



JOURNAL

Disney gives money to radical

Funds support premiere gala of competitor's movie.

In a bizarre case of putting their pro-homosexual ideology before profits, The Walt Disney Co. poured money into a benefit for a homosexual lobby group held at the Los Angeles premiere of a movie produced by Paramount Studios.

The September fund-raiser benefited the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and took place on the Paramount Studio lot following the screening of the gay-themed comedy *In & Out*. Disney had several of its own films on the market at the time Paramount's *In & Out* premiered.

NGLTF describes itself as "the front line activist organization in the national gay and lesbian movement." At its website, NGLTF says its agenda includes "battling Radical Right anti-gay legislative and ballot initiatives," "working to repeal sodomy laws," and fighting "for the freedom to marry." It encourages homosexuals to put their "queer shoulder[s] to the wheel."

Disney was willing to put its own shoulder to the NGLTF wheel. The gay activists said Disney had thrown "major financial support behind the efforts" of its work, calling Disney's contributions through the premiere benefit "significant."

"This is another blatant example of Disney's full-fledged support of the homosexual social agenda," said Tim Wildmon, American Family Association vice president. "It's amazing that Disney is giving money for a fund-raising party celebrating the release of a competitor's movie. It clearly reveals Disney's zeal to promote the normalization of homosexuality in our society."

MOVIE FEATURES LANDMARK SAME-SEX KISS

In & Out is about a teacher (Kevin Kline) who is inadvertently "outed" by a former

student at the Academy Awards. Kline's character, who was about to marry his girlfriend, vehemently denies being a homosexual; but he finally surrenders to his true sexual orientation after being kissed by a gay reporter (Tom Selleck). Movie reviewer Robert Hofler said that embrace, portrayed in comedic terms, is "the longest gay kiss in a major studio release, ever." USA Today called the movie "groundbreaking."

See **DISNEY** on page 2

Nothing Sacred to receive last rites?

It's not as hot as the fires of hell, but the heated controversy over Disney/ABC's show *Nothing Sacred* may wind up sending the new drama to the great beyond anyway. The show is being boycotted by irate Catholics, advertisers are leaving the show and, to make matters worse, no one's watching it.

The series has angered Catholics for its portrayal of the priesthood and attacks on church doctrine. That led the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights to call a boycott of the show and its sponsors.

That was enough for some advertisers. According to the Catholic League, 20 sponsors have pulled their ads off *Nothing Sacred*, including Chrysler, Isuzu, Honda, Kmart, Montgomery Ward, Sears, and Ocean Spray.

Disney/ABC's troubles in finding sponsors for *Nothing Sacred* were perhaps reflected in the fact that its ad rates were the lowest among all prime-time network shows - \$55,000 per 30-second spot. The most in-demand series, *Seinfeld*, garners \$575,000 per 30 seconds. And *Nothing Sacred's* rookie status is no excuse. Other first-time fall shows carry heftier price tags as well, like *Veronica's Closet* (\$400,000), *Hiller & Diller* (\$275,000), and *George & Leo* (\$200,000).

The problem for ABC is compounded by
See **NOTHING** on page 26

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DISNEY...from page 1

Even Chastity Bono, entertainment media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, was surprised that Paramount allowed the graphic kiss. "I couldn't believe they didn't cut away," she said. "I was kind of blown away by the length of it...."

For public relations purposes the movie was compared to heterosexual romances. Paul Rudnick, the screenwriter for *In & Out* and himself a homosexual, likens the movie to "one of those great screwball comedies, only with Cary Grant and Randolph Scott."


Kline saw the same similarity, even in the controversial kiss. "It's the kind of movie kiss that has a long history from screwball and romantic comedies where the guy grabs the woman and just plants one on her and she is forever changed. It just happens to be two guys this time," he said.

Perhaps to head off criticism from pro-family groups, Selleck insisted that the movie is merely a comedy "without a political agenda." But Kline admitted that *In & Out* has a strong message: "It's about tolerance and understanding and about overcoming prejudices born of ignorance," Kline told the homosexual magazine *The Advocate*. "However much this movie is a fairy tale – pardon the expression – it also makes you think, wouldn't it be nice if something like this could happen?"

Industry observers recognized that Paramount was taking a financial gamble with the movie. Clifford Rothman said in *USA Today*, "Paramount is walking a corporate tightrope, wanting to woo the large gay movie-going audience while not offending a mass

audience that might be turned off by the prospect of gay romance."

