

# AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## Californians reject same-sex marriage

■ *Ballot initiative win is huge for traditional marriage*

Liberal enclaves like Hollywood and San Francisco, California, have often been a cultural leader in all things liberal and hedonistic. On March 7, however, the state's voters served notice that traditional marriage is in – and same-sex marriage is out.

Californians voted on controversial Proposition 22, which simply said, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." The ballot initiative passed overwhelmingly 62% to 37%, although the final numbers had yet to be tallied at press time.

The measure was placed on the March 7 ballot as a bulwark against the very real and growing danger that another state might someday legal-

ize homosexual marriage. Pro-family groups have been battling desperately over the last few years as Hawaii, Alaska and Vermont seemed, at different times, on the verge of authorizing same-sex marriage.

In the event that another state did legalize homosexual marriage, Prop 22 was meant to legally proscribe California from recognizing the union of any same-sex couples returning to the state.

Attacked by Hollywood celebrities and liberal ministers, the measure was supported by conservative clergy and religious denominations, GOP party leaders and the Hispanic community,

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## AFA gets split decision in

■ *Victory on homosexual rights, loss on library filtering*

Two votes in Michigan on February 22 highlighted two key fronts in the culture war, as AFA and local citizens took on special rights for homosexuals and filters for library computers.

In Ferndale, Michigan, voters addressed a human rights ordinance which would have added "sexual orientation" to the list of groups protected from discrimination. The measure was narrowly defeated 51% to 49%.

Although such ordinances are cropping up across the nation, Christians in Ferndale were especially incensed by the lack of an exemption for churches and Christian day cares.

The national AFA office contributed substantial resources to Oakland County Residents For Equal Rights Not Special Rights, a local group that was opposing the measure. That group was working with AFA of Michigan President Gary Glenn.

"Quite literally, under this law a church could

be fined for refusing to hire a homosexual pastor, music director or children's church teacher," said Glenn. "It would have discriminated against Christians by repressing their First Amendment religious liberties."

Ferndale City Councilman Craig Covey, an open homosexual, stirred controversy after the vote by demonizing Christians who opposed the measure. Covey said, "This vote shows that the Christian Right is down but not out yet. We might have to drive another dagger into that vampire."

Glenn pointed out the hypocrisy of homosexual activists like Covey, who constantly berate Christians for their supposed "hate speech" when preaching about the sin of homosexuality. "To help protect Ferndale citizens from potential violence, we encourage the [pro-homosexual group] Triangle Foundation to add the word 'vampire'

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# Light through the

BY DONALD E. WILDMON • AFA President

A dark cloud has descended on America. Once the land of freedom and responsibility, once a culture guided by a Judeo-Christian heritage, once a land where righteousness was exalted, America has been shrouded by a dark cloud. This cloud has left us unable to tell right from wrong. Indeed it has caused us to call wrong, right.

In pursuit of that which is *politically correct, tolerant, and diverse*, we have not only tolerated, but promoted a way of life which – should we continue to follow it – will ultimately destroy this grand experiment we call America.

We have lost sight of who we are, from whence we came, and where we are headed. Our leaders – both secular and religious – define morality only in corporate terms, not in individual terms. Only society can do wrong, not the individual. Unless, of course, the individual happens to follow the teachings of Holy Writ. Then he is condemned and radicalized.

This dark cloud has left us stumbling to and fro, hunting for a way through the darkness without falling. But falling we are. A seven-year-old boy kills an innocent six-year-old girl at his school. The media blames the object – a gun – while admitting that his home life was a mockery, but never connecting the quality of his home life to his actions, nor mentioning the need for a solid, stable family with a loving and present father and mother.

Because of this dark cloud, our children are being murdered in Columbine, Pearl, Edinboro, Paducah, Jonesboro and Springfield. They are being dragged into a life of hopeless despair on the streets of our cities where crime flourishes and drugs flow. Our response is to take more money from the homes where it is needed, where a real difference could be made, and send it to Washington where someone seeking votes wants to use it to replace real love.

So many of our churches are seeking success defined by society – bigger being better. They have so often forgotten that Christianity is, at its core, one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread to feed his hunger.

So many in positions of influence are pushing for society to abandon those values which have lifted and guided western civilization for the past two thousand years. They seek to redefine right and wrong, remove God from society and thus make sin obsolete. They are the blind leading the blind, and many are blindly following.

There is a way to lift this cloud of darkness, there is a Light to show us the way. “I am the light of the world,” He said. “He who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Whether the cloud of darkness will be lifted, I do not know. One thing, however, I do know. For individuals who choose, there is a Light to lead us out of the darkness. We need to do the best we can in following that Light and sharing Him with others.

# Retirement planning – a new

BY GLEN FRADENBURG  
AFA Foundation Director



Most of us tend to think of retirement planning only from the perspective of the years before retirement. But over the past couple of decades many individuals and families have done such a good job of creating a nest egg for the “golden years” that a whole new related issue has emerged.

Our tax laws encourage the building of retirement funds through a variety of “qualified plans.” However, these funds and the benefits associated with them are not intended to be inheritance plans. So, when a retirement plan is included in an estate at death, it is subject to taxation designed to make up for the tax-deferred benefits afforded while the fund was being built.

As a result, a retirement plan could be hit with taxes (excise, estate, and income taxes) as high as 80%! A \$1 million fund could shrink to \$200,000.

However, there are options which make it possible to avoid this kind of tax-bite. As is often the case, for individuals whose planning includes charitable giving, careful planning can insure that shrinkage is minimal.

All that is required is that you view your retirement plan from a new perspective. With the help of a professional knowledgeable of the options, you can insure that every asset in your estate has maximum impact – making it possible for your hopes and dreams for family, friends and charitable organizations to be realized.

So while it may require a change of perspective, a little planning can mean that even those funds you’ve set aside for retirement can have impact far beyond your golden years.

If you’d like information on some of the options, call or write our office. There is no cost or obligation.

AFA Foundation, P. O. Box 3933, Tupelo, MS 38803, 1-800-326-4543,

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Please, no unsolicited manuscripts.



## CALIFORNIANS...*from page 1*

which is traditionally very pro-family.

"As Californians, we are proud of our diversity and tolerance, but there are societal boundaries which should be preserved. Tonight we have preserved traditional marriage," said Prop 22 spokesman Robert Glazier on the night of the vote.

Pro-family forces were also claiming victory in Vermont, where 50 of the state's 246 towns had ballot initiatives about same-sex marriage. According to Craig Benson of Take It to the People, a Vermont pro-family group, all of the towns overwhelmingly voted to disapprove of homosexual marriage.

In December the Vermont Supreme Court had ordered the legislature to provide "the benefits and protections of marriage," although it stopped short of legalizing same-sex marriage. The ballot measures throughout the state on March 7 were meant to send a message to the Vermont legislature.

"In state after state, people continue to overwhelmingly support traditional marriage and reject bizarre social experiments like same-sex marriage," said AFA President Donald E. Wildmon. "Liberal activist judges, however, continue to thwart the will of the people in ways that would horrify our Founding Fathers."

## AFA...*from page 1*

to its recently unveiled poster discouraging hate speech such as that by Councilman Covey," said Glenn tongue-in-cheek.

Meanwhile, in Holland, Michigan, a vote on whether or not to install Internet filters on computers at the Herrick District Library was defeated 55% to 45%. The ballot initiative became necessary after efforts to approach city council members about filtering were ignored. Although communities across the nation are debating library filtering, Holland was the first city to put library filtering on the ballot.

The Holland campaign was initiated by the Holland Area Family Association (HAFA), a local AFA affiliate. Once on the ballot, HAFA Vice-president Irv Bos worked with Glenn and other local citizens in favor of the filtering ordinance.

AFA is one of the leading organizations fighting to make libraries safe for children, but resistance from the American Library Association (ALA) has been feverish.

## AFA threatens boycott of Johnson & Johnson

### ■ *Company continues underwriting TV deviancy*

Sponsoring shows advancing anti-Christian bigotry, profanity, group sex, and adultery during family viewing hours has earned Johnson & Johnson a stern warning of consumer reprisal from AFA.

AFA criticized the health care products company for giving financial support to licentious behavior on prime-time television. Johnson & Johnson has sponsored the "worst" in TV dramas this year, including **Ally McBeal**, "the most repugnant series on prime-time when it comes to treatment of moral values," according to *AFA Journal* editor Randall Murphree. (See *AFA Journal*, 2/00.)

AFA President Don Wildmon said that the company's ostensibly wholesome advertising policy and its actual advertising practices don't match up and a boycott could be looming. "As long as Johnson & Johnson continues its present practice of promoting violence, sex and profanity, it doesn't warrant the business of American families concerned about television's deleterious impact," said Wildmon.

Wildmon said Johnson & Johnson sponsored one episode of NBC's **West Wing** which was particularly offensive to parents as it focused on the murder of a homosexual by two 13-year-old Catholic boys. The boys allegedly stripped the victim naked, tied him to a tree, and forced him to say Hail Marys as they pelted him with rocks and bottles.

When questioned about **West Wing** and other controversial program themes, Johnson & Johnson spokesman John McKeegan said, "We screen every show we're on. [The shows] met with our internal standards. We decided that we would advertise on those shows." McKeegan added, "We'll still be supporting adult-oriented shows as well."

Wildmon noted Johnson & Johnson's financial support of such programs counteracts its recent boast of funding the development of family-friendly shows on the WB network. "The company's policy on advertising is a double standard, which basically amounts to no standard at all," added Wildmon.

AFA is encouraging families to contact Johnson & Johnson and ask them to stop supporting programs that contain excessive sex, violence and profanity.

Contact: Johnson & Johnson, Chairman Ralph S. Larsen, 1 Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 08933, Phone: 1-800-526-3967.

