

AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION 
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"It's Not Gay" – Former homosexuals, including Michael Johnston (above), as well as health care professionals and others testify in AFA's new video about the tragic consequences of homosexuality.

New AFA video targets schools with truth about homosexual-

■ "It's Not Gay" tells a story few have heard

A new video produced by AFA promises to provide an uncompromising yet compassionate look at the tragic consequences of the homosexual lifestyle.

In the video *It's Not Gay*, former "gays" and lesbians share their experiences in the homosexual lifestyle – experiences that produced emotional pain, brokenness and physical consequences including AIDS.

In addition, the video contains interviews with mental health and medical professionals who challenge the basic tenets of the homosexual movement. (See related story on page 4.)

In a few states like Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and California, homosexual activists have been making tremendous strides within the public school system. AFA President Donald E.

Wildmon said the time has come to stand up and tell the truth in an effort to halt that progress.

"Our public schools have already been stripped of the Ten Commandments and the freedom to pray, yet flooded with the teachings of evolution and explicit sex-education curricula, which include the free distribution of condoms," said Wildmon.

"Now homosexual activists are pounding at the doors of our schools and demanding to be allowed in with their own ungodly message. The time has come to tell the unvarnished, tragic truth about the homosexual lifestyle," he said. "And *It's Not Gay* does exactly that."

Wildmon said his goal is to encourage AFA supporters to watch the video and pass it along to local school decision-makers.

It's Not Gay

Watch this video yourself, then give it away to education policy-makers in your area.

Suggested donation: 1 for \$20; 2 for \$35; 3 for \$40; 4 for \$45; 5+ for \$10 each.

Check or money order to: "It's Not Gay" P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803
 Phone orders: 1-662-844-5036

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AMERICAN FAMILY RADIO NETWORK – With 140 applications pending for new radio stations, AFA Founder Don Wildmon said the ministry’s lawsuit against the Federal Communications Commission is a last resort effort to keep AFA’s radio network growing.

AFA files lawsuit against

■ *Government guidelines would smother AFR expansion*

New Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations regarding the approval of radio station applications threaten to end the expansion of American Family Radio (AFR), leading the organization to file a lawsuit against the federal government.

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon said it wasn’t the first time that opponents of AFA have tried to suppress the work of the ministry. “There have been efforts by the major TV networks and pornographers to intimidate or even halt us,” he said. “This time the power trying to silence our voice is our own U.S. government.”

The FCC ruling would essentially give priority to government-funded public radio over AFA whenever more than one application is filed for the same frequency in the same location.

In 1987, Wildmon began to envision a national network of Christian radio stations which would fill the airwaves with Christian music, teaching, and news from a Christian perspective. AFA’s initial FCC application, however, remained in regulatory limbo for four years.

“There was no legal problem with our application. The only reason for the delay was the public broadcasting people in Mississippi had written to the FCC saying they didn’t want AFA on the air. Because of that letter our application was held up for four years. We had to ask our U.S. senator to intervene to get our application approved,” Wildmon said.

In 1991, WAFR became the ministry’s first radio station, followed by 99 more over the next four years. Today, Wildmon said, AFR consists of 175 full-power and translator stations.

FCC kills years of hard work

It hasn’t been easy, Wildmon said. AFA engineers do the tedious and technical job of searching for locations to build more radio stations. Once that is done, other AFA representatives perform the long and expensive process of filing with the FCC for permission to build a radio station.

AFA’s success did not go unnoticed. Individuals around the country began to monitor the FCC information sheets to see where AFA had filed. Then, without doing

any of the work, these individuals filed their own application for the same frequency.

These multiple applications for the same frequency produced a “conflict” at the FCC, which had to decide which applicant deserved a particular frequency in a local community. Rather than make a decision, the FCC often did nothing.

“Once again our applications just sat there – some are now seven years old!” Wildmon said. “Since the number of stations AFA was building caught the eye of the FCC, officials there were in no hurry to resolve the conflicting applications and award us more stations. Consequently, construction of AFR stations slowed to only a handful a year.”

Eventually the FCC asked for public input on how to resolve the conflicts, and AFA responded with a paper suggesting that the only fair and just solution was to grant stations on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ignoring AFA’s suggestion, the FCC announced in April that it would resolve conflicts over applications through a point system, which would put AFA at a disadvantage relative to public radio.

“With one decision, the FCC has abruptly halted AFR’s phenomenal growth. This so-called ‘solution’ will result in AFR losing every single application we have pending with the FCC,” Wildmon said. “We have 140 applications pending with the FCC, and we would lose every single one.”

Wildmon said the new FCC ruling was nothing short of retaliation in response to an AFA campaign early this year. Following an FCC attempt to regulate the content of Christian nonprofit television stations, (*AFA Journal*, 3/00), thousands of people heeded AFA’s requests to contact their congressmen and complain. Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-LA) even chaired hearings on the FCC’s actions, at which Wildmon testified.

As AFA worked with other Christian groups, the pressure on the FCC increased. Then, in an unprecedented move, the FCC reversed itself and dropped its short-lived attempt at regulation.

“In taking these actions, I knew I was running a risk,” Wildmon said. “I knew the FCC might retaliate against AFA. But I had to take a stand. The future of American Family Radio is at stake.”

Wildmon said the AFA Center for Law & Policy filed suit against the FCC in July in an attempt to reverse the new ruling. 🐟

Tracking our own footprints

BY GLEN FRADENBURG
AFA Foundation Director



Everyone leaves footprints on the sands of time. The marks of our lives on others make our prints. How we live and die shows the people in our life what was most important to us. We are remembered not only for our character and accomplishments, but also for the way we express compassion and generosity every day.

When we leave godly impressions behind, we enhance the lives of our family and friends. We give them footprints to follow.

Thoughtful estate planning is one way we have to make a print in the sand, to help others recall our priorities. For a Christian, estate planning is more than saving taxes or avoiding probate. It is about recognizing God as the owner of all and seeking to honor and glorify Him as we strive to be good stewards. As 1 Corinthians 10:26 states, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

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When you include AFA in the final disposition of your estate, you declare to your family and friends that you believe in and care about our mission. Your generosity is a clear declaration of your values.

Estate gifts can be designated for a specific purpose or they can be unrestricted for use where most needed. You can fund endowments that provide an ongoing witness to your family and friends that you believe in the work the Lord is doing

See **FOOTPRINTS** on page 22



Church trouble-makers... Who needs

BY DONALD E. WILDMON • AFA President

He would not be welcomed in the majority of our churches today. In fact, he would be explicitly told he would have to leave.

He would be welcomed even less in society. The media would have a field day with him. They would rip him to shreds.

You see, he brought trouble wherever he went. From time to time he was welcomed, but once the authorities learned who he was, efforts began to either take his life or run him out of town.

He was educated in the best schools of his day. He learned the law well.

He certainly had some negative comments about homosexuality and those who practiced it. And he presented his message in a manner considered most unacceptable by the religious leaders.

Much of what he said would today be classified as "hate speech."

He was very narrow-minded and exclusive. He gave his teaching on what was and was not acceptable in matters of theology, and those who disagreed were told they were wrong. He was very uncompromising.

He changed from being a fiery liberal to being what many today would call a right-wing fundamentalist. He was a preacher, and his preaching usually ended in a riot or a revival. As long as he embraced the liberal perspective, he was a leader in the liberal ranks. But once he "saw the light," he was treated as a traitor by the liberals.

He wasn't much on diversity, but he did try to adjust to different special interest groups in order to win them to his way.

He even mixed religion and politics. When the religious leaders attempted to convict him on some theological points, he appealed to the secular courts.

He let his religious convictions determine everything about his life – what he ate, what he wore, with whom he associated, where he traveled.

Many of the liberal elite considered him a fanatic and thought the world would be better off without him. Some of them even went so far as to attempt to take his life. A few times they were almost successful.

No doubt about it. We wouldn't want him in our church. He would cause too much trouble.

His name was Saul. But his faith meant so much to him that he changed it to Paul.

He was an apostle.

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The making of “It’s Not Gay”

BY PAT CENTNER

Karen Battles, Rusty Benson, Brad Bullock and Ed Vitagliano. Four AFA staff members assigned the task of producing a video documentary exposing the downside of the homosexual lifestyle. **It’s Not Gay** is its title. It is scheduled for release in September of this year.