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the cost of producing, marketing and distributing *In & Out* required domes-

tic box office revenues over \$80 million for the studio to break even. While *In & Out* had an impressive first weekend, by the third week of its release the film had claimed just over \$40 million. 

Ellen's degenerate push for gay normalcy now in high gear

Honesty about who you are. That was purportedly the motivation of last season's infamous "coming out" episode on the Ellen DeGeneres sitcom *Ellen*. It was presumed far worse to hide your sexual orientation than it was to create some controversy when you came out of the closet. Who we are, after all, is who we are.

Now a clearer picture of what DeGeneres intended for her show is emerging. As the controversial Disney/ABC show unfolds, DeGeneres is boldly targeting young people with a message: there's nothing wrong with being a homosexual.

NEW SEASON BRINGS CONTINUED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

Despite the hullabaloo created last April 30 by the outing of Ellen on national television, Disney/ABC primed the propaganda pump this fall by repeating the infamous episode and its follow-up in September. Having duly reminded viewers of the course set last spring, the normalization campaign was put into high gear with the fall season's new shows. (See TV Reviews, page 14.)

The stronger and clearer message from DeGeneres was foreshadowed by her comments at this year's Emmy Awards. Nominated for five awards, what *Daily Variety* called the "younger and more liberal" voters of the Academy of TV Arts & Sciences (ATAS) gave *Ellen* two trophies – both for the coming out episode.

In receiving the award for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series, DeGeneres thanked the academy profusely and said, "I accept this on the behalf of all of the people out there and the teenagers especially out there who think there's something wrong with them because they're gay, and there's nothing wrong with you; don't ever let anybody make you feel ashamed of who you are."

DeGENERES USES TV RATINGS CONTROVERSY TO HER ADVANTAGE

While *Ellen* has been bold to advance lesbianism this season, DeGeneres has been clear: the pace must quicken. That was made obvious in a clash between the lesbian actress and the network which allowed her to leave the closet.

All the episodes of the sitcom this fall have had a TV14 rating. The October 8 episode also carried a parental advisory, warning of adult content. The reason? The episode featured an eight-second kiss between Ellen and her friend Paige who, although not a lesbian on the show, nevertheless French-kissed Ellen.

ABC said they were just giving parents the necessary information to make informed decisions. DeGeneres, however, claimed the network was hindering her plans for the show's strong pro-homosexual message. "How can I go forward? This is blatant discrimination," she said in an interview with the *New York Times*. She told *TV Guide* that she wanted to be remembered as "someone who helped change people's minds" about homosexuality, and added that ABC's actions were turning her into "an activist" for the homosexual movement. She also told the *Times* she was "ready to walk off the show" because of ABC's hesitancy to jump on board.

The firestorm highlighted Disney/ABC's dilemma: how to push the gay agenda along quickly enough to satisfy Ellen, while not causing a backlash by offending viewers. In fact, according to the *Times* story, ABC told the lesbian actress that it wanted to go more slowly with the gay themes – to take "baby steps," in the words of ABC Entertainment President Jamie Tarses.

That wasn't good enough for DeGeneres. "[W]hen I hear 'baby steps,' that makes me feel bad," she told *TV Guide*. "It's like they're saying, 'OK, you're gay, and we're tolerating this, but don't show us how you really would be, don't kiss a girl on the lips.'"

DeGeneres said the warning – and in fact, the TV14 rating – were part of a double standard in the way ABC viewed same-sex affection. Homosexual pressure groups agreed. A press release from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defama-

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Please, no unsolicited manuscripts.

tion (GLAAD) said, "ABC has made a historic commitment to groundbreaking and inclusive television, not only with Ellen but with the numerous other lesbian and gay characters on their network...ABC supported [DeGeneres] in the face of much bigotry and hatred from radical religious groups. Their decision now to adhere to this double standard is surprising and disappointing."

But according to Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the sitcom star's rancor was precisely because she saw the ABC warning as a hindrance to her agenda.

"Ellen is threatening to quit over the TV14 rating precisely because she fervently believes lesbianism is normal, not deviant, and is a suitable subject for children, and that her portrayal of a supposedly normal lesbian will help to draw tens of thousands of children into that lifestyle as well," Land said.

DeGeneres, in fact, did seem upset that ABC's advisory impinged on one of her major goals for the show: reaching children with the gay-is-OK message. "This advisory is telling kids something's wrong with being gay," she said.

ABC finally relented. The week after DeGeneres pitched her fit, ABC removed the parental warning, although the TV14 rating remained.

