

THREE WORKS

CHARLES BERNSTEIN

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Report from Washington

Washington, D.C., Sept. 15, 1990 – Senator Laughton O’Buoy (R-GA) charged today that there were twenty “pipe-smoking” drug addicts in the State Department.

“Drug uses and sympathizers have infiltrated the news media, education, and the arts,” Sen. O’Buoy told *Stifled Yawn* in an exclusive interview. “We are beginning to see a close connection between drugs, pornography, and flag burning.”

Sen. O’Buoy heads the Senate Select Committee on Un-American Activities. “We intend to bring the whole management at State down here and ask them clear and simple: ‘Are you now or have you ever been a drug user.’”

He said the government officials were supplied with drugs through membership in highly secret “cells” and that their primary loyalty was to these cells.

“If they’ve left their cells — fine. Then let them prove their allegiances by giving us the names of those they know or suspect to be drug users or sympathizers.” O’Buoy said that drug users — reformed or not — should be barred from employment in which “they have significant exposure to the public.”

“We need drug tests to ensure our national security. In my mind they are even more important to the drug war than loyalty oaths were to the Crusade against Communism some years back.”

“I’ve tested my own children”, Sen. O’Buoy confided, “and all but one of the results have been very encouraging.”

Declaring his motto to be “sub-zero tolerance,” Sen O’Buoy explained that “tolerance is corrosive to the fabric of traditional American values. We have never been a tolerant country, it goes against the very most profoundest grains of our national being.”

“There are millions that are presently being used for rehabilitation and treatment that would be much better spent on drug testing,” Sen. O’Buoy said. Citing a “skewed moral agenda,” O’Buoy said money now spent on AIDS testing would be better spent on comprehensive drug tests for the high-school age population. Just as bad as the drug uses are the sympathizers and legalizers, according to the Senator. “These are nothing more than fellow travelers working in cahoots with Pinko front organizations dedicated to our losing the war against the international drug conspiracy. I know in my own state these people are mostly New York Jew lawyers trying to stir up trouble.”

“If people think they can escape from our great country by taking drugs, then I say they ought to go back from where they came from

— and let the professional sympathizers go back to Israel where they can do some good keeping down the Arabs, who are basically a bunch of drug addicts, especially the Iraqis.”

Noting the high incidence of drug use among African-Americans, Sen O’Buoy commented, “They should go back to Africa. They have betrayed the noble aspirations of their forefathers who came to America searching for a new and better life.”

Reflecting on the growing number of drug users, Sen. O’Buoy wondered out loud, “Why can’t they use prescription products and cigarettes like the rest of us? I see nothing wrong with unwinding with a pint or two of fortified wine, one of the finest products of our state. That’s why we repealed Prohibition.”

Sen. O’Buoy insisted that the drug issue was nonpartisan. “All parties would be better to take the right side on this one, so what’s the difference? Like Big Dick “Don’t-Pull-My” Cheney said in a briefing a few days ago: “Either they play ball or we cut off their balls — or find someone who will.”

New York 747 Sonnette

The jumbo jet sails into New York's
Newark airport, like a large
Apple hitting ground at Time
Square, crossroads of the
Hebrew & Porto Rican immigrants
Eating their colorful & spicy cuisine
In the shadows of the Empire
Trade Towers. Shopping on Wall
Street & taking the underground to
The Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art,
then, after dark, a show on Madison
Avenue's Great White Way.

(1993)

Amalgamated Writing Programs Announce Morally Repugnant Poets-and-Theorists Exhibit

by Mike Freakman

New York, Dec. 22, 2007 (AHP2 News)

Darien Credenza, the Executive Muckamuck of Amalgamated Writing Programs announced that a Morally Repugnant Poets-and-Theorists Exhibit will be held at the organization's annual congress in New York. The exhibit is the first of what is planned as a series of didactic displays at Amalgamated's popular annual gatherings.

