of Lords on the repeal of s.28 of the Local Government Act, which prevented Local Authorities promoting homosexuality including the teaching of homosexuality in schools as a pretended family relationship and the Religious Hatred Bill on more than one occasion.

ANNOUNCING Society’s Special Meeting to update Members on Society’s financial position, provide progress report, receive feedback from members and discuss budget. This will precede the public lecture by Mark Mullins and run from 6.45 pm to 7.15 pm Friday 3 October. This is a Members only meeting and were signalled at the 2008 AGM following a motion that was passed

REMINDER: Some Membership Subscriptions are overdue for 2008

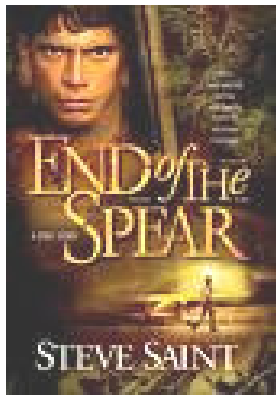
The Society’s financial year runs from 1 Jan 08 to 31 Dec. 08 Please assist us to ensure that the Society’s work can continue by paying overdue subs asap. The Society was registered as a “charitable entity” by the Charities Commission on 17 December 2007 and its donors are now eligible to tax rebate against taxable income on all donations over \$5.00 (see April Newsletter available www.spcs.org.nz for more details.).

YES YES !! We would welcome more donations to assist our work.

Please make all donation cheques payable to “SPCS” (or full name of Society). Send to P.O. Box 13-683 Johnsonville. Automatic Payment forms will be sent out on request. Receipts can be provided for tax rebate purposes if requested.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR OBJECTIVES (To see our membership forms visit our website)

**FILM BOARD¹ DOWNGRADES
RATING OF FILM – END OF THE
SPEAR FROM R16 to R13.**



End of the Spear (New Tribe Entertainment, 2006) directed by Jim Hanson. DVD was classified R16 by Chief Censor's Office in November 2007. The DVD has been distributed in New Zealand by Manna Christian Stores Ltd. The Society was granted leave by the Secretary of Internal Affairs on 25 February 2008 to apply to the Board to have the publication re-examined for classification and it met on 28 March to consider our written and oral submissions. The Society contended that the DVD should not have been classified R16 by the Chief Censor's Office, pointing out that the 35m film version of the same film, containing identical content to the DVD version, had been classified by the Chief Censor as an unrestricted publication ("M" i.e. Recommended for audiences 16 years of age and over). The DVD version should therefore be given an identical classification. The Board agreed with much of the thrust of the Society's submission and in its decision dated 2 July 2008, it downgraded the rating to R13.

¹ The Film and Literature Board of Review ("the Board") is an independent statutory appeal body established under section 91 of the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act 1993 ("the Act"). It is appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Minister of Internal Affairs to review classifications made by the Office of Film and Literature Classification ("the Office"). Publications include films, video recordings, DVDs, books, magazines and computer-based material.

**CHIEF CENSOR'S OFFICE BANS
"CRADLE OF FILTH T-SHIRT"²**

On 3 March 2008, John Mills, now President of the Society, submitted a T-shirt to the Classification Office stating: "grossly objectionable due to its obscene content. It completely vilifies the central figure of Christianity and would be considered offensive by other religions who also endear Christ..." He asked that the apparel that had been worn by a skinhead at a large public gathering on the Kapiti Coast, in the full view of families and children, be classified "objectionable". In a decision dated 26 June 2008, the Office classified it "objectionable". The decision, signed by Deputy Chief Censor Ms Nicola McCully, concluded:

"The injury to the public good that is likely to be caused by the availability of this T-shirt originates from the manner in which it associates an aggressive and misogynistic meaning of the "harsh, brutal and generally unacceptable" word [deleted] with Jesus Christ, and depicts an image of a chaste woman engaging in sexual activity. A fair interpretation of the message conveyed by this T-shirt is that Christians should be vilified for their religious beliefs..."