The star of **Ellen** seems emboldened by her victory, and more intent than ever in pushing edgier fare. She won another skirmish with ABC over a scene in which Ellen and her girlfriend head off to the bedroom for a night of (implied) sex. Initially, as DeGeneres told the *New York Times*, Tarses said no to the scene. Now, however, Tarses has relented. The scene has already been filmed, and is set to air in a November episode. Ellen's same-sex partner on the show is played by actress Lisa Darr, who has already played a lesbian lover on another controversial Disney/ABC program, **NYPD Blue**.

Why the change of heart at ABC? The reason appears to be money. **Ellen's** ratings have been strong, giving the troubled network one of its few prime-time winners. That success is perhaps easing worries at ABC that taking a quicker pace down the gay path might hurt their bottom line.

Disney/ABC has opened Pandora's box and, after some initial queasiness, appears pleased with what they have wrought.

Shock jock sponsors dropping radio show

■ **AFA monitoring 75% effective in markets where trashy radio show is monitored**

AFA monitoring of the Howard Stern radio show is reaping extraordinary results in at least four major markets where the filthy broadcast has had a foothold.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, 319 of 344 advertisers (93%) have stopped advertising on the shock jock's program since monitoring began in May, 1996. The strategy has been simple, according to AFA of Michigan State Director Bill Johnson who coordinates the campaign. "Our monitors tape the show daily. Then, we identify the advertisers and confront them with the kind of filth their money is sponsoring," he said.

Monitoring began in Detroit last February. So far 164 of 209 (78%) advertisers have dropped the show. In Washington, D.C. 115 of 170 (68%) advertisers since May are no longer sponsoring Stern; in Boston 70 of 110 (64%) have exited since August.

Monitoring has recently begun in Louisville, Kentucky; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and San Diego, California. Stern is broadcast in 38 markets in the U.S. and two in Canada.

"With the great success we are having we are ready to push into more areas," Johnson said. Anyone wanting to monitor in an area where Stern is broadcast is asked to call 616-924-4050.

Johnson said monitoring has revealed several national companies that have been contacted, but continue to advertise on the show. These include:

Chattem, Inc.
Chrm. Zan Guerry
1715 West 38th Street
Chattanooga, TN 37409
Phone: 1-800-366-6833
FAX: 423-821-0395
E-mail: marketing@chattem.com
Products: Gold Bond, Pamprin

Boston Beer Company
Pres. Jim Koch
75 Arlington Street
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617-482-1332
FAX: 617-482-5500
Products: Samuel Adams Beer

LoJack Corporation
Chrm. C. Michael Daley
333 Elm Street
Dedham, MA 02026
Phone: 617-326-4700
FAX: 617-326-7255
Product: LoJack anti-theft device

Microsoft Corporation
Chrm. William Gates
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052
Phone: 206-882-8080
FAX: 206-936-7329
website: www.microsoft.com
Product: Windows 95

Sandoz Corporation
Pres. Daniel C. Wagniere
608 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10020
Phone: 212-307-1122
FAX: 212-246-0185
website: www.novartis.com
Products: Ovaltine

ESPN (owned by The Walt Disney)
Chrm. Michael Eisner
500 S. Buena Vista St.
Burbank, CA 91521
Phone: 818-560-1000
FAX: 818-560-1930
website: www.disney.com

News America Publishing, Inc.
Chrm. K. Rupert Murdoch
211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212-852-7000
Products: FX Network

MONITORS NEEDED

AFA needs your help to monitor **The Howard Stern Show**, the trashy daily radio show broadcast in 38 metropolitan areas in the U.S. and two in Canada. We want to identify Stern's advertisers and hold them accountable. **If you are looking for simple way to make a difference, call now.**

616-924-4050

No super-saints here

BY DON WILDMON, AFA President
 Reprinted from AFA Journal, March, 1993

Over the years God has blessed the efforts of American Family Association. Our numbers and effectiveness have grown, and I believe will continue to grow. That is both good and “be careful” news.

It is good news in that more people are getting involved in the battle and those additional numbers mean that the chances of success should be better.

The “be careful” news means that as AFA becomes larger and more effective, the chances are greater of forgetting where we have come from, why we are here and Whom we serve.

One of the things I have been very careful about in this ministry is the temptation of building myself into a “super saint” in the eyes of those who support our ministry. The temptation to do that literally scared the living daylights out of me early in this ministry. Individuals who support us came to see us sometimes in the same view that secular society sees the rich and famous, the “super stars.”

