

AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

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Football players bow their heads during a prayer voiced by the student body president at a Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina, game. The South Carolina branch of the ACLU has threatened to sue in order to halt the practice. ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Christians stand

■ Many affirm freedom of religious expression by praying at high school football games

...O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave. As students, players, parents and fans sang the "Star Spangled Banner" at season-opening football games across the nation, many may have questioned the words "land of the free." Why? Because a Supreme Court ruling, if its dictates were followed, would hinder people from participating in a tradition that has been cherished and followed for many years – organized public prayer before school sporting events.

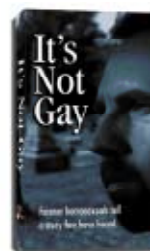
Despite the ruling, literally thousands of people from places like Artesia, New Mexico; Asheville, North Carolina; South Point, Ohio; and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, expressed their guaranteed religious freedom by praying anyway. The methods they used were creative and diverse,

with one of the most popular being spontaneous voicing of the Lord's Prayer right after the national anthem.

At North Hall High School in Gainesville, Georgia, spectators observed a moment of silence instead of a verbal prayer, while in Searcy, Arkansas, a nonprofit interfaith group prayed around a stadium flag pole after receiving the school board's approval.

In Hattiesburg, only a few students initially bowed their heads and began speaking the familiar words to the Lord's Prayer. But before they finished, most of the 4,500 people in the stadium were standing, openly and proudly saying the prayer in unison.

See **CHRISTIANS** on page 2



AFA's must-see new video. See page 2 for ordering details.

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CHRISTIANS...*from front page*

At the high school in Santa Fe, Texas, (where student prayers prompted the Supreme Court ruling), several hundred people wearing shirts with religious inscriptions joined fans in reciting the Lord's Prayer. Others sang hymns, while two protesters shouldered crosses outside the football field fence. "It's not about praying anymore," said Tom Taggart, a 40-year-old spectator. "It's about our rights and freedoms being taken away."


Perhaps most daring were the folks at the Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina, game, where the student body president took a microphone and prayed while school officials and football fans stood silently. The ACLU has threatened a lawsuit to stop the practice.

"Of course, we knew the ACLU would go berserk," said AFA President Donald E. Wildmon, "but on the other hand, there is no way the Supreme Court can stop this because it is simply individuals participating on their own without any leader."

AFA has been one of the major promoters of the grassroots effort to promote voluntary prayer. In fact, full-page newspaper ads have been run in various cities as a part of "Project Prayer," a campaign urging people to spontaneously pray the Lord's Prayer immediately following the national anthem at all future games.

"These ads are being run so that the ACLU and other groups like it will know that Americans are tired of being bullied and having their religious freedoms taken away," said Wildmon. "We're urging people to stand up and be counted – to say 'enough is enough!'"

Wildmon said the ads are also being run to clear up any misunderstanding about the Supreme Court ruling itself. He said many believe they have been forbidden to pray at sporting events, period. But that is incorrect. Prayer is permitted, so long as the prayer is not "organized" (school sanctioned) or delivered by a student or school official.

"It is gratifying to see the way God's people have already responded to this endeavor," said Wildmon. "There has been a great outpouring of concern, and we have been pleased to see so many citizens respectfully drawing attention to the fact that ours is a nation founded on prayer – 

Christian attorneys prepared to defend students' religious rights

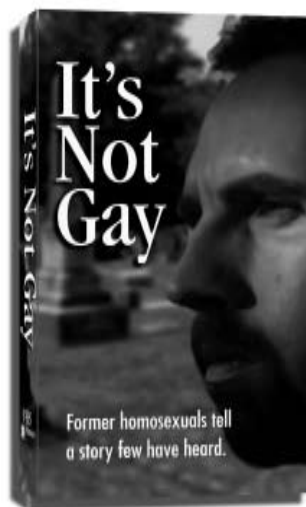
Christian law centers and individual attorneys have made their services available, free of charge, to any school district or student that feels that First Amendment religious freedoms have been violated.

In a letter signed by AFA Center for Law & Policy Chief Counsel Steven M. Crampton, school superintendents were politely reminded of the many religious freedoms still in existence on school campuses. Confusion had resulted among some public school administrators after a recent Supreme Court ruling, *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe*, had banned prayers before football games if the school initiated and promoted it.

The letter was also signed by representatives from the Liberty Counsel; Liberty Legal Institute; American Liberties Institute; and the National Legal Foundation, among others.

According to the letter, students still have the constitutional right to:

- ▶ read their Bibles or other Scripture texts, either individually or as a group;
- ▶ say a prayer before meals or a test, individually or as a group;
- ▶ pray individually or as a group before sporting events;
- ▶ attempt to persuade their peers concerning religious topics, just as they do on political issues;
- ▶ use religious themes or otherwise express their beliefs about religion in their homework, artwork, or other written or oral assignments;
- ▶ distribute religious literature to their schoolmates during non-instructional times;
- ▶ be excused from lessons that are objectionable on religious or other conscientious grounds;
- ▶ wear clothing displaying religious themes or messages which may not be singled out for suppression;
- ▶ form and participate in religious groups at secondary public schools that have the same right of access to school facilities as is enjoyed by other comparable student groups, and to exclude from such religious groups those who do not share the students' beliefs;
- ▶ use the public address system, the school newspaper, and the school bulletin board to announce their meetings, on the same terms as other student



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AFA PRESIDENT DON WILDMON

Maximizing year-end

BY GLEN FRADENBURG
AFA Foundation Director



Those desiring to enhance the impact of their charitable giving know that it takes desire and planning. The Christian's motive to give comes from the Holy Spirit, who instills within us the desire to honor and glorify God. And when we recognize that He is "owner of all," effective planning becomes an important part of our daily walk with Him.

Year-end gifts to charitable organizations are one effective way to benefit the Lord's work while also providing possible charitable tax deductions. Clearly, the organization being supported should be worthy of receiving a gift and using it properly. Other factors to consider include the types of property being transferred, the tax benefits available, the needs of the organization receiving the gift and

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the donor's future income needs.

Now is the time to begin planning in order to maximize your year-end giving. Here are two strategies for your review:

Giving Appreciated Property

If you have appreciated property you plan to sell in the future, you might consider giving the property instead, thereby avoiding the capital gains tax you would pay when the property is sold.

Example: You own securities val-
See **MAXIMIZING** on page 22



Cheerios maker tells children Bible is bad

BY DONALD E. WILDMON • AFA President

Will society's attacks on our children never end? Some are obvious, like the violence and filth on TV. Some of the attacks are more subtle. For instance, the recent action by General Mills. I never thought I would see the day when a major corporation in America would send a message to our children that the Bible is bad for them.

Even after seeing the dramatic rise of anti-Christian bigotry during the last two decades, I really never thought I would be writing an article like this concerning a company like General Mills. But I am. You should act, and get others to act on this information before it becomes a common and widespread practice.

General Mills had planned to attach a compact disk (CD) containing a collection of computer games and other software titles to over 12 million boxes of its cereal. Included on the CDs was an electronic version of the New International Version of the Bible. General Mills had subcontracted the production of the CDs and did not know about the inclusion of the Bible.

Later, but before the boxes hit the shelves, General Mills found out about the inclusion of the Bible software and issued an apology, calling the Bible giveaway a "mistake."

By the way, another participant in the program – The Walt Disney Company – also found out about the Bible software and demanded that it be removed from the CDs that contained the computer version of its *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* game. Disney's anti-Christian bigotry has been well documented by your AFA.

Not only did General Mills feel it necessary to apologize for including the Bible on CD, the company has been misleading concerning its policy in such matters. "While inclusion of the Bible may be seen as added value by some, it is the company's policy not to advance any particular set of religious beliefs," said General Mills. "Inclusion of this material does not conform to our policy, and we apologize for this lapse."

The response by General Mills was both hypocritical and deceitful because while the company deems the Bible harmful to children, they pay Jewish organizations for the right to label General Mills food products as "kosher." (Many Jewish individuals look for the kosher seal to determine if the food conforms to their religion's requirements for consumption.)

The response by General Mills was both hypocritical and deceitful. On July 25, I wrote Chairman Stephen W. Sanger about this hypocrisy. "Will you now cancel certification of your products as being kosher? If not, then your motive and message will be very clear – you don't want the business of the millions of customers who cherish the Bible and are offended by your apology for including it on CD in your campaign," I wrote. I asked for a response. I sent my letter to Mr. Sanger overnight via UPS. The letter was received and signed for by "Berg" on July 26. Mr. Sanger refused to respond. The most logical conclusion one can draw in this situation is that General Mills did not care that they
See **CHEERIOS** on page 23

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pornography

**Porn Awareness Week
October 29-November 5**

Silence is acceptance

Strip bars? Adult book & video stores? Back rooms in video stores? Internet pornography in the library?

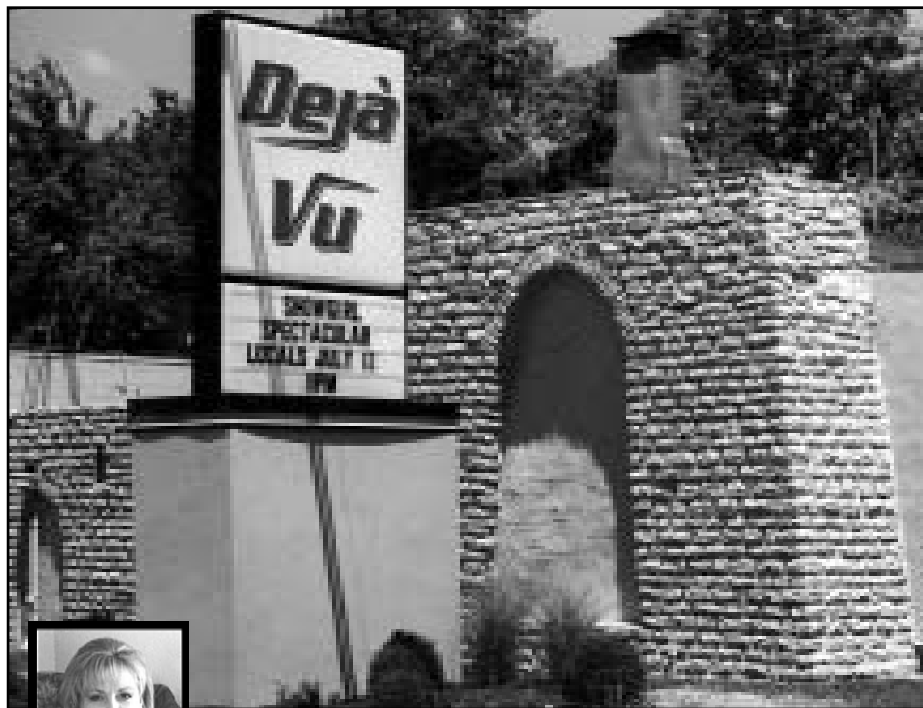
Do any of these exist in your community? More importantly, what have you said or done about them?

