

AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

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CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY – Some supermarket chains including Kroger and Genuardi are helping families protect children by covering trashy magazine covers in checkout lanes and magazine racks.

Mainstream magazines ambush young readers with offensive

■ *New AFA guide shows how to 'take out the trash'*

Donna Sharp, mother of three daughters, has had enough. Like a growing number of parents across the nation, Donna is outraged at the insensitivity of supermarkets whose checkout aisles and magazine racks are full of lascivious headlines and images of scantily-clad models.

"I used to turn the magazines around so that the back cover was showing," Sharp said. "But store managers should take the initiative to respect the families that do business with them by not subjecting our children to sex magazines."

Sharp believes the message frequently delivered by magazines like *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour* and *Redbook* is degrading to women who don't

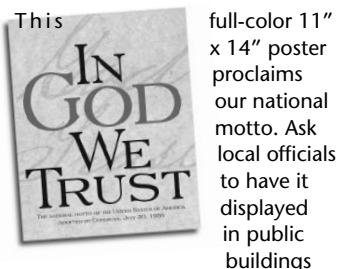
look like models. Furthermore, she says their brazen headlines are insulting to suggest that women's only obligation to men is to fulfill sexual fantasies.

In the war for women's magazine supremacy, *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour* and *Redbook* covers regularly feature headlines that many might expect to find in a porn shop, not their local supermarket. Sharp said that her children are caught in the crossfire and she doesn't like it.

AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon said, "With each new issue, some women's magazines grow closer to being the counterpart of *Playboy* and *Penthouse*. The problem is that we are all exposed to erotic headlines and salacious pictures of sensualized women."

Wildmon said that checkout lanes create a
See **MAINSTREAM** on page 2

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MAINSTREAM... from page 1

captive audience by design because shoppers are confined to a specific area while their groceries are scanned. "You cannot escape something directly in front of you at eye level. Magazine marketers know this and play it to the hilt." Recent covers of *Cosmopolitan* and *Glamour* feature headlines far too offensive to reprint here.

In a 1999 Wirthlin Worldwide poll commissioned by Morality in Media, Wirthlin wrote, "The results from this survey clearly show that Americans find lurid magazine headlines inappropriate and would favor them being covered up in some manner." When asked about the appropriateness of lurid and sexually provocative headlines on magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Mademoiselle* and *Glamour*, 73% of respondents say that such headlines are inappropriate.

A second question asked respondents whether or not they would favor or oppose a policy of covering up these headlines, or not displaying these magazines near checkout counters. Results show that 60% of all Americans would favor such a policy, while 35% would oppose it.

Since the grocery industry is so competitive, many managers understand the financial implications from mothers, like Sharp, who demand that something be done and threaten to take their business elsewhere. Others, however, are reluctant to respond to individual complaints and may require an organized opposition.

Citing the retailers' right to sell magazines in checkout lanes, AFA urges companies also to adopt corporate guidelines that address the growing customer concern. Already this year, major food chains like Kroger and Genuardi began placing blinders over offensive magazine covers, leaving only the magazine's name exposed. 

Canadian government condemns Dr. Laura for views on homosexual-

In what may be a preview of things to come in the U.S., Canada's broadcasting regulatory agency slammed a popular American talk show host whose only offense was her views on homosexuality.



Dr. Laura Schlessinger has a daily call-in radio show with an estimated 18 million listeners, and the program is rebroadcast into Canada. To be sure, Schlessinger's views on issues like premarital sex, divorce and child-rearing are controversial.

It is her views on homosexuality, however, which have raised the hackles of "gay" activists and now the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (CBSC). Schlessinger, a practicing Jew who takes seriously the Old Testament commandments concerning homosexuality, has forcefully spoken out against America's normalization of that lifestyle. She has called homosexuality "abnormal," "deviant," and "disordered."

The CBSC said in a statement, "The [radio show] host's unremittingly heavy-handed and unambiguously negative characterization of those sexual practices is abusively discriminatory and in breach of [Canada's broadcasting] code."

While the CBSC asserted that the sexual practices of homosexuals "are as much a part of their being as the color of one's skin," the agency also flatly asserted that Schlessinger's views were "fatuous and unsustainable." Even worse, said the CBSC, her views could certainly lead to violence against individual "gays" and lesbians.

Ron Cohen, head of the CBSC, said the ruling meant that Canadian radio stations would not be allowed to broadcast any of Schlessinger's comments related to homosexuality if they were negative.

"This is censorship, pure and simple," said AFA President Donald E. Wildmon. "For a supposedly democratic nation like Canada to outlaw a particular viewpoint is outrageous. How can you have a free society without free speech?"

Cohen made clear that the ruling was based upon the "Canadian provisions relating to human rights." He said, "Human rights are very important for the CBSC. This is one of the clearest judgments on this issue we have released."

Wildmon said such explanations were a smokescreen for a broader agenda. "If the Canadian government is so interested in human rights, they might start with freedom of religion and freedom of speech," he said. "But this isn't really about human rights. It's about homosexual activists suppressing the opinions of those who disagree with them."

Reuters, 5/11/00

Take out the trash in your local supermarket

1. Ask to speak to the store manager. With magazine in hand, politely approach the store manager and share your concern. Request a copy of the company's policy on this issue.
2. If the manager has authority, ask him to remove the specific issue from the checkout aisle or place a blinder over it, leaving only the title exposed.
3. Write a polite letter to the company's president and send a copy to the local store manager.
4. Ask others to call the local store manager.
5. Distribute petitions asking the store to cover magazines with overt sexual content.
6. Form a coalition of like-minded citizens and address local groups. (You'll be surprised how many will join your efforts.)
7. Request a formal meeting with the manager. Ask local ministers or community leaders to attend. Politely inform the store that if they continue to display the magazines uncovered, you will encourage other families to stop shopping there.

8. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
9. If all else fails, organize a peaceful picket of the store. Contact AFA for our brochure "Organizing an Effective Picket."

For more suggestions including answers for common objections, request the AFA publication *A guide to what one person can do about offensive magazine covers in supermarket checkout lanes*. Send a request, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: AFA, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803, or download it from www.afa.net.

The gift we cannot accept

BY GLEN FRADENBURG
AFA Foundation Director



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Our desire is to inspire and equip individuals to restore the moral foundations of American culture. We know this is based on Biblical truth and begins with the family.

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The other side of non-discrimination laws

BY DONALD E. WILDMON • AFA President

There is a great push in our society not to discriminate against someone because of sexual orientation. What will those who push for and promote anti-discrimination rules and laws based on sexual orientation accomplish if they are successful? Before long the legalization of homosexual marriages will be taken to court based on this anti-discrimination clause. Why? Let me explain.

If homosexuals are forbidden to marry, then they are being discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

Additionally, if a person's sexual orientation is toward sex with children – we call such people pedophiles – then to discriminate against a pedophile will be illegal.

There are many individuals whose sexual orientation is to have sex with as many partners as possible. We call such individuals philanderers. That is their sexual orientation. If it is illegal to discriminate against one because of his or her sexual orientation, then to discriminate against a philanderer is illegal.

And what about polygamists? To discriminate against the polygamist because of his or her sexual orientation would be illegal, indefensible in a court of law.

Then there are those whose sexual orientation is toward members of their own family. Incest has been abhorrent to nearly every civilization for thousands of years. But once it becomes illegal to discriminate because of sexual orientation, incest becomes a protected practice.

Some people have a sexual orientation toward bondage. Bondage is inflicting pain during the course of sexual activity. If discrimination based on sexual orientation is illegal, then you cannot discriminate against those whose sexual orientation is bondage.

It does not surprise me that there are those in our society who want to reshape our society, remove all of our foundation principles, make ours a thoroughly secular society. And, to be honest, it comes as no surprise that many leaders in various churches have joined with these people in their efforts. Like an undisciplined child, left to pursue their goals these leaders will do untold damage to our society. Once you begin down this slippery slope their is no end in sight.

So the next time you read or hear of some company, government body, or church body adding sexual orientation as a non-discriminating factor, just remember that it is the activities mentioned above that they are promoting.

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P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803
Voice: 662-844-5036
FAX: 662-842-7798

AFA Center for Law & Policy: 662-680-3886
WAFR Radio: 662-844-8888
Internet homepage: <http://www.afa.net>
American Family Online: 662-840-6464

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Founding Editor: DON WILDMON
Editor: RANDALL MURPHREE
Associate Editor: RUSTY BENSON
Copy Editor: JESSICA HUCKABY
News Editor: ED VITAGLIANO





God in the public

BY JUDGE ROY S. MOORE • *Circuit Judge, 16th Judicial District*

Since 1992, Judge Roy S. Moore (photo above) has been a circuit judge for the 16th Judicial District in Etowah County, Alabama. A former deputy district attorney, he is also a Vietnam veteran, a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and the University of Alabama School of Law.

