

Trabing

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Mostly about People

By Wally Trabing



The Four-Letter Play School

The reason you do not give a 10-year-old free reign in public is because he will soon embarrass you with some act born of inexperience in childish reasoning.

The four-letter-word rally Friday at the University of California, under the cloak of the Free Speech Movement, should be considered in this category.

I am 80 per cent sympathetic with the original Free Speech Movement crusade and 60 per cent sympathetic toward the tactics employed by the students, but like the 10-year-old who gains a victory after getting away with sassing his elders, the movement leadership is obviously not mentally mature enough to know when to stop.

I was likewise disappointed when the FSM leader, Mario Savio, decided to tell off a municipal court judge and drew 28 hours in jail, disgracing himself and his movement. Instant leadership. so many times results in attempted instant god-manship.

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Last Friday's rally was a demand by a few students for freedom to flaunt an obscene four-letter word around in public. It was a rally to protest the arrest of three students and two non-student invaders for using the four-lettered word during public demonstrations earlier in the week.

The 700 students who gathered at the rally were apparently there for curiosity rather than for support, for they soon dwindled away.

I agree with the principle of the FSM in that the freedoms established by our forefathers are not automatic. One has to continually guard them and fight the creeping and binding restrictions sought by

greedy vested interests and wild ideas from the extreme right and left.

Likewise there are certain anti-freedoms which free people insist upon.

The flaunting about of obscenities in public is one of them.

Can you imagine Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Lincoln, and thousands of free speech fighters down through the years concerning themselves with this scummy, foul-mouthed sort of thing?

The leaders of this four-letter freedom crusade — some, officers in the Free Speech Movement—belong behind the red barn or in an outhouse where the general public won't be contaminated.

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One point which the public must realize, is that there are nearly 27,000 students attending the university; only a mere handful are making the front pages. And I doubt that the majority of the FSM would sanction the current childish crusade.

The reason we have laws frowning on someone robbing your home, exposing himself in front of your child, or running naked down main street, or acting like a guttersnipe in front of those who do not wish to be exposed to this type of action, should be perfectly obvious.

We have certain standards of behavior to guard in order to maintain a working society; certain words and deeds are rejected by the majority because they are harmful and repulsive to the majority.

Let those who want to write and use the four-letter word go behind the barn.

The chickens won't mind, having a similar mentality.