In 1982 AFA started Pornography Awareness Week to raise awareness of the prevalence of pornography throughout our nation and to work toward eliminating its devastating effects on our communities. This year the event is scheduled for October 29-November 5.

"The greatest ally pornography has is the silence of the Christian community," said AFA President Don Wildmon. "Our society has suffered from pornography too much already because of our silence and our unwillingness to get involved in this issue."

If you are willing to speak up and do something to protect your family and community from the harmful effects of pornography, order the Pornography Awareness Week information packet today! The packet includes practical ideas on how you can help restore America's moral foundations.

Send your request to American Family Association, PAW Info Packet, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803. Or visit our website on the Internet at www.afa.net. Please in-



Kimberly Drake, former stripper at a Deja' Vu night club is now executive director of Citizens for Community Values in Spokane, Washington. She works tirelessly to reduce sexual exploitation, pornography and violence in her community. Pictured above is a Deja' Vu strip club in Mt. Carmel Ohio, one of more than 50 across the country.

Former stripper moves out of darkness, into

BY PAT CENTNER • AFA Journal Staff Writer

"It certainly didn't turn out to be the glitzy, glamorous world I had imagined it would be," said Kimberly Drake as she reflected on her life as a dancer at the Deja' Vu strip club in Spokane, Washington. "Instead, I soon realized how dark and dirty and degrading it really was. And I desperately wanted out."

That was three years ago. Today, Drake is founding president and executive director of Spokane's Citizens for Community Values. CCV's purpose is to work with concerned citizens and community leaders in reducing sexual exploitation and violence in the Spokane area. Drake says her heart is also very much in helping the dancers who are displaced as a result of night club closures or legislative restrictions prompted by the work of CCV and other organizations.

So how did this young woman, who had been addicted to pornography, alcohol and drugs, become transformed into a dynamo who works ceaselessly in her community to create public awareness of pornography and the destruction it can cause?

Drake answers that question with a Scripture: "I (Jesus) have come as a light to shine in a dark world so that all who put their trust in Me will no longer walk in darkness" (John 12:46).

"God met me there in the darkness, and He did not condemn me; He loved me right

...it wasn't long until the glitter and excitement began

to wear off, and she realized that Deja' Vu was nothing more than

where I was," shared Drake. "It was as though He removed scales from my eyes so I could take a long, hard look at my life. And I didn't like what I saw."

Looking back, Drake says her childhood was fairly normal, except she missed seeing her dad who was a workaholic and always gone. A major turning point in her life came when she was 14 years old. She was raped by an older boy. She told no one and carried the emotional pain of this trauma into her adult life.

"I was never free from the shame and humiliation of being raped, and I began drinking heavily at 15 to numb the pain," Drake remarked. Sadly, her life continued its downward spiral when, at 16, she had her first abortion, and at 18, started smoking pot. Two years later, she got married and soon after tried her first line of cocaine.

"After about six months of marriage," said Drake, "my husband and I started using pornography as a stimulus in the bedroom. One thing led to another, and we became entrenched in a lifestyle of pornography, drugs, and alcohol addiction that lasted more than 13 years."

Although in the beginning Drake and her husband were successful in business, the addictions began to take their toll, resulting in lost jobs and ruined credit. It was at that very low point in her life when someone mentioned to Drake that she was pretty enough to be a dancer in a night club. Her husband was in favor of the idea, and she began job-hunting.

When Drake interviewed at Deja' Vu, the managers told her how beautiful and glamorous and sexy she was. "That was exactly what I needed to hear," she explained, "because I never felt like I measured up to the sexy girls my husband saw in the porn magazines and videos. I hoped he would think I was as sexy as they were if he realized other men lusted after me."

Soon she was dancing as a "show girl." But it wasn't long until the glitter and excitement began to wear off, and she realized that Deja' Vu was nothing more than a dark

pit of prostitution and addiction.

"To cope with the shame I felt, I turned more and more to cocaine," commented Drake. "I would have to get stoned in order to get naked on stage. It was a sad and degrading life, and I began to hate it. But God knew where I was all the time, and He never let me go."

Indeed, God was working in her life in a powerful way. On Easter Sunday, 1997, Drake's mother, who had recently rededicated her own life to Christ, invited the entire family to church. They went, and miraculously, three weeks later, Drake, her husband and their oldest son all accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

Drake continued her job at Deja' Vu but quickly became convicted of the need to change her life in drastic ways. After one month as a Christian, Drake's husband came to her and said, "Kimberly, you need to close down the Deja' Vu." Her immediate reaction was, "I don't think so. I'm resting on my salvation, thank you very much."

But she did quit her job, and as a result of God's presence in her life, began to feel a deep need to do something about closing down the strip clubs and hard core pornography businesses in her community.

She began to pray and research extensively and discovered several organizations across the nation that are working to stamp out pornography while also providing counseling and assistance for pornography victims. She met Gene McConnell, former vice president of victim assistance for the National Coalition for Protection of Children and Families. Drake says McConnell is the person responsible for providing her with the foundation she needed to begin the healing process in her own life.

"God is a relational God, and when we are sinned against relationally, He uses reparative relationships to heal us," Drake continued. "He has given me several wonderful mentors who have accepted me and loved me and understood my pain. People like Phil Burress, director of Citizens for Community Values in Ohio, himself a for-

mer porn addict. And Phil's wife, Vickie, AFA state director in Indiana. Vickie also has a ministry called 'Victims of Pornography.' Amy Dupree, who ministers to strippers who want out of the lifestyle in Dallas, is a friend who is familiar with my struggles as well."

These people's influence, coupled with her own calling to give hope to people suffering from sexual addictions, resulted in Drake founding Spokane's Citizens for Community Values in March of 1999. Since that time, the Spokane CCV has been successful in helping to get ordinances passed that resulted in pertinent restrictions on sexually-oriented businesses; a strip club has closed down; a Pornography Awareness Week has been instituted; and a conference held to educate pastors, counselors and lay ministers about the problems surrounding porn addiction and sexual brokenness. Currently, Drake and her volunteers are involved in a campaign to encourage AT&T to stop cablecasting a hard-core pornographic program called Hot Network.

When asked what help she could offer to people who feel totally trapped and unable to overcome an addiction, Drake had this advice:

- **Face** the fact you have a problem.
- **Trace** its source through counseling or contact with an organization that specializes in healing your particular type of addiction.
- **Erase** the lies Satan has planted in your life by allowing God to replace them with His Truth and unconditional love.

Drake mentioned a quote by Pastor Bill Hybels that sums up her feelings: "You will never lock eyes with a stranger that doesn't matter to God."

"And that includes the stripper, the prostitute, the men and women who are caught up in the addiction of sex and pornography," concluded Drake. "Every single one of them matters to God."

news of interest

Sources cited for News of Interest indicate source of basic information only.

CULTURE

Are your kids safe online?

If you're a parent and have kids who surf the Internet, there are some precautions you can take to help protect them from sexual predators online. Otherwise, one of them may become the victim of an unwanted sexual advance.

That's according to a recent article in USA Today, which published statistics from a survey conducted by the Crimes Against Children Research Center and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth," a survey of 5,001 teens and adolescents, revealed the following:

- One in five adolescents and teens had received an unwanted sexual solicitation in the past year;
- 66% receiving a sexual advance were female;
- 70% occurred when the youth was on a home computer;
- 65% happened in a chat room; 24% came by instant messenger;
- 29% of kids told a friend or sibling; 24% told a parent;
- 25% reported at least one unwanted exposure to sexual pictures.

In a follow-up to the survey's release, NBC's **Today Show** aired a segment featuring Internet Analyst Omar Wasow, who offered some options for what parents can do to reduce the risk of their kids being victimized on the Internet. They include:

- **Make the Internet a family activity** – Put the computer in the family room; find out who your kids E-mail; surf the net with them; do projects together, such as building a family web page.
- **Establish clear rules about behavior online** – Sit down with your kids and tell them what is appropriate and what is not. Make a written list of age-appropriate rules, and be specific. For example: "I will tell my parents immediately if I come across information that makes me

uncomfortable." Or: "I will never get together with someone I meet online without first checking with my parents."

- **Use blocking and tracking programs** – Although there's no fool-proof technology for protecting your kids, filters such as American Family Online (www.afo.net) provide powerful tools for avoiding objectionable Internet content. With the most popular Internet browsers, tracking the sites your child has visited is easy: Command CTRL-H (PC) or Command-H (Mac) using either Internet Explorer or Netscape.

USA Today, 6/8/00; www.msnbc.com

EDUCATION

Sex/drug survey angers parents

Today's children are being bombarded on all sides by lewd sex on television, the Internet, in movies and at school. At school? Yes, at school.

At the Schaghticoke Middle School in New Milford, Connecticut, a health survey given to students outraged parents, causing many of them to call for the resignation of school officials.