Twice in recent years Moore has been sued for displaying the Ten Commandments in his courtroom. His remarks here are excerpted from the August, 1999, issue of *Imprimis*, a monthly publication of Hillsdale College.

In his first official act, President George Washington did something that would be unthinkable today. He prayed in public! Specifically, during his inaugural address he made:

...fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes.... No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.

Even the American justice system, which is firmly rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition, has developed a bias against public worship and the public acknowledgment of God that ought to give the most militant atheist cause for concern. If judges can deny Christians and Jews the right to express their beliefs in the public square, they can surely deny secular humanists (devout believers of a different sort) the same right.

In California, creches and crosses have been removed from downtown Christmas and Easter displays.

In Kansas, city hall monuments featuring religious symbols have been torn down.

In Rhode Island, high school graduation invocations and benedictions have been

banned.

In Alabama, students have been prohibited by federal court order from praying, from distributing religious materials, and from even discussing anything of a devotional or inspirational nature with their classmates and teachers.

And in Ohio, an appellate court has overturned the sentence of a man convicted of raping an eight-year-old child ten times. Why? Because the judge who pronounced the sentence quoted from the 18th chapter of Matthew: "But who so shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

In the courtroom in which I preside, the public display of the Ten Commandments and voluntary clergy-led prayer prior to jury organizational sessions have sparked not only a national controversy but also an epic legal battle. In 1995, I was sued in federal court by the ACLU and the Alabama Freethought Association. Just prior to that case being dismissed for lack of standing (the ACLU and Alabama Freethought Association failed to show that they had been or were about to be injured), a separate lawsuit was filed in Alabama state court requesting a ruling on whether the First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the display of the Ten Commandments and voluntary prayer in the courtroom. A state circuit court judge presiding in Montgomery County, Alabama, held that the practices in Etowah County were unconstitutional under the First Amendment's "Establishment Clause," which reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion..."

The state circuit court's ruling was appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court and, appropriately, was set aside by the Alabama Supreme Court in 1998. Nevertheless, federal constitutional issues regarding public worship and the public acknowledgment of God remain unresolved.

Church and state

[The] now famous "wall of separation" phrase does not appear in the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, or any other official American document, yet millions of Americans have been led to believe that it does and that, in the words found in a 1947

Supreme Court decision, “[t]he wall must be kept high and impregnable.”

The phrase is actually mentioned for the first time in a letter President Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1802 in reply to an inquiry from the Danbury Baptist Association. Jefferson said,

...I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between church and state.

But did Jefferson mean that the government should in no way support religion? To find the answer we must go back more than one hundred years before he wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association. Jefferson was strongly influenced by John Locke, a well-known English philosopher, who published “A Letter Concerning Toleration” in 1689 in which he clearly defined the proper church-state relationship. Locke stated that “[t]he magistrate has no power to enforce by law, either in his own Church, or much less in another, the use of any rites or forms of worship by the force of his laws.”

Herein lies the true meaning of separation between church and state as the concept was understood by Jefferson and the other founding fathers: Government may never dictate one’s form of worship or articles of faith. Not all public worship of God must be halted; on the contrary, freedom to engage in such worship was the very reason for creating a doctrine of separation between church and state.

Obviously neither Jefferson nor any other officials in the early Republic understood separation between church and state to mean that the federal government was precluded from recognizing the necessity of public worship or from permitting active support of opportunities for such worship. Indeed, they plainly recognized that the duty of civil government was to encourage public professions of faith. Perhaps this is why John Jay, the first chief justice of the Supreme Court, specifically authorized the opening of jury sessions over which he presided with voluntary prayer led by local clergy of the Christian faith.

Many believe that James Madison, as chief architect of the Constitution and the

Bill of Rights, led the fight to keep religion out of politics. In truth, he was more interested in protecting religion from politics.

Both Jefferson and Madison would have agreed with United States Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story’s definitive Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States (1833) in which he posed the question of whether any free government could endure if it failed to provide for public worship. They would have concluded, as did Justice Story, that it could not. Justice Story explained that

[t]he promulgation of the great doctrines of religion, the being, and attributes, and providence of one Almighty God; the responsibility to him for all our actions, founded on moral freedom and accountability; a future state of rewards and punishments; the cultivation of all the personal, social, and benevolent virtues; these never can be a matter of indifference in any well ordered community. It is, indeed, difficult to conceive, how any civilized society can well exist without them.

Historical precedent

When the federal legislature met in 1789, one of its first actions was to appoint chaplains in both houses of Congress. (Congress still recognizes God by appointing and paying chaplains who open each session with a prayer – even the recent session devoted to the impeachment proceedings against President Clinton.)

On the very day that Congress approved the wording of the First Amendment, its members resolved to request of President Washington a day of public thanksgiving and prayer for the peaceful manner in which the Constitution was formed.

A month earlier, Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance, one of the most important documents in our history. Article III of the Ordinance declared, “Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

Every president of the United States (with only one possible exception) has been administered the oath of office with his hand on the Bible, ending with the words “so help me God.”

The Supreme Court begins every pro-

ceeding with the ringing proclamation, “God save the United States and this Honorable Court.”

United States currency bears our national motto, “In God We Trust.”

Also by law, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag affirms that we are “one nation under God.” Congress would not even allow a comma to be placed after the word “nation” in order to reflect the basic idea that ours is a “nation founded on a belief in God.”

Have we become so ignorant of our nation’s history that we have forgotten the reason for the adoption of the Bill of Rights? It was meant to restrict the federal government’s power over the states, not to restrict the states from doing what the federal government can do.

False neutrality

The Pharisees demanded of Jesus, “Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?” He asked them to produce a coin and tell him whose image was inscribed on its face. When they replied, “Caesar’s,” Jesus gave his answer: “Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and unto God the things that are God’s.”

But in the latter half of the 20th century the state is trying to take by force the unalienable rights freely given to us by God, declared in the Declaration of Independence to be “self evident.” Caesar is trying to tell us when, where, and how we can profess our faith.

In 1962 the Supreme Court outlawed a simple, 22-word, nondenominational prayer devised by the New York Board of Regents and used in the New York public schools: “Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon thee, and we beg thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country.”

A year later the Court issued another ruling declaring that reading the Bible and reciting the Lord’s Prayer in Pennsylvania and Maryland public schools was unconstitutional, thus outlawing “without the citation of a single case” practices that had existed in American schools for over 170 years.

Since the 1960s judicial activists have made a concerted effort to banish God from the public square. They have done this by deliberately destroying the distinction

See **GOD** on page 20

news of interest

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

EDUCATION

ACLU tries to expel public school textbook

Not content to drive out religion from the public school system, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is now trying to toss out a textbook which the organization claims *implies* that there is a God.

The science book, *Of Pandas and People*, was purchased for use in the Kanawha County public school district in West Virginia, and explains that many scientists now hold to the “intelligent design” theory of origins. According to *World* magazine, *Of Pandas and People* was recommended to the school board by a committee of science teachers, including the head of the school district’s science curriculum, Bob Seymour.

Hilary Chiz, director of the ACLU’s West Virginia chapter, said the recommendation of *Of Pandas and People* represented “stealth efforts to reintroduce religion to schools. This is a wakeup call. This is an alarm sounding.”

Seymour, however, rejected the ACLU’s histrionics, saying the recommendation to purchase the books was not “an attempt to instill an interpretation or doctrine. It gives you all the scientific findings... there’s no science being violated.”

World, 4/8/00

FAMILY

Divorce rates finally level off

Evidence continues to mount demonstrating that there is a very real decline in the divorce rate in America, adding hope that marital stability may increase in this new century.

According to Joshua R. Goldstein of the Princeton University Office of Population Research, after “more than a century of increases, aggregate divorce rates leveled off abruptly beginning in about 1980.”

Some analysts, however, argued that such evidence merely reflected changes in the marriage population. *The Family*

in America, New Research, said some of the alternate explanations included “the aging of the baby boomers, which increases the average duration of intact marriages; the increase in age at first marriage, which has decreased the number of divorce-prone very young newlyweds; a leveling off of remarriages, which are likelier than first marriages to end in divorce; and the prevalence of cohabitation, which may remove from the marriage pool some of those couples likeliest to divorce.”

Goldstein’s research, however, took such factors into consideration, stating that they “fail to account for the leveling of divorce rates.”

Furthermore, Goldstein said that if the flatlining of the rate continues, “the children born in the late 1970s (who are beginning to marry now) will, for the first time in generations, face risks of divorce similar to their parents,” instead of being at greater risk for divorce.

“[T]he recent plateau could well break the momentum that has increased marital instability over the last century,” he said.

The Family in America, New Research, 2/00

Role of fathers key in keeping daughters abstinent

In an age when high-profile actresses are having babies and then proudly raising them without fathers, it is no longer shameful for a woman to have a baby out of wedlock. Scientific studies, however, are asking whether it is potentially harmful to children for their mothers to do so.