To see interview with Chief Censor Bill Hastings and SPCS Executive Director, on the T-shirt Ban, go to TV3 Video On-Demand 2/07/08 11.16 pm

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Video/Nightline/tabid/368/articleID/61714/cat/17/Default.aspx#video>

In its press release³ the Society's president, John Mills, praised the Chief Censor's Office for its "bold, morally courageous and legally sound" classification decision.³ However, he

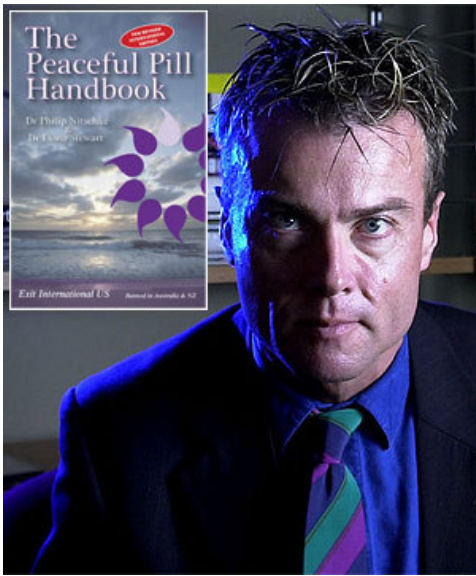
² Cradle of Filth is an extreme metal band formed in Suffolk, England in 1991

³ SPCS Press release 1/07/08

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0807/S00009.htm>

added: “I am shocked that censors, in particular female censors like McCully, can allow truckloads of hard core porn to be classified for adult home entertainment use in New Zealand, ‘for sexual titillation purposes’, when they all know that research shows that such images, repeatedly viewed, fuel a misogynistic and sexually depraved mindset that produces the bad fruits of rape, incest, paedophilia and a host of other morally depraved vices.”

FILM BOARD RULES IN FAVOUR OF SUICIDE BOOK



Chief Censor Bill Hasting

“A well-intentioned book” that “gives advice to enable” readers to commit suicide... includes comparisons of means of suicide”⁴

In a unanimous decision⁵ (12/09/08) the Film and Literature Board of Review ruled against a joint application from the Society and pro-life group Right-to-Life (NZ), to have Dr Nitschke’s book The Peaceful Pill Handbook (New Am. Rev. Ed.) classified

⁴ OFLC Decision No. 80267: dated 8/05/08. <http://www.exitinternational.net/documents/Hastings408.pdf>

⁵ The decision by the Board of Review, signed by the President, Ms Claudia Elliott, is available at: www.exitinternational.net/documents/NZOFLCapp-eal.pdf

“objectionable”. Instead it upheld the Office’s position that the book, a redacted version of an earlier edition that the Office had banned in 2007, only warranted an R18 classification.

In its appeal, the Society presented a detailed submission to the Board, following on from an earlier comprehensive written submission. It showed how the book provides detailed information on how a person could assist someone to commit suicide, which is a criminal offence under s. 179 of the Crimes Act and provides, in meticulous detail, details on how someone could access banned drugs and import them illegally.

In a media release dated 16 September, Dr Nitschke said the Board’s decision “clears the way for a fresh attempt to get the book classified so it may be published in Australia where it is currently banned outright.”



Dr Phillip Nitschke

Dubbed ‘Dr Death’ by the media

”We are talking to our Australian lawyers about lodging a copy of the New Zealand edition of the Handbook with the Australia Office of Film and Literature Classification, making use of the detailed the arguments outlined by the New Zealand Board of Review to justify re-classification here.”

**FILM BOARD REFUSES TO BAN
Grand Theft Auto IV (unedited version)**



The Society's application to the Board to have the console game Grand Theft Auto IV (unedited) [GTA4] re-examined and classified "objectionable" due to the high extent and degree of depiction of graphic violence, crime and sexual violence, was received on 28 July 2008. The Society presented its case for a ban at a hearing of the Board on 5 September and Mr Calif presented the case for the distributor, First Games Ltd. Its decision dated 17 September, the Board unanimously upheld the R18 classification issued to the game by the Chief Censor's Office as well as upholding the descriptive note that states - "Contains violence, offensive language and sex scenes". The Board rejected the Society's argument that the game tended to promote and glorify criminal activity, the infliction of serious physical harm and acts of significant cruelty by gratuitous depictions of such activities and a narrative that rewards criminal activity. It did not accept that the game could by its addictive and interactive nature (in contrast to a film or book), tend to promote and support criminal activity among some younger players, especially young men.

