

When Restraint is Removed

by Lisa Van Houten

Condensed from American Decency Association Newsletter ~ May 2023

Mobs of rampaging teens looting stores, burning vehicles, attacking bystanders; city streets filled with junkies, human feces, and homeless encampments; violent offenders released from jail only to repeat their crimes over and over again. This is the picture of Democrat-led cities across the nation - cesspools of crime where lawlessness goes unpunished and undeterred. Often led by George Soros-backed prosecutors, such as Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg, these cities have adopted soft-on-crime policies where criminals are protected, public safety is ignored, police are defunded, and felonies become misdemeanors.

As of June 2022, of the 30 American cities with the highest murder rate, 27 were led by Democrat mayors. The top three were Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York. In New York City there were 100 people murdered in the first 99 days of 2023, according to data published by the New York Police Department. During that same period there were 408 reported rapes, 4,102 robberies, and 6,742 felony assaults. On Easter weekend in Chicago, 20 people were shot in rampant gang violence; the previous weekend saw 21 people shot. In Chicago, so far this year car thefts are up 151%, sexual assaults and robberies are each up 23%, and major crime reports are up 104%.

Leftist policies such as defund police, the elimination of bail, and the reduction of most felony crimes to slap-on-the-wrist misdemeanors have demoralized the police force who know that even if they arrest lawbreakers, they'll be released. Cities are experiencing a significant loss of police officers; Chicago had a net loss of 2,641 officers between 2020 and August 2022.

And with no consequences for perpetrators, smash-and-grab thefts have become so commonplace that businesses can no longer afford to remain open. Major retailers, as well as small businesses, are pulling out of these Democrat-run cities due to millions of dollars in losses from theft. For example, Walmart just recently announced the closure of half of their stores in Chicago, after closing all of their stores in Portland, OR. Shoplifting has essentially been legalized where leftist district attorneys refuse to prosecute thefts under \$1,000.

While these leftist policies have fostered out-of-control crime in American cities, the root causes go even deeper than radical district attorneys

and mayors. The sexual revolution led to the breakdown of the family, which has led to the breakdown of society. **There is an epidemic of fatherlessness in our nation.** In 1950, the number of out of wedlock births was 4%; now 51% of all children in America are born out of wedlock. The number of Black American children growing up without a father is even higher - 65%. The results of these statistics are devastating. Data shows that 75% of inmates grew up without a father. Mary Eberstadt, writing at First Things, reports: *"the murder problem is largely a gang problem, and the gang problem is largely a daddy problem. ... 'A high percentage of gang members come from father-absent homes ... Through gangs, youth find a sense of community and acceptance. In addition, the gang leader may fill the role of father, often leading members to model their behaviors after that individual ... Having a father in the child's life greatly reduces the likelihood of a child joining a gang.'"*

In addition, 63% of youth suicides come from fatherless homes, those without a dad are 32 times more likely to become homeless, and are 14 times more likely to rape a woman. Promiscuity is also tied to fatherlessness.

Boys growing up without a father haven't seen a healthy, loving relationship between a husband and a wife. They don't have a model to show them how to be an honorable man who fulfills his role to provide for and protect his family. There is no modeling of commitment or male responsibility. And with the legalization of gay marriage, we're now told fathers are expendable - kids can have two mommies. Since 2018, the government doesn't even release statistics about fatherlessness because our culture says that mothers and fathers are interchangeable.

Yet even deeper is the ultimate cause of the chaos in our cities and in our culture. Theologian Albert Mohler recently stated: *"Many people want to reduce all sin and wrongdoing, even criminal behavior to some kind of socioeconomic explanation. That's basically all a secular society has."*

Mohler went on to state that Americans *"have been unraveling the entire moral fiber, the moral structure of Western civilization ... that's based upon very clear Biblical principles of morality. Eventually, you end up with people who basically demonstrate what it looks like for a restraint to be gone, for inhibitions to be gone, and for people to follow example after example of horrifying behavior. ...If God's restraining grace is taken away from a society, the list of horrible things happening just continues."*

Letter to the Editor

from NoSpinGrandma

The results of the last election really put me in a funk! How could so many people vote the way they did, the D. I didn't understand it. Didn't people know truth? Couldn't people see what was going on in our country and be appalled and frightened for our future. My dad, an immigrant (a legal immigrant) died at 89 years a staunch D. He believed Mussolini was a hero! But, he believed everything the government told him. He had no other source of information. Could that be an explanation?? I am puzzled and afraid for our America. The truth doesn't come from the popular media, we who are informed know that. Is that the problem? Are the D voters just believing the lies that are fed them by ABC, NBC, CBS, MSMBC and even our tax supported public radio station. Surely, they must know that these programs, I can't call them news programs, are arms and legs of the D. Their programs preach what they're told to. They didn't cover the riots that destroyed many D communities, they didn't cover all the statues that were torn down, they didn't show the BLM, Antifa burning down business and a police station in these D communities, they deleted former President Trumps speech, which those of us who try to be informed heard all of it where he asked for peaceful protests, they didn't cover lots of really important things which people need to hear, they lied about a lot of things, and are still lying.