Two studies have demonstrated a link between the early onset of puberty in girls and the presence of the girls’ biological fathers in the home. The first study, printed last year in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, found that the presence of the natural father, if he demonstrated warmth and love to his daughter, and simultaneously had a caring relationship with the girl’s mother, all contributed to delaying the beginning of puberty and other potentially problematic developments.

“[E]arly pubertal maturation, risky sexual behavior and early age of first birth are all components of an integrated reproductive strategy that derives, in part, from low

paternal investment,” researchers wrote.

A second study, published in the March/April *Child Development*, also found that the absence of the biological father was a major contributing factor to the early onset of puberty for girls.

The study data also revealed an interesting corollary: the presence of a stepfather or mother’s boyfriend – that is, an “unrelated father figure” – was even more determinative of early maturation.

David Blankerhorn, president of the Institute for American Values, reviewed the studies in an article written for USA Today. He summarized the results, saying, “New data suggest that, if we want young girls to delay sex and childbearing, having a loving biological father at home is a good idea, while having unrelated men there is not.”

USA Today, 5/8/00

PRO-LIFE

Next president can affect abortion issue

Pro-life groups bristled last December when former first lady Barbara Bush said the issue of abortion doesn’t belong in a party’s political platform. She told ABC’s **This Week**, “There’s nothing a president can do about it anyway...”

In January the Republican National Coalition For Life (RNCLife) responded with a list of things that a president can do to discourage abortion and promote a pro-life ethic. The president can:

- Nominate pro-life candidates for both the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal judiciary;
- Veto appropriations bills that provide funds for abortions and abortion-related services;
- Ensure that the U.S. delegation to the United Nations consists of people who respect the sanctity of human life;
- Insist that the National Institutes of Health is run by professionals who are pro-life;
- Initiate pro-life legislation and veto legislation that is at odds with that perspective;
- Use the “bully pulpit” of his or her office to call for a restoration of a culture of life in our society;
- Urge Congress to pass a human life amendment, and extend 14th Amendment protection (equal pro-

tection of the law) to unborn babies from conception.

The RNCLife said, "The next President of the United States will preside over public policies that will very possibly determine the fate of mankind. This is the era of the human genome project, and of historic discoveries in reproductive technology and biomedicine which can be used for great good or unspeakable evil."

Abortions produce windfall for Planned Parenthood

Although the organization lauds legalized abortion on the grounds of principle, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) knows which side its bread is buttered on: a recent report reveals it is gorging itself on the monies generated by abortion.

During fiscal year 1998-1999, PPFA's profits tripled to almost \$126 million over the previous fiscal year. Out of the organization's gross income of \$660 million, almost a third (\$211 million) came from the operation of its 850 "family planning clinics."

According to *World* magazine \$58.8 million – up from \$54 million in 1997 and \$41 million in 1994 – came directly from the abortions performed at PPFA's clinics. This bonanza reflects an increase in the actual number of unborn children killed by PPFA: between 1995 and 1999, the number of abortions performed shot up from 139,000 to 168,000.

James Sedlak, director of Stop Planned Parenthood International, a division of American Life League, told *World*, "During a time when the number of abortions nationally has steadily decreased, Planned Parenthood is performing more, not fewer, abortions."

World, 4/22/00

Texas court upholds parental notification for abortions

The Texas Supreme Court upheld a new parental-notification law that requires a minor to inform her parents before she can legally obtain an abortion.

Under the law, which went into effect January 1 of this year, a girl can go before a judge and ask for a waiver. The case was the fourth appealed to the state's high court, but it was the first time the Texas Supreme Court told a girl – who has remained

unnamed publicly – she had to tell her parents. A lower court had already ruled against the girl.

"The minor did not prove as a matter of law that she is mature and sufficiently well-informed to have an abortion without notifying her parents," the court said in its opinion.

Joe Kral, legislative director for the Texas Right to Life Committee, said the ruling was right on target. "The reality is that she could undergo an invasive surgical procedure that could have life-altering implications for her," he said. "The legislation

was written to get parents involved in this decision. Parents need to know."

Contributing to the high court's decision was the feeling that the young lady wanted an abortion, at least in part, because a child would upset some of her plans for the future.

"The trial court in this case could well have concluded that a minor who was reluctant to carry her child to term because, at least in part, she said she was 'pretty busy' was not mature enough to make the



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MAGAZINE

Sharing Christ with your community... one family at a time

We've all been told – more often than we can remember – that we ought to share Christ with our neighbors and friends. The problem is, apart from knocking on their door with a Bible in hand, no one has ever given us a tool by which to do it.

THANKFULLY, THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE! *Answer Magazine* has been developed to meet this need! It may sound too good to be true, but through *Answer* you can now share Christ with others in your community – in a soft and non-threatening way, for **LESS THAN THE COST OF A POSTAGE STAMP!**

For a gift of \$25 we will mail *Answer* to the first 125 families living on the postal route on which you live, anywhere in the United States. That's only 20 cents a copy!

This is for real. If you would like to make a difference for Christ in the community where you live, call us for a **FREE** sample copy of *Answer* and a cover letter explaining how this ministry works.

MAGAZINE



The ghost killer from Disney/Miramax movie **Scream 3**.

Disney movie linked to attack; court denies connection between violent films and real crime

The Disney/Miramax movie **Scream 3** was linked to a couple of incidents in France the weekend after the movie opened there.

The day after the film debuted in Paris a teenager allegedly stabbed his father and stepmother while wearing the same get-up as the big-screen ghost-masked killer. Both lived through the assault.

French media also reported that another young man, dressed in the same garb and carrying a kitchen knife, was arrested in that city near a train station.

Scream 3 is the final installment in the **Scream** trilogy which revived the teen slasher genre four years ago. The first two films – **Scream** and **Scream 2** – each made over \$100 million for Disney/Miramax. **Scream 3** has grabbed \$88 million since its release in February of this year.

There has been a handful of cases linking the **Scream** trilogy to alleged copycat crimes. In two separate cases last year, for example, two young men were convicted of murder after admitting to law enforcement officials that they were influenced by the **Scream** movies.

Confessed murderer Michael Carneal admitted being influenced by this scene (right) from Polygram Films' **The Basketball Diaries**.



Lawsuit against movie producers thrown out of court

A federal judge has dismissed a case in which the parents of three Kentucky high school students killed by a classmate charged that several media companies were responsible for the deaths.

In December 1997, high school student Michael Carneal opened fire on 35 kids as they finished a prayer meeting. He killed three and wounded five. Carneal pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.

Carneal told police afterwards that he had seen this done in **The Basketball Diaries**, a 1995 movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio, whose character shoots another classmate and a teacher in a dream sequence.

The parents of the three victims named 25 defendants in the suit, including Time Warner and Polygram Films, because of the violence in the movie; and the makers of several violent video games, to which Carneal was apparently a devotee.

However, U.S. District Court Judge Edward Johnstone threw out the lawsuit, saying the crime was unforeseeable and that product liability statutes do not apply to the content of movies or games. "This was a tragic situation, but as the Sixth Circuit stated [in a prior 1990 case involving a similar lawsuit], 'tragedies such as this simply defy rational explanation, and courts should not pretend otherwise.'"

Reuters, 4/7/00, 4/25/00

Pro-family group decries offensive video game from Simon &

The group Dads and Daughters (DADs) is asking the producer of a new computer game to forgo releasing the title because of its dangerous message.

Simon & Schuster Interactive's new CD-ROM game *Panty Raider: From Here to Im-maturity*, scheduled for a May release, requires players to take on the persona of Nelson, who must save the earth from angry aliens. Nelson lures virtual super models out of hiding, induces them to strip down to their underwear, and photographs them. Then the pictures are presented to aliens, who otherwise claim that their "hormone driven anger" will lead them to destroy the earth. A scene from the game clearly shows lingerie-clad models who have been successfully disrobed.

At the S & S website's description of the game, the players are encouraged to use "X-Ray glasses" to "go through the process of undressing [models] ... [C]an you control yourself?"

Dads and Daughters is a national nonprofit organization of fathers and their daughters. Its website says DADs exists to provide "tools to strengthen our relationships with our daughters and to transform the pervasive [cultural] messages that value our daughters more for how they look than who they are."

DADs executive director Joe Kelly said the game reinforces cultural stereotypes that link a girl's sense of self worth to unrealistic images of physical beauty. Such messages can lead to eating disorders in girls, he said.

The message to young men, Kelly added, was just as potentially damaging. "We don't see the humor or fun in glorifying what *Panty Raider* calls 'hormone driven anger' in boys, especially after tragedies like the Columbine shootings," he said. "We are offended when our sons are repeatedly subjected to the destructive stereotypes of boys objectifying females, placing titillation above all else, and using violence or its threats to get their way."