The Society executive is disturbed at the Board members' apparent lack of insight that prevents them from recognising the level of injury to the "public good" caused by the availability of such objectionable content. In a Dominion Post report entitled "Crime-promoting game sells fast" (27/11/02) the Chief Censor's concerns regarding an earlier version of the game –

Grand Theft Auto – Vice City, were quoted:

"The main purpose of the game is to let the player perform criminal activity and violence for their own amusement." In their consideration of the "dominant effect" and "impact" of the game on players, the Board made no mention of the criminal aspects of the activities engaged in. And yet this as the Chief Censor's report notes is "the main purpose of the game".

The "cinematics [of GTA4] are sophisticated and realistic" according to the Board's decision. The gamer is empowered to explore a seemingly endless array of options. For example players can choose to engage the main character "Niko" in sex with prostitutes, then beat them up and torture them or kill them to get their money back after having sex. As the Board notes, Niko has the option of choosing from three different sexual services at different prices from the prostitute. "The purpose of visiting the prostitute is to increase the player's health" wrote the Board, enabling him to be re-energised to embark on further crime sprees. The Board notes that because prostitution has been legalised in New Zealand, the using of prostitutes in the game cannot be viewed as promoting the exploitative, demeaning or degrading treatment of women, because the activity is presented as "consensual". This reasoning is morally bankrupt.

The Board ignored the articles submitted to the Board by the Society showing the link between exposure to games like Grand Theft Auto and the killing and torture of prostitutes (e.g. NZ Herald "Link seen to video games in prostitutes murder" 17/12/05).

The Board noted that Niko could be manipulated to kill innocent bystanders and/or police by incineration using Molotov cocktails – involving a lingering death of victims. The gratuitous depiction of the lingering deaths of innocent victims beaten to death using weapons or murdered using shotguns, is noted by the

Board to be of concern, especially the depiction of gushing blood etc.

Even though the Board recognise that depiction of the “infliction of significant cruelty” and “serious physical harm” is “high”, in the game, it does not consider GTA4 should be banned.

New Appointments to the Board

Source: Press Release Rick Barker 1/08/08

“Dr Ian Lambie, Judith Fyfe and Andrea Haines have been appointed to the **Film and Literature Board of Review**, Internal Affairs Minister Rick Barker announced today.



Dr Ian Lambie⁶

“Dr Ian Lambie is a psychologist with particular expertise in youth offending, psychology of offenders and health. Dr Lambie is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Auckland.

“Judith Fyfe is a forensic lawyer and partner at Fyfe Doherty Legal Investigation Service. She is also an oral history lecturer, consultant and project director at Victoria University of Wellington.



Judith Fyfe⁷

⁶ Source: www.anzatsa.org/bio/IanLambie.jpg
⁷ www.fyfeanddoherty.co.nz/fyfedoherty.html

“Andrea Haines is a Senior Tutor in the Teaching and Learning Development Unit at the University of Waikato, as well as a peer reviewer for the New Zealand Educational Journal. She has been a long-term member of the Hamilton Film Society and its President since 2001.

“They have been appointed for three years.



Andrea Haines⁸

“Dr Josphine Baddeley, who was appointed to the Film and Literature Board of Review on 1 January 2008, will be Deputy President.”

Note: Only two of the nine members of the Board are men (Dr Ian Lambie and Mark Andersen). The Hon. Rick Barker, was responsible for recommending all nominees to the Governor-General for appointment and had to do so “with the concurrence of the Minister of Women’s Affairs and the Minister of Justice. (see s. 93 of the Act).



Board member Judy Callingham

On 17 December 2007 Rick Barker announced the appointment of three new Board members: Louise Carroll, Judy Callingham and Dr Jo Baddeley (see December SPCS Newsletter for details).

⁸

www.waikato.ac.nz/pathways/learningSupport/Tutors/Ingdev.shtml

SPECIAL REPORT⁹: Part I
Kapiti District Council and Beach
By-law and Nudity on Beaches



SPCS Members are strongly encouraged to write their own letters to the Kapiti District Council sending them to Private Bag 601, Paraparaumu 5254 before 24 Oct 08.