The ALA is a radical private organization that has tremendous influence over public libraries across the country. The official policy of the group is that libraries should never limit children's access to any material – even pornography. Since the Internet contains thousands of explicitly pornographic websites, the ALA policy allowing children to roam cyberspace freely has become a concern for many parents.

"The ALA wants absolute control over this issue," said AFA National Field Director David Miller. "The group was terrified over the Holland vote, because it just couldn't stand to have such a decision placed into the hands of the voters."

Miller said the loss was disappointing but held out hope for future efforts, since voters may not have been rejecting the concept of computer filtering. Even opponents

of the ordinance told the Associated Press they believed most people who had voted "No" actually supported library Internet filters but had technical concerns.

"The opposition really twisted this issue to their advantage," Miller said. "The library director had said publicly that he would shut down the library altogether if the filtering measure passed, and the mayor claimed the city's credit rating would be damaged. We think that made voters very nervous."

The Holland measure was also unique in some respects, and Miller said opponents of library filtering should not put too much stock in the outcome. "Because the Herrick District Library served three other cities besides Holland, opponents of the ballot initiative argued that it was

See **AFA** on page 22

# The butcher's knife

■ Disney/Miramax films have more in common than expected



For almost 30 years this nation has authorized the killing of unborn children, and the slaughter is frequently justified by pro-abortion advocates. A comparison of two recent films from Disney subsidiary Miramax Films shows that we are spoon-feeding our young a toxic gruel which rejects the value of innocent life.

In one respect, the movies, **Scream 3** and **The Cider House Rules**, could not be more different. **Scream 3** is the final film of a terror trilogy, which single-handedly revived the slasher horror genre. **The Cider House Rules**, on the other hand, is a critically acclaimed film nominated for numerous Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Viewers might be surprised which movie goes further in diminishing the value of human life.

## Championing abortion

Based on the John Irving novel of the same name, **The Cider House Rules** is an often poignant tale about an orphanage in fictitious St. Cloud, Maine, during World War II. The story focuses on Dr. Wilbur Larch, who cares for the children, and Homer Wells, the young man he has raised to help him.

At the orphanage, Larch often delivers babies who are then put into the care of the orphanage staff. The doctor also frequently performs abortions and dumps the dead babies into an outside incinerator.

The movie presents a clear, one-sided argument in favor of abortion. This is no surprise, since Irving intended such a message for his book, and was pleased to see the same message faithfully replicated in the film. In the novel, Larch says that abortion is as much “the Lord’s work” as delivering babies.

Enamored with the potential power of the movie to change people’s minds to a pro-abortion position, Irving has gone so far as to suggest that the two groups of people that most need to see **The Cider House Rules** are pro-life politicians “and 12-year-old girls.”



Although ads like the one above from *Daily Variety* (2/25/00) promote **The Cider House Rules** as a “Classic About Compassion,” the Disney/Miramax movie is overtly pro-abortion.

It is the bold pro-abortion message of **The Cider House Rules** that ties this film to **Scream 3**. These two seemingly different films actually share a common bond – the symbolic and very real power of the knife. Whether it is the menacing six-inch blade in the hand of **Scream’s** psychopathic serial killer, or the almost innocent-looking curette in the skilled hand of the zealous abortionist Larch, the knife is an instrument of execution.

## Judge, jury and executioner

In **Scream 3**, the maniacal killer confronts the heroine, raving about past injustices. Without even a pretense of remorse, he admits that he kills to settle old scores, and believes himself right to do so.

Likewise, in **The Cider House Rules**, Larch demonstrates no regret for the abortions he performs, and, in fact, the doctor is an unabashed evangelist for his trade.

Yet, frustrated like a father who cannot convince his son to take over the family business, Larch cannot convert Homer on this one subject. The young man has

been trained by Larch as a protege. He has learned and performed every other skill as a doctor, but refuses to do abortions.

To the doctor, it is a tragedy for women to risk their lives by getting back-alley abortions, and equally tragic for children to be born unwanted. When Homer argues that a fate worse than not being adopted would be to end up in the incinerator, Larch asks, “Happy to be alive under any circumstances? Is that your point?” It is clear that the abortionist believes that an unborn baby’s life is sometimes not worth saving, because in his opinion that child’s life would not be worth living.

It is precisely this message that makes **The Cider House Rules** a more morally dangerous film than **Scream 3** – which at least does not portray a victim’s life as not being worth living.

## The abortionist as hero

This is not to suggest that Larch is a psychopath, like the killer in **Scream 3**. Nevertheless, Larch is a criminal, for he performs his trade during the 1940s, when abortion

was illegal. This is but a mere technicality for **The Cider House Rules**, however. After all, the doctor has his reasons, and in his mind those reasons supercede the laws of the land.

Still, Larch breaks the law by taking innocent lives, just as the serial killer does in **Scream 3**. It is a point missed, perhaps, by the producers of both films. Once a man nullifies God's laws, he can with impunity nullify man's.

Rather than being portrayed as a criminal, though, Larch is portrayed as a hero. In a country where women have coat-hanger abortions and sentimental young fools like Homer refuse to prevent such tragedies, Larch is a nobleman among the ignorant peasantry.

The abortionist is a hero because he is willing to meet an important need – and as Larch continually tells Homer, “you have to be of use” in this world. This is why Larch fumes continually over Homer's refusal to perform abortions. In the doctor's mind, Homer is unwilling to take responsibility for the countless women who need the procedure. Even later, when he gives Homer a “useful” birthday present – a medical bag containing the instruments of the abortionist's trade – the young man still does not relent.

### **The cider house rules**

Larch's frustration only grows when Homer decides to leave St. Cloud in order to “see the world.” Opportunity comes when Lt. Wally Worthington, a young pilot, brings his pregnant girlfriend Candy to the orphanage for an abortion. Homer asks Wally if he can leave with them, and the lieutenant invites him to work at his family's apple orchard.

Homer happily works beside the migrant apple pickers who harvest the Worthingtons' crops, under the direction of the foreman, Mr. Rose. Homer rooms with the workers in the “cider house” – which is little more than a large bunkhouse attached to the area where cider is made.

Like life itself, existence in the cider house is governed by rules. A typed list is tacked to the bunkhouse wall containing a succinct list of simple regulations – like no smoking in bed, and no climbing on the roof to eat lunch or sleep.

The rules are inadvertently ignored because the migrant workers cannot read.

When Mr. Rose's daughter Rose asks Homer to read the rules aloud, ignorance of the rules gives way to rebellion.

“Someone who don't live here made those rules,” Mr. Rose says. Instead, the rules should be made by the ones who “live in this cider house” – those who grind up the apples, make the cider and “clean up all this mess.”

“These rules ain't for us,” he says. “We the ones supposed to make our own rules. And we do. Every single day.”

With that the rules are pulled off the wall and burned in the stove.

The point is not very subtle, and goes right to the heart of the film's message about abortion. In this world, man needs not consult with God about how he should live – presumably because God “don't live here.” It is the occupants of the cider house – the humans living on planet earth – who have the right to decide which rules will be obeyed. Consequently, man will decide who lives and who dies.

This dispensing with God – and His irritating rules – is seen as a necessary step in becoming a “useful” adult in this life. This growing up process is evident in **The Cider House Rules** when Homer Wells finally changes his mind about abortion.

The young man discovers that a distraught Rose is pregnant by her father. Mr. Rose will not allow his daughter to leave, even when Homer makes clear that there is an abortionist who can help at St. Cloud.

It is now time for Homer to grow up and face his responsibility. With Rose's distressing circumstances forging inescapable chains for the young woman, Homer tells Rose that he is “a doctor...I can help.” The abortionist's tools, given by Larch to Homer, can finally be put to use.

### **Murder as sacred act**

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of Homer's transformation is the choice of words he uses to offer his skills to Rose. Rather than speak the unvarnished truth by saying, “I can kill your baby for you,” Homer says, “I can help.”

These words, of course, perform a bit of moral sleight-of-hand. The truly wicked core of this film's message is that the butchery performed by the abortionist is an act of beneficence. Abortion becomes a noble endeavor. The wickedness of murder has been transformed into a sacred act, and the sacred act of defending the innocent becomes

iniquity. In Larch's mind, it is much more of a sin not to kill the unwanted, unborn child, than to kill.

Only a devil could conceive of an ethic which insists that society spare children misery by killing them. Such logic, of course, is happily dreamt of in the minds of those who wield the butcher's knife, rather than in the minds of those who find themselves under it.

### **Last stop: the furnace**

Nothing presents a starker contrast between the Judeo-Christian worldview and nihilism, its modern-day competitor, than the furnace in **The Cider House Rules**. The final stop for the dismembered remains of unwanted babies, the incinerator stands outside the orphanage like a ghastly sentinel of the grave.

How can the symbolism of that furnace be missed by the pro-abortion crowd swooning to embrace this film? The abortionist Larch is carrying out his trade during World War II – at precisely the same time that, half a world away, another butcher is carrying out his work. There, too, furnaces were being stoked with victims.

That is why it is such tricky business, this overthrowing of the cider house rules. Once the intrinsic, God-ordained value of innocent human life has been stripped away, man is free to begin the process of re-categorizing people into valuable and nonvaluable. Who will be tossed into the latter bin? It's been done before – with Native Americans, slaves, and Jews – and it is done now with unborn children.

It is ironic, of course, that the furnace stands near the orphanage. Inside the walls of one are burned the remains of children prematurely cut loose from life. Inside the walls of the other are young lives that were spared the curette's razor edge, nourished by caring, compassionate adults.

Nightly at the orphanage, Larch sends the children off to sleep with a simple benediction: “Good night, you princes of Maine, you kings of New England.” The children, abandoned by some, are now cared for by others. The children have intrinsic worth, and the love shown to them at the orphanage – albeit in a run down home with very few amenities – clearly teaches the Scriptural truth: We are, in fact, our “brother's keeper” (Genesis 4:9).