In recent years we have seen some who have headed national ministries embarrass themselves and the Gospel. I have always been afraid that I would do or say something which would embarrass God.

One of the greatest miracles in the New Testament is the fact that Jesus entrusted the work of his kingdom to 12 plain, ordinary individuals. One of them betrayed Him. The others had all the faults found in a cross section of humanity. But still He trusted them. Put the future for the entire Kingdom of God in their care. And miracle of miracles, they did not fail Him.

When God writes His book about the greatest Christian heroes, leading the list will be people unknown to the world at large. Mothers and fathers who gave of themselves. Individuals who went on loving even the unlovable. Individuals who died hardly ever having enough money to make ends



meet, but who found a richness and love in life through the love of Christ. People down in the trenches fighting the battle against all odds, seeing certain defeat but refusing to give up. These are the “super saints.”

I have tried, over the years, to keep my perspective straight. God called me to do a work. Not necessarily to be successful as the world defines success. And from the time I began AFA I have reminded myself that I am no “super saint.” Fact about the business is, I’m no saint. That is something my enemies and I would agree on. I’m a sinner saved by grace. And, as the old country boy said, I ain’t perfect, just saved.

In fact, God needs simple soldiers more than He needs saints. Let us never forget that to be a soldier in the army of God is the highest life has to offer.

AFA supporters thank Dr. Wildmon’s wife

In a mailing last summer Dr. Wildmon asked friends of AFA to show their appreciation to his wife for her support over the past 20 years of the ministry of AFA. The following is her response to the hundreds of letters she received.

What a lovely way to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of AFA – to be surprised by letters of encouragement and appreciation.

Shortly after Don’s letter went out asking friends to write me, the mail started rushing to my door. The first five letters arrived July 2 and by the 7th the number had grown to over six hundred a day! I’m still receiving letters nearly every day. The total is well over 7,000. Needless to say, I’m still reading. I do plan to read every letter.

The letters were from all 50 states and a few foreign countries. Many said they could relate because of their own professions. A common thread came from coaches’ and ministers’ wives. I receive letters from people of many occupations – farmers, doctors, business professionals, housewives, etc. Some were very touching, including one from a terminally ill lady who wrote that her letter would probably be the last one she would ever write. One well written letter said that AFA was a thinking person’s organization.

The response was very humbling, rewarding and overwhelming. I didn’t know there are so many ways to express the same idea. An expression of love was in every card and letter. I deeply appreciate each of you for taking the time and effort to respond. I will remember the summer of 1997 as a very special time in my life. You are a special group of people in a class all your own.

Thanks for being part of our family.
 Sincerely, Lynda.

Don Wildmon’s 23rd

Join Dr. Donald E. Wildmon, president of American Family Association, on his 23rd tour of the Holy Land. The 10-day tour will also visit some of the most scenic and historic sites of Greece. The tour departs New York March 7, 1998.

Visit historic Biblical sites in the Holy Land including:

- ▶ Mt. Carmel
- ▶ Capernaum
- ▶ Masada
- ▶ Galilee
- ▶ Jerusalem
- ▶ Bethany
- ▶ Mount of Temptation
- ▶ Jericho
- ▶ Garden of Gethsemane
- ▶ Bethlehem

For a free brochure, write: **HOLY LAND TOUR**
 P.O. Drawer 2440
 Tupelo, MS 38803