Or Make a submission on-line to Kapiti Coast District Council on their beach By-law. Go to:

<http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Consultation/BeachBylaw2008SubmissionForm.htm>

SOCIETY SUBMISSION to Kapiti Mayor, Ms Jenny Rowan and all Councillors

We wish to notify you and your Council that we are strongly opposed to any attempt by the Council to provide any provision in its 2008 Beach Bylaw that might allow for, endorse or lead to any “clothing optional” zone being designated and approved on any of the Kapiti Coast Beaches. Instead we urge the Council to uphold and promote the rights of members of the public to enjoy the beach, foreshore and dunes without being confronted by those persons who intentionally engage in “indecent exposure” which is clearly defined in law under Section 27 of the Summary Offences Act 1981 as involving the intentional exposure of “any part of his or her genitals”.

⁹ For more details from SPCS website see: <http://www.spcs.org.nz/2008/kapiti-coast-nude-beaches-and-council-shocker/#more-239>

[Draft Beach Bylaw 2008 \(revised 15 Sept 2008\)](#)
(Revisions subject to final confirmation by Council at the next Council Meeting on October 2 2008)

S. 27 states: “(1) Every person is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or a fine not exceeding \$2,000 who, in or within view of any public place, intentionally and obscenely exposes any part of his or her genitals. (2) It is a defence in a prosecution under this section if the defendant proves that he or she had reasonable grounds for believing that he or she would not be observed.”

Nudists who may wish to openly expose their private parts to others can do so lawfully by joining a naturalist club – they are crying out for new members, or confine their activities to their own private homes.

You have been reported as supporting nudity in public places on the Kapiti Coast beaches and are quoted as saying that under the proposed 2008 Bylaw: “There will be no signage, they [nudists] will have free rein.” As much as you may wish them to have “free reign” or believe they have such a “right”, the absence of signs stating “clothing optional” does NOT give nudists a “free reign” to indulge in “indecent exposure” as you misleadingly suggest.

You added: “The beach is a place for the general public, as long as they are not being offensive they can be clothed or unclothed. The Human Rights Act supports anybody being there.” (Dom Post 15/09/08).

We strongly oppose the Council’s public endorsement, albeit with some reservations, of “indecent exposure” as a legitimate option and a “human right” on the Kapiti Coast beaches when you know full well that the deliberate and often provocative exposure of genitals in a public place is considered offensive and obscene behaviour by most people and can lead to prosecution.

Name _____

Signed _____

Date _____

I live on the Kapiti Coast **Yes/No.**

Part II: High Court on Beach Nudist

The rationale for the Kapiti District Council's proposed change to its current Beach By-law (2002) is highly questionable legal advice it has received that cites a court case *Ceramalus v Police* (High Court Auckland AP No.76/91).



Mayor Jenny Rowan congratulates newly elected Deputy Mayor Ann Chapman.¹⁰

From public utterances made in the media by the Mayor, Jenny Rowan, Deputy Mayor, Ann Chapman and a number of councillors, it appears that they have been persuaded that this High Court judgment sets a precedent that establishes that public nudity is legal on all New Zealand beaches and that the “clothes optional” choice is a “human right” for nudists protected under the Human Rights Act 1993 (HRA) and justified under s. 14 of the Bill of Rights 1990 (BoR) that deals with the right to “freedom of expression”. However, this is not the case and demonstrates why the Council must release to the public all the legal advice it has relied on in coming to its pro-nudist stance, and allow it to be subjected to proper scrutiny.

¹⁰ www.kapiticoast.govt.nz

The HRA does not have any bearing on the so-called ‘rights’ of clothed persons v. non-clothes persons. It only addresses discrimination against persons on the basis that they belong to one or more of a limited number of classes based on race, gender etc. It does not deal with and cannot deal with the so-called ‘rights’ of nudists or naturists, as they do not constitute a “class of persons” as defined in HRA.

The BoR contains clauses 5 & 6 that act as a counter-balance to so-called rights of “freedom of expression”. The so-called ‘right’ to parade fully naked on a public beach in front of kids is over-ridden by other laws and this can be demonstrated to be legally justifiable in a democracy.

The *Ceramalus* case dealt with a charge that had been brought by police against a man, Nobilangelo Ceramalus (the appellant) who was walking nude and sunbathing naked on an Auckland beach, Fitzpatrick Bay, in close proximity to a large number of young school children aged 8-11 years and supervising teachers.