Love and compassion for the unwanted is the answer, not the incinerator. We must

# news of interest

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

## CULTURE

### CBS 'Angel' rumor unfounded

Every once in awhile, *AFA Journal* feels it should help dispel some of the wilder false rumors that make the rounds within the body of Christ. The latest far-fetched story is that a petition has been sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) asking it to remove the popular CBS show **Touched By An Angel** from the airwaves because the drama continually uses the word "God." *This is not true.* Do not call the FCC about this petition, because no such petition exists.

Similarly, a rumor periodically arises about another supposed petition. For years a story has circulated about Madeline Murray O'Hare, or her organization, or some other humanistic organization, asking the FCC to remove all Christian programming from television and/or radio. *This is not true.* No such petition exists.

In October, *AFA Journal* also tried to refute another persistent – and equally false – rumor about the Procter & Gamble (P&G) company. Some Christians have been concerned about reports that P&G was in various ways involved in Satanism. The supporting "evidence" varied: some said the P&G logo included Satanic symbols; others said a P&G spokesman (even the president of the company!) had actually appeared on a talk show and admitted the company's ties to Satanism. *None of these rumors are true.*

As they are spread, often without any documentation, such rumors harm the credibility of Christians in our culture. Our thanks go out to those who have checked with us first before passing along these "urban legends."

### Comedian Steve Allen to address humanists

Well-known comedian and humanist Steve Allen will be a featured speaker

at an international humanist conference this May in Los Angeles. The theme of the conference is "Imagine There's No Heaven, A Future Without Religion."

Allen was named as a Humanist Laureate by The International Academy of Humanism. The Academy was established by the Council for Secular Humanism to recognize distinguished humanists and to disseminate humanistic ideals and beliefs.

A well-known comedian from yesterday, Allen was a co-signer for the most recent humanist document, *Humanist Manifesto 2000*.

The manifesto recommended a slew of radical liberal ideas, such as sex education for children, legalizing homosexual marriage, and the absolute right to abortion. (See *AFA Journal*, 1/00.)

*Humanist Manifesto 2000* also targeted organized religion, which it called "magical thinking and mythmaking." The document insisted that society needed to be constructed on a worldview that was liberated from "metaphysics or theology and based on the sciences."

Allen is also well-known for his position as honorary chairman of the Parents Television Council, an organization which runs full page ads in newspapers around the nation concerning the need to clean up television programming.

### Teen drinking habits influenced by TV, parents

A recent study suggests that television shows and ads can influence teenagers to drink alcohol, but that parents may actually play the decisive role.

Dr. Erica Weintraub Austin, a media researcher at the Edward R. Murrow School of Communications at Washington State University, studied nearly 600 ninth- and 12th-graders to determine drinking habits and potential causes.

There's no doubt that a significant percentage of kids are drinking. Austin's data revealed that about two-thirds of the teens had had at least one drink of alcohol in the six months prior to the study, while about one-third had had four alcoholic

beverages in a row at least once during that time. Equally disturbing, about one-third of the kids said they had ridden in a car with a drinking driver.

One of the contributing factors appeared to be television, especially when the messages on TV shows or commercials made the teens feel that drinking would make them happier or more popular.

Austin said kids "are vulnerable to wishful thinking, and the ads play right into that by showing them all the great things that are supposed to happen when you drink alcohol."

This influence on teen attitudes begins early. "We think this study and others are making it pretty clear that the media can prime children to drink long before they have the opportunity to do so," Austin said.

The researcher, however, said that parents played an important role in either encouraging or discouraging their children to drink. In fact, the study showed that parents who take a critical position concerning television programming usually pass that on to their kids, and their teens are less likely to drink.

Austin said it was important that parents helped kids "see the fallacies in alcohol portrayals that seem desirable but are untrue or misleading."

The study should encourage parents, said University of California at Santa Barbara media researcher Dale Kunkel. "This shows parents' comments do matter, he said. "You shouldn't give up in the face of an obstinate adolescent who on the surface seems to be rejecting your comments. He may be absorbing it in a way you don't appreciate."

Reuters, 2/7/00; USA Today, 2/8/00

### Evolutionists red-faced over fake 'missing link'

The good news for scientists from the National Geographic Society was that the discovery of a fossilized bird-like creature with the features of a dinosaur was seemingly incontrovertible proof of a "missing link" between the two animal groups. The bad news was the fossil was a fake.

*National Geographic* magazine announced to the world in its November 1999 issue that the fossilized critter, called an "archaeoraptor," was just such a link.

In an October press release touting the find, the group said, “*Archaeoraptor liaoningensis*, presented for the first time in *National Geographic*, is a true missing link in the complex chain that connects dinosaurs to birds. It seems to capture the paleontological ‘moment’ when dinosaurs were becoming birds.”

In January, however, the world was told that the fossil, which was found in China, was a combination of two distinct animals – the body and head of a bird and the feet and tail of a small dinosaur. Whether the fossil composite was an intentional deception or a simple mistake is unknown.

Scientists frequently promise that a missing link will be found that demonstrates the veracity of evolution but are never quite able to come up with one. While other scientists exposed the fraud, it was not the first time that at least part of the scientific community had been hoodwinked in their efforts to find a “missing link.”

In the last century alone, scientists have discovered that some of the supposed links between modern man and his more ape-like ancestors – for example, Java Man, Piltown Man, Nebraska Man and Peking Man – were less than advertised. The first two “discoveries” were, in fact, out-and-out frauds.

For information on the subjects of creationism and evolution, contact two outstanding sources:

- **Answers in Genesis Ministries International**, P.O. Box 6330, Florence, KY, 41022; phone 606-727-2222; [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)
- **Institute for Creation Research**, 10946 Woodside Ave. North, Santee, CA 92071; phone 619-448-0900; [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org).

USA Today 1/25/00, 2/1/00

## HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

### PFOX conference set for April

The national conference for Parents & Friends of Ex-Gays (PFOX) is scheduled for April 28-30, in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Featured speakers will be Joe Dallas, Richard Cohen and Robert Knight

PFOX is a national Christ-centered network of parents, friends and family of loved ones struggling with homosexuality. According to its website, the organization “supports, educates and offers hope for recovery through sound biblical counsel, and provides strategies on how to love the

# Magazine highlights Christian concerns about public schools

“Public schools are not a lost cause,” says Eric Buehrer, president of an organization dedicated to helping the nation’s ailing public school system. Now he hopes a new conservative magazine in the hands of educators might help that effort along.

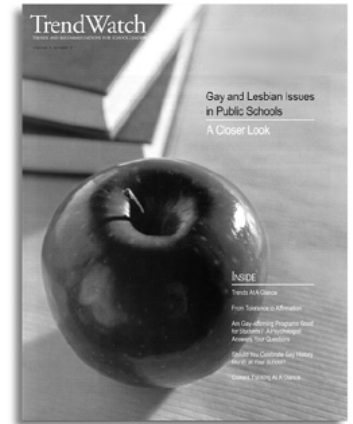
Gateways to Better Education, a 10-year-old Christian organization, publishes *TrendWatch*, which, as its name suggests, is designed to help school leaders address trends affecting children and youth.

The magazine’s first two issues focused on violence and the promotion of the homosexual agenda in schools. Also on the horizon: making schools parent-friendly; the creation/evolution debate; and book challenges by parents.

Buehrer told AFA, “Public schools are not a lost cause in this country, but we realized that educators today get a lot of information that reflects a more liberal perspective on what to do to help schools.

“There are a large number of conservative school board members, principals and teachers out there, and they need some help in translating their personal convictions into public policy,” he said. “While they often feel intimidated, we believe *TrendWatch* will encourage them to see conservative views as legitimate, attractive and defensible in the school system.”

*TrendWatch* is available to educators and noneducators alike for \$25 a year. For more information, contact Gateways to Better Education at 1-888-706-5601 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time), or write to P.O. Box 514, Lake Forest, CA 92630.



struggler. PFOX seeks to restore families affected by homosexuality.”

Dallas is program director of Genesis Counseling in Orange, California, and served as president of Exodus International from 1990 to 1993. He has written two books on the subject of homosexuality, *Desires in Conflict* and *A Strong Delusion*.

Cohen is a Christian psychotherapist, author and educator, and one of the leading experts in helping homosexuals leave that lifestyle.

Knight serves as director of cultural studies for the Family Research Council, and has written extensively about cultural issues from a pro-family perspective, including the subject of homosexuality.

For more information, contact the PFOX national office: 1401 1/2 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone: 703-739-8220; website: [www.pfox.org](http://www.pfox.org).

### Boulder, Colorado, extends

### protection to transsexuals

It shouldn’t come as a surprise to anyone. With homosexuals becoming firmly entrenched as a minority in the minds of many government leaders, transsexuals have been demanding that their sexual orientation be given protected status as well. In February, Boulder, Colorado, became the seventh city in the U.S. to acquiesce to that demand.

The Boulder City Council unanimously voted to add transsexuals to its Human Rights Ordinance, which already includes homosexuals as a minority, along with women and racial minorities. Boulder joins cities like San Francisco, Seattle and Pittsburgh which have similar statutes.

In the new law, transsexuals – also called *gender-variants* – are defined as people who have a persistent belief that their true gender identity is not the same as their biological sex. It would now be illegal for any business to discriminate against trans-

sexuals in housing, employment and public accommodations.

“That means that Mom and Dad shouldn’t be surprised when they take their kids to McDonalds in Boulder, and find a bearded man wearing a dress and working the cash register,” said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. “If that sounds like a stop at the circus freak show, I guess that’s what our country is becoming.”

The new law also allows a man who has had a sex change in order to “become” a woman to use public restrooms, showers and locker rooms designated for women.