ACTION ADDRESS:

Simon & Schuster Interactive
230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY, 10020
Voice: 212-632-3544



New study links violent video games to aggression

It happened with television and movies, as proven by researchers piecing together evidence to support the common-sense conclusion that violent imagery on both big and small screens was linked to increased violence in children. Now the same thing is happening with video games.

Two new studies have found that violent computer games contributed to an increase in anger and aggressive behavior among young people. One study, published in the April issue of *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, focused on the reactions of 210 college students after playing what researchers called "blatantly violent" video games like *Wolfenstein 3D* and *Marathon*. Game players had elevated rates of aggressive and hostile feelings.

Psychologist Craig Anderson of the University of Missouri, Columbia, and Karen Dill of Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina, said the findings indicate that "violent video game play is the most important predictor of aggressive behavior ... not how long they play."

Another study of 227 college students found that those who had played violent video games in high school had increased delinquency.

Time columnist Amy Dickinson highlighted the studies, and said violent video games like *Doom*, *Mortal Kombat* and *Half Life* couldn't help having a negative influence on

kids. "These games teach kids to connect gore and glory in a fantasy world in which the most vicious killers are the winners," she said.

(For a primer on violent video games and a video game rating guide for parents, see *AFA Journal*, 1/2000.)

Time, 5/8/00; *USA Today*, 5/10/00

Retailers drop violent games

Retail heavy-hitters Sears Roebuck Co. and Montgomery Ward will no longer sell ultra violent video games rated "M" for mature audiences.

With both store chains headquartered in Chicago, the move came on the heels of an effort by Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan to encourage retailers to stop selling M-rated video games to anyone under age 17.

Montgomery Ward Vice President Charles H. Knittle told the Associated Press, "We made our decision primarily on the fact that this category of games was not in keeping with Ward's objectives as a family-oriented retailer."

ACTION ADDRESSES:

Sears Roebuck & Co.
Chrm. Arthur C. Martinez
3333 Beverly Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60179
Voice: 847-286-5703

Montgomery Ward & Co.
Chrm. Bernard F. Brennan
Montgomery Ward Plaza
Chicago, IL 60671
Voice: 312-467-2000

AP, 5/9/00

Donaldson rebukes vulgar critic

ABC newsman Sam Donaldson took a stand for restrained free speech after a critic spewed vulgarity on the ABC website.

According to *Electronic Media*, Donaldson's Internet show (www.abcnews.com) drew several salty replies from an unnamed naysayer. When ABC removed the vulgar messages, the individual accused ABC of censorship.

Donaldson replied by E-mail, saying, "It may come as a surprise to you, but you can express a thought on any subject – including sex – without spewing forth [expletives].... Now, on your message board or website or soap box you are free to use those words.... But you cannot do it on our message board any more than I would allow you to do it at my dinner table."

Electronic Media, 4/17/00

homosexual agenda

Activist wants five sexes

As if the demands of homosexual activists were not already well past the pale of normalcy, now a lesbian professor at Brown University is demanding that science recognize not just two sexes, but five.

Professor of biology Anne Fausto-Sterling states in her new book, *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*, that the male-female view of humanity is nothing more than prejudice. Fausto-Sterling believes that scientists have been among the prime culprits in the spread of this bias.

"Science can't be 'pure.' It is a particular kind of cultural activity; it is not neutral...," she said. "Certainly history is filled with examples of women, people of color, and gay people losing out because of uncritically accepted 'science.'"

Fausto-Sterling said the actual five sexes inherent in the human race are the traditional male and female as well as three others – herms, ferms and merms. The latter three are genders in which a baby is born with a combination of male/female sex organs, which Fausto-Sterling calls "intersexual" persons.

"Transgender people and intersexed people don't fit into easy categories; they don't make straight people comfortable," she said, calling on both the straight and homosexual communities to embrace all five genders.



Homosexual activists rehash demands during DC

The fourth national "gay" and lesbian march on the nation's capital resulted in yet another demand that American culture accede to the agenda of homosexual activists.

The Millennium March on Washington (MMOW) on April 30 involved tens of thousands of homosexuals and lesbians, and the entire weekend's events saw celebrities such as Garth Brooks, Melissa Etheridge, Ellen Degeneres, Anne Heche and George Michael participate on behalf of the homosexual movement.

It was the fourth such national event, following marches in 1979, 1987 and 1993. While the turnout was far lower than that of the 1993 march, an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 people made the short hike from the Washington Monument to the U.S. Capitol, where they listened to almost six hours of speeches and music.

One of the stated goals of this year's march organizers was to energize the homosexual community to turn out and vote in November's elections, and as a result politicians were certainly in evidence. Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN), and open homosexuals Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) and Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) addressed the crowd in person, while President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore both spoke via a videotaped message shown on four giant screens lining the National Mall. Both voiced support for the homosexual movement's goals. Gore's wife Tipper appeared in person during the festivities.

Participants were asked to sign cards pledging to be part of "the largest gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgendered [voter] turnout in history."



Also marching was a group representing the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force, which recently won landmark legislation granting full benefits of marriage to same-sex couples in that state; and a contingency from Lesbian and Gay United Employees of Walt Disney Company, wearing the familiar mouse ears on their heads.

Lorri L. Jean, the former executive director of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, told those gathered, "All we want is the freedom to love whoever we want without fear, without discrimination, without bigotry. If we are not entirely free, then we are not free at all."

While such sentiments appear quite minimal, march organizers spelled out the radical elements behind such simple sloganeering. The official MMOW platform says the April 30 event was initiated "to demand resolution to these issues." Activists demanded the:

- ▶ Passage of federal, state and local hate crime laws;
- ▶ Inclusion of sexual orientation in federal, state and local laws outlawing discrimination in employment practices;
- ▶ Overhaul of traditional concepts of marriage and family;
- ▶ Continued access for homosexual advocates to public school systems, in order to make such schools "safe" for young people who self-identify as homosexual, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered;
- ▶ Overturn of all state sodomy laws;
- ▶ Right of homosexual men and women to serve in the U.S. military.

The Advocate, 4/30/00; *hrc.org*, 5/12/00

Mississippi lawmakers ban homosexual adoption

Mississippi became the third state in the U.S. to ban homosexual couples from adopting children, a painful defeat for homosexual activists who campaigned hard to prevent the measure from being signed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove in May.

The Magnolia State joins Florida and Utah as the only states to forbid "gay" adoption, while a fourth – Arkansas – limits adoption rights for same-sex couples. Last year New Hampshire repealed its own ban, which had been in effect since 1988.

Activists teach Massachusetts youth about homosexual sex

Using state tax dollars and hoping to skim beneath the public's radar, two pro-homosexual activist groups recently gave explicit "gay" sex lessons to kids as young as 14, and then tried to hide their deed from parents.

The Boston affiliate of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and Project 10 sponsored an annual conference on homosexual issues facing the Massachusetts public school system. The event, held at Tufts University in late March, was funded by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

GLSEN has insisted over the past decade that it merely wants homosexual teens to feel safe in schools, and that representatives do not talk about sex to impressionable youth.

Scott Whiteman, executive director of the Parents Rights Coalition in Massachusetts, was skeptical, and decided to cover the GLSEN conference undercover. Whiteman tape recorded some of the sessions, and has begun disseminating the shocking material to the public and the press.

For example, in one session for 14- to 21-year-olds, entitled "What They Didn't Tell You About Queer Sex & Sexuality in Health Class," three homosexual panelists gave advice to the teens. Michael Gaucher, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Health, explained about "fisting," the homosexual practice of inserting one's fist and forearm into the anus of another man. Gaucher and the other two speakers discussed lesbian activities as well. The meeting included demonstrations and diagrams about different sexual practices.

On April 27, the pro-family group Americans For Truth About Homosexuality (ATH) held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and played excerpts from the conference tapes. That public revelation led to an immediate threat of a lawsuit from Wallace Bachman, the executive director of GLSEN-Boston, for allegedly taping the conference illegally.

ATH head Peter LaBarbera said, "It appears GLSEN is more interested in protecting its image than protecting children. This time we caught GLSEN corrupting young people, but how many of these sorts of conversations have taken place among youth across the country without parents' knowledge?"

Culture Facts, 5/3/00; *CNSNews*, 5/4/00

Support for the new law seemed to crystallize after Vermont recognized same-sex civil unions. "We needed to put up a firewall and say, 'This is not going to happen here,'" said Mike Crook, AFA's state director in Mississippi.

Bob Knight, director of Cultural Studies for the Family Research Council, lauded the move as a boon to the institution of family. "This is a victory for children who need both a mother and a father as parents and it's a victory for common sense," Knight said. "The presumption should always be that there is a preference for married-couple families to raise children."