Producing a short documentary on such a broad topic was a tall order, one which the team approached with mixed emotions. Nevertheless, they gathered their equipment and notepads and hit the road.

After countless hours of interviewing and videotaping dozens of people, the four were interviewed by the *Journal* to discuss the filming and see if, and how, their own perceptions had been affected by their experience. Following are some of their comments.

Q: Why did AFA produce this video?

A: Several important factors were mentioned, but all four agreed with Karen’s desire “to counter the overt pro-homosexual agenda moving into our public schools.”

Rusty said, “Homosexual activists are pushing harder than ever to get our society to view their behavior as normal. Our schools are a particular target of that initiative. And with a couple of influential pro-homosexual videos already produced for both school administrators and chil-

dren (**It’s Elementary** and **That’s a Family**), AFA felt a deep responsibility to produce a video that highlights the profoundly negative aspects of homosexuality. We hope **It’s Not Gay** will help school policy decision-makers realize that any decision to affirm homosexuality as normal or natural can have devastating effects on the lives of students who enter that lifestyle.”

Q: Who is the target audience for AFA’s

new video?

A: School administrators, teachers and school board members were named by all four. Ed pointed out that **It’s Elementary**, a pro-homosexual video released in 1996 and aired nationwide last summer on PBS, was initially targeted for educators, apparently to help them feel validated in allowing children to discuss homosexuality in the classroom and to promote it as a normal lifestyle. “And now, **That’s a Family** (first in a three-part series) is intended for viewing by the children themselves,” explained Ed.

“Obviously, we are opposed to this. **It’s Not Gay** is intended to make school curriculum decision-makers think twice before allowing these videos to be shown in their schools,” he said.

“There is also a second audience,” Ed continued. “And that’s our AFA supporters. We’re hoping they’ll get a copy of the video and show it to their friends. Then we hope they’ll take it to someone they know within their school system, maybe a teacher or school principal, and let him or her see it in hopes of enlisting sympathetic members of the education establishment to help us.”

Q: What is the main message AFA wants the video to convey?

New AFA video tells s

Those interviewed for “It’s Not Gay” include (l to r) – Michael Johnston and Bruce McCutcheon, former homosexuals; John and Suzanne Villaggio whose son is in the homosexual lifestyle; and Dr. Matthew E. Stone, a family practice physician.



A: “We want teachers and leaders in the schools to think about what they may be doing to our youth,” Brad responded. “We want them to understand the huge physical and emotional downsides to the ‘gay’ lifestyle, and the need for them to consider that before they present it to their students as something positive.”

The rest of the team agreed, citing the numerous negative physical consequences, in addition to AIDS, that often accompany the lifestyle.

Ed concurred, “When educators get a clear view of this, we hope they will say, ‘You know what? I do not want little fifth-grade Johnny winding up like the people in that video, and I will not tell him he may be homosexual just because he feels different from other kids.’”

Q: As you think about the people you met and the life stories you heard, which story was most meaningful to you?

A: “For me, that’s pretty easy,” replied Rusty. “The one that just brought tears to my eyes because I could so easily relate to it, was the interview with John and Suzanne Villaggio, whose 28-year-old son was still in the life-style. While her son was attending college, the mom had discovered her son was gay.

She found homosexual pornography in his closet and confronted him. “You could still see the devastation in both the mom’s and dad’s faces when they talked about it – even after six years.” The dad, especially, seemed to feel at fault, and said he “hadn’t been there” for his son the way he should have.

“I just thought about my own sons, both in college, and how I would feel if I were ever confronted with a situation like that,” he concluded.

Brad was most touched by “the lesbian we talked to outside the bar. She said she had gone to several churches and had been shunned there – that one church member bluntly told her she’s going to hell because she’s homosexual. That really hit me, because I don’t think our churches are doing a good job of dealing with this issue at all. We need to be more loving and understanding, without compromising God’s call to holy living.”

Q: What impact, if any, did producing this video have on your own views about the validity of children discussing homosexuality in schools?

A: Rusty answered by saying, “It didn’t change my opinion on whether that subject should be discussed in schools. I don’t think

it should, especially from the standpoint of a teacher or school principal telling a child he might be homosexual because he feels ‘different.’

“But for me, and for all of us, I think, producing this video and being involved in the interviews put a human face on the whole issue. Because on one level, this is a cultural, even political, issue as homosexual activists try to promote their agenda and find public affirmation for their behavior; while on another level, it is all about human lives – many of which are being ruined – and that is so sad and tragic.”

Ed said the impact on him was a deepened concern and solidified disapproval. “It deepened my concern because it became a more personal issue for me, hearing people discuss the tragedy of their lives. And it solidified my disapproval because every person we interviewed said that teachers and educators have such an impact on children’s lives. Children believe in them and listen to what they say. Because of this, I don’t believe they should be telling kids they might be homosexual or that they should reject what their parents have told them about homosexuality.”

Q: What do you feel is the most important

story few have heard



lesson you learned from your work on the video?

A: “Most Christians don’t have a clue how to really minister or build relationships with people who are living very different lives from ours,” was Karen’s reply. “We can’t say, ‘You’re living in sin, and you need to change,’ because right there, we’ve created a barrier. Instead, we need to say (and mean), ‘I may disagree with your choices and how you live out your sexuality, but I care for you and want to build a relationship with you.’ And only by genuinely caring and building relationships can we open the door to sharing Christ and the hope He can give to people who may wish they could change but have no hope that it’s possible.”

Q: What advice would you give Christian parents of elementary school children as a result of having worked on the video?

A: Brad’s response: “Communicate with your kids. Teach them your values, instead of relying on the schools to tell them what’s acceptable and what they should believe.

“And affirm them for who they are instead of who you’d like them to be. Just because your son doesn’t like sports, or your daughter is a tomboy, doesn’t mean he or she is abnormal. It just means they like different things.”

Karen said, “My biggest advice to all parents would be: love your kids. Help them develop their self-esteem by instilling in them their value as a person. Help them learn how to protect their bodies and their minds and their hearts, because while we are forgiven for our sins, we still have to live with the consequences of our sin, and those are weighty.

“I’d like to add that in doing this video, I met a lot of wonderful people, some still in the homosexual community and some who have left.

“It’s unfortunate that so often our opinions of people are based on what they do, rather than who they are. We have a strong tendency to label people. I think we need to stop seeing labels and instead see hearts and souls.”



Tragedy behind the rhetoric

BY KAREN BATTLES

I thought I had no naivete left. After all, working at AFA for almost five years I have been exposed to the extreme fraying of our society’s moral fiber – including some poor choices I had made in the past. So I really didn’t think much could surprise me anymore, but one thing did.

On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., while working on a new video for AFA, I made a visit to Dupont Circle, the high profile, glitzy center of the homosexual community in our nation’s capital. Along with my guide, himself a former homosexual, we watched as countless scenes unfolded, actual life stories being played out.

Then we left Dupont Circle for the far less attractive side of homosexual nightlife, an area with a strip club (yes, they have those also), a bath house and other “attractions.” I did not go into any of these clubs, but saw enough. One club had two sections. At one end was a bar where drag queens, many decked out in full and not-so-full attire performed their routines to popular songs. The other end had male dancers for their male audience.

A bath house was also in this string of buildings. The entrance alone let you know this business was different. There were no welcoming faces, no inviting music, no pretenses of normalcy, just three flights of stairs leading to another floor with stark gray walls. Men waited at the door for admission into what was described to me as “a dark abyss from which few escape.”

Next to the bath house was a club that youth are known to frequent. My guide pointed out a young man (we’ll call him Timmy) sitting on a wall in front of one club. He was the wholesome-looking boy-next-door type. Timmy, who looked to be about 16, was talking to two men who appeared to be in their fifties. Soon Timmy was walking away with the two men. Then they all got into a car.

It didn’t seem like anything remarkable until my guide informed me that young Timmy had just sold himself to these two men for the night. This was my rude awakening.

I am not naive. I have seen a child die a painful death. I have seen dehumanizing pornography. I have seen the results of alcohol and drug abuse. But I had never seen a child prostitute.

I cannot get Timmy out of my mind and I hope I never do. The reality of his life is forcing me out of my complacency. More than ever, I want to use my work at AFA not just to counter the homosexual political agenda, but to expose the personal tragedy behind stories like Timmy’s.