Stuff I like about the holidays

BY TIM WILDMON

AFA Vice-President

I like eating until it hurts on Thanksgiving Day.
 I like watching the Dallas Cowboys play football.
 I like seeing all the people in the mall on the Friday afterwards.
 I like going to the Mississippi State-Ole Miss game on the Saturday after.
 I like the first day of December.
 I like the annual Christmas parade on Main St. in my hometown.
 I like green.
 I like red.
 I like assisting in the Christmas pageant at my church.
 I like watching my wife Alison direct backstage at my church Christmas play.
 I like seeing the camels (for real) just before they carry the wisemen into the auditorium.
 I like seeing my breath at night.
 I like breathing cool air.
 I like hot coffee.
 I like hot chocolate.
 I like my fake Christmas tree.
 I like decorating it.
 I like our Christmas tree ornament with 1984 on it, the year Alison and I married.
 I like a simple wreath on my door.
 I like the fancy decorations in my neighbor's yard.
 I like the gaudy decorations in my other neighbor's yard.
 I like driving through my sister's neighborhood where they go all out on lights and decorations.
 I like my church decorated.
 I like wearing sweaters.
 I like getting cards from across the country and taping them to my office door.
 I like seeing New York City all adorned on television.
 I like hearing Alabama sing *Christmas in Dixie*.
 I like Bing Crosby singing *White Christmas*.
 I like a congregation singing *Joy to the World*.
 I like watching **Home Alone**.
 I like caroling even though I can't sing.
 I like watching **It's a Wonderful Life** over and over again.
 I like remembering Christmas as a kid.
 I like remembering my three late grandparents.
 I like Charles Dickens.
 I like Burl Ives.
 I like everybody being a little nicer.
 I like having some friends over to our house.
 I like spice tea.
 I like one piece of divinity candy.
 I like having to defrost my car windows.
 I like seeing greeting cards in my mailbox.
 I like watching **A Charlie Brown Christmas** on television.
 I like reading the poem *One Solitary Life*.
 I like seeing my aunts, uncles and cousins.
 I like to hear Nat King Cole sing *The Christmas Song*.

I like seeing my three children playing with their cousins as I used to do.
 I like Jack Frost nipping at my nose.
 I like staying up late and getting the surprises out of the attic.
 I like waving at folks I don't know.
 I like going to my parents' house on Christmas Eve.
 I like my mom's Christmas Eve lasagna and going to Holy Communion after we eat.
 I like dreaming about a white Christmas.
 I like all the stores closing on Christmas day.
 I like video taping Christmas morning when the children open the gifts.
 I like smoked turkey.
 I like deviled eggs.
 I like bowl games.
 I like baked apples.
 I like pine trees.
 I like exchanging gifts.
 I like receiving cologne.
 I like tinsel.
 I like brown grass.
 I like sitting by the fireplace.
 I like my van packed with toys.
 I like yellow cake with caramel icing.
 I like kissing Alison under the mistletoe.
 I like wrapping paper all over the den.
 I like emptying stockings even though I filled them up the night before.
 I like one bite of fruit cake and then I remember why I only like one bite.
 I like asking people what the green things are in fruit cake.
 I like getting out old pictures from Christmases gone by.
 I like watching my kids ride their new bikes.
 I like saying, "Do you remember the Christmas when we...."
 I like the weatherman saying radar has detected an unidentified flying object from the North Pole.
 I like my children telling me they can't go to sleep.
 I like imagination.
 I like hearing my children laugh.
 I like hearing the *Twelve Days of Christmas* even though I don't want any of that stuff.
 I like America.
 I like Mississippi.
 I like home.



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

ENTERTAINMENT

On-screen sex continues to plummet into the bizarre

Graphic heterosexual encounters led the way, and now homosexuality on the silver screen has become common. Once taboo subjects like incest (**The House of Yes**) and necrophilia (**Kissed**) have quietly appeared at theaters across the U.S.

With few barriers left to break, independent film company First Look Pictures has produced **Different for Girls**, a movie about transsexualism. In the story, Paul and the effeminate Karl were school chums in the 1970s, but meet again 20 years later – only this time Karl has become Kim via a sex-change operation. The two fall in love, and in what is described by the homosexual magazine *The Advocate* as a “simmering eleventh-hour love scene,” Paul and Kim (played by a male actor) have sex.

The Advocate, 9/16/97

FAMILY

Birth control, abortion decisions being made without parents

The battle lines between parents and government agencies are being drawn over a simple question: Do parents have the right to know if their children are taking birth control or aborting their babies? In recent cases, excluding the parents from the decision-making process has had tragic consequences.

In Wheaton, Illinois, a junior high school gym teacher allegedly had continued sexual relations with a 13-year-old girl over an 18-month period. That tragedy was compounded by the fact that the teacher was able to obtain birth control drugs for the victim on several occasions by taking her to a county health department clinic without the knowledge of the girl's parents.

According to *World*, clinic workers knew the girl's age, and even though the age of consent for sexual relationships in Illinois is 18, refused to tell the parents about the birth control. Under the rules governing the use of federal funds received under Title X family-planning programs, state health department officials do not have to inform parents when they dispense birth

TV advertisers a last-resort target for fed-up

Despite the much-ballyhooed change from an aged-based to a content-based TV ratings system, many critics of the television industry are finding no change in the quality of what's on the tube. That may leave concerned parents with one choice: putting pressure on advertisers.