The Washington Times, 2/3/00

## PRO-LIFE

### Women more pro-life than men

The feminist tirade against pro-lifers has often focused on men as villainous dictators who want to tell women what they can do with their bodies. Now a study demonstrates a surprising twist: men appear to be more supportive of abortion than women are.

Bradley R. Hertel and Mark C. Russell of Virginia Polytechnic Institute used data from General Social Surveys over a 22-year period, from 1972 to 1994. Consistent through all categories of marital status (single, married, widowed), Hertel and Russell found that, in general, “men are more supportive of abortion rights under non-extreme circumstances [no endangered health, deformities, or rape] than women.” Women, on the other hand, held a more pro-life perspective.

Not surprisingly, the researchers found that religious views were the strongest predictor of attitudes about abortion – i.e., Christians were more likely to be pro-life than non-Christians.

Among women, however, there was a split on abortion views along another fault line. According to Hertel and Russell, the data showed that women who worked outside the home tended to be more pro-abortion than housewives – and even more supportive of abortion rights than men.

The researchers said, “[We] came to conclude [that differences between men and women] on abortion attitudes can only be accounted for by differences in work experiences...[W]hen work[force participation is accounted for], married women are at least slightly more inclined

## DC comics to include homosexual

The comic book company that gave us Superman will now give us the first super heroes that will fight crime as a couple – not as in Batman and Robin – but as a cohabiting homosexual couple.

The dashing duo, named Apollo and Midnighter, appear in the DC Comics series *The Authority*, about a group of super heroes who orbit the earth in a gigantic ship and fight the miscreants of the world. The “coming out” issue, according to The Sunday Times (London), was scheduled to be released in March.

Warren Ellis, the previous writer of *The Authority* storylines, first introduced the characters of Apollo and Midnighter a year ago. Scott Dunbier, Group Editor for DC Comics, said that in those stories “there was some hinting about” the same-sex relationship that the characters had. (*The Authority* is published under the Wildstorm label, owned by DC Comics.)

Mark Miller, the writer of the series that will reveal the characters’ sexual orientation, told The Sunday Times that Apollo and Mid-nighter “will be like any other super heroes, fighting crime and saving the world. It’s just that, at the end of their adventures, they will go to bed, or kiss, or hug.”

Dunbier denied that the characters would be shown in bed together, despite what Miller told The Times. He did admit, however, that they would be shown kissing.

Nevertheless, Dunbier said, having a homosexual couple in a comic book “just reflects what is normal in society.” He added that homosexuals are minorities, too, just like the black and Asian characters who appear in DC Comics.

Asked if the subject matter of homosexuality should be raised in a comic book which includes teenagers as a target audience (Dunbier said the main audience for *The Authority* is the 16- to 25-year-old age group), the response was fairly typical – if you don’t like it, don’t look.

Peggy Burns, public relations director for the company, told *AFA Journal*, “Parents should choose the reading materials for their children. Plain and simple,” she said. “And there’s lots of comic books out there without gay characters, and they can choose one of those to read.”

### Action Addresses:

- DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019; phone: 212-636-5450

### Regular advertisers in DC Comics:

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- Burger King Corp., Chrm. John McGrath, P. O. Box 020783, Miami, FL, 33157; phone: 305-378-7011, [www.burgerking.com](http://www.burgerking.com)
- Nestle USA, Inc. (Spree candy), Chrm. Joe Weller, 800 North Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91203; phone: 818-549-6000, toll free: 1-800-637-8537



# the family

## Battles on the sex ed front contin-

Sex education in public schools has been a battleground in the culture wars for years, and the fight is as hot as ever.

While the “safe sex” mantra got a huge boost in schools during the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, the message of abstinence has been quietly closing the gap. Studies released by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Alan Guttmacher Institute show that abstinence is taught in some form as part of every sex education program in the nation.

Moreover, while over half (51%) of the schools surveyed prefer that the abstinence message be taught to their kids, more than a third (35%) said *only* abstinence was taught in school. (See chart at top right.)

There is some evidence that teen attitudes toward premarital sex may be shifting. Dana Mack with The Institute for American Values said studies at the University of Chicago, UCLA, and The Urban Institute “indicate that young people have been losing patience with casual sexual involvement.” (See chart below.)

The battle, however, is far from over. The majority of teens are still sexually active before marriage – 60% have premarital sex before graduating from high school,

according to one study.

Mack said part of the problem is that young people are getting little guidance from adults, or when they do get a message from their elders, it is often the wrong one.

“Never in the history of human culture have young people been left so totally to their own devices in matters of romance...,” Mack said. “It is not only that adults largely have retreated from the conscientious supervision they traditionally exercised over the rituals of courtship. It is also that they present very bad examples as regards romantic commitment.”

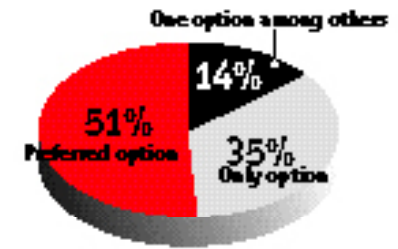
### Politics over science?

When it comes to the philosophical tug of war between those favoring the “safe sex” message and those favoring abstinence, politics is never far behind.

Even the American Medical Association (AMA), a supposedly purely scientific organization, has been charged with being influenced by political considerations on this subject. The AMA recently announced that it rejected abstinence-only sex education. Calling for the free distribution of condoms in schools, the AMA said it only

### Wait until marriage...

In sex education programs, the percentage of public school districts that promote abstinence as the:



Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute  
USA Today, 1/31/00

accepted the teaching of abstinence when it was part of a “safer sex” curriculum.

In an AMA report that contributed to its decision, the organization said, “Little evidence is available to support the effectiveness of an abstinence-only approach,” concluding further that such sex education “has very little value.”

“This was not science,” responded Peter Brandt of the National Coalition for Abstinence Education. He added that “the AMA, even though it openly admits that we are without good research information, makes the unfounded leap to say that the lack of research equals the ineffectiveness of the programs.”

Dr. John Diggs of the Consortium of State Physicians Resource Councils agreed, saying the AMA report “shows the degree to which the AMA is being held hostage to political ideology at the expense of sound science and the health interests of Americans.”

### Just say no

While politics seemed to motivate the AMA, even money would not motivate some legislators in Ohio to teach kids about condoms. A state legislative committee in that state refused \$1 million in federal funds, because parents feared money designated for sex ed courses would be used to teach kids the wrong message.

Parental fears may very well have been justified. Last year there was controversy in Ohio over a sex education curriculum provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to the Cleveland Plain Dealer, teacher training manuals used in the curriculum talked

### Beginning of a trend?

The University of Chicago’s General Social Survey in 1998 showed that, among college-age young people, there has been some change in sexual behavior and in attitudes toward premarital sex.

USA Today, 1/31/2000

#### Think premarital sex is “always wrong”

1972 10.4%

1988 23.3%

#### Have been sexually active

1988 83.9%

1998 76.6%

# church in america



Lesbians Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton (right), are greeted by well-wishers after a three-day hearing in Fairfield, California, to determine whether more than 60 pastors who helped Barnett and Charlton celebrate a holy union ceremony in January 1999 violated the United Methodist Church's "Book of Discipline." United Methodist News Service photo

## UMC refuses to discipline pas-

### ■ Decision called "recipe for disintegration"

How times have changed. In the Gospels, Jesus sent out 70 disciples to preach the good news. Almost 2,000 years later, nearly that number of pastors from the United Methodist Church (UMC) "blessed" a homosexual union – in violation of Scripture as well as UMC church law – and got away with it.

An investigative committee of the California-Nevada Annual (regional) Conference held hearings on the actions of 67 UMC ministers, who jointly officiated a "commitment ceremony" between two lesbians in Sacramento, California, on January 16, 1999. The committee decided not to recommend a trial, at which the ministers could have been disciplined – up to and including being defrocked.

The ceremony was contrary to the UMC's *Book of Discipline*, which states that same-sex unions are not to be performed by the denomination's ministers and not on UMC property. The ministers made it clear before taking part in the ceremony that they understood those regulations, but insisted

the church laws were wrong.

Sacramento pastor Rev. Don Fado, who officiated at the ceremony, said he could not, in good conscience, support the *Discipline's* rule concerning same-sex unions and still be "obedient to Christ. This matter is not just about gay rights, it is a matter of ministerial rights. I cannot obey this rule and follow Jesus."

Fado said the decision not to proceed with a trial was the right one. While admitting to violating the *Discipline* on the subject of homosexual marriage, he said the violation was no worse than a minister "refusing to take a special offering or refusing to use United Methodist curriculum for confirmation class."

The issue of homosexual marriage continues to plague the 8.5-million-member UMC, the nation's second largest Protestant denomination. Last year the Methodist church was rocked by two separate controversies over the same issue. In November the Rev. Jimmy Creech was defrocked for performing a same-sex union for two

men while pastoring in Omaha, Nebraska; last March the Rev. Greg Dell, a pastor in Chicago, was suspended for one year for presiding over another homosexual ceremony.

Some conservatives see the UMC as heading towards an inevitable showdown – and perhaps a split – over homosexual marriage. Another Sacramento Methodist pastor, Rev. Greg Smith, said he rued the Cal-Nevada decision for that very reason. "I think it's a day that could lead to division and even the breaking up of our annual conference."

That feeling may have been exacerbated after San Francisco Area Bishop Melvin G. Talbert appeared to question the authority of the *Book of Discipline* to decide the issue for the California-Nevada Annual Conference. The annual conference, he said, had a commitment to its own "longstanding covenant for inclusiveness and justice," which "has precedence over" the *Book of Discipline's* law against same-sex unions.

