

September 30, 2007

Anti-Pedophile Lawyers Do Us Proud

Last week our City Council awarded commendations to local attorneys Anthony Zinnanti and Rick Patterson for, effectively, running a self-confessed pedophile out of California.

We'd like to join the council in applauding the two.

Law enforcement shook its head woefully, wrung its hands, and said nothing could be done under the law when Jack McClellan showed up at a Santa Clarita Valley bowling alley and at a public event. The pervert boasts of leering at little girls and snapping pictures with the threat of publishing them on the Internet for other sexually sick individuals to ogle and do God-knows-what with.

The two lawyers refused to accept the prevailing nothing-can-be-done mentality. They filed a request to block McClellan from coming near children in the Santa Clarita Valley, and a clear-minded Superior Court judge extended that restriction to children throughout the state.

In a climate in which perpetrators' rights are cherished more than victims', this was a righteous victory for something we seemed to be embarrassed to cherish: decency. This was a blow for the sanctity and protection of a community. In a stunning decision beyond our wildest expectations, a muffled cry from Santa Clarita was heard 'round California and beyond.

Instead of the putrid and familiar breath of the beast, we received a breath of fresh air as the entire state shouted: "This is ugly. This is wrong and immoral, and we absolutely will not stand for it."

The move is likely to be challenged: McClellan, now hiding in Oregon, says lawyers call him regularly to plead his case.

A pox upon them.

Preying on children is not a matter of free speech. It is most certainly not a victimless act.

Our children today are exposed to all sorts of sexual messages, from television, movies, song lyrics and especially the Internet. Parents should have the right to shield them from the cacophony, which is difficult enough without having a stealth pedophile lurking about at wholesome family events, snapping pictures for fellow ghouls.

Such individuals need at least counseling - possibly beheading or some such outpatient surgery - not a public forum to spread their perversions.

We're proud of the two local lawyers, as well as the judge, who found a way to shut McClellan down.

This is far from over.

Barrister Patterson informs us that the Santa Clarita Valley duo are in contact with attorneys in Oregon, as well as a newspaper there. We wish our neighbors to the rainy north well. They just may make the same moves taken here in the SCV, effectively banishing the deviant from Oregon.

His arrival in California came after Washingtonians, enraged by his boldness, tracked his movements through the Internet and closed ranks against him. He came south looking for easier prey.

This newspaper and this community do not fear the pervert, his ACLU minions or the Supreme Court itself.

What use is any system that cannot protect our most precious and valuable commodity - our children?

Be warned.

We will protect our children - at all costs.