Students as young as 11 years old were given the survey which asked a broad range of questions, including whether students were gay or bisexual, had ever contemplated suicide, used cocaine or engaged in oral or group sex.

Assistant school superintendent Thomas Mulvihill apologized to parents in an emotional meeting at the school. He said the survey was intended to assess the effectiveness of the school's health curriculum and contained questions about nutrition and mental health in addition to those about sex, drugs and other matters objectionable to the parents.

"Our curriculum is a very conservative curriculum," he said. "It basically preaches abstinence from everything." He said health instructors wanted to know if students were using the refusal skills and other lessons being taught in class.

Four hundred sixth-graders, 400 eighth-graders and 1,200 high school students were given the survey, which was pulled

from the middle school when school officials began receiving parents' complaints. Many parents said the question they found most objectionable asked students, "Have you ever had oral sex, either fellatio or cunnilingus?" Other questions asked whether students had AIDS or were abusing alcohol and/or drugs.

Anonymous questionnaires delving into students' personal lives have become commonplace nationwide as educators seek to prevent school shootings and other incidents. However, parental permission is required before students can participate in any survey or analysis that is federally-funded and asks questions about sexual behavior and attitudes; illegal, antisocial or demeaning behavior; or critical appraisals of family relationships.

School officials in New Milford said they had complied with the law by sending parents a letter informing them of the survey, its content, and the fact that it could be taken on a voluntary and anonymous basis. But many parents said they never saw the letter since it was sent home with students rather than being mailed.

New York Times, 5/26/00

ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood elite choosing sides in presidential race

As the next presidential election approaches in November, Hollywood hotshots have been lining up in support of – and lining the pockets of – the Democratic Party.

According to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), almost two-thirds of the \$19 million donated by contributors within the arts and entertainment industries has gone to the Democratic Party and its candidates, such as presidential hopeful and Clinton heir-apparent Vice President Al Gore and First Lady Hillary Clinton. The FEC records cover donations made between January 1999 and March 2000.

The percentage of monies given to Democrats by actors, writers and directors was even higher, according to USA Today – 79%. Only a few celebrities in the industry had given to Republican candidate George Bush.

Dwight Morris, president of the Campaign Study Group, said Hollywood is "a place where you can go raise a lot of money quickly, and you know it's going to be all Democratic."

For example, the list of actors who gave the federally-allowed limit of \$1,000 to Gore reads like a Who's Who of popular Hollywood glitteratti: William Baldwin, Nicholas Cage, Kate Capshaw, Chevy Chase, Kevin Costner, Ted Danson, Robert De Niro, Harrison Ford, Tom Hanks, Norman Lear, Rob Reiner, Jerry Seinfeld, Martha Stewart, and Barbra Streisand.

The contributions to Democrats from Dreamworks' top trio of Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen together amounted to almost \$660,000.

USA Today, 5/30/00

Violence begets violence

Does the gory violence that is so prevalent in today's TV, movies and video games have any effect on the children who are exposed to it? What about the young boys who are openly hostile and aggressive to their peers? Is there a connection between their actions and what they see on TV or in the movies?

The entertainment industry has always said there is no cause-and-effect link between aggressive and violent behavior in kids. And it's gotten away with it because, up until now, industry spokesmen have claimed there was no evidence to prove a connection.

Health experts, however, using 30 years of research and more than 1,000 studies, have found that evidence points "overwhelmingly to a causal connection between media violence and aggressive behavior," especially in kids. A public health summit hosted by Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS) and top doctors and psychiatrists was recently held in Washington, D.C., where the findings of the study were announced.

Some of the key revelations were:

- ▶ Children are more likely to see violence as an effective way of settling conflicts;
- ▶ They can become emotionally desensitized toward violence in real life;
- ▶ Entertainment violence feeds a perception that the world is a violent and mean place and increases the fear of becoming a victim of violence; and
- ▶ Children who are exposed to violent programming have a higher tendency for violent behavior.

So what can be done about it? Experts suggest that parents need to become more active in monitoring what their kids watch

Lawyers say cable porn ruling still leaves parents an option

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in late May that Congress could not force cable operators to scramble or block channels that air pornography, it seemed that families had lost yet another battle against indecency. However, attorneys at the AFA Center for Law & Policy (CLP), say parents still wield a potent weapon – if they'll only use it.

The court case revolved around "signal bleed," an industry term which refers to a visual or audio signal which can be at least partially seen or heard even when a cable customer does not subscribe to a channel. Many people had complained to legislators that unwanted pornographic imagery or sounds were bleeding through into their living rooms.

When Congress passed the Telecommunications Act in 1996, part of the measure required cable companies to fully scramble or block pornographic channels to eliminate signal bleed. In doing so, the high court ruled that Congress had exceeded its authority.

According to the CLP, however, that same Supreme Court ruling upheld the right of parents to demand that cable providers prevent pornographic signal bleed. Section 504 of the Telecommunications Act says cable customers can instruct their cable company to "without charge, fully scramble or otherwise fully block the audio and video signals of programming" of any channel dedicated to sexually explicit material.

AFA National Field Director David Miller said the CLP's insight could be a powerful tool for parents in protecting their children. "The Supreme Court ruling at least recognized that parents can insulate their homes against pornography, and not have to worry about whether children flicking through channels looking for cartoons might stumble across graphic sexuality," he said.

Moreover, Miller said the ruling could literally spell the end of porn channels on cable. "The technology that cable companies would have to purchase to completely block or scramble signal bleed is very expensive," he said. "It's possible that a lot of cable providers would simply not carry porn channels rather than mess with expensive equipment."

Miller said the key will be whether or not parents take the time to contact their cable operators and remind them of what the law says. "Probably only a handful of parents in a community could turn the tide."

Miller suggested that people copy the sample letter below as a starting point, mail it to their local cable company, and then follow up with a phone call.

Dear Cable Operator:

Section 504 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in its May 22, 2000, ruling, says that if I request it, you must "without charge, fully scramble or otherwise fully block the audio and video signals of programming" of any channel dedicated to sexually explicit material from entering my home. I am now asking you to do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

and what video games they play. They also need to communicate to the kids why they are monitoring their viewing habits. Other action ideas include E-mailing your congressmen to let them know your displeasure at the increasing violence in today's

entertainment, and E-mailing broadcast networks, movie studios and video game makers expressing the same displeasure to them.

USA Today, 7/26/00

homosexual agenda



The Boy Scouts of America have stood firm in their position that homosexuality is not compatible with its moral standards for members or leaders.

■ *Justice Department says BSA can still use federal property*

Boy Scouts win skir-

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA), fresh off a win this summer before the U.S. Supreme Court, have now received the okay from the Clinton administration to continue using federal land for scout events. A federal investigation appeared to threaten that use because the BSA continues to uphold its right to ban homosexual members and troop leaders.

Conservatives were appalled to discover that the U.S. Justice Department had ordered an investigation to determine if the Boy Scouts' ban was in violation of President Clinton's executive order barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the federal government.

The outcry followed an August 31 Washington Times article which said the U.S. Department of Interior was in the process of collecting information about the Boy Scouts to see if the organization's policies violated the order. That information was to be turned over to the Justice Department by September 5, the article said.

The Department of Interior investigation centered on whether or not the Boy Scouts received any federal assistance, such as being allowed to use government property for meetings. The Boy Scout Jamboree, for example, has been held at the U.S. Army's Fort A.P. Hill in Bowling Green, Virginia, for several years. It is scheduled again for that location in July, 2001.

AFA and the Family Research Council were among the first Christian organizations to publicize the investigation. AFA asked its supporters to contact members of Congress as well as the Bush and Gore campaigns, asking each presidential candidate to take a stand on the issue. As the furor over the investigation became more widely noted in the media, both candidates came out in favor of the Scouts.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno issued a statement on September 1, however, that quickly defused the situation. According to the Washington Post, Reno ended the investigation with a determination that the executive order "does not apply to private organizations that may use federal land for their own training programs," but instead

applies only to federally controlled education or training.

Homosexuals continue targeting Boy Scouts

Homosexual activists have been angry over the U.S. Supreme Court decision this summer, which said the BSA was well within its constitutional rights to exclude homosexuals.

In response, across the country activists have been demanding that municipalities and states use laws which ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to kick the Boy Scouts off public land.

"Such laws were passed to begin with because homosexuals claimed they were being persecuted," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. "Now homosexuals turn around and use these laws to persecute the Boy Scouts. Activists won't be satisfied until the Boy Scouts have been bludgeoned into submission."

Homosexual activists are using a similar strategy with companies which have traditionally donated to the BSA along with other nonprofit organizations. Having first pushed numerous businesses to enact non-discrimination policies regarding sexual orientation, activists are now demanding that the companies cease supporting the Boy Scouts based on those policies.

According to The New York Times, dozens of United Ways have withdrawn financial support for the BSA, and a handful of companies, like Textron and Levi Strauss, have stopped giving charitable contributions as well.

Homosexual advocates appear unwilling to cut the Boy Scouts any slack. At the Democratic National Convention held in Los Angeles this past August, members of the California delegation booed a group of six Eagle Scouts and their leader who had taken the platform to participate in the opening ceremonies. One of the California delegates later said the very presence of the Boy Scouts was "insensitive."

Washington Post, 9/2/00; WorldNetDaily, 8/24/00; USA Today, 8/22/00; AP, 8/21/00; Washington Times, 8/18/00, 8/31/00; Chicago Sun Times, 8/28/00; The New York Times, 8/29/00

Transgendered confu-

■ *Homosexual movement takes U.S. into bizarre world*

For almost 30 years, homosexual activists have been demanding that society change its understanding of human sexuality, marriage and family; and Christians have responded by warning that such changes would make American culture unrecognizable.

One may wonder if that warning isn't beginning to come to pass. The homosexual movement has spawned a kissing cousin: the transgendered movement, in which cross-dressers, transvestites and transsexuals are demanding that society normalize their sexuality.