Rev. James Heidinger II, president and publisher of the conservative Methodist magazine *Good News*, said Talbert's comments indicated that the California-Nevada Conference had practically "declared itself autonomous." For the UMC, Heidinger said, Talbert's sentiments were "a recipe for disintegration."

The UMC's General Conference meets every four years, with the next one scheduled for May 2-12 in Cleveland, Ohio. The Cal-Nevada decision will be on the minds of both UMC conservatives and liberals at that conference, and an intense battle over homosexuality is expected. However, there may be an even more fundamental matter on the table for discussion.

"The issue is clearly broader than same-sex unions (and) ordination of clergy," said Patricia Miller, executive director of the Confessing Movement, an unofficial UMC organization which advocates upholding the *Discipline*. "The issue is now: Is the church going to deal with open disobedience in a fashion as outlined by the *Discipline*?"

Heidinger said ministers who refuse to abide by the doctrine and law of the church "ought to consider amicable separation."

**Subject:** AFO  
**Date:** Wed, 24 Nov 1999 01:18:41 -0600  
**From:** "Sandy"  
**To:** afo.net

Thank you so much for AFO. I had wanted to get on the Internet for a long time, but would not dare. We are raising our seven-year-old grandson who loves being on the PC and I did not want him to wander into any of the "garbage" on the Internet. Thank you for your service and peace of mind!

**Subject:** Internet for the family  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Nov 1999 21:12:18-0600  
**From:** "Peter"  
**To:** support@afo.net

Thanks for all the filtering. I have 6 children who are computer wiz's. Prior to AFO, porno was regularly downloaded into the computer without even asking....

**Subject:** New to Internet  
**Date:** Thu, November 18, 1999  
**From:** "Matt"  
**To:** support@afo.net

We are very pleased with the service. My wife and I had not planned to obtain Internet service but decided we needed to when our son was diagnosed with diabetes and we discovered the wealth of health-related information available on the net.

**Subject:** Thanks for your service  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Nov 1999 21:36:  
**From:** "Barney"  
**To:** support@afo.net

Dear AFO,

We have five children in the family (oldest is 12) and I must tell you what a blessing it is to know that they can "surf" the net in relative safety, thanks to the AFO service. While we monitor and limit their computer use, we can't be in the same room with them every minute, and our minds to know that your filter even when we aren't able to!

**Subject:** Thank you, AFO!  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Nov 1999 08:07:22-0600  
**From:** "Missy"  
**To:** support@afo.net

We love the service that we get with AFO. We have a 14-year-old daughter, and it is wonderful to not have to worry so much about the time that she spends on the Internet. Thank you, AFO, and keep up the wonderful work that you are doing to protect the family!  
God bless you !!

**Subject:** We believe in you.  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Nov 1999 9:41:38-0600  
**From:** "Mickey"  
**To:** support@afo.net

Thank you for your message. As parents of a fifteen-year-old son who loves to explore the Internet, we are thankful each time he uses the computer that you are there. Thank you for working hard so that your filter is ranked among the best. We do believe in you.

**Subject:** brief story  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Nov 1999 9:45:08-0600  
**From:** "Prof. Steve"  
**To:** support@afo.net

I have had a young graduate student who suffered from an addiction to porn sites. Your program has provided protection to this young man during periods of weakness....thank you.

**Subject:** Thanks  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Nov 1999 9:41:38-0600  
**From:** "Randy"  
**To:** support@afo.net

I just want to thank you for the service you do provide. My family has been protected many times and I am so grateful. You are always there to help and explain any problems. I pray for you daily and I tell my friends about AFO all the time. I pray they will sign up with AFO before it is too late.

God bless you as you strive to serve Him.

**Subject:** Thankful for you  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Nov 1999 9:01:38-0600  
**From:** "Edward"  
**To:** support@afo.net

The service has been great. We don't have children in the house, but it is nice to know we can Surf the Net and not be afraid of running into sites that we don't want to be exposed to.

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# Political scientist calls for common sense in porn issue

**BY DR. REO M. CHRISTENSON** • *Professor of Political Science, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio*

**Editor's Note:** The following excerpts are from an address delivered by Dr. Christenson in the mid-1980s.

**THE FOUNDING FATHERS NEVER** intended for the First Amendment to be interpreted as the courts interpret it today. They were sensible men, resolved to protect the right of heretics and dissenters to expound their views on social, economic, political and religious matters without fear of government reprisals. But they would have laughed to scorn any notion that things resembling *Hustler* magazine, vulgar T-shirts, naked dancers and X-rated movies could hide behind the First Amendment. Nothing could have been further from their intentions, or from the spirit which motivated the Amendment.

Nor has the [U.S. Supreme] Court ever conceded that obscene material is protected by the First Amendment. But the Court has made two glaring errors; first, it took a long leap and gave commercial entertainment as much constitutional protection as political discourse. Well, almost. Then it tried to reconcile its exclusion of obscenity with its protection of commercial entertainment by setting up interpretive roadblocks which make effective enforcement of anti-obscenity laws next to impossible.

The pornographers have exploited this opening by employing expensive – very expensive – and unscrupulous lawyers concerned with nothing but the bottom line. Prosecutors are usually no match for these legal hit men, skilled as they are at throwing sand in jurors' eyes. The pornographers have also used the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as their front line of defense.

## **Social science or common sense**

Let me back up a bit. The President's Commission on Pornography and Obscenity in 1970 issued a voluminous report

which concluded that there was no persuasive empirical evidence that such material led to anti-social behavior.

That report has been cited ten thousand times in the press. What the public does not know is that no social scientist, to my knowledge, has reexamined the report and found it defensible. It has been denounced by outstanding social scientists, psychologists and journalists – none of

whom believe it met the test of scientific objectivity.

Well, things are much worse today than they were in 1970. We have had a scandalous outpouring of child pornography, which is currently on the defensive but has by no means been eliminated. We have an avalanche of material featuring sado-masochistic sexual behavior, an avalanche which was predicted all along by realists who were skeptical of all the talk about people getting bored if only they had free access to pornography. And that avalanche includes every form of bizarre, grotesque and shameless imagery which depraved minds can concoct.

I agree with Professor Wilson of Harvard who states that social science does not have sufficiently sensitive and sophisticated techniques and tools for definitively proving what damage pornography does or does not do. Especially when it comes to its long-range impact and its impact on people

who are not emotionally healthy and hence are particularly prone to commit anti-social acts. I might add that science can't tell us whether love is better than hatred, democracy better than dictatorship, peace better than war or about anything else in the realm of values – that is, in the things that matter most.

But if science cannot give us assured answers, let us use our common sense. Pornography leaves the impression with its viewer that sex has no relationship to privacy, that it is unrelated to love, commitment or marriage, that bizarre forms of sex are the most gratifying, that sex with animals has a specially desirable flavor and that irresponsible sex has no adverse consequences – no venereal disease, illegitimate births, abortions, premature marriages, single-parent families or moral erosion. I see no way that a torrent of materials with this subliminal message, which ultimately fans out to reach people of almost all ages, can fail to have pernicious effects.

Not that someone sees pornography and then rushes out to commit rape. That may happen, but that's not the main problem. But whatever conditions people regard destructive sexual behavior as harmless, or worse, as desirable, will inevitably weaken those barriers which society erects against irresponsible sexual conduct.

It is interesting that while a dozen studies have demonstrated that violent entertainment stimulates violent behavior on the part of those who witness it, entertainment which features irresponsible sexual behavior is alleged to have no effect on its consumers.

I would emphasize the significance of the study by professors at the University of Indiana and the University of Evansville showing that persons who see a lot of pornography believe rapists should be treated more indulgently than those who don't. Charles Peters summarized earlier research

from Purdue, Colorado, Wisconsin and Manitoba as indicating that violent pornography inspires violence. Peters added, "This strikes me as about as surprising as the news that hungry men want to eat." And *Newsweek* reported on the University of Wisconsin study which showed that sexually violent films like *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* make men more likely to accept the notion than women enjoy rape. It also reported a UCLA study demonstrating that men exposed to violent pornography show an increased willingness to inflict pain on women.

Conclusive proof? No. Persuasive evidence, yes.

If, then, we can reasonably assume that a flood of pornography will gradually erode barriers against irresponsible sex, what are the ultimate implications? Here I would like to cite a highly significant study made 50 years ago by Professor J. D. Unwin of Cambridge, a study in which the author found the opposite of what he hoped to find. (That always impresses me, because it is so easy for social scientists to formulate a study, or interpret its findings, to get the results they want.)

After examining the sexual practices of more than 80 primitive and more advanced societies, Unwin concluded that sexually permissive behavior led to less cultural energy, less creativity, less individualism, less mental development and less cultural progress in general. Primitive societies with the greatest sexual freedom had made the least cultural advances. Those with stricter limitations had made the greatest progress. Among civilized societies, the same rule held. Those with restrictive sexual codes had made the greatest cultural strides, and when more permissive sexual standards appeared, cultural decline set in. Unwin said there was no known instance of a society that retained as high a cultural level after relatively relaxed sexual standards replaced more rigorous ones (although he conceded that it might take several generations before the debilitating effect was clearly manifest).

William Stephens, after studying 90 primitive cultures, wrote that the tribes lowest on the scale of cultural evolution have the most sexual freedom. Sigmund Freud, surprisingly to some, associated cultural advances with limitations on sexual activity. Arnold Toynbee, celebrated student of world civilizations, declared

that a culture which postpones rather than stimulates sexual experience in the young is a culture most prone to progress. Will and Ariel Durant, after a lifetime of studying world history, wrote in *The Lessons of History* that it was imperative to maintain rigorous sexual restraint upon the young.