Ironically, Seth Kilbourn, National Field Director for the homosexual activist

group Human Rights Campaign, called the Mississippi law "a direct assault on family values." In a press release Kilbourn said, "The process of trained professionals basing adoption decisions on the best interests of children was usurped by politicians who are only interested in the best interests of their reelection campaigns."

The American Civil Liberties Union, already contesting Florida's law in court, will also challenge the Mississippi law's constitutionality on behalf of a homosexual couple.

AP, 5/3/00

religion in america



UMC GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Demonstrators march outside the Cleveland Convention Center protesting votes in which delegates reaffirmed the church’s traditional view of homosexuality. The protest ended on the floor of the convention. Photo: UMNS

Methodists reject pressure to affirm

In several dramatic but decisive votes, the governing General Conference of the United Methodist Church rejected intense pro-homosexual lobby movements by reaffirming traditional Christian teachings about marriage and sexuality.

“When the relatively liberal controlled United Methodist Church refuses to compromise on homosexuality, our nation should take notice,” observed Mark Tooley, of UMAction, a committee of The Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD). IRD is working for renewal in several mainline denominations. “Perhaps the political power of the homosexual movement has peaked, both in our mainline churches and in our culture.”

Delegates meeting at the quadrennial General Conference voted by margins of 65-80% to reaffirm the church’s declaration that homosexual practice is “incompatible” with Christian teaching, the prohibition against ordaining practicing homosexuals, the prohibition against same-sex unions, and the ban on denominational funding for pro-homosexual advocacy. The ten day conference was held in May in Cleveland, Ohio.

In last minute desperation tactics, pro-homosexual demonstrators occupied the floor of the convention center, disrupting the proceedings after delegates rejected their legislation. Despite extreme patience by the General Conference, which included a vote to allow the demonstrators to remain on the convention floor if they were not disruptive, the police were ultimately called upon to remove them.

“The delegates of the General Conference should be commended for their patience and their perseverance,” Tooley said. “They said ‘no’ not only to the intimidation of the demonstrators. More importantly, they said ‘no’ to the even more pervasive intimidation of America’s current popular culture, which has increasingly embraced the pro-homosexuality movement.”

IRD news release, 5/12/00

Spiritual revival hits Mississippi high school

The student population at Pearl River Central (Mississippi) High School has been transformed by a spiritual revival that has broken out among classmates.

The awakening began during a special, student-led presentation in the gymnasium by the school’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

According to the Baptist Press, nearly 90% of Pearl River’s 670 students were in attendance for the optional one-hour program, which included skits and testimonies from FCA members about the Christian walk.

When the bell rang for classes to start, however, nearly 100 students remained in line to pray for spiritual change.

“It was the most incredible thing I’ve seen in all my years as an educator,” said principal Lolita Lee. “The meeting couldn’t be stopped. You could tell something spiritual was happening in the lives of those students.”

Lee sensed that something important was happening, and took the unusual step of letting the meeting continue. It wouldn’t end, however, for more than three hours, during which time students prayed, worshipped and reconciled with classmates.

Lee’s instincts have been vindicated. More than one month after that gymnasium revival broke out, she told the Baptist Press that the school, located in the town of Carriere, has been changed.

“I’ve had teachers and staff tell me how much better the students are,” she said. “This has been a wonderful thing for our kids.” She added, “Our hallways are filled with students who say how their lives have been changed.”

Cary-Anne Dell, an 18-year-old who is a member of the FCA’s leadership team, credits prayer for the powerful move of God taking place in her school. “We had people praying for [the gymnasium presentation] all over South Mississippi,” Dell said. “It was incredible to see how all those prayers were answered.”

www.baptistpress.org, 5/4/00

Sandia National Labs sued for discriminatory

■ *Suit claims First Amendment violated when Christian group was denied right to organize*

Two weeks after U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson ordered all national laboratories on stand-down for diversity training, Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been sued for religious discrimination.

Sandia is a national security laboratory operated for the U.S. Department of Energy by the Sandia Corporation, a division of Lockheed Martin Co. The laboratory's chief work is the design of all non-nuclear components for the military's nuclear weapons program, as well as a wide variety of energy research and development projects. At Sandia's website (www.sandia.gov), the company also says it works "on assignments that respond to national security threats – both military and economic. We encourage and seek partnerships with appropriate U.S. industry and government groups to collaborate on emerging technologies that support our mission."

Michael Hall, William Morse and Mary Tang, employees at Sandia, and their employee group, Christians in the Workplace Networking Group, filed suit in federal court in Albuquerque challenging the constitutionality of a Sandia policy that denies employees the right to form networking groups on the basis of religious beliefs. The lawsuit asserts a violation of the plaintiffs' constitutional rights of free speech, free exercise of religion, and free association, as well as their rights to equal protection under the law. The suit also asserts a violation of the establishment clause of the First Amendment.

Although Sandia twice denied the Christian group official recognition, it was quick to grant official recognition to a bisexual and homosexual employee networking group. As a result, the homosexual employees receive funding for certain projects, special use of Sandia facilities, including its internal Internet web, and are closely consulted on corporate policy matters.

Brian Fahling, senior trial attorney for the AFA Center for Law & Policy (CLP), legal counsel for the plaintiffs, said, "The policy explicitly states that Sandia will not support employee groups formed on the basis of religious beliefs; it therefore directly violates the First Amendment."



Stephen M. Crampton, CLP chief counsel, said, "Despite paying lip service to non-discrimination on the basis of religion, Sandia's policy is discriminatory against religion on its face. It is an insult not only to believers in God, but to believers in freedom everywhere."

In fact, according to Crampton, Sandia routinely discriminates on the basis of religion. In addition to denying official recognition to the Christian employee group, Sandia employees are not allowed to post announcements of a religious nature on Sandia bulletin boards, and have even been denied the right to maintain personal screen savers of a religious nature on their computers.

Since officially recognizing the homosexual employee group, Sandia employees have been subjected to annual "Coming Out Day" celebrations and "diversity training," in which they are encouraged to accept and respect homosexuals. Some Sandia employees were accused of "heterosexism" – that is, assuming that everyone is heterosexual, or should be. The display of family photos and discussion of family activities with coworkers was touted as an example of being insensitive to homosexuals, since "gays" and lesbians cannot marry.

Colleges target Christian groups because of views

At two New England colleges Christians who won't grovel to homosexual activists are threatened by proposed college policies that might ban the groups from campus.

At Tufts University in Boston, Julie Catalano had belonged to the Tufts Christian Fellowship (TCF) for three years, although she struggled with lesbian feelings. When she finally ended that struggle in favor of what she considered her homosexual orientation, she was told she could not hold a leadership position in the group because the Bible views homosexuality as a sin.

Catalano filed a complaint against the group on the basis of the university's nondiscrimination policy. According to WorldNetDaily, a student panel held a secret meeting to discuss the complaint. The media was invited to the session, but no one from TCF was invited to answer the charge.

The group's status as a campus organization was revoked and all funding was ended; TCF was banned from using regularly reserved rooms for its meetings; and the group was prohibited from advertising its meetings or events on campus. TCF has been reinstated pending a proper hearing in the fall.

Meanwhile, in Vermont a similar controversy has erupted at Middlebury College over whether or not to punish the Christian Fellowship there for not allowing a homosexual student to run for a leadership post.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, college officials are considering a change to college policy that would prevent religious organizations from discriminating against homosexuals – even on the basis of their religious views.

The unnamed student in question summed up the growing ideology on many college campuses. "I want the college to say: 'You don't have the right to prevent a person who is gay from being on the ballot,'" he said. "I admit that to some degree that violates their freedom of religion, but in this case, my civil rights trump that freedom of religion."

WorldNetDaily, 4/25/00; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 5/12/00; AP, 5/3/00

ACTION IN-

Use this information to write or call advertisers cited in this issue's television reviews.

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www.mciworldcom.com
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MCI, Midas lead trash advertisers

On the selected episodes from spring network programs cited below, MCI and Midas Mufflers were among leading advertisers. Both dramas and sitcoms continue to reflect an overwhelming obsession with sexual themes.

■ Drew Carey P8 S SA TV14-DL

ABC, 4/12 – There are jokes about indecent exposure, and graphic dialogue about all sorts of sexual situations too perverse to specify. Sex is the only theme in this episode.

Advertiser: Midas

■ ER P16 PC TVPG

NBC, 4/13 – A pregnant woman comes to the emergency room suffering from serious malnourishment. She is trying to starve her unborn baby to death because she already has five children under eight years old. She is afraid to tell her pro-life husband that she is pregnant again, knowing that he won't let her have an abortion. The nurse talks her into abortion anyway.

Advertiser: MCI

■ Family Guy P16 SA TV14-DSLV

Fox, 4/15 – Chris, about 12, hides behind the sofa while his mother discusses sexual exploits with his teenage sister Meg and her spend-the-night girl friends. There are countless jokes and innuendos regarding sexual arousal, homosexuality, masturbation, alcohol abuse and more. Stewy, about two years old, wonders if he's homosexual and dreams of killing all his family members.