Maybe if we do that, our culture will wake up to the fact that when we affirm homosexuality we are sending our own children into the “dark abyss from which few escape.”

In addition to her regular duties at American Family Radio, **Karen Battles** is producer of *It’s Not Gay*.



Columnist goes from token conservative to token sacri-

BY RANDALL MURPHREE, *AFA Journal Editor*

The July suspension of Jeff Jacoby, the Boston Globe's lone conservative columnist, has created no minor firestorm in the media. The move, in effect, banishes any semblance of journalistic and ideological balance from the Globe. Jacoby the token conservative, has now become Jacoby the token sacrifice.

Jacoby's problem is that he's too PC (Patriotic/Conservative). He doesn't care much for the National Endowment for the Arts. He was not offended when Southern Baptists announced they would be praying for him and other Jews. He's pro-life and anti-ACLU. He writes with passion about the freedom he enjoys in his father's adopted homeland, the good ol' U.S.A.

Jacoby has great reason to appreciate America. His father survived Nazi death camps and his mother grew up in a Cleveland, Ohio, orphanage. They met and married in Cleveland, and Jeff was born there.

Jacoby was suspended for four months without pay after his July 3 column extolled the virtues of sacrifice and patriotism as illustrated in the lives of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence. An editor's note in the July 6 Globe said, "Jacoby should have alerted readers that the concept and structure for his column were not entirely original." He was charged with "serious journalistic misconduct" and not allowed to explain, clarify or apologize in a follow-up column. On July 7, he was abruptly suspended and invited to resign.

The other PC crowd (yes, the Politically Correct) among Jacoby's peers at the Globe decided in their PC wisdom that his column should have warned readers that others have written about these same men and these same facts. Because other writers (for more than 200 years) have written on the same subject, Jacoby now finds himself without a paycheck.

Jacoby says Globe editorial director Renee Loth, who said the final call for suspension was hers, told him if he returns



after his suspension, there will have to be a "serious rethink" about the direction of his columns.

The Globe is probably still reeling from the controversy their act created. The question that won't go away is, why so severely punish a writer who has distinguished himself for ethical standards? His "offense" is called by other journalists at best "no offense" and at worst a minor incident or oversight. Liberal and conservative journalists alike have expressed dismay and shock at the paper's treatment of Jacoby.

"...Jacoby is being punished out of all proportion to his offense," wrote Dan Kennedy of the liberal Boston Phoenix. He characterized the suspension as a clear attempt to ruin Jacoby.

"The Globe is still in shock over the loss in 1998 of two high-profile columnists after allegations of sustained prevarication in print," wrote John Leo in his July 17 *U.S. News & World Report* column. Leo says, "[Loth] told me that the issue in Jacoby's suspension was 'sloppiness,' not ideology." But he goes on to say her plan to "rethink" Jacoby's column sounds more like ideology.

Joe Farah of Western Journalism Cen-

ter and Brent Bozell of Media Research Center both see the Boston Globe action as a purge. "Such outrageous behavior can only be the result of some internal political purge," wrote Farah. "I believe the Globe intentionally and with malice defamed Jacoby..."

Bozell questioned whether or not Jacoby would be replaced temporarily during these months leading up to the fall presidential election. Loth has said that Jacoby will, indeed, be replaced during his absence. If he is not, the conservative viewpoint is effectively removed from the Boston Globe during the months of campaign coverage.

Evangelical Christians can do our nation a favor by voicing their opinions regarding this travesty. Jacoby wrote to American Family Association on July 20, "There has been relatively little heard from the evangelical world, and it

would be wonderful if they would add their voices to the chorus. For years I have gotten nice letters and e-mails from Christians everywhere. I've gone on Christian radio talk shows and been quoted in sermons, etc. But I have never been a good networker, and don't really know whom to turn to now that I actually need some help.

"What is needed is for some of the Christian leaders to encourage their followers to express dismay to the Globe over my suspension. I am the only columnist at the Boston Globe, as you well know, who has made clear his friendship for Christian evangelicals, written about the plight of persecuted Christians around the world—even come to the defense of the Baptists when they were praying for the conversion of the Jews! If the Globe were to hear, loudly and clearly, that many American Christians are shocked by what has been done to me and are urging it not to let my voice disappear from the op-ed roster, perhaps it would help."

Readers may make their opinions known to the Boston Globe. Telephone 617-929-2000; Fax 617-929-2098; E-mail

Massachusetts school rekindles homosexual controversy

The education system in Massachusetts has once again become ground zero in the ongoing battle between traditionalists and the increasingly brazen vanguard of the homosexual movement.

Teachers on the faculty of Springfield High School of Science and Technology in Springfield, Massachusetts, have regularly received instruction on how to normalize homosexuality in their classes. Rather than doing so as an option, however, a number of teachers apparently feel pressured to do so – or else.

In an interview with *AFA Journal*, one teacher said, “I don’t think a fraction of [what is going on at the school] is known by parents in Springfield.”

The teacher said there was only one accepted view on homosexuality – that advanced by activists. And because there are faculty members who are very sympathetic to homosexual rights, “even our personal beliefs have to be tamed, otherwise it’s reported, like a secret police.”

I don’t think a fraction of [what is going on at the school] is known by parents in Springfield.

with limiting harassment of “gay” and lesbian students, the rest represented an obvious attempt to normalize homosexuality.

One of the directives said: “Normalize and validate students’ feelings about their sexuality. Let them know that you support and believe them. If you cannot be supportive, please refer to someone who can be. Then work on your own biases by reading, learning and talking to people comfortable with this issue.”

How would parents feel if they knew teachers had been told to “normalize and validate” what might amount to a temporary stage of sexual confusion? The parents would probably never know, the teacher said.

“We are being told, ‘Do not encourage students to go talk to their parents or anyone else [about their homosexual feelings],’” he said. Instead, the handout encourages teachers to be the students’ “safe person.”

Vermont “civil unions” bring out-of-staters

Ever since homosexual activists attempted to legalize same-sex marriage in Hawaii, pro-family groups have been warning of the domino effect of such single-state actions. Now, after a Vermont law took effect legalizing same-sex civil unions, trouble may be brewing for the other 49 states.

Taking effect July 1, the first-in-the-nation Vermont statute does not legalize homosexual marriage, but grants almost all of the same legal benefits, rights, and responsibilities to same-sex couples as those reserved for married couples. Homosexuals simply apply for a civil union license and have their relationship certified before a justice of the peace.

In fact, in a guide published by the Vermont Secretary of State, suggested language for the ceremony sounds like a wedding ceremony: “I (name), take you (name), to be my spouse in our civil union, to have and to hold from this day on, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, to love and to cherish forever.”

Supporters of the Vermont law say the impact could be far-reaching. “When a couple enters a civil union, it is a binding legal commitment that confers upon their family a new legal status which is far more than symbolic,” said Mary Bonauto, an attorney with Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. “It’s not marriage, but it is a mirror-image of marriage which deserves legal respect by governments and private entities both in and out of Vermont.”

All along, some activists who hoped Vermont would pass such a law said they intended to get a civil



Boy Scouts remain under fire from activists

Fresh from one victory before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has remained under a constant barrage from homosexual activists that seek to marginalize the organization.

At issue in all the controversies is the BSA policy that bans “open and avowed homosexuals” from participating in the organization. The BSA successfully appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court a New Jersey Supreme Court ruling that said the organization had violated a state law forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation, when it refused to allow an openly homosexual man to remain as a troop leader.

Following the Supreme Court ruling, the United Way of Southeastern New England ruled that, unless the BSA changes its policy on “gays,” it may lose funding from the charitable organization. According to MSNBC, the BSA’s regional council receives \$200,000 a year from the United Way for programs targeting poor and disadvantaged kids.

The BSA temporarily won another skirmish in Connecticut, as several pro-homosexual organizations challenged the Scouts’ eligibility for state-directed charitable giving. State employees had been allowed to select the Boy Scouts as a charitable

organization and have payroll deductions funneled to the organization.

In May the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) ruled unanimously that the Scout policy on homosexuality violated the state’s anti-discrimination law, making the organization ineligible for funding and for the use of any state facilities for fundraising.