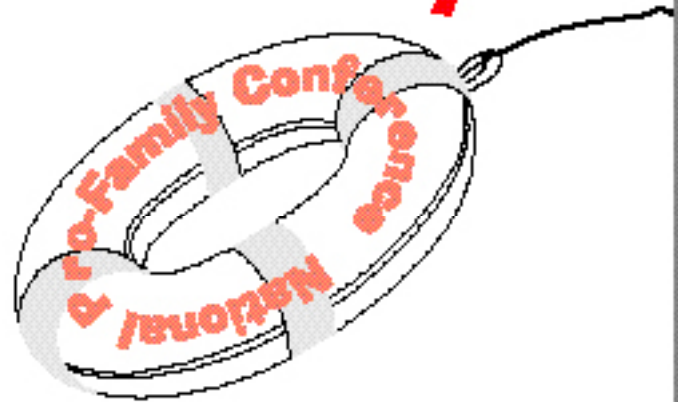
### Community vs. individual rights

I think the time has come to act. Time to confront presidential and congressional candidates with a proposal to ban from interstate commerce material or performances which involve visually explicit sexual behavior intended for commercial

entertainment, and time to force them to take a stand. Time for the nation to realize, for the courts to realize, that communities have a right to set minimal standards of decency and a right to enforce them.

The licentiousness of modern pornographers has become a stench in our nostrils. The age of unbridled individualism, of individualism *uber alles*, is fading, the attitude that "I want to do what I want to do and see what I want to see and if the community doesn't like it, it can go suck its thumb" – that is passing. An age which seeks a more sensible balance between the rights of the individual and the right

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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.

## GM, VW, Disney lead sitcom deprav-

Sitcoms continue to stretch the limits of profanity, homosexuality and sexual promiscuity, and continue to lead the assault on all traditional moral values. The episodes below illustrate.

### ■ Friends H P26 S TV14

NBC, 2/17 – In this hour-long special, cast members wonder "what if?" Subsequently, they envision how their lives might have been different – focusing, of course, on their sex lives, including adultery, threesomes and more. Monica is embarrassed to admit to Rachel that she's a virgin. Of the 26 profanities, 21 were the use of God's name in vain.

Advertisers: Disney, GM, VW

### ■ Grapevine H P4 S TVPG-DL

CBS, 2/28 – This debut episode introduces an ensemble cast of Miami Beach mostly-singles, promising to give viewers a voyeuristic glimpse into their sex lives.

Leading players are David and Susan, best friends since college, who discover that they have for years been madly in love, but each was afraid to tell the other. Thumper starts having sex with Carol even though she's still married. A lesbian art dealer is among the main characters.

Advertisers: Disney, VW

### ■ King of the Hill P3 S TVPG-D

Fox, 2/20 – Bobby, junior high school age, mistakenly surprises his teen age cousin Luann, who is naked as she changes during a family outing at the lake. He feels guilty, but the incident leads him to press his girlfriend to let him see her naked. He and his friend Joseph spend the entire 30 minutes obsessing over naked women.

Advertisers: GM, P&G

### ■ The Simpsons AC P3 S TVPG-LV

Fox, 2/13 – Jokes about outdoor sex and incest accompany this irreverent look at Christianity, following the death of next door neighbor Maude Flanders.

The Flanders' Christianity has often been the subject of mockery on this series. Ned Flanders, now a widower, is portrayed as a buffoon, and his children are simply nerds.

Advertisers: GM, VW

### ■ Spin City H P7 S TVPG-DL

ABC, 2/2 – Stuart ridicules James and says he will be a "virgin for life" because he has braces,

and Stuart's perversity is once again on display when he informs Caitlin she has to "dress slutty" if she goes to his high school reunion with him.

The series' star homosexual, Carter, gets plenty of attention in this episode. In one scene he lusts after Patrick, the Fed Ex guy, and says, "Now that's a package I absolutely positively gotta have overnight."

Advertisers: Disney, GM, VW

### ■ That '70's Show P10 S SA TV14-DS

Fox, 2/21 – In the teaser, stars Eric and Donna (about 17) are dressing after having had their first sex. Eric can't wait to brag to his friends, and Donna's friend Jackie can tell by looking at her that she's had sex. The main storyline is a discussion of Eric and Donna's sexual rendezvous. The show continues to portray sexual activity as inevitable for teens.

There are jokes about a drunken uncle, assuring the kids that alcohol abuse is funny. The episode closes with Eric and Donna admitting that sex was not that great, but they must keep trying because practice makes perfect.

Advertiser: Disney

### ■ Veronica's Closet H P13 S TVPG

NBC, 2/1 – Josh continues to deny his homosexuality even though he flirts constantly with Kevin, who happens to be the wedding coordinator for Josh and his fiancée. Josh's fiancée, also enamored with Kevin, faxes him an image of her breasts. Veronica and Tom are having sex quite frequently, setting up a barrage of comments and jokes about their sexual experiences, genitals, etc.

Advertisers: Disney, P&G

### ■ Will & Grace H P7 S TVPG

NBC, 2/22 – Outside the *Today Show*, Will and Jack get Al Roker to come over, and Will kisses Jack so it can get on TV. This episode is a vulgar collection of jokes about both male and female genitals, sodomy, and homosexual porn. Sprinkled throughout are self-righteous diatribes about a homophobic society freezing out (from television) the reality of the homosexual community.

Heterosexuals on the show are no less perverse, e.g., Grace has sex with Josh even though she can't stand him.

Advertisers: Disney, GM

# P&G, VW bring prime-time's first passionate male homosexual kiss

## ■ **Ally McBeal** H P4 S TV14-D

Fox, 2/21 – Ally represents the ex-husband of a lesbian who's suing for more support. The woman's attorney is Georgia, Ally's good friend and the ex-wife of Billy, Ally's law partner and ex-lover. Ally decides not to date a bi-sexual judge because she envisions a scene in which he is passionately kissing his male sex-mate. This is prime-time's first male-to-male kiss of passion in a regular series.

Advertisers: P&G, VW

## ■ **Family Law** P1 PC S TV14

CBS, 2/21 – This episode champions the cause of sex-change surgery, focusing on the story of Carl/Carla who opines sadly, "I never thought that by becoming a woman, I'd have to stop being a father." He/she is suing an ex-wife for joint custody of the child he fathered.

Advertiser: P&G

## ■ **Judging Amy** H P16 S PG-DL

CBS, 2/15 – Judge Amy Gray is on a panel hearing charges brought against Judge McNeil by a prostitute who says he demanded oral sex in

exchange for dropping charges against her. Gray thinks Judge McNeil should use the fact that he's homosexual to rebut the hooker's charges.

Advertisers: GM, P&G

## ■ **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** P12 S V TV14

NBC, 2/4 – The teaser shows the bloody body of Judge Warren Varella in a car, where he has been shot in the head and genitals. He has become the victim of his own perversion, as he traded paroles for sex with convicts' wives. Series stars make snide jokes about oral sex, arousal, and prostitution.

Advertiser: GM

## ■ **NYPD Blue** H P9 S TV14-LS

ABC, 2/23 – This episode features partial female nudity as series hero Danny and his sex-mate disrobe in preparation for having sex. One of the main story lines focuses on the deaths of two young boys murdered by their father who "hears voices."

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### ■ **Dateline + TVG**

NBC, 2/4 – This installment of the NBC news magazine featured the heartwarming story of Van and Shirley Hughes, who adopted ten brothers and sisters rather than see the siblings separated. Mrs. Hughes sports a T-shirt proclaiming "Jesus is Our Hope," and Mr. Hughes says they manage only "through God, one day at a time."

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### ■ **Good Grief, Charlie Brown + TVG**

CBS, 2/11 – Walter Cronkite hosted this hour tribute to the late Charles Schulz, creator of the "Peanuts" cartoon strip. It was scheduled to coincide with Schulz's retirement from a 50-year career. His popular cartoon strip has run in 70 countries, and entertained 300 million readers.

Advertiser: Kimberly-Clark

### ■ **Missing Pieces + TVG**

CBS, 2/6 – Atticus Cody is a hardnosed Texas rancher with a good son (David: successful, politician, citizen extraordinaire) and a bad son (Cody: prodigal, artist, nonconformist). Cody makes a surprise visit home for Christmas, then returns to Mexico where he allegedly commits suicide. The movie follows the father's investigation to clear Cody's reputation and prove that the suicide ruling is in error.

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# Christians Society TODAY

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

APRIL, 2000

## Frontlines

### Meet AFA's new state directors



**Barry Sheets, AFA of Ohio**, is a native of Ohio currently living in Columbus. Prepared with a degree in political science from Ohio State, Barry has worked for a

state representative for the past five years as a legislative aide researching legislation, writing speeches and building coalitions to promote family-friendly public policy. Barry will continue his work at the capitol for some time while transitioning into full time work with AFA of Ohio. Barry says he looks forward to building up individuals and families to challenge the moral relativism of our society. Barry and his wife, Ellen, have one son who will be one year old in May.



**Mike Crook, AFA Of Mississippi**, lives in Jackson and has been a financial services business owner for 17 years. He is the former state field director and director of govern-

ment affairs for Mississippi Christian Coalition. Mike also chaired the Mississippi Term Limits Coalition, becoming the first person since the 1890 re-write of the Mississippi constitution to successfully use the initiative process to obtain a vote on a constitutional amendment in the state. Mike will be working very closely with American Family Radio throughout Mississippi. Mike and his wife Patty have one son who is eight.

## AFA national prayer focus May

With a laundry list of moral and social problems facing the U.S., AFA is encouraging Christians across the nation to come together on Thursday, May 4, to pray for national revival. Called *Meet At City Hall*, the upcoming ninth annual event is part of a growing number of prayer efforts on the part of believers nationwide.

