



Straight Talk

By Muriel Sluyter

The Wrong Answer, Again

25 January, 2005

Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Have you heard about Texas schools testing kids for body fat levels? How about Illinois subjecting students to social and emotional developmental exams in kindergarten, fourth grade and ninth grade?

No word on Texas parents' responses, yet, but after Illinois passed the bill creating the Children's Mental Health Partnership, legislators finally looked into the details. They were shocked to see what they had done. They had forced the Illinois State Board of Education to develop a mandatory social and emotional examination plan—from which children could not opt out—as part of Illinois Learning Standards.

Now, their school children will be involuntarily examined, and women questioned concerning depression during pregnancy and up to a year after childbirth. The horrifying case of the Texas mother who drowned her children is enough to make everyone want to do something, but this is the wrong vehicle.

Is it harmless? A Columbia University project called "Teen Screen" diagnosed one-third of examined students with mental health problems, after which fully one-half of those were sent for treatment. If a university can do that much damage, just think what a high school filled with rambunctious boys can do!

We have roughly 52 million school kids. If one out of six were labeled mentally ill, 8 and 2/3 million kids would be forced into treatment. Modern treatments include a lot of drugs, few of which work predictably with children. Side effects include suicide and extreme violence, both of which are spoken of as being epidemic in juvenile America. Then there are psychosis, cardiac toxicity and growth suppression. Which one would you like your child to develop from mandated medication? As a matter of history, Eric Harris of Columbine notoriety was on one of those drugs.

Teen suicide used to be almost unknown in America. No more. And we have no idea how many are on legal drugs when they kill themselves.

The only benefit from this outrageous program will accrue to the mental health and pharmaceutical industries, neither of which have credibility to spare.

Large numbers of kids are labeled with ADD, ADHD and other alphabet soup handicaps. Are these conditions real?

In experiments, difficult children have been rigorously denied all chemical food additives and have become pretty normal kids. What kinds of additives? Look in your food cupboard and freezer. Every chemical known to modern food science can be found there. And they're getting at least that many chemicals in schools, both in lunch programs and vending machines.

Some kids are sensitive to chemicals, sugars and processed foods, and, yes, it makes them hard to enjoy, but not crazy.

We had that problem, but our pediatrician refused to medicate our child. He said the medications were dangerous and should only be used as a last resort. Little did we know how prescient was his diagnosis.

Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, whose job was to teach our soldiers to kill, says our kids are being conditioned to be violent—without being made aware of the consequences—and are being taught the mechanics of killing. He says a trained officer, at seven yards, will hit his target less than one time in five, but the boy who killed those kids in Paducah, KY, fired eight shots and made eight hits. Five were head shots and three upper torso shots.

He'd never fired a pistol before, but had played "point and shoot" video games for hundreds of hours. In one such game the goal is to assassinate President Kennedy. This is a "game?" Sounds like killer training to me!

Instead of declaring millions of kids mentally ill and giving them dangerous drugs, let's try non-destructive things first: Intensive parenting, vigorous exercise in place of TV watching and video game playing, limiting chemicals, sugars and processed foods to which many kids react.

It worked in our family, and our boy was no different from today's kids.

[Home](#) • [Current Column](#) • [Archives](#) • [Quote Bonus](#) • [Contact Us](#) • [Links](#)