

New Age 'culture' advances in Argentina

by Cynthia R. Rush

Columnist Carlos Manuel Acuña, writing in the Buenos Aires daily *La Prensa* in mid-December, offered several examples of how far efforts to create a "New Age" culture in Argentina have advanced. Precisely because the country has always enjoyed the highest cultural and educational standards in Ibero-America, it has been targeted by the same Anglo-American forces which imposed the rock-sex-drug counterculture in the United States and Europe. The imposition of such "culture" is an adjunct of the International Monetary Fund's free market lunacy, embraced by President Carlos Menem, which is rapidly eliminating any hope of a productive future for an entire generation of Argentine youth.

This campaign has reached such an extreme, Acuña reports, that "beginning several months ago, most television programs have begun to violate not only good taste, but even the most elementary moral guidelines. . . . Not a few programs directly or indirectly promote violence, lack of discipline among the young, and drug consumption—a type of reaction against parents, altering family structures, as well as attacking religious sentiment and demanding elimination of all limits on social behavior."

It started with Alfonsín

As the columnist correctly noted, this offensive against Christian culture in Argentina is an escalation of what was begun under the 1983-89 presidency of social democrat Raúl Alfonsín. With the alleged return of democracy to Argentina, following the 1976-83 military government, Alfonsín also "democratized" culture. That is, he opened the doors to the counterculture which so destroyed the youth of the United States beginning in the 1960s, as well as to overt attacks on the Catholic Church and its role in education.

There was nothing accidental about the Alfonsín government's "cultural" program. Run by Culture Minister Marcos Agunis, a Freudian psychiatrist who also ran one of the national television networks, it reflected the thinking of the Frankfurt School, founded by Georg Lukacs, whose ideologues and allies—most of them avowed Bolsheviks—worked from the 1920s onward to undermine the very basis of western Christian civilization in Europe and the United States. Their purpose was to abolish cultural and technological optimism and the Christian notion of the dignity of the

human being, replacing these with the existentialism, pessimism, pornography, and even satanism associated with today's pluralist culture.

Like the Frankfurt School, which claimed that such cultural values as the emphasis on the nuclear family were "authoritarian," Alfonsín's government outlined a 10-year National Program for Democratization of Culture, which called for putting an end to "authoritarian educational tendencies." According to an article published in the magazine *Destino Histórico* in July 1988, this program was to have been coordinated with Unesco, the United Nations agency which not only has been directly involved for years in undermining western culture, but whose high-level officials have been implicated in sex and child pornography scandals.

Absolute values banned

Directed by the same social democratic forces which shaped the Alfonsín program, Menem's government has accelerated the cultural assault. Exemplary is the Radiocommunications Law, decreed in September 1991 but still not finally approved, due to fierce opposition from pro-family and religious groups. The law is supposed to regulate the content of what appears in the media.

What has enraged citizens' groups is that the current version of the law eliminates clauses of an earlier version that called for "strengthening the family unit, using the Spanish language, and showing programs in the interest of youth, as well as the related need to uphold moral values and abstain from all obscene expressions, images, and gestures; deal appropriately with everything related to the so-called occult sciences; and abstain from any apology for crime or violence."

As Carlos Acuña reported in *La Prensa* last October, one of the decree's most ominous aspects is that it "doesn't prevent portraying suicide as a solution for any type of human problem; it doesn't prohibit the use of the subliminal system for propaganda purposes . . . or exalting the triumph of evil over good or using [expressions] . . . which attack a positive concept of natality."

Some Argentine sources have told *EIR* that the role of Anglophile Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella is key in this cultural offensive. In the 1960s, while working at his family's Di Tella Institute, he launched a project to introduce "modern culture" in every field—music, art, and theater. The emergence of several "native" rock groups was one of the results. In an article published in the Dec. 8, 1991 issue of *El Cronista*, Di Tella insisted that it was a grave mistake for Argentina's educational system to have "inculcated in children the notion that there was nothing better than to be an Argentine; that Argentina had a role of tremendous importance in the world." Instead of a sovereign, economically developed nation, Di Tella prefers to have Argentina enjoy what he recently described as a "carnal relationship" with the United States.