Scheduled on the same date as the National Day of Prayer (NDP), *Meet At City Hall* is a project of AFA. The event involves people meeting at their local city hall and praying from 12:20 p.m. to 12:40 p.m. for moral renewal. Last year thousands of cities participated. While it is held on the National Day of Prayer, *Meet At City Hall* is not a project of the NDP Task Force.

To promote *Meet At City Hall*:

1. **Begin praying that *Meet At City Hall* will be blessed by God**, and commit to participate in the prayer meeting with your presence at your city hall.
2. **Join with others in helping organize and promote** the event in your community.
3. **Help promote *Meet At City Hall* in your local church** with announcements in your church newsletter and bulletin.
4. **Ask clergy in your ministerial association, denomination and other groups to join** in organizing and promoting *Meet At City Hall* in your local community, and from the pulpit.

### National Day of Prayer

America has observed the National Day of Prayer for almost 50 years, since it was established by an act of Congress in 1952 and signed into law by President Harry Truman.

The NDP Task Force, which helps to organize the event, has seen the mailing list of constituents grow from 800 in 1980 to more than 80,000 last year. The Task Force is chaired by Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family president and founder Dr. James Dobson.

This year's theme is "PRAY2K, America's Hope for the New Millennium." Promotional materials have the Y2K highlighted in red – Y2K is by now a well-recognized symbol for the new millenimum. The Scripture verse for the theme is from Romans 12:12, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

### For more information:

**Meet At City Hall**  
P.O. Drawer 2440  
Tupelo, MS 38803  
662-844-5036, ext. 215

**National Day of Prayer**  
P.O. Box 15616  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5616  
719-531-3379

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# BRIEFLY

## Group encourages TV-Turnoff

For the sixth consecutive year, TV-Free America is sponsoring "National TV-Turnoff Week," an effort aimed at helping people get loose from the habit of spending hours in front of the boob-tube.

National TV-Turnoff Week this year is scheduled for April 24-30, and in the past the event has drawn millions of participants. It is endorsed by more than 60 national organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

TV-Free America is a nonprofit organization which "encourages Americans to reduce, voluntarily and dramatically, the amount of television they watch in order to promote healthier and more connected lives, families, and communities," according to the organization's literature.

To organize a local TV-Turnoff Week, contact TV-Free America at 202-887-0436.

## Faith, finances for college-bound

*How to Stay Christian in College* can be an invaluable aid for the student who is serious about his faith. The NavPress title, authored by J. Budziszewski, was released last year, and covers three critical areas: 1) worldviews, including how to talk to your friends about your faith; 2) campus myths about politics, knowledge, and love and sex; and 3) how to cope in campus living.

Budziszewski has taught at the University of Texas for more than 15 years, and is an adult Sunday school teacher. He says that, as a college student, he left his Christian upbringing and did not return until a decade later. His insights will help students secure their faith against the world's attacks.

The 143-page paperback book costs only \$8 at your local bookstore, or order from NavPress at 800-366-7788.

"College with little or no debt" is Robert E. Frank's practical article in his February *No Debt Living* newsletter. Frank offers many practical tips for parents, including sources of financial aid, budgeting, and investing. For a sample copy of *No Debt Liv-*

## Man: alone in the universe after

According to a new book written by two scientists, E.T. may not be able to "phone home" – not because of trouble with his long-distance carrier, but because it is unlikely there are any such things as aliens to begin with.

The existence of other sentient beings in the universe – perhaps representing a more advanced civilization – has been a possibility that has intrigued huge chunks of the American population. Moviegoers have been so fascinated with the subject that movies like *E.T.*, *Independence Day* and the *Star Wars* series have become huge successes.

The alien apple cart has been upset, however, by *Rare Earth*, a book that is certain to disappoint UFO aficionados and jar the preconceived ideas of many in the scientific community. In their work, University of Washington paleontologist

Peter D. Ward and astronomer Donald C. Brownlee examined earth's circumstances – such as planetary mass, distance from the sun, earth tectonics, optimal atmosphere, and a perfectly-placed moon – and found them to be so finely-tuned as to make anything other than microbial life virtually impossible elsewhere.

Ward told the *New York Times*, "We have finally said out loud what so many have thought for so long – that complex life, at least, is rare."

Even though the two scientists write from an evolutionary perspective, the findings may further challenge Darwinian evolution as the prevailing scientific view of origins. There is already a significant movement within the scientific community to see the universe as resulting, not from random chance, but from a clear "intelligent design."

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Hosted by JJ Jorpan (left) and Jeff Chambers

# The content of our children's character



**BY WARD CONNERLY**

The issue of character has never mattered more in American society than it does now. And the content of our children's character is crucial to the survival of

our nation.

Within the past several years, there has been a rash of violence in our nation.

- A young man by the name of Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten to death because he was homosexual.
- A black man in Texas was dragged to his death from the back of a pickup truck, solely because he was black.
- Another kills his family, goes into a stock brokerage house and lays waste to several human beings.
- High school children are using high-powered rifles to kill their classmates.
- In my own community of Sacramento, synagogues have been burned because of hatred of Jews.

In each instance, we engage in national hand wringing about violence and witness outbursts of outrage by politicians who proclaim the need for tougher gun control measures and hate-crime legislation. Rarely, if ever, does anyone make the connection between these acts of violence and the "culture of relativity" that has been spawned in our nation.

In short, there has been a profound weakening of our national character. Yet we see no connection between this fact and the culture that has evolved from that erosion of national character. We see no relationship between the lack of respect for human life, as evidenced by the unbridled number of abortions performed every day in America, and the rampant lawlessness

---

**WARD CONNERLY** is founder and chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute, a national nonprofit organization aimed at educating the public about genuine nondiscrimination. This article was excerpted and is reprinted with permission from IMPRIMIS, the monthly speech digest of Hillsdale College.

that has evolved in American society.

Let's define our terms. Character is about one's adherence to moral principles, and moral principles are standards of conduct that distinguish right from wrong. Moral principles are not relative to the political exigencies of the moment. In order for our children to have strong character, they must be taught certain moral principles. And we are cheating them when we fail to teach those principles.

The character of our children can be only as strong as the character of our nation, and currently there are serious problems with regard to the national character of America.

When candidates for elective office publicly proclaim their opposition to de facto quotas and preferences based on race and ethnicity and then shy away from supporting efforts to end such policies solely because they are afraid of being called racists or "anti-minority," then we have a national character problem.

And when the President of the United States can admit that he lied to the American people, but the American people end up being angry with the Congress for making an issue of the President's lying – largely because the state of the economy is good – then we, indeed, have a national character problem.

But, for me, nothing illustrates more clearly the extent to which our national character has degenerated than the following incident:

On September 12, 1997, there was a cartoon that appeared in the comic sections of more than 200 Sunday newspapers. The cartoonist is a 25-year-old black man and the comic strip is called "The Boondocks."

In the first section of this strip there is a young, black man sitting at his computer. The side caption reads: "Here we find the radical scholar and future voice of Black America Huey Freeman diligently working on his first book. An expansive and thorough text, it will offer a critical analysis of the black neoconservative movement and its most famous champion." Above the character Huey Freeman there is the fol-

lowing book title: *Ward Connerly Should Be Beaten by Raekwon the Chef with a Spiked Bat*. The subtitle is, "A Critical Analysis of Black Conservatives."

In the second section of the strip, Huey Freeman is urged to go back to the drawing board and find a new title, because the masses will not know who Raekwon the chef is.

In the third section, Huey Freeman does, indeed, produce a new book title: *Ward Connerly Is a Boot Licking Uncle Tom*.

The most disgusting aspect of this incident is that this comic strip appears right next to other strips like "Peanuts" and "Marmaduke" that are widely read by our children. My daughter said she cried for two days when she saw this cartoon, because not too many people survive a beating with a spiked bat.

When we sent a letter to Universal Press Syndicate, the distributor of this cartoon, we received the following response: "This is satire. We didn't intend for it to be a death threat."

Forgive me, but I don't think that most eight- or ten- or twelve-year-old children appreciate the value of satire. As I have previously said, there is a connection between acts of violence and the values that govern our society. We cannot expect the content of our children's character to be strong when they are urged to use spiked bats to beat those with whom they disagree.

I learned my values from my grandmother, a maternal aunt, and her husband, all of whom raised me after my mother died when I was four years old. I learned about courage and the importance of defending your beliefs. My uncle never got past the fifth grade, but he understood to his core the value of courage. He often said, "Boy, if you don't defend what you believe in, if you don't stand up for yourself, you're going to get your rear end kicked twice, once at school and the second time when you get home." So I learned the hard way that the defense of our values defines who we are.

I learned about the principle of equality from a professor, Dr. Robert Thompson, a tall, Lincoln-esque individual. I once challenged the proposition that "all men

are created equal.” I said, “This is phony. I was not born with an equal chance like some other students in college.” Dr. Thompson replied, “Mr. Connerly, it’s not the reality of equality that matters; it’s the aspiration of equality that really matters. What’s important is that you and I believe that we are equal and the nation continues to perfect that idea.”

I learned about freedom and liberty from that uneducated uncle of mine, James Louis, to whom I made reference previously.

These personal lessons in character-building helped to prepare me for that fateful moment in November of 1994 when I was presented with compelling evidence

that what the University of California regarded as “diversity” was nothing more than a fig leaf for a nefarious system of preferences and de facto quotas.

Many of those programs that we call “affirmative action” are a perversion of the concept of equality. Having people of various backgrounds in our universities and in the work force is a noble objective. But diversity is not an excuse to discriminate.

It is true that there is a cultural war going on in America, and the casualties are our children. It is not too late to correct that problem. We should begin by telling our children that character is about values and having the courage to defend those values. Tell them that character is about

being true to their beliefs even when others all around them strongly disagree with them. Tell our children that it is important for them to be good citizens and that they should demand that their elected representatives be honest and forthright, even if that honesty and candor might cost them an election or diminish their popularity.