Once again, the BSA was forced to court, filing a federal lawsuit over the CHRO decision. In July U.S. District Judge Warren Eginton ruled that, while the lawsuit progresses, the state must allow the BSA to receive payroll deductions as before.

In New York City, homosexual activists in Queens are demanding that the Boy Scouts not be allowed to hold meetings at public schools. A representative of the Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee demanded that the school board “end its association with an avowedly anti-gay organization.”

Even in Congress, legislators sympathetic to the homosexual movement are pushing to have the Boy Scouts’ honorary charter – which has been in existence for 84 years – repealed. A congressional charter is granted in recognition of outstanding patriotic, educational and charitable organizations. According to AP, about 90 groups have been honored by Congress in this manner.

Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), one of the driving forces behind the repeal effort, said, “We’re not saying they’re [the BSA] bad. We’re saying intolerance is bad, and I don’t see any reason why the federal government should be supporting it.”

BSA spokesman Gregg Shields said, “We’re honored to have such a charter, but we also ask other Americans to recognize our rights to freedom of associations as described by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court.”

In a growing number of cities and states, that is becoming too much to ask.

MSNBC.com, 7/19/00;

Newsday, 7/20/00;

PlanetOut, 5/15/00, 7/17/00;

AP, 6/13/00, 7/18/00

Judge says city had ‘duty’ to condemn religious beliefs

In a stunning decision, a federal judge in Oakland, California, ruled in June that the city of San Francisco “merely exercised its duty as a public body” in addressing alleged concerns for public safety when it condemned as “hateful rhetoric” the religious beliefs of several prominent Christian organizations, including AFA.

The ruling came in a case in which AFA, Family Research Council, and Kerruso Ministries sued the city after the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed resolutions condemning the groups for their religious views about homosexuality. Subsequently, the board sent a letter to each ministry informing them of its action, in which the murder of Matthew Shepard was linked to the ministries’ message that homosexuality is a sin.

Brian Fahling, senior trial attorney for AFA’s Center for Law & Policy (CLP), which is representing the groups, described the ruling by U. S. District Court Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong as “an extremely dangerous precedent.” The CLP has appealed the court’s ruling.

Fahling said that “biblically based beliefs about sin, especially homosexuality, are now, according to the court, ‘public safety’ issues that governments have a ‘duty’ to condemn.”

CLP Chief Counsel Stephen M. Crampton agreed, saying, “The court’s ruling is completely at odds with the constitutional command that the government must not be hostile to religion, and that its attitude toward religion must be one of ‘wholesome neutrality.’”

Crampton pointed out that the religious beliefs condemned by the city were contained in an ad campaign sponsored by the groups, which declared that “former homosexuals can celebrate a new life because someone cared enough to share with them the truth of God’s healing love.... The truth we know is that God abhors any form of sexual sin.... We want to share the hope we have in Christ, for those who feel acceptance of homosexuality is their

union license in that state, then go to court in their own state to force similar concessions. The plan seems to be unfolding. In the first week after Vermont’s law took effect, as many as 132 couples had obtained civil union licenses – with 60% going to out-of-staters.

Some homosexual advocates are not waiting for the anticipated court battles to begin. In several states, legislators are taking advantage of Vermont’s pioneering effort to begin a similar push of their own. Activists are confident that similar measures are on the horizon in New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and California.

The Record (Hackensack, NJ),

7/25/00; USA Today, 6/28/00; Burlington

Free Press (VT), 7/8/00; aclu.org, 7/17/00

religion in america

Survey says women are key component in U.S. churches

A new survey demonstrates what pastors and priests of most American churches probably already know: women are the “backbone” of the majority of U.S. congregations.

Without women filing into the pews, Christian churches would lose 60% of their attendees, says the Barna Research Group, which conducted the survey. The Barna group is an independent marketing research company that studies cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors.

Not only do women provide the numbers, but the survey showed that the fairer sex also provided spiritual muscle. “One of the characteristics of women that emerges from the research is their high degree of spiritual depth,” said George Barna, the research group’s president. (See chart below.)

Unfortunately, the church is not the only place where women shoulder much of the burden. “Women, more often than not, take the lead role in the spiritual life of the family. Women typically emerge as the primary – or only – spiritual mentor and role model for family members,” Barna said. “And that puts a tremendous burden on wives and mothers.”

Barna said the survey results sent a clear message to Christian men. “If the Church is to stem the tide of biblical illiteracy and waning commitment to the Christian faith, men will have to reestablish themselves as partners and leaders of the spiritual functions of families...,” he said. “The apparent lack of spiritual leadership exhibited by millions of Christian men has significantly hampered the spiritual growth of tens of thousands of well-meaning

Federal court declines to hear school prayer lawsuit

■ *Principal censored student’s graduation prayer*

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals tossed out a case in July which focused on the authority of high school principals to restrict the religious content of a student’s graduation prayer.

Katherine Furley, a senior at Aledo High School (Aledo, Texas) in 1999, had been chosen by classmates to give the invocation at the school’s graduation. Principal Lynn McKinney told Furley she first had to submit her planned prayer in writing. McKinney explained that school district policy forbids student prayer unless it has been first reviewed and approved by school officials.

When McKinney returned the prayer with critical parts deleted, Furley replied that she could not, in good conscience, read the prayer in its new form. When the school threatened to remove her from the graduation program altogether, Furley filed a lawsuit.

In late May, a panel of judges for the appellate court dismissed the case without explanation, letting the school’s policy stand.

Kelly Shackelford, Chief Counsel for Liberty Legal Foundation, which represents Furley, said, “The government now has been told it has the right to review and edit the prayers of its citizens. That is frightening; and it is wrong.” He said the decision may be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The original text of the prayer is given below with the principal’s deletions in red.

Heavenly Father, (insert “God”)

We come before you today to thank you for bringing us to this great occasion. Thank you for leading, guiding and protecting each and every one of us. **Thank you for having a plan to prosper us and not to harm us.** Lord, as we open this ceremony we recognize before you our sin and ask you to forgive us. Our life now opens before us and we must now accept responsibility for our decision. **Help us to lean on you for direction and follow in your footsteps.** There is no good aside from you. Help the class of 1999 to move on into the world in strength and love for others. **Let us take on the likeness of you and set an example for the world to follow.** Thank you for your love and thank you for your guidance and protection at each and every moment. **We love you.**

In Jesus name,

Saintly Women...

Compared to men, women are more likely to be involved in the following:

- 57% more likely to participate in adult Sunday School
- 46% more likely to disciple others
- 39% more likely to have a devotional or quiet time
- 29% more likely to read the Bible
- 29% more likely to attend church
- 29% more likely to share their faith with others
- 23% more likely to donate to the church
- 16% more likely to pray

Barna Research Group, 3/6/00



Newspaper owner David Weyrich and his wife, Mary.

Newspaper group stands firm over pro-life, pro-family issues

Major newspapers regularly show their humanistic biases in their stories, and in their refusal to run ads from pro-family groups. What happens when a newspaper owned by Christians decides it will take the opposite viewpoint? A new chain of Southern California newspapers has found out the hard way that tolerance for different views suddenly evaporates when it takes a pro-life and pro-family stand on issues.

Last summer multimillionaire David Weyrich, a devout Catholic, started the five-city Gazette, a free newspaper. The policy of the Gazette was clear: it would not report the subjects of abortion or homosexuality in a positive light.

That policy surfaced – and created a major stir – when Weyrich told Gazette publisher Steve Martin to cease accepting a pro-homosexual advertisement for the San Luis Obispo, California, paper. According to Martin, he was told that “we

don’t carry advertising, articles or letters which advocate homosexuality or abortion. But we do carry materials that are against those things.”

Martin resigned in protest, and 11 others followed suit. The Gazette was immediately bombarded by criticism and retaliation – the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, for example, refused to advertise in the paper any longer.

The Gazette’s business has been unaffected, however. Todd Hansen, chief operating officer for the paper, said after the initial outcry, business accelerated and morale has improved. “We have a better staff.... Everybody who works for us has a clear understanding of our beliefs, and we feel we are by far a better paper.”

Weyrich said, “I probably get five phone calls a day from people saying, ‘I want to come work for you.’ I won’t run scared.”

Charisma News Service, 3/21/00

States revisit the posting of Ten Commandments in schools

As legislators come to grips with Columbine and other monstrous tragedies involving young people, at least 11 states have considered, or are considering, laws which would allow posting the Ten Commandments in public schools.