Nobilangelo Ceramalus¹¹

Managing director of EStarFuture Corporation and naturist who lives on Waiheke Island and is currently a Waiheke Island community board member

After a complaint was lodged with the police, they requested that he move away from the children to the other end of the beach. He refused and informed

¹¹ estarfuturcorp.com/blog/estarblogger.html

the police that he had rights to remain where he was. They removed him from the scene and he was charged in Birkenhead on 12 December 1990 with “intentionally and obscenely exposing his genitals” under s. 27(1) of the Summary Offences Act 1981 and for behaving in an “offensive manner” ... “in or within view of” a “public place” under s. 4(1)(b) of the Act.

On 24 January 1991 the case was heard in the District Court at North Shore. Judge McElrea determined that it was appropriate for the police to drop the second charge under s. 27(1) after he was convicted of the lesser charge – of behaving in an offensive manner - under s. 4(1)(a). The Judge imposed no costs.

Not satisfied with the judgment, Ceramalus appealed the decision to the High Court and succeeded in getting the Tomkins J to quash the conviction, overturning the decision of the District Court. Tomkins J was persuaded by the argument advanced by the appellant’s counsel that walking *in the nude* and/or sunbathing *in the nude* do not constitute behaviour, so nudity *per se* cannot ever be defined as offensive behaviour. Walking very excitedly or briskly involves a behavioural component, but not walking *nude*.

The Judge was also persuaded that evidence had not been presented that established “beyond reasonable doubt” that the actions of Ceramalus had aroused feelings of “anger, disgust or outrage” in the children and/or teachers, so therefore he must be considered to be innocent of the charge of behaving in an offensive manner, until such evidence was presented. He considered the testimony of the children and the teachers that they found the behaviour “offensive” to be unconvincing.

The facts recorded show that Ceramalus knowingly exposed his genitals to children for some time, while walking and sunbathing, but insisted that he had a right to expose himself because the beach, in his view, had become known to locals as one where nudity was tolerated. Although the defendant produced ‘evidence’ that the beach was listed in the Free Beach Movement of New Zealand Guide to so-called ‘naturist beaches’, the Judge received conflicting evidence that showed that locals did not consider it to be a beach where nudity was acceptable.

In the High Court decision Tomkins J said that most people would regard the defendant’s conduct as inappropriate, unnecessary, and in bad taste, but that it would not, in his learned opinion, arouse feelings of anger, disgust, or outrage among onlookers, and therefore the defendant should not incur a criminal record because of his actions.

The decision by McElrea DCJ to support and encourage police to drop the charge against Ceramalus under s. 27(1) of the Summary Offences Act 1981, when the evidence against him was clear-cut, and deal with his actions only on the basis that they arguably caused offence, under s. 4(1)(a), meant that the case was doomed to failure on appeal. The Society contends that the offences should have been dealt with under 27(1) based on the facts. Judge McElrea DCJ took the view that because the defendant claimed that he did not expose his genitals in an obscene or offensive manner then this was fact and therefore s. 27(1) could not possibly apply. However, knowingly exposing genitals in a public place such that it causes offence is constituted a lewd and offensive act. The law does not set a level of feelings

of “anger, disgust or outrage” that must be reached in the minds of onlookers before the action can be considered offensive and justify charges being laid by police.

The testimony of a number of witnesses and the observational records of the police constituted more than sufficient evidence to show that the man intentionally and knowingly exposed himself for a prolonged period to many young children and adults. The Court record shows that he was a repeat offender who had exposed himself to other young children involved in school organised activities at the beach. His “indecent exposure” in a public place should have been pursued under s. 27(1) of the Act. The Judge embarked on a doomed course of action when he treated such an offence as merely “offensive behaviour”.

Conclusion: It is arguable that this case sets a precedent with regard to the question of the legality of “indecent exposure” in a public place. Nor does it sanction nudity on our beaches. The Society contends that it does not.

NEWS ITEMS

The Ministry of Culture and Heritage released an important Consultation Paper dated January 2008 entitled:

Broadcasting and New Digital Media: Future of Content Regulation

The Society’s response to this paper, was forwarded to the Broadcasting Unit of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage for consideration. Society members are encouraged to read our submission. See:

<http://www.spcs.org.nz/2008/societys-submission-to-the-ministry-for-culture-and-heritage/>

Referendum Petition on “Anti-Smacking” Legislation.