Let me close with a passage from one of my favorite songs, as sung by Ray Charles:

*O Beautiful, for heroes proved, in  
liberating strife. / Who more than self  
their country loved, and mercy more  
than life. / America, America, ~~and~~*



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# The sanction of eros

## ■ Why Christians divorce



I still remember my sadness on hearing that an old friend and someone I believed was a sincere Christian, was leaving his wife of many years. I was shocked and disappointed. I wondered: How could this man, committed to both his spouse and his Lord, fall in love with another woman?

An essay by the late Sheldon Vanauken helps answer the question and reminds us that such temptations are all too common.

Vanauken, best known as the author of the powerful love story titled *A Severe Mercy*, also published a collection of essays called *Under the Mercy*, which explores these feelings.

In one essay called “The Loves,” Vanauken describes how a Christian friend named John shocked him by announcing that he was leaving his wife to marry another woman. John explained his sudden change of heart by saying, “It seemed so good, so right. That’s when we knew we had to get the divorces. We belonged together.”

Vanauken then describes a conversation with a friend named Diana, who left her husband for another man. Diana defended herself with virtually the same words: “It was just so good and right with Roger that I knew it would be wrong to go on with Paul.”

As Vanauken explains, both John and Diana were “invoking a higher law: the feeling of goodness and rightness. A feeling so powerful that it swept away ... whatever guilt they would otherwise have felt” for what they were doing to their families.

When Christian couples marry, they often say, “till death us do part.” But what many unconsciously mean is, “till failing love do us part.”

In reality, many people love their spouse, not as a person but as someone who evokes certain feelings. Their wedding vow was not so much to the person as to that feeling.

So when such people fall in love with someone else, they transfer that vow to the

other person. And why not? says Vanauken, “if vows are nothing but feelings?”

Vanauken dubs these thrilling emotions “The Sanction of Eros.” When John and Diana spoke of the goodness of their love, they were appealing to something higher than judgment, higher even than their own desires. But as Vanauken points out, “the sacred approval they felt could not possibly have come from [God,] whose disapproval of divorce is explicit in Scripture. It is Eros, the pagan god of lovers, who confers this sanction upon the worshipers at his altar.”

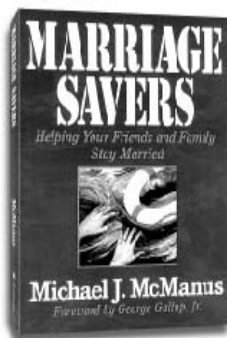
“The pronouncement of Eros that this love is so good and so right that all betrayals are justified is simply a lie,” Vanauken writes. But worst of all, few people are prepared “for the amazing sanction of Eros.”

Those caught in its thrall are convinced that their love is different, even sacred. They do not dream, the writer says, “that every other lover has the same assurance.”

And that’s why pastors have to work hard to warn engaged couples about this deadly appeal. At some point, Eros will almost certainly beckon with an exciting new love – and the feelings of rightness, and even sacredness, may be overwhelming.

Couples need to know that it is only when Christ is at the heart of their marriage that they will be able to resist this ancient pagan call.

*Copyright© 2000 Prison Fellowship Ministries. This article is a transcript of Breakpoint with Chuck Colson, a radio ministry of Prison Fellowship Ministries. It is reprinted*



### Working to restore marriages

The institution of marriage has been under intense assault for four decades, and its sanctity has been staunchly defended by Christians during that time. Unfortunately, when it comes to the biggest threat to marriage – divorce – Christians are just as susceptible as nonbelievers.

In 1976 Mike McManus, a Christian man, had a marriage that was in danger of failing, and he didn’t even know it. Persuaded by other couples at church to take his wife to a weekend marriage encounter, McManus felt it might be a way to make a good marriage even better. Little did he know that his wife had been considering divorce, due to his workaholic nature and seeming indifference to his wife and family.

That experience inspired McManus to start “Marriage Savers,” a program that assists local churches in establishing a “community marriage policy” that includes intensive marital training for engaged couples. McManus’ book – also named *Marriage Savers* – has helped countless people protect their marriages from failure.

From across the country come success stories where entire communities have seen their divorce rates drop following the initiation of the program. In Kansas City (both in Missouri and Kansas), for example, divorces plunged 35% in only two years. While certainly exceptional in terms of overall success, Kansas City represents the impact that such community marriage policies have had elsewhere: declines in 24 cities over the past 19 years have been between 20 and 300 times the national decline in the divorce rate.

For information or to order the book, write to: Marriage Savers, 9311 Harrington Dr., Potomac, MD 20854. Make your check payable to Marriage Savers (\$15 for the book, plus \$3 for postage and handling).

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**AFA...from page 3**

unfair for only one city to vote on filtering,” he said. “I think that confused voters, and in other cities where a library only serves one community, I think the outcome will be very different.”

Miller said, “Holland was a great place to get our feet wet on this issue, and we learned some valuable lessons. The ALA’s narrow win in Michigan has bought them some time, but their days of being in control of local libraries are numbered.”

In fact, Glenn said AFA “may have lost the battle in Holland only to win the war in Lansing,” the state capital.

“The heat generated by this debate in Holland has led the Michigan legislature to act on the issue of Internet filters,” he said.

The state senate unanimously passed a bill mandating that libraries block minors’ Internet access to pornographic material. The house is expected to follow suit.

The need for filters will not go away. The same day that Holland voters rejected the filtering ordinance, the Oakland, Michigan, press reported that police were called to the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, Michigan, to detain a man caught viewing child pornography on a library Internet terminal.

“These unfiltered library computers will act as bait for those who hunger for perverse images,” said Miller. “That me



This video warns parents that children may not be safe in some public libraries because of unrestricted access to age-inappropriate material – including porn. Suggested donation: \$20



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# Small world, large worldview

BY TIM WILDMON • *American Family Association Vice President*

“You’re not going to believe what happened to me after I talked with you yesterday,” said the voice from the other end of my cell phone line. If, indeed, cell phones have lines, which I don’t think they do since they are “cells.” Funny, when I was studying about cells in sixth grade science class we never could have imagined that one day they would grow to be as big as a small portable phone. Back then they were too small to see even with a microscope. These scientific and technological advancements are starting to scare me.

The voice was that of my good friend Brannon Howse. Brannon lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. For two years now he and I have been coordinating conferences around the country that we call “Understanding the Times: A Worldview Weekend.” We believe it’s important that Christians educate themselves about what it means to have a biblical worldview and be able to challenge competing worldviews such as secular humanism.

As we hold these Worldview Weekends with great speakers such as Josh McDowell, we are finding that many Christians are hungry to learn better how to defend and advance the Christian faith. We are encouraged to find many Christians who love America deeply and want to see her return to a fear of God and a respect for the moral values which made our nation the greatest on earth.

In 1 Peter 3:16-17 Christians are exhorted: “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

If you read the *AFA Journal*, you know how our American popular culture has become increasingly hostile to those who believe the Holy Bible is the authoritative word of God. The idea that the Bible is relevant for us in the year 2000 is something that is scorned and ridiculed. Scoffers and sceptics ask: “Who knows what truth is? Who is to say what is right or what is wrong?”

Sadly, many Christians don’t know why they believe what they say they believe. Let me encourage you to do a survey with your Christian friends. Give them a blank sheet of paper and ask them to write down the Ten Commandments. Then test yourself.

A year ago a gentleman asked me to do this without warning. I named nine. I knew the tenth when he said it, but it should have been so burned in my mind as to be second nature.

“What happened, man?” I asked Brannon as I walked to the glass overlooking the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. I had just arrived from Memphis. I was at the gate waiting on my flight to Amarillo where Brannon and I were holding a conference.

Brannon doesn’t like to fly. In fact, to tell a little secret on him,

before he gets on the plane, he takes a little medication that allows him to relax. But if he takes too much, he stutters when he wakes up.

When I had last talked to him he was sitting on the tarmac in Abilene, Texas. He had flown from Minneapolis to Dallas, but because of severe weather, his plane had gone into a holding pattern for more than an hour waiting to land. This was not good for my friend. This was bad. After going round and round north central Texas, the pilot finally announced to the passengers that they were being sent to Abilene due to a shortage of fuel. There they would refuel and wait on instructions to return to Dallas.

“Well, after I talked to you we sat on the ground in Abilene for four more hours and didn’t get off the plane,” said Brannon.

“No, you’re kiddin’ me, right?” I responded.

“Oh, it was bad, man. They don’t normally handle jets the size of the one we were on so they didn’t have the thing – whatever they call it – to pull up and let us get off the plane.”

“So what did you do?”

“After a couple of hours someone had 10 pizzas delivered to us and the pilot came over the loud speaker and said he had two cheese pizzas and was willing to trade one for a pepperoni. At that point I took some more medicine.”

I started laughing in the phone as I watched one big jet after another lift off the runway.

“What happened then?” I asked Brannon.

“Well, we finally were cleared to fly back to Dallas and got in about midnight.”

“So what time did you get to Amarillo?”

“What do you mean Amarillo? That flight was cancelled and I couldn’t get a hotel room. I slept on a cot in the airport. I feel like I’ve been run over by a truck.”

My mind began to turn.

“So, where are you now?”

“I’m sitting here at the gate waiting on my flight to Amarillo. Why?”

I turned around, continued talking in my cell phone, and began scanning the people at my gate. Sure enough, across the room, about 20 yards away, was my buddy Brannon.

“I’m walking toward you, man,” I said to him. “I see you.”

“What?” he responded. I could tell by his speech his relaxing stuff was kicking in.

“See me?”

At that time he turned around and looked right at me. We both began to laugh out loud. Quickly the people around us noticed what was happening and everyone cracked up. Now I was in Brannon’s worldview and he was in mine. All medicated and

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