Below are several stories highlighting the bizarre developments that both the homosexual and transgendered movements have precipitated.

Court okays transsexual man to marry as lesbian

"When a man loves a woman" is how the old song begins, but what happens if the man has a sex-change operation and becomes a woman? In San Antonio, he can get married as a lesbian.

That preposterous situation is being played out in Texas, where Jessica Wicks – born as Grady Wicks – is legally being allowed to marry his lesbian girlfriend. Wicks underwent surgery to become what he considers to officially be a woman.

Initially it was thought that the two could not get married, because Texas law prohibits same-sex marriage. But because Wicks' chromosomes clearly designate him as a male, the couple's lawyer said they can get married.

Last year, in a wrongful death case filed by the widow of a deceased man, the 4th Court of Appeals threw out the lawsuit because it was discovered that the widow was actually a man that had had a sex-change operation. That fact made the marriage illegal, because the court ruled that chromosomes, not the presence or absence of genitals, determined a person's sex.

That has opened the door for Wicks to marry. "Two women will show up to get a marriage license.... Thanks to the 4th Court's recent opinion, legally it will be a male and a female," said attorney Phyllis

Randolph Frye, himself a transsexual.

"What a twisted world we live in," state Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pampa) told the Houston Chronicle. "I agree that gender is based on chromosomes, so I think that would set precedent, and I can't disagree with that. I don't know anything legislatively you can do about that. You strike up the most bizarre situation in the world, and the law's not always able to contend with it."

Houston Chronicle, 8/31/00

Couple in trouble over double sex change

The Immunization and Naturalization Service (INS) is threatening to prosecute a married couple for fraud in an oddball case involving transsexualism.

Pat Spray, an American citizen, met Katherine, a citizen of Ireland, on the Internet in 1995, and when she came to visit, the two fell in love and got married in the United States. According to the Washington Post, the newlyweds applied for a marriage-based visa for Katherine so she could remain in this country.

Things are not always as they seem, however. As it turns out, both Pat and Katherine are transsexuals: Pat, born as Patricia, had a sex-change operation to become a "man," while Katherine, born Damien Niland, had surgery in the opposite direction – to become a "woman."

The INS claims it wants to prosecute because Pat didn't mention a former marriage – not yet dissolved – on the application for the visa. In that marriage Pat was a woman. The Sprays, however, insist the INS is "hunting" them because they're transsexuals. "They're gunning for us," Katherine said.

Washington Post, 6/9/00

Massachusetts spends \$8,000 for transsexual bathroom

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) coughed up \$8,000 to placate a single transsexual employee, building him his own bathroom at the trolley car maintenance facility in Boston where he works.

The worker, who was unnamed in a Boston Herald article on the subject, is said to be halfway through the process which will make the man a "woman." He was said to have felt uncomfortable in either the men's room or ladies' room, and wanted a unisex bathroom.

According to MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo, the new bathroom was added "because it's important to ensure a comfortable and stress-free workplace for all employees and we felt the best course of action was to provide a third restroom."

Massachusetts state law forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, a phrase that transgendered individuals say applies to them as well as "gays," lesbians and bisexuals. Massachusetts law also requires employers to make a "reasonable accommodation" to their employees' needs for toilet facilities.

Pesaturo said, "We want to make it clear that anyone who works at [the maintenance facility] can use this bathroom. A unisex bathroom gives an employee a level of privacy that is not available in the other employee bathrooms."

Boston Herald, 6/6/00

Student seeks right to wear dress

Brian Peters insists he just wants the freedom to be himself. The problem for the administration at his high school in Gresham, Oregon, is that for Peters to feel like himself, he has to be wearing women's clothing.

Peters, a self-described "gay boy cross-dresser," occasionally wore pink lipstick and carried a flowered purse. According to The Oregonian, he crossed the cross-dressing line when he showed up in a black lace blouse, skirt, pumps and a bra stuffed with socks. He was suspended.

Peters claimed the administration was being two-faced. "The school says they want to be supportive of queer students, but they're not," he said. "The message they're sending to students is that I am not normal. That I am disruptive. That I am wrong. Whether they think so or not, that's what they're saying."

School officials say Peters was suspended for being a "focal point for distraction and curiosity." A spokeswoman for the school district said, "We can restrict student expression and dress when it disrupts the learning environment for other kids. Our

New Cal-Nevada bishop to continue pro-gay stance

If conservatives within the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) were hoping for relief when liberal Bishop Melvin G. Talbert retired, they probably won't get it from the new bishop.

Rev. Beverly Shamana (*photo at right*) became the new bishop of the Cal-Nevada Conference on September 1, replacing the controversial Talbert. (*See related story this page.*) Unfortunately for conservatives, her views appear to be a continuation of her predecessor's.



Take her name, for example. If Shamana sounds a lot like "shaman" – a title given to an occultist or medium – that's intentional. Shamana chose the name purposefully after getting divorced and prior to being ordained in 1979, with full knowledge of what a shaman was.

There are more oddities. Shamana calls God a "she," and in her spare time makes gourd figures that she told the Los Angeles Times "connect me to the ancient past, the faraway past, the pre-Christian past as well as into the future."

As for her views on homosexuality, the current hot-button topic within not just the Cal-Nevada Conference but all of United Methodism, Shamana said: "I certainly am in favor of the full sexuality that God has given us. I don't draw the line between how people express their sexuality."

As the Cal-Nevada Conference exchanges one bishop for another, it appears that things may be business as usual.

Los Angeles Times, 7/29/00

Five conservative pastors leave UMC conference

This past summer five conservative pastors took the majority of their congregations and left the United Methodist Church (UMC), dissatisfied with what they saw as the increasingly liberal tone of their California-Nevada Annual Conference.

Conservatives have long been troubled by the leftward leanings of the 380-church Cal-Nevada leadership, which oversees churches in Northern California and the state of Nevada. But that couldn't hold a candle to the outrage that resulted when 67 UMC pastors took part in a same-sex "commitment ceremony" blessing the union of two lesbians in January of 1999.

The ceremony clearly violated the UMC's *Book of Discipline*, which states that same-sex unions may not be sanctioned by Methodist ministers nor performed on UMC property. When the ministers participated in the "wedding," they stated that they understood it was against the *Discipline*, but felt the church regulations were wrong. Talbert stood squarely behind the 67. A Cal-Nevada investigative committee refused to recommend a trial at which the ministers could be disciplined, further alienating conservatives.

A total of six Cal-Nevada pastors signed a letter in March criticizing Talbert, and also recommending that churches that disagreed with the conference's liberalism withhold their annual apportionments. According to the United Methodist News Service, those yearly fees are used to support the Cal-Nevada Conference's operations and ministries.

Talbert filed complaints against the six, and the relationship between the bishop and the ministers continued to erode. In Fresno, California, the leadership of St. Luke's Methodist Church changed all the locks on its doors in August after Talbert suspended the church's pastor, Rev. David Wainscott, for refusing to send its annual apportionment.

"This isn't about Dave [Wainscott] being conservative and the congregation being conservative. And it's not about him being outspoken about the bishop," said Vickie Healy, Fresno District Superintendent. "He is not following the Methodist *Book of Discipline*."

"That seems a tad hypocritical," said AFA president and ordained United Methodist minister Donald E. Wildmon. "Same-sex unions are clearly a violation of the *Book of Discipline*, yet Talbert supported the pastors who took part in the ceremony. Now he punishes pastors who violate the *Book of Discipline* when they withhold money from the Cal-Nevada Conference? What's wrong with this picture?"

Two years ago Rev. John Motz, pastor of Atwater (California) United Methodist Church, was told to surrender his UMC credentials, and with his family relinquish their church-owned home, after the church withheld its finances from the conference.

Motz left and promptly started Atwater Community Church, followed by the majority of the congregation, leaving about 60 people in attendance at the original Methodist church.

"It was a little scary at first, but it's working out," Motz said. His new church has about 290 attending.

According to The Fresno Bee, Talbert insisted that "the table of the Lord is big enough for all of us," as long as that table includes diverse sexual orientations.

Conservatives believe that Talbert's table abandons orthodox Christianity. In Sacramento, Rev. Greg Smith said, "It feels like we've been two different faiths, two different religions. The real issue is the authority of Scripture and our continued reliance on Scripture."

His church leaders voted to leave the UMC, and hundreds of original members of the Hope UMC congregation helped Smith start Valley Grace Community Church. Smith

surrendered his UMC credentials, telling The Sacramento Bee that 12 other ministers have left the UMC in the last two years over Cal-Nevada's growing liberal atmosphere. Smith said the friction over doctrine is "a real crisis for the mother church."

Those hoping for reconciliation within the Cal-Nevada Conference received some good news as summer ended. The Evangelical Renewal Fellowship, a group consisting of conservative UMC pastors within the conference, met in late August and decided to stay and try to work things out.

"The good news is there are a lot more [pastors] staying than there are leaving," said Robert Kuyper, the group's president. The Fresno Bee, 8/17/00, 8/19/00; The Sacramento Bee, 8/19/00; United Methodist News Service, 8/23/00

School district bans God's name

Thomas and Melody Horne of Chattanooga, Tennessee, wanted to help their daughter, Hope, raise money for her school district. They participated in a fundraiser by buying a brick for the entrance walkway of a new school being built in the Hamilton County School District.

For their \$50 investment, the Hornes were given the opportunity to have the brick they purchased inscribed. They asked that it be inscribed with "Hope Horne, To the Glory of God." However, school officials allegedly refused to allow the inscription because of its "religious content." Although the Hornes were disappointed and puzzled by the refusal, they didn't want to cause a problem so they asked that the message be translated into Latin so the "religious content" would be unknown to most. Again, they were refused. They eventually settled on an inscription containing only Hope's name.

Declaring that the Hornes' rights were violated based on the First and 14th Amendments to the U. S. Constitution, Stuart J. Roth, southwest regional counsel for The American Center for Law and Justice, filed a religious discrimination suit against the county school district, the Board of Education and other school officials.

