

#98-38  
9/21/98

THE GREENE SCENE

By Senator Leroy F. Greene

AS THE WORLD TURNS

Benjamin Franklin was one of our earliest heroes. Among the many roles he played in our early government was that of Ambassador to France. While in France, history now tells us, he produced a number of offspring by a number of different French women. Nobody knew that in the 17- 18- or 1900's until quite recently in this century. It is doubtful that history will change its opinions of Benjamin Franklin because we recently found out something that was hidden from us for a couple of hundred years.

But then there's President Clinton and his sexual dalliances. No matter what the outcome, history will paint a very different picture of this president than was painted of Benjamin Franklin because media would not present such information then which is produced in endless volume now.

In about the year 1900, a woman's swimsuit covered her body from ankle to neckline, plus a bathing cap on her head. Take a look at today's young females whose swimsuits leave them as close to nude as one could get without being nude.

Then we have a young female soldier stationed in mideast. She was severely chastised by a local Arab for being in uniform. I didn't say out of uniform, I said in uniform. The problem was, in that country where temperatures are regularly well over 100 degrees, the uniform included short pants which exposed the legs. The female exposed legs in that country immediately branded her a harlot.

more...

In the United States we have topless bars, nude beaches and X-rated movies and books. In many mideastern and African countries young girls are commonly operated on surgically removing portions of their sex organs that might provide females any pleasure in the sex act. Arab men are not equivalently neutered but their wives are not to share any sexual pleasure.

Before the Civil War, slavery, bondage, debtors' prison were all accepted mores in American society and that of many other countries as well. Finally, by some form of osmosis, the white population in increasing numbers over time recognized that Blacks were human beings, (though discrimination still exists in religions, countries, tribes, etc.) we recognized that legally Blacks were entitled to all the rights of citizenship offered any other color, race, or creed. The world is ever changing, ever reaching out to alter what is or what isn't, sometimes for meritorious reasons, sometimes for reasons that are not meritorious. The same world contains a Martin Luther King, an Adolph Hitler and a Mother Theresa.

So, Mr. President, where will history place you? If we never heard of any of your sexual escapades, would history declare you to be an excellent President, a mediocre president, or a very bad president? But we do know of your misdeeds, so how then are historians to conceive of your administration?

The earth continues to turn on its axis, and problems over time shift back and forth like the tides. But there are always tides and there are always problems.

What is it about the learning process that teaches so many of us so little?

end.