In South Dakota and Indiana, such laws were passed by legislators and signed by the governors. Other state legislatures grappling with the issue: Colorado; Florida; Georgia; Illinois; Iowa; Kentucky; Michigan; Mississippi; Missouri; and Oklahoma.

In Kentucky, where plans by the legislature to mandate the display of the Decalogue in schools have been set aside, about 86% of the public favors posting the document.

That didn’t matter to U.S. District Judge Jennifer Coffman, who in May ordered the Harlan County school system to take down the Ten Commandments and any other documents – including the Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence and even the preamble to Kentucky’s constitution – that referred to God or religion. For good measure, Coffman also told officials in two Kentucky counties to remove the Decalogue from its courthouses. The judge said such postings were unconstitutional.

Other observers, however, point to a growing sense of moral crisis in the nation that is causing Americans to reach for some bedrock truths. “What do we turn to when we’re trying to get back to our moral base?” asks political scientist Geoffrey Layman of Vanderbilt University. “In the U.S., we turn to our religion.”

For proponents of such laws, the Ten Commandments go beyond any unconstitutional promotion of a single religion. “We’re promoting the fact that there are important values we should hold to, values that cross religions,” said John Paulton of the South Dakota Family Policy Council. “It’s important that students understand, especially in light of Columbine, that there are absolute rights and wrongs.”

Most Americans appear to agree. A USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll last summer – with Columbine still fresh in people’s minds – showed 74% of respondents in support of posting the Ten Commandments in schools.

AP, 7/10/00; The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY), 5/18/00; WorldNetDaily, 5/17/00;

news of interest

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

CULTURE

Librarians learn to stock porn

The little old lady behind the library counter may know something you don't know – there's porn in those shelves, and the American Library Association (ALA) thinks that's just as it should be.

At the ALA's annual conference in Chicago in July, one of the sessions focused not on whether public libraries should stock pornography, but rather how to do it without controversy.

"So how does a library house erotica and make it available to patrons without causing a community uproar?" asked panelist Heather Holmes, during the workshop.

Another panelist, Chuck Munson, said it was "a shame that many of these fine periodicals do not grace the shelves of our periodical collections."

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon said, "The most influential library group in the U.S. thinks it's a 'shame' that *Hustler*, *Penthouse*, and homosexual pornography aren't available in our libraries? I guess shame isn't what it used to be."

Kathy Valenti, spokesperson for Citizens for Community Values, said taxpayers didn't need to be silent on this issue. "In essence, we are funding and paying for adult bookstores in our public libraries," she said.

Family News in Focus, 7/13/00

ENTERTAINMENT

Indianapolis restricts violent video games

While many inside and outside government have bemoaned the increasingly violent world of video games, Indianapolis may be the first in the nation to regulate kids' public use of such entertainment.

According to USA Today, the city's new measure, which takes effect September 1, restricts minors' access to coin-operated games in which people are "decapitated, dismembered, mutilated or maimed," unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Stores and arcades also must keep such games separated from less violent video

Doubleday publishes Christian novel

T. Davis Bunn's *The Great Divide* is a tale of international intrigue set, ironically, in a small North Carolina town. In a unique Christian-secular venture, the Christian legal thriller is co-published by Doubleday and Water Brook. Readers may know Bunn from his previous 26 titles including *The Quilt*, *The Gift*, *The Maestro* and *The Presence*.

The novelist has strong opinions about Christian fiction in today's culture. He told the *AFA Journal* he believes Christian novelists have the talent to bring Christian fiction into the mainstream. He says mainstream secular fiction has averaged a 5.9% decline in total sales each year since 1997. For the same period, Christian sales (fiction and nonfiction) have increased 11.3% per year.

In *The Great Divide*, the main player is a WASP lawyer struggling to recover from tragic personal loss and professional meltdown. Spiritual elements are subtly woven into characters' everyday lives – no in-your-face preachiness, just real people living a real faith.

Unfortunately, the secular media have all but ignored *The Great Divide*. Industry trade papers have given it very good reviews, but only two U.S. dailies have been willing to review the book. He believes that for a Doubleday title coming from any other worldview than Christianity, this would never be the case.

Bunn says that in today's novels (and movies), "you are able to lose yourself. You do have good quality out there, but when it's finished, when you set the book down or you walk away from the movie house, it's over. You're not enriched, you're not deepened, you're not challenged....we have lost the ability to give a message of absolutes. We need to be able to incorporate into strong character-driven, plot-driven fiction the complexities of living a Christian life in today's world."



games by a curtain or wall.

While Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson said the law was an effort to curb a growing "culture of violence," an attorney representing the video game industry said the law is unconstitutional and might necessitate a lawsuit.

USA Today, 7/18/00

Detroit stands firm against performer's explicit video

Just hours before his scheduled concert in July, police in Detroit told rapper Dr. Dre that a video which accompanied his performance, allegedly filled with nudity and graphic violence, could not be shown. That has resulted in a lawsuit against the city and an offer from the AFA Center for Law and Policy (CLP) to defend Detroit

over the incident.

Dr. Dre's concert, which also included rappers Eminem, Snoop Dog, and Ice Cube, went on as scheduled – minus the video – after a heated exchange between concert tour representatives and city officials. Police had threatened to arrest anyone responsible for playing the tape, and to immediately stop the concert.

A similar controversy over the video erupted in nearby Auburn Hills, but a federal judge ruled that city could not forbid its showing. Nevertheless, police ticketed Dr. Dre with a misdemeanor for promoting pornography.

AFA of Michigan president Gary Glenn applauded both Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and Auburn Hills Mayor Tom McMillin for their moral stand. He said they

took “a firm, principled stand for public decency and family values.”

Dr. Dre has initiated a \$25 million lawsuit against the city, claiming his First Amendment rights were violated. The CLP offered its legal assistance to the city of Auburn Hills as well, in case concert promoters also decide to target it.

McMillan said he would accept help from the CLP. “Our attorneys don’t address these issues as frequently as the AFA.”

The Detroit News, 7/15/00

FAMILY

Broken homes key factor in early teen sex

Fifteen-year-old Melissa thought it was OK if she and her boyfriend experimented with sex during the evenings while her mom was at work. She told herself “all my friends are doing it, and besides, we’ll be careful...”

Two months later, Melissa found herself pregnant and faced with decisions a 15-year-old should never have to make.

Unfortunately, Melissa perfectly fits the profile for early sexual experimentation. She comes from a single-parent home, has

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR PARENTS REGARDING TEEN ABSTINENCE

True Love Waits www.truelovewaits.com

The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding www.cpyu.org

Westside Pregnancy Resource Center www.w-cpc.org

Focus on the Family www.family.org

Presbyterians Pro-Life www.ppl.org

SHARE Program www.share-program.com

no attachments to a religious faith, lives in a large city, and has done poorly in school.

These were the findings of a team of pediatric researchers affiliated with the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota who collected data from 26,023 adolescents ages 13 to 18. They discovered certain “sociodemographic variables dominated as correlates” of sexual behavior, with the four most common being those present in Melissa’s situation.

The absence of Melissa’s father, forcing her mother to work, resulted in a lack of supervision – a key factor suggested by the study as the reason for early sexual activity among teens. Another associated finding is that girls raised without a father are more than twice as likely to become teen mothers as those who have a father at home.

A related poll conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy found that nearly two-thirds of American teenagers who have had sex would advise their peers who have not to wait.

An important finding of the study showed that 37% of those surveyed cited their parents as having the most influence on their decision.

“This poll is just the latest evidence that many teens are taking a more cautious attitude toward having sex,” said Sally Sachar, deputy director of the campaign. “It also makes clear that parents can, and must, play an active and continuing role in helping their children understand that sex can wait.”

The Family in America, New Research, 4/00, 6/00; Reuters, 7/5/00

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GM, Burger King, Tricon bring trashy TV sitcoms, dramas

■ **Ally McBeal AC P8 S TV14-SD**

Fox, 7/ 3 – Series star Ally smirks, “Nuns are not supposed to have sex except, you know, with other nuns.” She is referring to her client, a nun who broke her vow of chastity. The nun puts down the church by referring to priests who get away with having sex with young boys. A barrage of sex jokes fills the hour.