The First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," and the 14th, according to Roth, makes the First Amendment applicable to each state.

Roth asked for an injunction "ordering (the district) to inscribe the brick with the religious message," ruling the officials' views "invalid and unconstitutional."

views "invalid and unconstitutional." www.cnsnews.com, 6/7/00

Healthier life tied to family, faith

Recent studies revealed that married couples who spend time with their families, and people who participate regularly in religious activities, generally have lower blood pressure.

High blood pressure is one of the most common cardiovascular conditions in the U.S. More than 50 million Americans are afflicted with high blood pressure severe enough to require monitoring and treatment, and 75% do not have their blood pressure under adequate control.

One of the studies, which examined the blood pressure levels of 162 teachers, concluded that teachers who were married and had children experienced a significant reduction in blood pressure when spend-

ing the evening hours at home with their families.

Religious faith has been found by other independent studies to be an added determinant for reduction in blood pressure, as well as for longer life. A report in the *Journal Health Psychology*, for example, concluded that regular attendance at religious services may result in a longer life.

"The odds of survival for people who scored higher on measures of public and private religious involvement were 29% higher than those who scored lower on such measures," said study co-author Dr. Michael E. McCullough from the National Institute for Healthcare Research.

People who participate in public religious events – such as attending service on a weekly basis – are less likely to smoke, drink and get divorced, said McCullough, all of which may positively affect a person's physical health. Another factor may be that religious people tend to maintain a sense of

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The power of the polls

BY DAVID BARTON

Government always has had, and always will have, a direct influence on matters of religion; for its public policies will either encourage, accommodate, tolerate, hinder, or prohibit religious expressions. The key to which of these policies is adopted by a government rests on nothing more than the personal beliefs of the officials who formulate those policies. As William Penn (a Quaker minister and the founder of Pennsylvania) explained:

Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them. . . . Wherefore governments rather depend upon men than men upon governments. Let men be good and the government cannot be bad. . . . But if men be bad, they will endeavor to warp and spoil it to their turn.

Quite simply, government policies always reflect the personal values of those involved in establishing those policies. That is, a God-fearing leader will not enact God-hostile policies any more than a leader who is an enemy of religious expression will encourage the public acknowledgment of God.

This truth was so well understood that,

even a century after Penn's declaration, John Francis Mercer reminded the other delegates at the Constitutional Convention:

It is a great mistake to suppose that the paper we are to propose [the Constitution] will govern the United States. It is the men whom it will bring into the government and the interest in maintaining it that is to govern them. The paper will only mark out the mode and the form. Men are the substance and must do the business.

Understanding that public policies were a direct reflection of the beliefs of those in office, William Paterson, a signer of the Constitution and a Justice on the U. S. Supreme Court, reminded citizens of the Scriptural truth that:

When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan. (Proverbs 29:2)

Yet, the only way that the righteous can rule in America is to be elected to office, and they can only be elected to office

when God-fearing, moral citizens vote for them. Quite simply, then, into the hands of citizens has been placed the stewardship of the nation and its policies.

Understanding this stewardship, citizens were taught for generations to apply Biblical principles to their voting. For example, Founding Father and educator Noah Webster (a soldier in the American Revolution and the man responsible for Article 1, Section 8, ¶8 of the Constitution) reminded citizens:

In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. . . . It is alleged by men of loose principles or defective views of the subject that religion and morality are not necessary or important qualifications for political stations. But the Scriptures teach a different doctrine. They direct that rulers should be men "who rule in the fear of God, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness" (Exodus 18:21).

In fact, so clear was this Scriptural directive that Webster concluded:

When a citizen gives his suffrage [vote] to a man of known immorality, he abuses his trust [civic responsibility]; he sacrifices not only his own interest, but that of his neighbor; he betrays the interest of his country.

The warning was clear: if citizens became negligent in electing moral, God-fearing leaders to office, their government would become corrupt and their civil liberties would be endangered; and when civil liberties are lost, so, too, will be religious liberties. As the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon (signer of the Declaration of Independence) wisely observed:

There is not a single instance in history in which civil liberty was lost and religious liberty preserved entire.

The freedom to exercise our religious liberties depends on the maintenance of our civil liberties, and the freedom to exercise both depends on our wise choice of leaders. In short, the quality of our government and its policies rests completely in the hands of the people. As President James A. Garfield, a gospel minister, once

reminded citizens:

Now, more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature. . . . [I]f the next centennial does not find us a great nation . . . it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.

The current condition of our government and our country is simply a reflection

of the action – or lack thereof – by the God-fearing community. Christians must awaken and again become active in the civic arena, moving beyond their self-imposed boundaries of church and home. It is time to remember the warning given by Charles Finney, a minister and leader in America's Second Great Awakening, who reminded Christians:

The Church must take right ground in regard to politics. . . . [T]he time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics. . . . Politics are a part of a religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as a part of their duty to God. . . . He [God] will bless or curse this nation according to the course they [Christians] take [in

politics].

The responsibilities facing God-fearing citizens this coming election are somber, and the potential repercussions from our actions – or lack thereof – are both far-reaching and longlasting. Remember that where citizen complacency rules, wrong principles and policies will abound; and when it comes to sound government, the enemy is seldom “them”; it is generally citizen apathy. Consequently, voting, one of the simplest of citizen responsibilities, is also one of the most important.

David Barton is the founder and president of WallBuilders. Call 1-800-873-2845 for a free resource catalog or write to WallBuilders, P.O. Box 397, Aledo, TX 76008. Visit www.wallbuilders.com

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Sprint, Tricon Global, Volkswagen sponsor summer sleazy fare

Summer re-runs ruled prime-time hours, but sponsors were ready and eager to bring the sleaze into homes. McDonald's and Cosmair joined the headliner sponsors on the following shows.

■ **Ally McBeal** S P1 TV14-D

Fox, 8/7 – Sex and bizarre story lines are still the obsession of this series. The hedonistic, and most unprofessional, attorneys have various sexual affairs going on within the firm. In this episode, they defend a man who cut his dead wife's hand off (to have something to remember her by).

Advertisers: Cosmair, McDonald's, Sprint

■ **Drew Carey** P7 S TV14-DL

ABC, 7/26 – As Drew and his girlfriend Kate prepare to have sex for the first time, the entire episode is filled with jokes about Drew's genitals, sexual arousal, masturbation, and sexual intercourse. Mimi and her boyfriend, who spent years cross-dressing, are planning on having a baby together – outside marriage, of course.

Advertisers: Tricon Global, Volkswagen

■ **Family Guy** ACH P15 S V TV14-DLSV

Fox, 7/18 – The family watches "Sherry and the Anus," a TV show on which Anus is one of

the title characters. When Mom reminisces about her college days, Baby Stewie crudely refers to Mom's promiscuity in college.

Dad tries to help Meg write a story she needs to help her get into college. He gets rid of the story she wrote and replaces it with his story about Luke Perry being gay. Christianity is also attacked by Dad.

Advertiser: Volkswagen

■ **Just Shoot Me** AC P7 S TVPG

NBC, 8/1 – This episode ridicules groups which try to tone down explicit sex in our culture, as Citizens for Morality demands that the magazine change its sexually explicit covers. Jack says the group's members are just a bunch of smug, self-righteous "nuts." The escapades of the show's nymphomaniac, Nina, are celebrated.

Advertiser: Tricon Global

■ **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** AC P6 PC S TV14

NBC, 8/4 – This episode disparages conservatives and highlights immoral Christians. Dr. Benjamin Hadley, president of a Christian college, had been having an affair with his daughter-in-law, whose husband (Ben, Jr.) choked her to death.

Advertisers: Cosmair, Sprint

■ **Opposite Sex** H P8 S TV14-D

Family Friendly Forum rewards adult themes,

Last October, AFA Vice president Tim Wildmon heralded the Family Friendly Programming Forum (FFF) as "an important step forward in the ongoing battle to clean up television." FFF is a coalition of 43 major advertisers, including Procter & Gamble, who say their mission is to clean up television.

Pro-family advocates were understandably stunned at some of the honorees of FFF's annual awards show, telecast August 10 on CBS. "I'm extremely disappointed," said Wildmon. "I thought we were speaking the same language, but obviously we don't define the terms the same way."

The FFF folks honored NBC's left-wing **West Wing** as their drama of the season. All 12 episodes reviewed by AFA were rated TV14,

which NBC says warns of sophisticated themes, sexual content, strong language and/or intense violence. The same episodes averaged 10 uses of profanity or vulgarity. Here are brief synopses of series content:

9/22 (Debut) – One plot line focuses on Sam, a presidential staffer, who picks up a hooker at a bar for casual sex. (He continues to "date" her, and subsequent episodes revisit this story line.)

12/15 – Two 13-year-old Catholics boys force a homosexual to say Hail Marys as they pelt him to death with rocks.

7/5 – President Bartlet tells his priest he's "pi--ed off" God didn't answer his prayer. The priest tells a joke in which God himself uses casual profanity, and alcohol abuse is played

Fox, 7/24 – Miranda’s party is a big event every school year. This year she intends to “sacrifice” two virgins by letting them have sex in the bedroom. In a house full of teenagers, only a handful are virgins. Kerry says he’s not a “lame, inexperienced, sexless virgin.” Kate says sex is merely “one simple act” with which people should not be obsessed, likening it to someone stepping in “dog crap.” The guidance counselor tells Jed that when she was 15, she didn’t even know how to masturbate.

Advertiser: Cosmair

■ **Spin City** H P5 S TVPG-DL

ABC, 7/26 – Homosexuality is the big joke in this episode. Carter, the series’ regular homosexual character, is in “love” with Alex, but Mike becomes convinced that Alex made a pass at him. There are numerous crude jokes about various sexual practices.