Credenza told AHP2 News that the exhibit would emphasize that Amalgamated was a nonpartisan service organization. "Yes we have no ideology. We only have craft. That is why we need not only to repudiate literary theorists and cultural critics but also the poets who have been brainwashed by them into spouting their Un-Amalgamated dogma."

Credenza announced that the centerpiece of the exhibit would be a graphic display naming names poets who engage in Un-Amalgamated activities such as criticizing the major poetry awards. Such a critical attitude, he said, reflects "the demagoguery of a tone-deaf poetics; and, I feel, it's morally repugnant." Moreover, he added, such poets "ooze with condescension, unless you talk their kind of talk," noting these poets were not worthy of his condescension, only his condemnation.

Credenza warned of the danger of MLA-card-carrying literary theorists and cultural critics infiltrating creative writing programs through the morally repugnant poets. "Literary theorists and cultural critics are parasites with peculiar habits of breeding. ... They would tell you that accuracy in writing is a naïve delusion. At the expense of storytellers and poets, theorists sustain a parasitic lifestyle."

"These theorists often subject poems to gruesome interrogations in order to reveal—not what the authors intended to say—but what the writers failed to say," Credenza complained. "As if our poets were mere conduits through which capitalism, patriarchy, religion, and prejudices of all kinds exercise their power."

"It's up to Amalgamated to determine what the correct meaning of approved works are," Credenza said. "Anything else would lead to anarchy. Good poems have no hidden agendas. Good poems are neither for or against capitalism, patriarchy, or religion unless they clearly state that they are in the first stanza of the poem and logically develop the thesis through a combination of lucid images and narrative development."

"A few theorists and poets would have you believe that just rais-

ing such questions makes you an anti-intellectual meathead in complicity with the powers of postcolonial oppression. It's an age-old game of partisan politics to pretend that your party has a monopoly on virtue," said Credenza. "Only an organization such as Amalgamated Writing Programs, which is above the fray, and rejects demagoguery, has an authentic claim to virtue."

Prominently featured at the Degenerate Books exhibit will be works by "Wittgenstein, Marx, Foucault, hooks, Fanon, Lacan, Spivak, Lyotard, Kristeva, Poulet, Butler, and Gertrude Stein." "In Amalgamated workshops we discourage the discussion of ideas or philosophy or politics. That is the only way you preserve freedom of thought." Credenza noted that Amalgamated creative writing classes focused on how to write cover letters for submissions to literary magazine and the perils of multiple submissions.

"My rule of thumb is that if a work of poetry challenges my understanding or beliefs, then it is morally repugnant," explained Credenza. "Poets should be like bees. They need to work in swarms. And Amalgamated is the mother bee. So watch out: those that buzz off are going to get stung. 'The queen's seductions are multifarious and deadly—far from chaste.'"

"The morally repugnant poets have turned away from the hive, seduced by the theorists and cultural critics into writing poems that I can't understand," Credenza said, explaining that their poems are "misguided missiles of a self-immolating government intent upon eradicating the small minority of the general reading public with an avid interest in literature."

Because of their refusal to write the Amalgamated Way, they are "the greatest pretenders" and "hypocrites," he added. "They have tortured our poor mother tongue. And perhaps their abuse has contributed to the decline of the English major and audiences for literature."

"That's the reason for Amalgamated's E-Z-Po initiative," he said. "E-Z-Po is designed to woo back disaffected readers with poems of 'simple representation and puritanical accuracy.'" The target audience, he said, is the vast public for reality TV and amateur pop singing competitions.

"Of course, Amalgamated Writing Programs welcomes all views," Credenza emphasized.

"But some views are more equal than others."

Editor's Note: Double-quoted passages, and apiary imagery, are taken from "Advice for Graduating MFA Students in Writing: The Words & the Bees" by D.W. Fenza, Executive Director of the Associated Writing Programs, published in the official publication of AWP, *The Writer's Chronicle*, May/Summer 2006 (Vol. 38, No. 6).

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