Advertiser: Burger King

■ **Big Brother P20 S TV14-L**

CBS, 7/11 – Another of the contrived-circumstance programs, this episode has highly offensive language. Ten adults were picked to live together, with the group voting periodically to boot one of the residents out of the house. In addition to the 20 profanities, there were many bleeped-out words.

Advertisers: Burger King, Tricon Global

■ **City of Angels H P5 S TV14-L**

CBS, 7/13 – Lillian, medical director of the hospital, is visited by her ex-husband. They enjoy a cordial dinner at which he announces that he is homosexual. Lillian is fine with that, and commends his courage in coming out, until he tells her he was active in the lifestyle while she was married to him. Her HIV test comes back negative.

Advertisers: Burger King, Tricon Global

■ **Family Guy AC P3 S SA TVPG-DL**

Fox, 7/4 – This episode is a blatant swipe at Christianity, Catholicism in particular, when Peter's grandfather Francis comes to visit. He is a self-righteous Catholic who takes joy in people going to hell. Jesus cheats at golf to win, and the pope is ridiculed throughout the episode. Francis's wife gambles and boozes it up in Las Vegas.

Advertisers: General Motors, Tricon Global

■ **Judging Amy H P16 S TVPG-DL**

CBS, 7/12 – Judge Amy Gray hears charges against Judge McNeil by a prostitute who says he demanded oral sex in exchange for dropping charges against her. Gray urges McNeil to use the fact that he's homosexual to rebut the hooker's charges.

Advertisers: Burger King, General Motors

■ **The Last Don P59 S V TV14-DLSV**

CBS, 7/16, 18, 19 – Any viewer who was unaware that the Mafia is made up of greedy, violent men would have gotten an education from this three-part miniseries. The violence was disturbing, with frequent and graphic images of bloody executions.

Overcome with grief, Rosemary slashes her wrists in a bloody scene, but lives through it. Dante is not only a hit man who thoroughly enjoys killing, but he is a misogynistic pervert who beats his sex partners.

Sex outside marriage is common in the movie, with numerous scenes of actual and implied intercourse. Perhaps more damaging, the head of the Clericuzio crime family is shown praying in a chapel, and as he narrates, asks, “Am I not a Christian?” It doesn't take a lot of discernment to know the answer.

Advertisers: General Motors, Tricon Global

■ **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit H P7 S V TV-14**

NBC, 6/30 – Andrew Harlan, a prominent NYC man, is found dead in a harness, the victim of a “sex game gone wrong.” Although he's married, he's bisexual and was sodomized with a banana. The show features his association with several Russian “whores,” and his sex life, in general, involves almost every kind of perverted sex imaginable.

Crude language abounds, with at least 13 vulgar expressions in addition to the seven profanities cited above.

Advertisers: Burger King, General Motors, Tricon Global

July 14 P12 S V TV14

The teaser shows the bloody body of Judge Warren Varella in a car, where he has been shot in the head and genitals. Varella had been trading paroles for sex with convicts' wives. Sex jokes are a mainstay of the dialogue.

Advertisers: Burger King, Tricon Global

■ **Love & Money P4 S SA TVPG-L**

CBS, 7/11 – Drug abuse is great fun for the adult son of series principals. His stupid, filthy-rich mother is oblivious to all the subtle refer-

ences to her son's addiction. Sex jokes and lots of porn movie jokes round out the dialogue.

Advertiser: Burger King

■ **NYPD Blue P13 S V TV-14**

ABC, 7/1 — The search for a dead cop's murderer results in Andy and Danny interviewing the cop's partner, a female. She becomes very defensive when Andy asks her about the possibility of an affair with her former partner. Turns out she was sleeping with him, even though he was married. The viewer is bombarded with foul language, which, in addition to the 13 profane utterances noted above, includes 17 obscene expressions, most related to male genitalia.

Advertiser: General Motors

■ **Opposite Sex P7 S TVPG-S**

Fox, 7/17 — The debut episode of this new series offers nothing new, focusing on the sexual obsessions of three boys lucky enough to be the first — and only — males admitted to an all girls academy. Kerry, who asks a girl he barely knows to have sex, is a pervert who admits he even thought continuously about sex when he was six years old. The viewer is treated to a scene where 10th grade girls are shown stripping down to their underclothing, and Jed catches his brother having a graphic sexual encounter with his girlfriend.

Advertisers: General Motors, Burger King

■ **Spin City H P2 S TVPG-DL**

ABC, 7/19 — Series star Mike is jealous that Caitlyn (his own love interest) is dating her ex-husband. Stuart, the series' promiscuous pervert poses as Carter's homosexual lover as they try to bust an apartment owner who they've heard won't rent to homosexuals. Almost all storylines in this series depend upon illicit sex as the mainstay.

Advertisers: Burger King, Tricon Global

■ **That '70s Show P8 S TV14-DL**

Fox, 7/10 — Series regular Jackie, about 15, thinks she's pregnant. Her main concern is that she'll be too fat to be a cheerleader. A friend gets her mother to order birth control pills for Donna in case she decides to have sex with Eric, the teenage series star.

Advertiser: General Motors, Tricon Global

July 18 P10 S SA TV14-DS

In the teaser, Eric and Donna are dressing after having had their first sex. Eric can't wait to brag to his friends and the whole episode focuses on discussions about Eric and Donna's first time.

Jokes about a drunken uncle assure the teens that alcohol abuse is funny. Donna and Eric admit sex wasn't great, but commit to practice until they're perfect.

Advertiser: Burger King

■ **The West Wing AC P9 PC SA TV14**

NBC, 7/5 — Everyone is anti-capital punishment (or at best ambivalent about it) except Charlie, the President's young aide whose father was murdered. Toby, a presidential staffer, consults his rabbi, and the President consults Father Cavanaugh who declares, "God is the only one who gets to kill people!" The father also tells a joke in which God Himself uses profanity.

Advertisers: General Motors, Tricon Global

■ **Will & Grace AC H P9 S TVPG**

NBC, 7/18 — The size of Grace's breasts is the main subject of humor in this episode. Jack, whose homosexual promiscuity is again highlighted, is angry with Will because he fooled around with Jack's ex-lover. Jack says Will broke commandment number one in the homosexual bible. "Thou shalt not covet my wife's..."

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.

POSITIVE REVIEWS

NBC news special tells depth of teen drinking problem in U.S.

■ **Touched by an Angel + TVG**

CBS, 7/9 — John is an 11-year-old who wants to divorce his parents (who are already divorced) because he is caught in the crossfire of their ugly squabbling in public places. Angel Tess is the judge who hears the case.

Advertiser: Wal-Mart

■ **Geraldo Rivera Reports**

NBC, 7/14 — **Geraldo Rivera Reports** revealed valuable statistics for parents and adults who deal with teens. The picture painted by Rivera is a gloomy one, and it should help serve as a wake-up call for our nation. Kids are drinking more, they are drinking at younger ages and they are drinking in dangerous binge patterns.

"Alcohol is as close to a G-rated drug as America has," said Rivera. "More than 10 million American kids between the ages of 12 and 20 are drinkers. More than three million high school kids are already in trouble. They're problem drinkers, more likely to drop out of school, more likely to use other drugs, more likely to die in an accident."

Rivera went on to describe — and illustrate — a scene on college campuses where out-of-control alcohol abuse fuels riots, leads to death and creates a frightening environment. NBC is to be commended for airing this revealing and sobering special.

NBC, Inc., Pres. Robert Wright, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, Phone 212-664-4444, Fax 212-765-7208.

Christians & Society TODAY

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

SEPTEMBER, 2000

Colorado urges schools to post 'In God We Trust'

In February AFA first began making available a poster declaring the national motto, "In God We Trust," hoping its profound sentiments would be an encouragement to the millions who feel like faith has been wrongly squeezed out of public life. However, the poster stirred the animosity of those who seem rabidly opposed to such sentiments.

Earlier this summer, Shawnee County, Kansas, Treasurer Rita Cline was threatened with a lawsuit by the the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) if she didn't remove her AFA poster from her government office. (See *AFA Journal*, 8/00.) She refused.

In Colorado, the Board of Education voted 5-1 to encourage – not require – the state's public schools to display the national motto. Board chairman Clair Orr said, "How long can we remain a free nation if our youth don't have civic virtue?"