Advertiser: Tricon Global

■ **Titus** H P5 S SA TV14-LV

Fox, 7/18 – This episode revolves around Pop Titus who has stopped drinking. Christopher, the son, gathers other family members to have an intervention to try to get Pop to start drinking again. He says when Pop is drinking, he’s a “lustful, lustful” man, but since he’s stopped, he is “lustless” – that he was a stud and used to have three women every night. Crude, vulgar language and homosexual innuendoes abound.

Advertiser: Sprint, Tricon Global

■ **X-Files** AC P1 S V TV14-V

Fox, 8/6 – Agent Scully apparently had a religious upbringing and still reads the Bible. But Christian ministers are portrayed as losers, e.g., one preacher helps violent criminals break out of prison, just so he can execute them. A hooker says preachers always like the weirdest sex.

Advertisers: Sprint, Tricon Global

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT’S DUE

In addition to sponsoring some of the worst of prime-time, Cosmair appeared on both positive episodes featured below.

■ **Mysterious Ways** + TVPG

NBC, 8/14 – Declan is thrown from a boat, washes up on shore and is found by a couple who take him back to a campground. The people there have no desire to leave. Declan suspects they have been brainwashed and are part of a cult. He is allowed to leave, but finds himself back in the river, being pulled out by his friend Peg. Peg says, “I thought we’d lost you.” From his initial fall from the boat, Declan has actually only been under the water for one minute. Apparently, he had a “near death” experience.

August 21 + TVPG

Declan, a college prof, investigates rumors in a community where vehicles are mysteriously “pushed” from a railroad track where a school bus accident earlier killed several teenagers. The teens supposedly haunt the track to protect others. Declan helps uncover the truth.

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AFA TV CODES

- AC** Anti-Christian
- H** Promotes homosexual agenda
- P** Profanity; the number following the “P” is the number of times profanity is used in the program.
- PC** Politically correct in dealing with an issue identified in the review
- S** Objectionable sexual content (may include partial nudity)
- SA** Substance abuse (drugs or alcohol)
- V** Violence (graphic or gratuitous)
- +** Positive theme with no objectionable elements (A good story told with profane language earns no commendation.)
- TV** TV network ratings are indicated in black.

profanity, homosexual activist agenda

for laughs.

For its comedy winner, FFF picked **Everybody Loves Raymond**, a CBS sitcom. One major source of “humor” are the the ugly put-downs delivered by the series’ grandparents. No one else in prime-time matches the obnoxious couple for rudeness. AFA had reviewed only seven **Raymond** episodes, which average three profanities per show and included these themes:

10/4 – Family members discuss a pro athlete’s adultery. Grandpa says, “God programmed man to sow his seed where he may.” There are homosexual jokes and porn jokes.

10/11 – There are several jokes about male genitalia, and the adults debate how to tell their young children about sex. The story focuses on how often the grandparents have sex.

1/10 – The family debate this week is whether Robert, the divorced brother, is homosexual. The “homosexual is normal” theme is reiterated.

Finally, the Best Actor Award for family-friendly programming went to Michael J. Fox, star of ABC’s **Spin City**, arguably the most effective pro-homosexual vehicle on major networks during the 1990s. The series’ one constant theme is the promiscuous lifestyles of its (mostly) single characters, including the aging mayor’s sex fling with a young secretary.

Other honors, much more understandable, went to Best Actress Della Reese of CBS’s **Touched by an Angel**; A&E’s **Biography**, TNT’s **National Geographic Explorer** and

Christians Society TODAY

A SUPPLEMENT FOR LOCAL BULLETINS & NEWSLETTERS FROM THE AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER, 2000

Frontlines

Indiana communities take offensive against sexually oriented businesses

Add South Bend and Mishawaka, Indiana, to the growing list of cities working to protect themselves against increased crime, decreased property values and urban blight that come with sexually oriented businesses (SOBs).

Citizens for Community Values (CCV) of Michiana, with the support of AFA of Indiana, led a battle in South Bend which resulted in some of the most restrictive regulations allowed by the courts to date.

The most noteworthy sections of the ordinance will close all adult businesses at 10:00 p.m. and force a 10-foot buffer zone between employees and patrons. The law will affect six existing strip bars and the largest adult bookstore in the state.

The day before the vote, over 400 people took to the streets in support of the regulation. A packed house for a city council meeting demonstrated wide-spread community backing. The mayor, the city prosecutor, police department, hundreds of churches, and neighborhood groups all expressed support.

More than 20 people spoke in favor of the ordinance, including David Sherman, who formerly worked as the Midwest regional manager for Deja' Vu strip clubs. Sherman now travels to hearings when possible to testify about his first-hand experiences in the industry.

CCV and AFA are encouraging other Indiana cities to follow the lead of South Bend and Mishawaka.

Be your own webmaster!

■ AFA offers free web site authoring

Have you seen the ads urging you to "design your own web site" and passed them by because you didn't feel technically qualified to do the work? Well, AFA has a deal for you!

You can design an attractive web site for your church, business or home free of charge by simply using the EZ Design Wizard attached to our AFA web site!

Typically in the past, if you wanted to create a high quality site to promote your church or business on the World Wide Web, it was necessary to spend a substantial amount of money to hire a professional web designer. But now, AFA provides the necessary tools to design, promote and manage your web site in a way that is both affordable and fun. EZ Design Wizard is based on a simple "point and click" drop-down menu, so if you have basic computer skills, you should be able to use it easily.

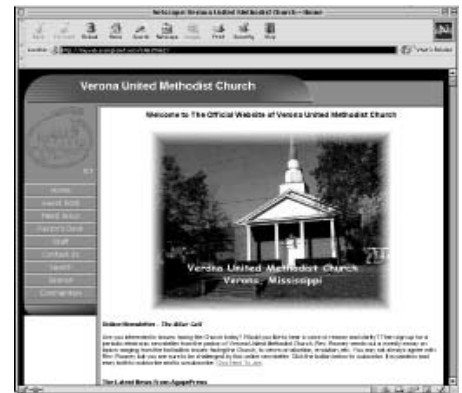
Your church can use a newly-designed web site to communicate its mission among the membership (and the public), provide pertinent information about services and activities and become an effective means for evangelism. On your business web site, you can feature products and services, provide corporate information, business locations and phone numbers. Or, if you want a personal home page to create photo albums, provide information about your family, or just have fun, it's as easy as a few clicks.

The great part about our AFA free websites is that they're not just empty disk space. They are fully functional and can hold up to 21 pages. EZ Design Wizard is one of the easiest web development tools available today, so if you already have a web site, you can easily upgrade it by purchasing optional features. The upgrades include unlimited pages and photo albums, domain name registrations, domain name E-mail accounts, E-commerce shopping carts and more. The optional upgrades range from \$6.95 to \$99.00 per month.

What does AFA get in return for providing these free websites? The AFA logo will appear in the bottom righthand corner of your site, and a link to AgapePress, our Christian news service, will also be available.

To see a sample church site built with EZ Design Wizard, go to: <http://myweb.com-planet.com/sabj5462>.

To sign up and begin building your new site, visit www.afa.net and click on "Build a free web site."



850 sites and growing – web gambling goes wild

Fueled by the explosion of the Internet and acceptance of casino gambling as mainstream entertainment, online E-gambling is growing at an incredible rate.

More than 850 sites worldwide cashed in with revenues of \$1.67 billion in 1999, up more than 80% from 1998, according to Christiansen Capital Investors.

Slot machines, poker and keno games are common, but there are also horse racing and other sports sites where gamblers can sit at their computer screens and “click their money away.” As with all gambling casinos, the goal is for the online casinos to win more than they lose, says Mark Balestra, author of *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Online Gambling*.

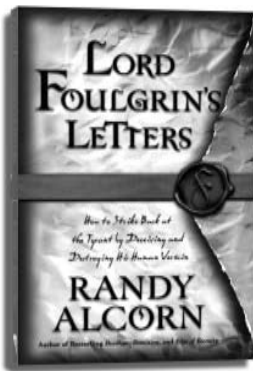
As with all gambling, there are definitely down sides and risks. Rigged games, credit card debt and proving the age and eligibility of players are just a few of the issues surrounding online gambling. And while such gambling is legal in many parts of the world, it is still a “gray area” in the U.S. While legislators work to determine just what the law should be, Americans are gambling through offshore online casinos, which is technically illegal.

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon believes online gambling will have a serious impact on the thousands of youth who have access to the Internet. “This is just one more way for kids to be tempted and drawn into something that can have serious consequences,” he said. “Gambling is as potentially addictive for kids as alcohol and drug abuse.”

To deter kids from getting hooked on gambling, Wildmon recommends that parents monitor the Internet activities of their children and use a filter which blocks gambling and other harmful websites.

Reuters, 5/31/00

Novel holds up mirror to



In *Lord Foulgrin’s Letters*, novelist Randy Alcorn follows in the steps of C. S. Lewis, who penned the classic *Screwtape Letters* in 1941. Like the demon *Screwtape*, *Lord Foulgrin* writes a series of letters to his assistant as he mentors the lesser demons in how to prevent people from embracing the Christian faith.

“I think Lewis would have approved of *Lord Foulgrin’s Letters*,” says Alcorn. “I give him full credit for the premise.”

The book is noteworthy not just for its creativity, but more significantly for its subtle convicting power. Again and again, *Foulgrin’s* letters pierce the facade of our culture’s comfortable Christianity, hitting every moral issue of our time. For example, he writes:

- ▶ On the state of the church: “An unholy world will never be won to the Carpenter by an unholy church:
- ▶ On movies and TV: “[God] commands them to hate sin, but they watch it for entertainment. What He grieves at, they laugh at.”
- ▶ On moral responsibility: “What they most fear and despise is moral accountability. They’ll gladly embrace any theory removing this built-in sense they must answer for how they’ve lived.”