Advertiser: Midas

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

NBC, 3/31 – "Special Victims Unit" is a euphemism for sex crimes in this politically correct episode which disparages conservatives and highlights immoral Christians. Dr. Benjamin Hadley, president of a Christian college, had been having a sexual affair with his daughter-in-law, whose husband (Ben, Jr.) choked her to death.

Advertiser: MCI

■ Once & Again P4 S TV14-S

ABC, 4/17 – One bed scene features a lot of skin as Judy continues her illicit sex with Sam, her married lover. Judy's sister Lily is judgmental and condemning toward the affair, despite the fact that she began having sex with Rick while still married to Jake.

Advertiser: MCI

■ Talk to Me P10 S SA TVPG-DL

ABC, 4/11 – The co-hosts on a radio talk show talk about little but sex, including child sex. Following a tough break-up, Janie (series star) picks up a guy in an elevator and takes him home planning to have casual sex. Dr. Debra is a caricature of a hypocritical conservative radio personality.

Advertiser: Midas

■ Third Watch P3 2S SA TV14

NBC, 4/17 – This episode included two principal stars in an extremely graphic skin

Mother says TV, movies were stealing son's childhood

Excerpted from a letter sent to AFA President Don Wildmon from a mother of three boys.

Dear Mr. Wildmon,

My son, who is 10 years old now, goes to see his dad (my ex) every weekend. I have pleaded with his father to monitor what he is watching because I knew his father was much too lenient about such things. He told me not to worry, that he knew what he was doing. However, by the time my son was six years old he started coming home and telling me the names of the movies he had been watching. Most of them were R-rated.

His father and I fought many times over this, until finally my son was acting out what he had been exposed to over the years

so my ex decided I was right.

Unfortunately it was too late, the damage was done. My poor son woke up screaming and crying in the middle of the night, and when I asked him what was wrong, he said, "Mommy, I can't get sex out of my head....the movies I wasn't supposed to watch keep coming back in my head."

My heart sank, tears welled in my eyes and I thought, "My God, what has he been exposed to?"

For the next three weeks he couldn't sleep. He was afraid to close his eyes. He couldn't go to school for a couple of days because he just couldn't shake the thoughts. With all the misinformation and distortion the TV gives about sex, my poor son was in a totally confused state. Even though we had been slowly

scene. Casual sex is almost always the subject of any dialogue that is not focused directly on the plot. For example, an older woman cop and her young male partner discuss sex, and another cop shows no concern for his pregnant girl friend and their child as the cop and his partner discuss the situation.

Advertiser: MCI

■ **Titus P14 S**

Fox, 4/10 – Sex is the major theme as Titus (the series star) and Erin (his live-in lover) argue. When they “separate” in anger, Titus picks up a waitress for casual sex, and Erin calls an old boyfriend to have sex with her.

TV14-DLS

T H E G O O D S T U F F

Tricon Global sponsors nets' best

Tricon Global, parent company for Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut restaurants, was the lone advertiser who appeared on all of this month's featured positive episodes.

■ **Cosby + TVG** CBS, 4/21 – Ruth Lucas insists that her husband Hilton see a doctor and seek treatment for his sleeping problem. But a video of the Lucases at sleep reveals an unexpected culprit in Hilton's dilemma.

■ **Kids Say the Darndest Things + TVG** CBS, 3/31 – Host Bill Cosby is entertained by Dominique, a six-year-old who “spells” words by pronouncing them phonetically. In another segment, kids explain to Cosby how the brain works and who Albert Einstein is.

■ **The Miracle Maker + TVG** ABC, 4/23 – This claymation/cartoon account of the life of Jesus drew rave reviews from almost all quarters. It maintained integrity by staying true to the principles of the Biblical account, without stretching or “interpreting” details in offensive ways (as most secular films seem inclined to do).

■ **The Ten Commandments + TVG** ABC, 4/16 – This classic movie has been an Easter season feature for many years. The perennial favorite depicts the story of God's people in the wilderness, and the dramatic portrayal of God delivering His law to them.

■ **Touched by an Angel + TVPG** CBS, 4/23 – Rickey is a 19-year-old who's angry at life. Feeling hopeless and alienated, he's losing his job, he can't go to college and he has to care for his mother and younger brother. Then his gift for writing poetry comes into the light and the angels help Rickey overcome some of his major obstacles.

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.

preparing him for this day and time with biblically based foundations on sex and how God feels, and how our purity before God is essential, he couldn't understand why we had been telling him one thing and the whole world had been showing him something else.

My son approached me one day with the saddest statement I think I have ever heard uttered from a child's mouth. He said, “Mom I just want to be a little boy again and play with my cars, and now I can't.” The innocence of my child has been stolen. The little boy who loves to romp and play has already been scarred, by none other than adults.

Will every child have to be exposed to such moral decline? Mr. Wildmon, it doesn't matter whether you are a diligent parent who watches and monitors your child's TV, the commercials are just as bad as the shows. Young innocent minds are just not equipped to handle it. Just one sex scene or sex-oriented com-

mercial can trigger a child's imagination and lead him or her down the wrong path. What goes into the mind, comes out in life.

In our family we have chosen to rid ourselves of TV, just one of the evils that plague our society, which only gives us that much more time to help them deal with other outside evils that plague them daily. Parents have often referred to us as crazy; they ask how we survive. Well let me assure you, we have not only survived, but we are flourishing as a Christian family. It's not easy, nothing worthwhile is easy. Sometimes there's nothing but turmoil going on with the boys, and we have to diffuse a lot of tempers, but we love our children enough to continue the battle. It just takes time, patience, love and understanding. All have been provided by the grace of God, because “as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.”

Yours in Christ,

Christians & Society TODAY

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

JUNE/JULY, 2000

Frontlines

New Pennsylvania affiliate raises challenge to Channel One

Diane Gramley leads one of the newest and busiest AFA affiliates.

Facing heavy resistance by the local school board, **AFA of NW Pennsylvania (814-432-5421)** has rallied hundreds of parents and citizens opposing Channel One in the Valley Grove School District.

Channel One is a New York marketing company which provides TVs and VCRs to classes in grades 6-12, in exchange for requiring students to watch MTV-style programs and commercials on a daily basis.

Gramley and others maintain the school board has acted irresponsibly by allowing and defending the commercial exploitation of students for Channel One's profit. Gramley says the school board has expressed no concern over the fact that 12- and 13-year-old children are being encouraged to watch violent movies, homosexual TV programs and listen to music by Marilyn Manson.

"I've been in the classroom and have seen first hand that Channel One is a waste of the student's time and the taxpayer's money. A majority of the students ignore the news program altogether," said Gramley. She believes support for dumping Channel One continues to grow among concerned parents despite their message being ignored by her local newspaper.

Gramley's campaign has garnered the attention of national publications such as the Washington Post and *Business Week* magazine as well as local newspaper and radio coverage.



AFA WEBSITE TEAM – AFA's Director of Web Development Paul Chaney (center) heads a three-person team that oversees www.afa.net. Also shown here are Jody Brown, (left) online news editor and Nathan Riley, assistant webmaster/programmer.

AFA website earns recognition

American Family Association's Internet website was selected by CNSNews.com as its "Site of the Week" for the period which began April 18.

CNSNews.com is the Internet News Wire Service for the Media Research Center, a conservative media watchdog group. The organization has bureaus in Washington, D.C., London and Jerusalem, and is the news source for Rush Limbaugh and Michael Reagan, as well as numerous regional and local radio shows and newspapers.

According to CNSNews.com, AFA's website was chosen for "providing excellent coverage of conservative topics, in-depth content, and a user-friendly design."

The selection by CNSNews.com meant that people visiting its website could go directly to AFA.net. In addition, CNS.com distributed a press release to both national and regional media, as well as conservative policy groups, highlighting AFA's site and the work of the organization.

"We are appreciative of the accolade from CNSNews.com, and are happy that a large number of people may have heard about AFA.net for the first time because of it," said Paul Chaney, Director of Web Development for AFA. "The staff at AFA.net works hard to make the site as informative and helpful as possible."

Longtime activist proposes pro-family training center

AFA President Don Wildmon and Brad Curl have been allies for more than 20 years, as each has traveled the nation helping organize and inspire local citizens to action. “I have come to know Brad Curl as a brother, a visionary and a fighter,” says Wildmon.

For the past six years, Curl has supervised a 100-acre school and camp near Washington, D.C., and a new vision has been planted in his heart. “What if we brought groups of concerned citizens from various communities into the D.C. area for training on pro-family issues?” he asks excitedly. “Would there be a good response?”