The issue is still undecided in Portage, Michigan, however. The board of education there found itself in a vortex of controversy when it discussed a request from town resident Horace Francis to hang copies of the AFA poster around the school district. Officials have not yet made a decision.

Francis, a 19-year law enforcement reserve officer, told *AFA Journal* that he purchased the posters to give to schools

because "I get tired of picking up the newspaper and reading about Columbine" and other tragedies involving youth.

At least one non-scientific Internet poll, hosted by vote.com, found those favoring



the posting of "In God We Trust" in public schools running 9-1.

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon said he was not surprised, because most people probably could not comprehend the ACLU's objection to the idea. "Is the ACLU saying schools can't proclaim what the government of this country prints on its money?" he asked.

Francis said in the midst of the issue, the thing that has surprised him has been the silence of ministers. "I can't get them to stand up on this issue – not one that I know of showed up at the [school board] meeting," he said.

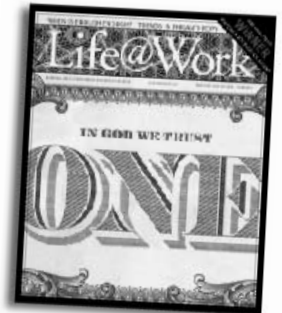
www.vote.com, 7/24/00; AP, 7/6/00; Kalamazoo Gazette (Michigan), 6/20/00

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Visit their web site at www.lifeatwork.com. To subscribe, at \$14.95 per year, telephone toll-free 1-877-543-9675.

Clean up grocery store checkouts

The often sex-saturated covers of magazines like *Cosmopolitan* and *Glamour* have drawn the attention of AFA and other pro-family groups. AFA Director of Special Projects Randy Sharp said, "Because magazine displays are controlled by local store managers, a handful of citizens can have a big impact." (See *petition next page*.)

For more suggestions, request the AFA publication *Glossy Garbage: What One Person Can Do About Offensive Grocery Store Magazine Covers*. Send a request with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: AFA, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803, or

Take the trash out!

PETITION

PETITION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make copies of this petition BEFORE you fill out the information.
2. Then, fill out SECTION A, identifying each supermarket/grocery store in your area on a separate petition.
3. Make several copies of each petition.
4. Distribute copies to friends, concerned citizens, church, civic groups, etc.
5. When SECTION B is complete with 11 signatures, mail the petition to the store owner/manager identified in SECTION A.

SECTION A

Manager

Supermarket/grocery store

Address

City/State/Zip

SECTION B

Dear supermarket/grocery store owner or manager,

We the undersigned ask that you place “blindlers” over the magazines at your checkout counter which contain offensive headlines. Chains like Kroger have begun this policy and we ask that your store do the same. The headlines in these publications are frequently highly offensive and we don’t want to be exposed to them. We will patronize those stores which honor our request and refuse to patronize those stores that do not care about our concerns or the welfare of our children.

NAME

CITY

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____



ONE NATION UNDER GOD – Bruce Barilla, advocate for America’s Christian Heritage Week, believes Christians should work to help establish Thanksgiving Week as a time to honor both God and country in states, cities and towns across the nation.

Promoter of Christian Heritage Week keeps Founders’ spirit

BY PAT CENTNER, AFA Journal Staff Writer

“And to the same Divine Author of every good and perfect gift we are indebted for all those privileges and advantages, religious as well as civil, which are so richly enjoyed in this favored land.”

JAMES MADISON, Presidential Proclamation, 1815

BRUCE BARILLA IS PROUD to be an American. He makes that very clear. And he’s proud, too, of his legacy as the citizen of a country founded by men devoutly committed to God – men who created a form of government undergirded by principles reflecting that very commitment.

His belief in this legacy is so strong that

he has created a ministry through which he works with people who share his zeal to get national, state and local governments to dedicate Thanksgiving Week as America’s Christian Heritage Week (ACHW) each year.

Barilla says he happened to see a state proclamation declaring a Christian Heri-

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tage Week in New Mexico for 1991. “I was intrigued by the idea of a state government acknowledging and thanking God for its blessings in a formalized way,” he said. “I immediately thought, wow! What a great idea! I’d love for my own state (West Virginia) to do this; and in 1992, with the help of State Senator Tony Whitlow, Governor Gaston Caperton proclaimed West Virginia’s first ACHW.”

Barilla then began sending copies of the West Virginia proclamation to Christian ministries throughout America. As a result, he was contacted by Rus Walton of the Plymouth Rock Foundation. Walton indicated that his organization and the Christian Heritage Center had been looking for someone to work with them in promoting an America’s Christian Heritage Week nationwide. Barilla agreed to work alongside them, and on August 11, 1992, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall of West Virginia introduced ACHW legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Thus was born Barilla’s own America’s Christian Heritage Week ministry.

Considering his is a “one-man ministry,” Barilla has been quite successful. Thirty-four states and four cities have observed an ACHW since 1992. “I use most of my tithe to fund the ministry; I wouldn’t be financially able to support this work without doing so.

“I really rely on Christian organizations like AFA to help me get the word out about ACHW. Most of my contacts have come from people who read about my work in various publications. I am grateful for the help.”

And it is amazing what one person can do, said Barilla. He has a long list of people

who, by using his promotion materials, have single-handedly been able to establish an ACHW for their own state. (See the side bar to learn how you can contact the President and your state and city/town government. Also visit the ACHW web site at www.achw.org.)

Barilla is an optimistic man. But when it comes to ACHW, he says there is a very disappointing downside. He feels our state and national leaders are bowing to the pressure of special interest groups who are attempting to diminish any acknowledgement of God in our schools, work places and even our halls of government.

One example he cites is a mailing he made this year to President Clinton, the 535 members of Congress, and the Bush and Gore Campaigns, in which he asked for support in establishing Thanksgiving Week as America's Christian Heritage Week. Sadly, he has received only three responses thus far (although two states, Illinois and West Virginia, are celebrating ACHW during Thanksgiving Week this year).

In 1997, 1998 and 1999, President Clinton politely declined Barilla's request to establish an ACHW for observance nationwide. But Clinton did proclaim the month of June, 2000, as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. He also declared a Jewish Heritage Week in 1995.

"America was founded as a Christian nation," said Barilla. "And when you carefully study the founding documents, you realize our Founding Fathers never intended for there to be a separation of church and state. You also realize they wanted to secure certain precious rights for our citizens, but today, rather than our government securing our rights, they are denying our rights in many ways. When you study our Christian heritage, you realize that we as Christians must live out our country's motto, 'In God we trust.'"

Barilla also believes it is imperative for Christians to run for office in this country. He says we must have Christians in government in order to keep America from losing the blessings of God. He believes in it so strongly, in fact, that he ran against incumbent Jay Rockefeller in West Virginia's 1996 congressional primary.

"Christians need to be salt and light in this world," he said, "whatever their station in life, whatever their occupation. I was a

janitor for 8-1/2 years at Concord College, but I ran against Rockefeller because he is pro-abortion. I figured I wouldn't win, but I wanted people to know my position as a Christian who is 100% pro-life. I'm back in Illinois now, but I would really like to return to West Virginia and run for the U.S. Senate again because Rockefeller supports partial-birth abortions, and someone needs to oppose that thinking."

Barilla, the soft-spoken grandson of Polish and Russian immigrants, was born

and raised in Chicago's "Back of the Yards" (stockyards) neighborhood. His father instilled in him a deep appreciation for this country and its heritage. As a boy, he remembers his father telling him the story of how his grandfather came to America and got a job shoveling coal for 39 cents a ton. Barilla says he asked, "Why would grandpa want to come here and do that?" His father replied that grandpa knew he would have a better life in America than he could ever hope for in Europe, because

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INTERNET BLOCK – AFO President Steve Ensley says his company’s filter blocks over two million offensive Internet sites before they get to users’ homes.

Low percentage of Christians using Internet filtering shows ignorance of the dangers

BY LORI ENSLEY

If your child asked you if he could play on a highway, would you let him? Probably not. You don’t have to experience the dangers of playing on a highway to be able to explain them to someone. It’s simple: if you stand in the highly dangerous path of fast-moving vehicles, you are going to get seriously hurt.

If this is such an obvious concept, why don’t Christians apply it when it comes to the Internet? Some Christians are toying with the danger that lies in the “information superhighway.” Ironically, many Christians are giving their kids free license to play in the information superhighway as much as they want.