Alcorn was a pastor for 14 years before founding Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM) in Gresham, Oregon. His non-fiction titles include *Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments*; *Sexual Temptation*; and *Is Rescuing Right?* EPM champions the cause of the poor, the persecuted, the unborn and others in special need of an advocate. For resources on missions, pro-life issues and matters of eternal perspective, visit the web site: www.epm.org. or write EPM, 2229 E. Burnside #23, Gresham, OR 97030.

Researcher says television influences

Are teens influenced by what they see on TV? It’s a question that’s been around for a long time and one that Archita Varma set out to answer.

Varma, a researcher with the University of Delhi in India, wrote about a “distinct change” in hair style, language, dress and mannerisms of teenagers since international television was introduced into India in 1987.

Varma surveyed 161 students aged 15 to 18 from three New Delhi private schools. The students were divided fairly equally between male (83) and female (78), and between those who watch international TV programs (82) and those watching only Indian-produced TV (79).

In the *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, Varma notes significant differences between the two groups in their responses to six statements:

“Getting drunk once in a while is fine.”

“Western dance is more exciting in place of Indian dancing.”

“Dressing up smartly is an important part of life.”

“I am fashion conscious.”

“Television set and telephone are essential in a teenager’s room.”

“Present Indian society should permit greater sexual freedom regardless of commitments.”

The international TV viewers were the ones more likely to affirm the above statements. “The transmission of international television programs in New Delhi has had a turbulent effect on the attitudes of school teenagers,” said Varma. He said he fears that teens in his country are only going to see more and more “cuddling, sexy huffing and puffing on their television sets.”

The Family in America,
New Research, 7/2000



Holding the

■ Scholar battles liberalism in academia

AFA has long observed that the media too frequently marginalizes conservative Christianity and often distorts it beyond recognition. So when the August *AFA Journal* reviewed the ABC special, **The Search for Jesus**, it should have been aware that things are not always as they seem.

For example, because of the way one of the scholars, Rev. N.T. Wright, was portrayed on the ABC special, the *Journal* erroneously characterized him as a liberal scholar. As it turns out, Dr. Wright, Canon Theologian at Westminster Abbey in Lon-

don, is anything but a liberal scholar.

Wright's introduction in **The Search for Jesus** followed a segment in which journalist Peter Jennings said he talked to Biblical scholars who don't take the Bible literally and who speak of contradictions within the Gospels. Not only that, Jennings said, "it is pretty much agreed [by scholars] that [the authors of the Gospels] were not eye-witnesses" to the events of Jesus' life, and the writings themselves were probably penned 40 to 100 years after Jesus' death.

The next face the viewer saw was

Wright's, and the words he spoke appeared to be in agreement with Jennings's comments. He was quoted as saying the Gospels are merely "what people thought really happened." Unfortunately, as the program progressed, some of Wright's other comments were edited to take on the hue of the liberal scholars that appeared.

That is not to excuse the mischaracterization of Wright as a liberal scholar; it does, however, help demonstrate the enormous power of media editing to filter reality, in effect distorting it.

History as friend of Christianity

Dr. Wright has enthusiastically spent his professional life researching and writing about the New Testament, especially the historical circumstances surrounding the writings of faith that so many Christians worldwide treasure so dearly.

His perspective on New Testament studies is an orthodox Christian view, however, often pitting him against colleagues who dismiss everything in the Gospels from the Virgin Birth to the Resurrection. Wright was the only conservative Christian scholar, for example, to appear in **The Search for Jesus**.

Many conservative Christians in the U.S. viewed the ABC special as a shameful attempt to pass off liberal scholarship as accepted truth – as if the debate had already been settled.

Not only is the debate not over, Wright said, but it may be beginning again in earnest. In an interview with *AFA Journal*, he said that in the last decade or two, "worldwide scholarship has had some significant explosions, and we're still watching the bits fly around the room, and waiting to see where they're going to settle."

The fixed truths of 20 or 30 years ago – many reflecting liberal ideas about Jesus and the early church – have been jarred by new scholarship. "Today, a great many of those positions are not fixed and not agreed at all... We know a lot more about the first century Jewish world than we did, and that has impinged enormously on NT studies," he said.

Such scholarship makes for a "more robust Christian orthodoxy, rather than a less one," Wright said, because "if you have a religious view which is always a little worried about asking the historical questions, that's

deeply damaging to a Christian faith.”

Even though some theologians have used historical research to tear at Christian beliefs, Wright said Christians should never fear such work. “My view is that the historical questions are ones that you have to face, and that if you do so courageously, you’ll find that the facts are kind, that they are God’s facts, and that this stuff actually comes out right on the other side,” he said.

Different TV, same message

Still, the media, in both the U.S. and the U.K., appear to remain ambivalent – some would say downright hostile – to orthodox Christianity. In Britain, Wright said, the media treats Christianity “as a bit of a sideshow, on a par with, say, cross-country skiing or collecting antique clocks.”

Wright said, “It is regularly observed, for instance, that when the religion department here at the BBC [British Broadcasting Corporation] does make a good documentary about something that’s going on [of a religious nature], then it will end up being [aired] at 11:15 p.m., maybe on a Sunday night when everyone is sort of in bed because they’re going off to work the next morning....As we know, that drops the proportion of the audience by a fairly sizable factor.”

It’s not simply a matter of giving Christian subject matter a poor time slot, Wright said, but also a matter of how much Christian programming gets on television to begin with. “The BBC used to [air] a main worship service every Sunday morning. They now do that only on Christmas, Easter, Advent and one or two other key times of the year,” he said.

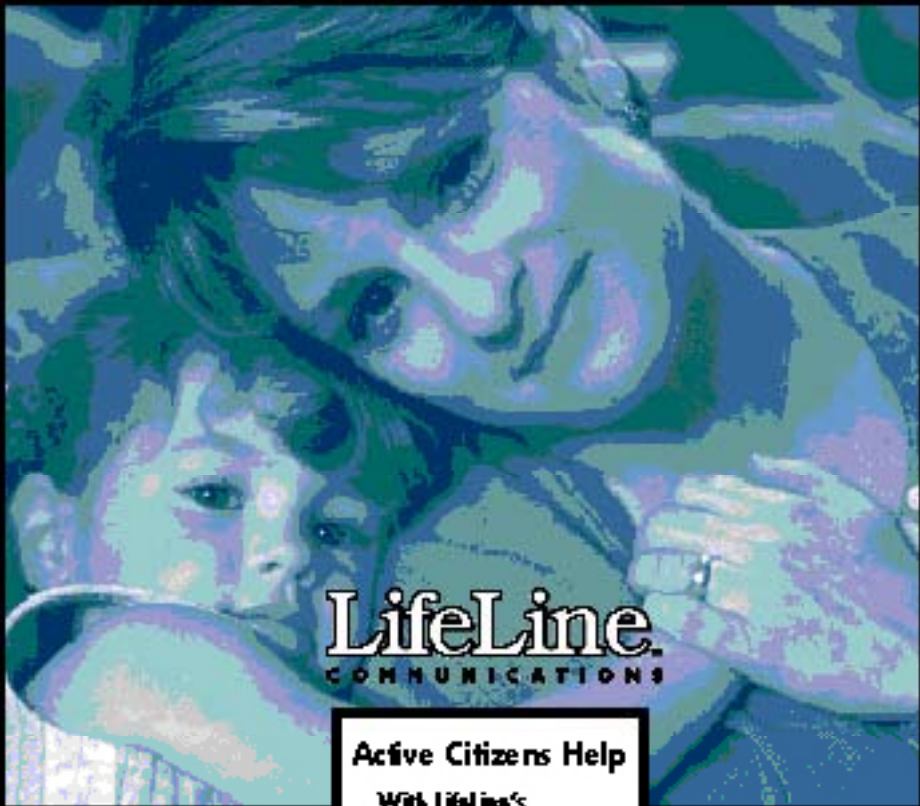
Just as in America, this disinterest in religious issues – except when it provokes controversy – may have something to do with the journalists themselves. Wright said that, regardless of whether it’s in print or broadcast journalism, those in the media “are often people who have either no religious background whatever or gave it up when they were 13. So they have a vested interest in trying to make out that this is now totally old hat.”

Wright said, “If in doubt [those in the media] will stick on another rerun of a soap opera instead of a documentary about Jesus.”



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■ 'Left Behind: The Movie'

Film producers engaging culture for Christ

BY RANDALL MURPHREE • *AFA Journal* Editor

One of this year's most critically acclaimed Hollywood movies was the Disney/Miramax film **Cider House Rules**. (See April *AFA Journal*, p.4.) The hero is Dr. Wilbur Larch, an abortionist. Larch is also portrayed as a compassionate, sensitive man who founds a home for orphans. Movie insiders nominated the film for seven Academy Awards. The film is typical of what Hollywood currently produces and praises.

Among evangelical Christians there is no longer a debate regarding the entertainment media's moral nose dive over recent decades. It is obvious.

Some rail loudly against the product (movies, literature, music) with bitter denunciations and little else. Some recoil in silent repugnance, withdrawing entirely from the entertainment arena.

And some—like Peter Lalonde—respond by seizing the opportunity to share the Gospel. "My brother Paul and I have a kind

of Joshua and Caleb spirit," he says. "We believe in just storming the land."

Lalonde has had a passion for film since he came to faith in Christ in the early 1980s when a friend took him to a church film night, and he saw the Gospel in a movie. After producing and hosting the TV series **This Week in Bible Prophecy** for several years, the Lalondes felt led to enter the film medium and shake up mainstream filmdom with a little salt and light.

Cloud Ten Pictures, their production company, has already written and produced a series of end-times thrillers (**Apocalypse, Revelation** and **Tribulation**) which have sold more than a million video copies. That series will continue with the release of **Judgment** this winter.

With their success in the genre, the Lalondes were the obvious choice to produce **Left Behind: The Movie**, based on the wildly popular novel series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. Talk about engaging the



Film producer, Peter Lalonde

culture for Christ—Jenkins and LaHaye's novels have dominated best seller lists, both secular and Christian, since *Left Behind* first appeared in 1995. Their first seven titles have sold more than 18 million copies, and five more sequels are expected.