Curl’s beautifully landscaped camp already has 17 buildings, a lake, hiking trails, ropes course and picnic area. It also houses a small boarding academy for inner-city boys and a retreat facility used by various groups. Thinking of the countless groups who visit the nation’s capital, Curl believes many would be interested in a program in which they could be inspired and encouraged by experienced experts on national politics and culture.

This program could include trips into the city to meet with congressmen, senators and other government leaders. Participants would learn how the political structure functions in Washington, how to introduce a bill or encourage its passage. There could be a one-day trip to New York City to meet with corporate leaders for insights on the concentration of corporate power in that city and its reach across the nation.

For instance, many don’t realize that huge communications, entertainment and news conglomerates that mold so much of public opinion have headquarters within a few blocks in midtown Manhattan. Few realize that everything from HBO, CNN, all of the major networks, major cable companies, major ad agencies, major book and magazine publishers are all neighbors in a relatively small section of New York City. Corporate leaders in these companies affect much of the world’s media environment. Curl desires to help people learn strategies to challenge media leaders and have impact on their decisions.

Seminars could also address other pressing issues such as the growing number of fatherless inner-city boys who have doubled our prison population in recent years. There is a successful program in tough neighborhoods in the shadow of the nation’s capitol, Curl says. Conference participants could get a first-hand look at how the chain of despair in our cities can be broken.

“The vision for the training center would be not only to address these issues and educate local leaders on how to affect these critical areas of our national life,” says Curl. “It would also afford a relaxed environment in which to study these issues and encourage one another in our walk with Christ, to be salt and light.”

For more information, contact Curl by telephone (703-771-9723) or by FAX (703-771-9759).



Sudanese church prospers amidst horrible persecution

Christians are facing persecution in many nations around the world, such as Afghanistan, China, Libya, Indonesia and Cuba. And in the midst of a decade-long civil war between Islamic and Christian fundamentalists, the Christians of southern Sudan continue to suffer horrible persecution at the hands of a militant Islamic regime. However, the Christian church in Sudan is thriving.

The persecution

More than two million people have been murdered in Sudan since 1955, and hundreds of thousands more are facing starvation as they suffer from the “scorched earth” campaign of persecution by the northern-based Muslim Arab Government of Sudan (GOS).

According to one report from Christian Solidarity International (CSI), “Christian believers are denied freedom of worship and are Islamised by force. Government of Sudan troops are burning churches and killing Christian leaders.” CSI personnel witnessed the aerial bombardment of villages and saw the mass starvation caused by Sudanese government forces.

Christians in southern Sudan are under constant attack from the air and by ground troops; villages and crops are regularly destroyed; wells are poisoned or mined; and civilians are being hung up in trees and used for target practice.

Amazingly, the church in Sudan continues to grow at an incredible rate. According to Derek Hammond, director of Faith In Action, “As was the case of the heavily persecuted first century Church in Jerusalem, persecution has served to stimulate the faith – and increase the numbers – of Christians in South Sudan!”

What can other believers do?

AFA recommends that Christians in America pray – as individuals, families, groups and churches – for the persecuted church in Sudan and in other countries.

Also, call lawmakers in Washington, D.C., and ask them to stand up for the rights of Christians in Sudan.

To contact your senator or representative, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 1-202-224-3121.



Dr. David Smith examines a patient at the clinic he founded for his community's indigent.
Photo: McComb Enterprise-Journal

■ *AFA affiliate...*

To serve is to stand

BY RANDALL MURPHREE • *AFA Journal Editor*

DAVID SMITH HOPS OUT OF HIS PICKUP TRUCK, glad to be back at his secluded home ten miles west of McComb (in Pike County, Mississippi), where his medical practice and AFA affiliate offices are located. The spacious lawns, flower gardens and lake soothe his spirit.

Samson, the Smiths' four-year-old German shepherd, bounds across the yard to greet his master and inspect the guests cowering behind him. Once we get Samson's okay, Smith escorts Marvin Sanders (American Family Radio general manager) and me inside to meet his wife Autumn.

Smith has had a busy week, and Autumn has just returned from a three-day business trip, but one would think they entertained overnight guests every night of the week. Like old friends, they share the details of their lives and talk excitedly about what God has done for them, and what He is doing through Christians United (CU), the citizen activist organization Smith founded in late 1992. In June, 1994, CU affiliated with AFA.

Miracle medical clinic

The crowning achievement of the affiliate to date is the Joseph B. Smith Memorial Medical Clinic, founded in 1996 to serve the area's indigent with free or low-cost medical care. Dr. Smith's collection of news stories chronicles the clinic's story. The framed clippings lie stacked in a corner of his study, behind a door with a plaque inscribed "As for

me and my house, we will serve the Lord. — Joshua 24:15." Smith believes that to serve is the proactive way to take a stand.

Smith tells of an "overwhelming spiritual experience" in 1996 when he felt a sense of direction from the Lord to start such a clinic in McComb, his hometown of 14,000 people. (A quarter of a million people live within a 30-mile radius.) His father-in-law helped him look for a building, but they were finding nothing until Smith felt the Lord directing them to go to St. Andrews United Methodist Church.

In obedience, he went immediately, with no appointment. He was greeted by Earnestine Varnado, church secretary and parish nurse. The two had never met, but Mrs. Varnado had been praying for a free clinic to serve the needy in McComb. Smith, though still in his medical residency a hundred miles away, was then certain of God's call to start a clinic. And he has never been one to wait around to answer God.

"I've been blessed," says Dr. Smith, "and I want to give back to the community. I believe this is my calling in life."

Varnado recalls that she received a note from Smith a few days later. Then in the doctor's typical whirlwind style, it was only a few more days before the two of them were offering their first free health clinic at St. Andrews. Varnado is still nursing director for the clinic. She and Smith both serve without pay.

Numerous other health professionals have also volunteered at different times during the clinic's short history. Dr. Chris Woodworth, a McComb surgeon, currently offers his services when needed. "I see David Smith as a Christian, pursuing not just his own agenda," says Woodworth. "He is committed to this community."

The clinic is named to honor Dr. Smith's father, who died at age 34 in a home electrical accident. David was nine, the oldest of three sons. His father's reputation for serving others and being a good citizen continues to be a guiding principle for David. "The clinic," David says, "is just one way we as Christians united together can show, and not just tell, the community that Jesus Christ loves them."

Porn non-gratis in Pike

Smith first entered his hometown po-

Smith is convinced that
it's because of the positive
things AFA is doing in the
community that he has
the

litical arena while he was still an undergraduate student. In June, 1993, a McComb Enterprise-Journal headline proclaimed, "Student wants city to fight porn films." His concern at that time included porn magazines and videos, but he was also anticipating the possibility of other sexually oriented businesses (SOBs) trying to open in the city. After Smith's complaint, Mayor Ronnie Wilkinson appointed three city selectmen to review city and state porn laws.

Smith was right in expecting more graphic pornography to try to invade the city in various venues. In 1997, he and about 30 others picketed the Camellia Four theaters in McComb when the movie **In and Out** was on the screen. The highly-promoted Hollywood favorite featured a kiss between two homosexual characters.

In early 1998, the city received an inquiry from a woman who wanted to open a strip club. "I couldn't believe that people would stand by while strip joints invaded our town," Smith says. He was the first to address the issue, encouraging city fathers to take steps to prevent such establishments from locating in McComb. By May, the city had adopted an ordinance that prohibits sale or possession of alcohol at any strip club.

By October, 1999, Pike County had complemented the McComb ordinance with its own stronger regulation. Supervisors adopted an ordinance that strengthened their control over all SOBs. "It's as restrictive as any ordinance in the United States," says board attorney Wayne Dowdy. SOBs may not locate within 1,500 feet of a church, school, residential area, park, day care center, family-oriented business or another SOB. Nor are they allowed to sell alcohol. Thus far, the ordinance has

See **TO SERVE** on page 22

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Sunday Connections - direct billed/credit card pay	\$4.95	6.9¢	6.9¢	4.9¢

PORNOGRAPHY



Junk food for your

BY AL MENCONI • *Al Menconi Ministries* (www.almenconi.com)

A plague is sweeping across our country. It is destroying families, careers, ministries, and churches. The plague I'm speaking of is pornography, and if the statistics are correct, it has become the number one problem within the church today.

With the easy access to the Internet today, almost every family in America is becoming vulnerable. The Nua Internet survey reports that 75% of hits on the Web are looking for a porno site. That means more than half of all the activity on the web right now involves pornography! Read that last sentence again. Does it break your heart? It is killing me! Can you imagine? I wish that I could report that it was different in the Christian community, but research and the personal counseling I have done, indicate that it is just as bad, and maybe worse, with Christian men!

In times past, Christian men resisted the curiosity and temptation of X-rated movies or magazines because of the social stigma and shame attached to it. Today, however, with the easy access of the Internet, all it takes is a click of the mouse on their personal computer in the privacy of their own home, and they can observe the most perverted, XXX, sexual scenes imaginable.