Sometimes, I just want to quit trying to help people hear truth cause I feel they just don't want to believe truth. It's becoming a third world country where the government can imprison political prisoners like the ones being held in the DC jails without a trial or defense. These prisoners were peaceful protesters for the most part and the government is still looking for hundreds of people who were in attendance at that mislabeled insurrection. Oh, poor American, what is becoming of your freedom, what will become of you if your people continue to stay so stupid.

Baby Items Drop Off

First Congregational Church of Fruitport is a baby items drop off site for Muskegon Pregnancy Services.

If you have items that you would like to donate, you can drop them off by the side door, under the roof, at 3212 Pontaluna Road, Fruitport.

If you have any questions, please call (231) 288-9873.

There should be a law that electric cars can only be charged by wind or solar power. If you're giving up fossil fuel, then give it up.

posted by Mike Johnson

"What exactly is your 'fair share' of what 'someone else' has worked for?"

—Thomas Sowell

submitted by Karen Bergman

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

submitted by Donna Phelps

What is a good way to end 'Gender Confusion'?

Look in your underwear.

You're welcome.

submitted by Karen Bergman

Returnable cans & bottles

First Congregational Church youth group activity fund could use your deposit cans and bottles. You can drop them off at the church (3212 Pontaluna Rd.) if you would like or you can call 231-288-9873, and someone will pick them up.

Ryan Todd Mergener



Fruitport. Ryan Todd Mergener, age 37, passed away Sunday, March 19, 2023 at Trinity Health Muskegon Campus. He was born March 14, 1986 in Muskegon to Randy F. and Laurie J. (Langlois) Mergener and was a lifelong resident of the area. Ryan was a graduate of Muskegon

Catholic Central Class of 2005. He was self-employed in construction. Ryan was an incredibly talented artist. He enjoyed football, basketball, baseball and ran cross country in high school. He was also certified in scuba diving. Ryan attended St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spring Lake and St. Patrick Catholic Church in Grand Haven. Ryan is survived by his 3 daughters, Faeryn Mergener, Lilac Mergener, Star Spindle; his beloved, his friend and mother of his daughters, Calli Spindle; his parents, Randy and Laurie Mergener; his grandmothers, Ginny Langlois and Gayle Mergener; 2 brothers, Eric (Blossom) Mergener, Jordan Mergener; 3 nephews, Tristan Mergener, Gunner Mergener, Gaige Mergener; aunts and uncles, Todd (Jodi) Mergener, Bill Langlois, Mare Langlois, Bob (Mary) Langlois, Betty Lou (Sandy Dodson) Langlois, Jorie (Charlie) Tonkinson, Leo (Sally) Langlois, Nancy (Matt) Matthews, Dan (Nikki) Langlois; and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Fred Mergener and Bill Langlois. A Funeral Service will be held 11:00 AM Monday, March 27, 2023 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 Harvey St, Norton Shores, MI 49444. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service, 10-11 AM Monday. Memorial Contributions in lieu of flowers can be made for the Education Fund for his daughters, c/o Langlois Stores, 3000 Henry Street, Muskegon, MI, 49441, ATTN: Calli Spindle. Checks should be made payable to Calli Spindle.

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condensed from The Blaylock Wellness Report, October 2022

I will bring my readers up to date on the latest concerting the COVID-19 issue, especially the dangers of vaccines.

A great deal of information is now pouring in from the scientific community concerning the dangers of these injections. We are also getting a great deal of hard data from life insurance companies - the sources of the most accurate data concerning deaths. Two insurance companies have disclosed a dramatic rise in death rates that occurred after the vaccines were rolled out. And that rate of all-cause deaths continues to climb.

Unfortunately, the mainstream media has chosen to mislead the public, despite hard data backing up these accusations.

08/20/22 - The Daily Wire

President Joe Biden has responded to rising gas prices by releasing one million barrels of oil per day from the Strategic Petroleum Reserves - a stock of emergency crude oil created to "reduce the impact of disruptions in supplies of petroleum products." Though reserves in January 2021 were as high as 638 million barrels, reserves have fallen to 461 million barrels as of August 2022 - a level not seen since March 1985.

"The scale of this release is unprecedented: the world has never had a release of oil reserves at this 1 million per day rate for this length of time,"

At least five million barrels have found their way to nations such as India, the Netherlands, and Italy, as well as a Chinese oil company with links to Hunter Biden.

In the meantime the current price of gas indicates that there is a shortage of gas in this country.