Now, the Lalondes find themselves at the helm of a phenomenon that is sure to have an explosive impact for Christ in the American culture.

"I think **Left Behind** offers an unparalleled opportunity for Christian filmmaking, for us to take things to an entirely new level," said Lalonde this summer on the Toronto set as his crew completed shooting the film. "The big studios can do the effects, they can do the explosions, they can do all of the marketing and the publicity. But to capture eternal truth on film, I think that's something we can do as a Christian film studio that they cannot do."

Though the Lalondes did not require that actors be believers, three committed Christians were cast in major roles. Kirk Cameron (from TV's **Growing Pains**) plays Buck Williams, the leading character. On set, Cameron told *AFA Journal* it's very exciting to play a "guy who goes from really not considering the existence of God...to surrendering his life to God."

Chelsea Noble plays Hattie. "She's searching," says Noble. "She's being deceived and doesn't know it. I think it's important to see Hattie making choices in this world without God. You need to see life with God and life without [God] and where that takes you." Noble, who is married to Cameron, also played on **Growing Pains**, as well as **Full House**.

Clarence Gilyard, co-star of **Walker, Texas Ranger**, plays Rev. Barnes, who is shocked when he is left behind in the rap-



FROM THE MOVIE—Buck (Kirk Cameron) trying to make sense of friend Dirk Burton's encrypted mini-DVD. © Cloud Ten Pictures. Photo by Ken Woroner


ture; Barnes later comes to faith. Gilyard says, "God was giving me a gift, an opportunity to be creative and to share the Gospel, to play that character under those circumstances."

"The video release is set for October 31," said Cloud Ten Sales Manager Byron Jones. Theater release is set for February. If that sounds backward, Jones says no, it will work. Cloud Ten anticipates heavy response to the video in churches, and the company is offering churches the opportunity to sponsor the movie as an outreach ministry

in their local theaters.

"I am convinced this film will bring millions to a point of decision regarding their faith," says Pastor Jeff Voth of Tulsa's Life Connection Church. "Our church of 200 is sponsoring six screens."

Peter Lalonde sits in his trailer on the **Left Behind** set, the last day of filming. He's exhausted from weeks of intense, grueling work. But it's clearly a labor of love. "I believe that, by the grace of God, this is the time to take the land in Christian filmmaking," he says. "Our prayer is that we will em-

power thousands of other Christians [in the industry], that they will be encouraged to say, 'Why don't we do this project?' or 'That one is pretty ungodly....' If we can empower people to take those kinds of stands, I think we will have achieved our goal." 

*To learn how your church can sponsor **Left Behind: The Movie** at your local theater, telephone Cloud Ten at 1-800-670-6479. Visit their Internet Web site: www.leftbehindthemovie.com.*

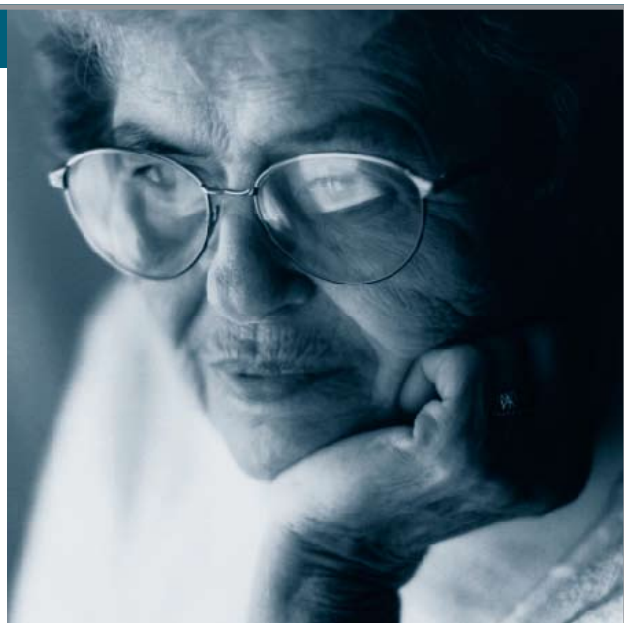
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"Since Walter passed away, I have to be careful with my money."

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MAXIMIZING... from page 3

ued at \$5,000, for which you originally paid \$2,000. If you sell them, you will have a \$3,000 capital gain, resulting in a tax of \$750 (assuming a 25% combined federal and state tax bracket).

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Example: If you place \$50,000 into a charitable trust designed to pay AFA income of \$4,000 a year for the next five

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There are many other strategies for making year-end gifts, but above all, we hope your giving will reflect a desire to fulfill the Great Commission. Seldom can you make a gift and have more money afterward than you had before. Thus, the gift itself should be your first priority, with tax savings being secondary. However, since your gift is tax-deductible, the tax savings may result in an actual cost much less than the amount of your original gift.

AFA Foundation can help with your year-end giving and overall estate planning. Please contact us at 800-326-4543 ext. 289 for an appointment and/or literature and illustrations specific to your situation. All our services are confidential and without cost or obligation.



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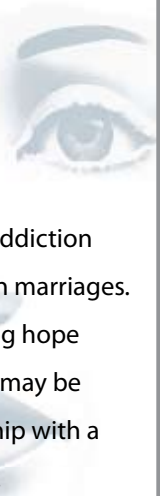
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apologized for including the Bible.

I have no problem with General Mills paying for the privilege of labeling their products as being kosher. That is perfectly acceptable. I do have a problem with General Mills justifying their apology by saying that “it is not the company’s policy to advance any particular set of religious beliefs.” If placing a CD with the Bible (Old and New Testaments) on it and giving it away to customers is “advancing” a set of religious beliefs, then how does General Mills not consider paying a religious group for the privilege of placing a symbol serving a religious purpose as “advancing” a set of religious beliefs?

There is clearly a double standard here that cannot be justified. Perhaps that is the reason Mr. Sanger refused to respond to my letter. Before other corporations adopt this “politically correct” double standard, it is imperative that we speak out. I’m asking you to do the following:

1. Pray for the management of General Mills. Ask that God change their hearts while forgiving their anti-Christian bigotry.

2. Stop buying Cheerios and encourage your friends to do the same until General Mills changes their policy to make it consistent and apologizes for their bigotry toward Christians.

3. Call General Mills at 1-800-231-0308 and tell them you are praying that they will stop their anti-Christian bigotry. Also tell them no more Cheerios in your home until they do. Please be nice and polite when you call. The person who answers the phone has no decision-making power, so they cannot change anything. Politely ask them to pass along your concerns to the decision-makers.

And while telling our children that the Bible is bad and apologizing for including it in their cereal, General Mills considers homosexuality good. General Mills actively promotes the homosexual lifestyle in their company through a gay and lesbian employee network called “Betty’s Family.”

I hope you will do what I have asked, and ask your friends and members of your Sunday School and Church to do the same. Our children are depending on us to take a stand for them. They trust us. Please ~~decide~~



Eyes wide open

BY TIM WILDMON

American Family Association Vice President

So I’m lying in bed with my six-year-old son, Walker, scratching his back. Wesley, his 11-year-old brother, is a few feet away in his bed. The two share a room in our three bedroom home. They always talk before going to sleep whether I am in the room or not.

“Dad,” said Walker, breaking the quiet. “Did you know that if you open your eyes while you sneeze, your eyeballs will pop out of your head?”

“No, Son, I didn’t know that.”

“It’s true. Tell him Wesley,” he said.

Walker usually looks for big brother validation when it comes to a statement he thinks I may not buy. Obviously, they had been discussing the issue before I entered the room.

“Yeah, Dad, it’s true. Ever notice you can’t keep your eyes open when you sneeze?” said Wesley. “Well, if you open them while you sneeze, they will come out. Your eyeballs I’m talking about. I learned it at school.”

I wondered if this was classroom learnin’ or playground learnin’.

“Well, I’ve never really paid attention, but now that you mention it, I do think the body’s natural reaction to a sneeze is to close the eyes,” I said as I continued to rub Walker’s back under his t-shirt.

There is a difference between what one learns in the classroom and what one learns on the playground. The classroom is sometimes theory. The playground – or workplace for us adults – is always reality.

From time to time, we get suggestions here at AFA. Some of the suggestions tell us where we can go or what we can do with our opinions. You would be amazed at the creative ideas some people suggest. We get a few of those each day.

Then there are suggestions from well-meaning people who say we need to do this or that instead of – or in place of – whatever we’re working on at the time. Sometimes they will even write back later if their idea is not implemented, to ask why not and if we really want their support.

One of the regular comments we get is, “If you would just tell people about Jesus and quit worrying about all this other stuff, that’s what will change our country.” This is usually from someone who is new to our ministry. Obviously, people who have supported us over time think differently. To me this is classroom thinking.

Please don’t misunderstand me. I think communicating the good news of Jesus Christ is the first priority of the Christian life. However, not all who hear will believe and change their ways. And while we are evangelizing, why not stand for biblical morality in politics and other places? Isn’t it right for Christians to be working to make positive change in our culture – to stand against evil and wrongdoing?

In all walks of life, America needs the influence of people who understand right from wrong and are willing to fight for what is right. If Christians are not involved in the decision making processes, be it government or corporate America, then what is going to be the value system – or mindset – of those who are making the decisions for all of us? This is workplace thinking.

It takes both classroom and workplace thinking for the church to be salt and light.

As for the bedtime conversation about eyeballs and sneezing, I didn’t know enough about the subject to weigh in. My boys were convincing. I thought about doing a test on my own because my hunch is they are wrong. But then, if I ~~were~~

Crown of Thorns

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Actual size $\frac{7}{8}$ " tall



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At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Lord. But without His death and resurrection, Jesus' birth would have no significance, for He was born to die.

This Christmas, to commemorate His ultimate gift, AFA is offering a 14K gold *Crown of Thorns* pendant and 16" gold chain.*

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