A number of Christian men have confessed to me that they clicked on a porn site out of casual curiosity. They just wanted to see what the excitement was all about, but they became addicted almost immediately. I'm reminded that serial killer Ted Bundy started on his road to perversion and murder by innocently looking at "nude" magazines as a boy. It only took one time for him to become hooked.

Did you realize that the vast majority of us – Christian and non-Christian – subject our minds to a form of perversion every day? Many times we do it without even realizing it. Not you? Not your family? Let me give you an illustration to prove my point.

I have never seen a porno movie, but I understand that it is often an hour or more of continuous sex scenes. What if I cut the movie down to a half hour of sex acts? Would it still be porno? Yes? What if I cut it down to only fifteen minutes? Is it still porn? Yes? How about if I just put in one or two sex scenes and insert them into a story about a ship that hits an iceberg and sinks? Is it still pornography? Yes? No?

How many sex scenes does it take before it affects you? Don't fool yourself. If you say you can watch sex scenes and not have it affect you, your response illustrates just how much it really has affected you. The question now becomes, "Why doesn't it affect you?" Colossians 2:8 says that if we continually subject our minds to the empty philosophies of this world, we will struggle with our faith in Jesus and the joy of our salvation. How is your faith in Jesus? How's your joy?

What are you entertaining yourself with? I have talked to thousands of parents who are concerned about the music their children are listening to, but at the same time are often subjecting their minds to subtle forms of pornography. Stop it!

It reminds me of a story about a psychiatric ward that had a unique way to test the mental competency of its patients. The patient was put into a room in which the sink is plugged and the faucet has been turned on. The patient was given a mop and instructed to clean up the water that was spilling onto the floor. Any patient who attempted to mop up the mess, without first turning off the faucet, was not considered mentally competent.

How about you? Are you trying to "mop up" weak areas in your life without turning off the faucet?

If you or someone you know is struggling with pornography, I suggest conta

GOD...from page 5

between "religion" and "religious activity." These terms may sound similar, but in fact they are very different. Religious activities may include many actions that would not themselves constitute religion. For example, prayer and Bible reading might be characterized as religious activities, but they do not constitute religion, and they are not limited to any specific sect or even to religious people. One may read the New Testament to gain wisdom, and school students may pray before a big exam. Neither activity was intended to be, is, or should be, proscribed by the First Amendment, even if practiced in public.

No student should ever be forced by law to participate in prayer or in other religious activity. But to outlaw the public acknowledgment of God simply because another student might have to witness it is as illogical as abandoning a school mascot or motto because it might not be every student's favorite or because some might not believe in "school spirit."

Disastrous Consequences

October 1997-Pearl, Mississippi; December 1997-Paducah, Kentucky; March 1998-Jonesboro, Arkansas; April 1998 - Edinborough, Pennsylvania; May 1998-Fayetteville, Tennessee; April 1999—Littleton, Colorado. These dates and places – these outbreaks of mass violence and needless loss of young lives – serve as a cruel reminder of something gone wrong, desperately wrong, in a nation founded upon faith in God and a respect for His eternal commandments.

Liberal commentators in the media, academe, and the justice system deride the notion that restoring prayer and posting the Ten Commandments can help stem the tide of violence and bloodshed. They prefer secular solutions, especially ones that involve more federal spending and regulation. In effect, they favor more concertina wire, metal detectors, and armed security guards instead of the simple and effective teaching of moral absolutes.

Yes, teaching moral absolutes is out of the question. "We don't want to trample on the civil rights of students or we don't want to teach that one creed or one code of conduct or one lifestyle is better than another."

When will they understand that se



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American
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TO SERVE... from page 19

successfully discouraged any SOB from locating there.

Local press coverage almost always refers to CUAFA's work with respect because Dr. Smith has become a major player on the local political scene. Smith is convinced that it's because of the positive things AFA is doing in the community that he has the ear of city fathers. "People listen to us," he says humbly. "I think we've earned a lot of respect."

Christian radio for area

In 1995, CUAFA introduced another positive influence into the area when the affiliate sponsored American Family Radio in McComb. At first a satellator station only, it was upgraded to a full power station, WAQL 90.5 FM, in October, 1998.

One popular feature of WAQL is **Healing Power Live**, a locally produced 30-minute show each Thursday morning at 11:30. The program explores medical problems and health care from a Biblical perspective.

Who hosts the program? Dr. David Smith, of course. His co-host is Dr. Jerry Smith (no relation, they both insist). The latter Dr. Smith is a Ph.D. and pastor of First Baptist Church in Summit, another Pike County town a few miles down the road. His profession and theological training compliment David's background in medicine.

The Drs. Smith sometimes have guests to address specific health problems, treatments and more. And they're not afraid to tackle the tough questions that arise in the mix of medicine, faith and ethics. David Smith sees Biblical truth as the unifying factor that makes one's life complete – with a healthy body and a pure heart.

In May, Dr. Smith moved into his new facility half-way between his home and McComb. Like Smith's home, his new Pinnacle Medical Clinic sits in a serene country setting. In addition to his private practice, the Joseph Smith Memorial Clinic, WAQL radio and CUAFA offices will locate under the same roof. It will be a place of ministry, a place where David Smith takes his stand

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Yesterday, today and tomor-

BY TIM WILDMON • *American Family Association Vice President*

I didn't know why dad was picking me up so early in the morning. I had spent the night with my best friend Rusty Wilkinson and we always played the next day until at least the middle of the afternoon. But on this particular morning Rusty's mom woke me and told me Dad was there to get me. So we drove the three minutes from Rusty's house to ours. I don't remember any conversation in the car. I was 10 at the time. When we entered the house Dad ushered me and my two younger sisters – Angela, 9, and Donna, 7 – into the bedroom. My younger brother Mark was still asleep. This was odd, I thought. Where is Momma? Dad had a troubled look on his face. He then began to speak and his voice began to crack. Dad then told us there had been a tragic automobile accident during the middle of the night and that Momma's brother, our Uncle Hassel, had been killed. He was 21 years old. We cried.

That was 1973 and the first time in my young life that I remember feeling the impact of death. It was a horrible feeling. When you are a child, you think there is nothing grown ups can't fix. But when death comes, you learn differently.

Since that hot August afternoon nearly 27 years ago I've been to many more funerals. Young people – like my brother-in-law Russ at age 25 – and older people – like my Paw Paw Wildmon at age 91. People I barely knew and people I knew well. A lady named Joy from Florida called a few weeks after she and her husband Don had gone with me to the Holy Land in March. She called to say that Don has passed away of a heart attack at age 65.

Indeed, death comes to us all, sooner or later.

During warm weather, after the kids have all gone to bed, I like to go on my back patio which looks out over an open field. No houses, no roads. Just the blackness of night.

I go to sit, think and reflect. It helps to clear my head. As my thoughts wander here and there, invariably I have thoughts about the future. Wonder what I will be doing next year at this time. Will I have this house paid off by the time I'm 50? Got to get those letters out tomorrow at work. Wonder how long I'll live. I'm already half way to 74. Can't believe the God that made all those stars cares about me. Big dipper is out again. Sure are a lot of people getting


cancer. How long until we go back to Hilton Head so I can fish off the beach? Cardinals need another starting pitcher. Wonder if I'm doing this dad thing right. Got to get back to daily devotionals. Why can't I fix the lawn mower? Why can't I fix anything – other guys can. Maybe I need to write another book. You don't have time to write right now. Yeah, I guess you're right. What if I save all this 401k money and then die when I'm 60, what good is that? Why do all these crickets chirp like there's no tomorrow? Got to meet with the staff Wednesday. Who created algebra? Where did that question come from? Wonder what it would be like to have no responsibilities, no deadlines, nobody depending on me. Is

that selfish? Why do I sin? I want to obey God, but why don't I? The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Excuse maker. Maybe Cardinals can make a trade and get Randy Johnson from Arizona and win the World Series. Can't wait for the next college football season. Hope the kids have healthy and happy lives. Still going to die one day. Would you quit thinking about dying so much and enjoy the fresh air? Anyway, Jesus will take care of me. Wonder what heaven is like. Wonder what you do with all that time. Don't worry, be happy. Better go inside, it's getting late. Just five more minutes. Five more minutes. Thank you, God, for today. Thank you, God, for Alison. If not for Alison, our family would fall apart. Thank you, God, for Wriley, Wesley and Walker. Thank you, God,

for life. Life is good, Lord. Good night, Tim. Oh yeah, still need to finish that little bit of ironing before bed.

Jesus said if we put our trust in him we don't have to worry about our future. Why? Because we will not really die. We will just go on to a better place, a place called heaven and we will live forever.

I guess it's only natural to think about what God has in store for us. And it seems only natural that we think about death from time to time since we'll all end up there.

Jesus spoke these words to us 2,000 years ago to ease our minds and soothe our souls: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." 



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