The Society applauds the hard work of former MP Larry Baldock, currently leader of the Kiwi Party, Bob McCroskrie, Director of Family First, Sheryl Savill, who with thousands of others have helped collect over 385,000 signatures to ensure that a national referendum is held on the following question:

“Should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in New Zealand?”

More than 100,000 signatures over the 285,027 required to force a referendum, were collected. The Society is right behind the efforts being made to convince politicians to repeal the ‘anti-smacking’ law.

“Drowning in depravity”

On the 18th of May 2008 the Sunday Star Times Magazine published a feature article sub- titled “**Paradise Lost**” under the heading “Drowning in Depravity” It commenced with the following statement:

“New Zealand’s image may be that of a clean, green idyll, but to our moral watchdogs we’re an increasingly filthy bunch, enveloped in a smog of political correctness. Grant Smithies asks three men about their mission to get us make on track - and why they feel persecuted.”

Smithies interviewed Bob McCoskrie (Family First Director), **David Lane (Executive Director, SPCS)** and Ian Wishart (Editor, *Investigate Magazine*). For full story including interviews see:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/sundaystartimes/4551109a19799.html>

Society Officers Attend NZ Forum on the Family in Auckland.

On 8 September Society officers John Mills and David Lane represented the Society at the NZ Forum on the Family in Auckland where they joined over 200 delegates representing over 60 other organisations committed to similar objectives to the Society. This was a great opportunity to hear the leaders of most of New Zealand's political parties present their family policies, question them on policy and network with leaders from a range of like-minded organisations. [Congratulations to Bob McCoskrie and his team for a superbly organised conference.](#)

Website Shows Voting Record on Family Issues

On 21 September Family First launched a website highlighting the conscience and family related bills voted on over the past six years and how each MP and political party has voted. The website is:

www.valueyourvote.org.nz

SPCS CONGRATULATES TELSTRACLEAR FOR BLOCKS ON CHILD PORN ACCESS

The Society is delighted that Internet Service Provider (ISP) TelstraClear has decided to filter access to child porn sites. It is been calling for such controls to be made mandatory for a number of years. In mid-July TelstraClear customers received the following message by e-mail

“This message is to inform you of a change in policy regarding access to some web sites via TelstraClear Internet.

We have decided to filter access to all known child sex abuse sites. This decision is based on the abhorrent nature of the content of these sites and our desire to create a safe online environment for our customers and their families.

There are approximately 7000 known child sex abuse sites in the world. Many of them change their online address every

couple of days. As a result, the list of sites is refreshed daily.

TelstraClear will not be keeping records of any users who attempt to access these sites. This is not an intelligence gathering or covert measure. It is a simple filtering process to make the Internet safer for all.

Someone trying to access one of these listed sites will be redirected to a default page notifying them that access to that address is not allowed. This action will not impact the speed or performance of your broadband.

We trust you will support our move to create a safe online environment. We appreciate and value your continued support and custom.

Dr William Lane Craig's

Lecture Tour 8-21 June



Dr Craig's lecture at Central Baptist Church Wellington on Tuesday evening 10th June was attended by over 200 people. He engaged in two major public debates in Auckland and Palmerston North with humanist Dr Bill Cooke and many thousands heard his messages. He was interviewed on Radio NZ by Kim Hill. Society members are urged to listen to his message

“If God does not exist, do objective moral values exist?”

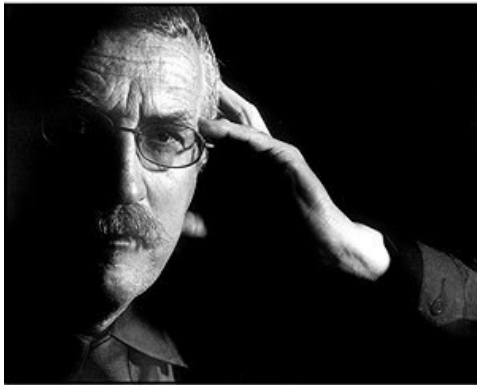
<http://www.spcs.org.nz/2007/william-lane-craig-on-objective-moral-values/>

For more on Dr Craig, see:

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org>

ISSUES OF PUBLIC TRUST, CORRUPTION AND INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC OFFICE

Excerpts from an address given by newly elected Society president, John Mills, to the Waikanae Presbyterian Men's Fellowship on Tuesday evening 17th July 2008



John Mills: Society President¹²

.... We ought not to be surprised that our New Zealand streets are increasingly filled with violence, rape and murder which is now even reaching into the home, touching the elderly and young alike

In my own living memory I can recall that when I was a youngster a murder in New Zealand was a once-in-a-year tragedy, whereas nowadays murder is almost a daily occurrence with the shock value much diminished. And the population has increased by less than 25% over that period.