Seven out of 10 Christians have Internet access – but only one out of 10 has filtered

Internet access. Does that statistic surprise you? Perhaps not. But what is surprising are the excuses Christians use for not having filtered Internet access.

Steve Ensley is the president of American Family Online, a filtered Internet service provider. He shared some of the excuses he has heard during his travels around the country telling people about American Family Online and the dangers of Internet pornography, hate sites, gambling sites, and violent game sites.

During the past two years of travel, Ensley has heard moms say, “My husband and children wouldn’t do that.” Dads have said, “My children wouldn’t look at that kind of stuff.” Even couples without children have claimed they don’t require

filtered Internet access because they don’t have any children.

Ensley’s response? “You don’t have to intentionally look for pornography and other harmful material on the Internet. You will eventually run into it, and that is why you need to protect your families. The porn industry is getting very good at tricking people.”

He says pornography site operators will constantly change their web addresses to look like something they are not. For example, a search using the words “solar panels” has brought up links to porn sites.

According to Ensley, another excuse that is common among Christians is: “The filters don’t work anyway. They either block too many good sites or not enough bad sites.” Ensley explains that no filter is perfect, but that the filters are made to sort information based on the actual web sites and not on specific words. Therefore, even if words have double meanings, you will still be able to get to the medical and research web sites.

What’s the danger?

The following statistics concerning the evils of the Internet are startling:

- Out of the 330 million websites in the world, “adult” sites outnumber ministry sites three to one.
- There are almost eight times as many game sites (involving violent or inappropriate material) as there are church sites.
- Vulgar shock-jock Howard Stern has four times the number of sites dedicated to him as you will find devoted to author and psychologist Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family.
- Mother Teresa, one of the most caring and selfless people that ever walked the earth, has 13,900 websites devoted to her. But secular singer/actress Madonna (*Material Girl*) has an incredible 71 times the number of websites devoted to her as to Mother Teresa.
- For every website promoting pro-family values, there are a startling 246 homosexual sites.

Since the overwhelming number of websites found on the Internet are negative, as opposed to good sites, the chances

are pretty good that you or your children are going to stumble upon them.

Only kids are at risk...right?

Ensley also makes the point that “at any age, people can be damaged” by the Internet. Children have stumbled upon websites that have resulted in great harm.

For example, the youth who was responsible for the school shooting in Paducah, Kentucky, a few years ago frequently visited Internet sites with pornography and violent games such as “Quake” and “Doom.” Those sites were said to have affected his actions the day he wreaked havoc on his school.

Children have entered into chat rooms where they think they are talking to another child who turns out to be a sexual predator to whom they gave too much private information.

Some believe the gambling industry targets teens on the Internet, and harmful sites on the Internet affect adults as well.

Adults can often fall into the trap of “emotional adultery and affairs” on the Internet. Numerous jobs and marriages have been lost due to the access to addictive pornographic sites.

But I already surf safely

Perhaps Christians don’t know or don’t want to know of the dangers of the Internet. Either way, they cannot continue to let the secular world “own” the Internet. “The Internet can be used as a powerful tool for ministry, but it can also be tremendously destructive,” Ensley says. “It is not a question of *if* you will get hurt, but *when* you will get hurt.”

Ensley makes the following analogy: “Using the Internet without a filter is like driving without wearing seatbelts. You will get away with it for a while, but you will eventually end up getting hurt.” You never know when you or someone else in your family will run into the harmful things on the Internet that cause damage.

For Christians the Internet offers many advantages. Yet, as we navigate uncharted Internet waters, it is essential to guard our hearts, minds, and families against dangers that lurk below the surface.



Lori Ensley, daughter of Steve Ensley, is a summer intern with American Family Radio.

FOOTPRINTS... *from page 3*
through AFA.

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Politics, not principles, drive pro-choice politicians

BY TIM WILDMON • *American Family Association Vice President*

At last a “pro-choice” politician has been made to publicly defend his position. And it was a painful sight!

Here’s how it went when NBC’s Tim Russert grilled Vice President Al Gore on NBC’s **Meet the Press** on July 16.

Russert: ...Mr. Vice President, you said that...this presidential election will decide the future of the Supreme Court.

Gore: Yes, very much so.

Russert: And people immediately turn their attention to *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision...

Gore: Right.

Russert: ...which allowed abortion. I want to ask you a very simple question. Do you believe that life begins at conception?

Gore: No. I believe there is a difference. You know, I believe that the *Roe v. Wade* decision wisely embodies the kind of common sense judgment that most Americans share.

Russert: In 1987 – let me show you a letter you wrote to your constituents.... (*from the letter*) “During my 11 years in Congress, I have consistently opposed federal funding of abortions. In my opinion, it’s wrong to spend federal funds for what is arguably the taking of a human life. Let me assure you that I share your belief that innocent human life must be protected, and I am committed to further this goal.”

You went on with **Washington Monthly** and gave an interview which says, “It is quite correct that a position like mine in opposition to the federal funding of abortion results in unequal access to abortions on the part of poor women. Nevertheless, I feel the principle of government not participating in the taking of what is arguably a human life is more important.” When did you change your mind on that principle?

Gore: Ten, 15 years ago. I can’t give you the exact day. It’s been quite a while ago. And here’s the reason I changed. I talked to a lot of women who taught me about the kinds of circumstances that can come up and the kinds of dilemmas that women can face. And the circumstances are so varied. I’ve come to the very deep conviction that a woman’s right to choose must be protected regardless of the woman’s income. Now, I’ve always supported *Roe vs. Wade* and I’ve always opposed a constitutional amendment to take away a woman’s right to choose. I changed...

Russert: But you did vote to define a person as including an unborn child.

Gore: Well, that was a very odd procedural vote on the Sill-Jander [sic] amendment years ago.

Russert: When do you think life begins?

Gore: I favor the *Roe v. Wade* approach, but let me just say, Tim, I did...

Russert: Which is what? When does life begin?

Gore: Let me just say, I did change my position on the issue of federal funding and I changed it because I came to understand more from women – women think about this differently than men.

Russert: But you were calling fetuses innocent human life, and now you don’t believe life begins at conception. I’m just trying to find out, when do you believe life begins?

Gore: Well, look, the *Roe v. Wade*, decision proposes an answer to that question...

Russert: Which is?

Gore: ...which is, in my view, a commonsense approach that there is a developmental process during which the burden kind of shifts over time. And they say – you know, they talk about the burden being different – burden of proof different in the first trimester than the third trimester. I mean, that’s the way the Supreme Court has addressed it. And incidentally, it was just reaffirmed by a narrow one-vote margin, 5-to-4. The justices chosen by the president elected this November will determine whether or not a woman’s right to choose is protected or taken away. I will protect a woman’s right to choose. Governor Bush has sworn to take away a woman’s right to choose. He has told Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson that he will make appointments that will be very pleasing to them. That’s not difficult to interpret. And, you know, the court picked by the next president will shape the Constitution’s interpretation for the next 30 or 40 years.

Russert: Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman’s right to choose?

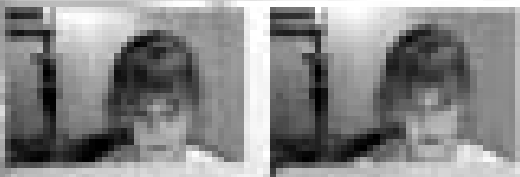
Gore: Yes, the ones in *Roe v. Wade*.

Two days later Paula Zahn on **Fox News** asked Gov. Tom Ridge, Republican of Pennsylvania, the same question about the beginning of life. He simply wouldn’t give a straight answer.

When I took biology at Tupelo High School in 1979 I was taught human life begins with the union of the sperm and the egg. At conception. When did that change? I would be satisfied if Gore or Ridge would just pick a day during the gestation period. Then at least we would have a starting point for discussion.

The Vice President says that he changed his mind on the most profound moral issue of our time and he doesn’t remember when. I suggest it was when he, like many other politicians, realized that he couldn’t rise in the ranks of the Democratic Party if he protected unborn babies. Jesse Jackson, Bill Clinton, Dick Gephardt, and Sam Nunn came to the same conclusion. It was politics, not principles.

I believe Mr. Gore knows when life begins. And he knows that an abortion ends a human life. But winning the upcoming election



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