I suspect that most of us would agree that many New Zealanders have been regularly feeding their minds on pornography and gratuitous violence

¹² Photo credit: Amber-Jayne Bain Photographer (www.ajbain.com)

for a long time. It has always been my belief that "what you put into your mind is eventually what will come out". This material as we all know has become readily available through technology and a planned so-called social engineering program by the powerful liberal minority. This section of the population has learnt how to manipulate the democratic system of government...steadily re-educating the youth to embrace their liberal values.

To expect the censors to stop material "injurious to the public" flowing into the country would be like asking them to turn back the tide. They can regulate the worst of the stuff to the best of their ability, but unfortunately, I think we are likely to get it anyway. And without a clear recognition of the negative effects of this corrupting sleaze by a large section of the population and its rejection, we can expect the flow to continue. By the same token I do not intend to use my position as president of the Society to discourage groups from calling such sleaze what it really is and fighting its passage into the country. As I see it, the greatest fault is with many leaders who have failed to recognize the harm they are doing.

Appalling Role Models

The types of role models we have in our MPS set the tone for the rest of the country. Many of the general public are saying:

'If politicians can lie why shouldn't we? If the politicians can steal and misappropriate public funds why should we pay our taxes?'

Some MPS are being accused of being openly corrupt, even by fellow MPS, and those found to be at fault, seem to be sorry, if at all, only when and if they are caught out. Experience tells us that

they will probably soon be reinstated to public office if they can maintain a level of elect-ability, that being the only criteria for acceptable behaviour, it would seem.

Lying and theft have become so entrenched in our culture that as a businessman I have been hard pressed to find people who will give an accurate report or do what they say they will do. Few New Zealanders any longer consider their word to be their bond.

Many church leaders have so compromised what they know to be true, that they now find themselves impotent and powerless in terms of having any moral authority. They see and know what is going wrong with the world but do not know what to do about it. They live comfortably in their houses and perform their priestly duties with no conviction of their own sick spiritual state and failures to live up to their high calling. In my view they would do better to resign and find some other form of employment rather than be responsible for congregations they have become unable to lead, as they should. Let them not think that they will escape a greater judgment.

For the time I have available to me as President of the Society, I intend to use every opportunity and the means at my disposal to hold accountable those who would lead our country down the path of corruption in all its forms. The country needs a clear and consistent call to integrity by all those in leadership.

If the country can be re-educated by way of legislation, to consign smokers to light up outside, then surely it must be possible for us to re-educate ourselves to reject all forms of dishonesty, lack of integrity etc in our elected officials. For once they lose

their credibility their opportunity to serve the public good is seriously impaired.

What kind of a fool would expect his business to prosper if one hired a known liar or known thief?

John Mills is a church leadership representative on the Kapiti Coast Ministers Association and a member on a number of community and business boards. He is no stranger to Christian activism. In early 1998 at the opening of Te Papa National Museum in Wellington, he was arrested for participating in a silent protest against the blasphemous Exhibition Britannica which involved the display of the infamous "Virgin in a Condom" and the offensive version of the Last Supper painting, entitled "Wrecked". He was arrested for trespass in the Museum for wearing a T-shirt containing a message criticising the exhibition and refusing to leave a public place when ordered to by a Museum staff member, even though he had committed no offence. He fought the charge in Court and was acquitted in a landmark judgement issued by District Court Judge John Hole.

John is a married man with a grown family. He is well known in the community for his willingness to speak out on important moral and social issues.

Source: [Kapiti-Observer](#)

The Society Welcomes New Members

How do I become a member?

Visit us on-line for Application Forms, email us, or write to us.

<http://www.spcs.org.nz/membership/>

Email: spcs.org@gmail.com

SPCS. P.O. Box 13-683 Johnsonville

Membership for 2009 is by way of a donation subscription of \$45 (recommended) and your signed commitment to all six of our Society objectives available on our website