NBC refused to sign on with the new ratings, and early indications are that the other three networks – ABC, CBS and Fox – will follow the letter but not the spirit of the new system. CBS president Leslie Moonves, for example, said the expanded ratings would “not influence our programming one iota.” That became clear when CBS advertised the debut episode of its new cop drama, **Brooklyn South**, with a TV-MA rating, for mature audiences. “The violence is extreme,” Moonves admitted.

NBC's refusal to play ball with the rest of the TV industry prompted a response from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that may lead to a battle in court. FCC chairman Reed Hundt said that he expects NBC to submit a substitute ratings system in place of the one the network rejected. But one source told *Daily Variety* that, if the FCC then rejects the NBC plan, the network might challenge the decision in court.

Meanwhile, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) told a subcommittee hearing that the recently agreed upon ratings do not go far enough in addressing the underlying problem of television. “You can put a rating on garbage, but that won't make it stink any less,” he said. Lieberman added, “Parents want higher quality and lower amounts of...feel-good killing, talk-show debauchery, bed-hopping without consequence [and a] general anything-goes mentality.”

The result was the TV Improvement Act of 1997, pushed by Lieberman and Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS). That bill would grant the television industry a limited antitrust exemption, with the understanding that it would be used to develop a code of conduct for programming. But one network lobbyist was confident that further reforms were dead in the water. “That bill is going nowhere,” he said.

That leaves one option for parents who want further reforms: pressuring advertisers to stop spending their money on shows that are offensive.

Dick Wolf, currently executive producer of NBC's **Law & Order**, spent a decade producing commercials for Proctor and Gamble (P&G). He said what concerns companies the most is what their customers think.

“I can guarantee you that all P&G needs [from viewers] is an organized letter-writing campaign to the chairman of P&G saying, ‘I'm not going to buy your products until you get out of **NYPD Blue** and all V-rated [for violent content] shows,’” Wolf said.

That sort of pressure, he added, might lead television producers to think twice about their content. “What if Proctor and Gamble says it won't advertise on any show that has a TV-D rating [for suggestive dialogue]? Then the network says, ‘We'd better not make any shows that have TV-D, because we won't have our major advertisers.’ And they may pull their advertising off other shows,” he said.

As a result of that possible scenario, Wolf said he disagreed with the idea of both content-based ratings and viewers pressuring advertisers. But if the networks continue shoveling objectionable material into America's living rooms, that may be the only option left open to disgruntled parents.

Daily Variety, 7/16/97, 7/17/97; *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 7/27/97

control to children.

The parents of the abused girl are suing the teacher, the school district, and the county health department. But the girl's father said the federal regulations are also at fault. “...[T]he government injected my child with a [birth control]

chemical and kept it a secret,” said Mr. Doe [not his real name]. “My first priority then and now is to take care of my family. But I would also like to help make sure this doesn't happen to other families. I would like to see Title X abolished, or at least changed.”

In a similar challenge to family-planning policy, parents in Texas have filed suit against Planned Parenthood and the Texas Department of Health for their policy of distributing birth control to children without parental consent. That case, said Kelly Shackelford, chief counsel of the Liberties Legal Institute, "is about who is in charge of protecting our children – the parents who love and raise them, or third parties with a financial stake in their decision."

Meanwhile the issue of abortion has also raised the ire of some parents. In Texas a mentally disabled 15-year-old girl was sexually abused by her mother's live-in boyfriend and got pregnant on two separate occasions. Both times the boyfriend took the teenager to an abortion clinic, where she had abortions without her mother's knowledge. In Texas no parental consent is required for a minor to get an abortion.

Although pro-abortion forces have fought hard against restrictions on the "right" to abortion, states have had success in passing parental consent laws. The Supreme Court has ruled twice – in 1992 and 1997 – in favor of the parental consent laws passed in Pennsylvania and Montana, respectively.

Statistics bolster the view that parental consent laws will decrease abortions overall. In states where consent laws have been passed there have been significant drops in the abortion rate: in Pennsylvania, 22%; Nebraska, 30%; Michigan, 31%; and Mississippi, 16%.

Still the pro-abortion lobby refuses to surrender on the parental consent issue. In August, U.S. District Judge John T. Nixon temporarily blocked a Tennessee law requiring minors to either get a parent's permission or a judge's approval before having an abortion. The preliminary injunction was granted by Nixon at the request of Planned Parenthood of Memphis, pending an appeal to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Commercial Appeal (Memphis), 8/27/97; World, 8/23,30/97; AFA Texas Family Update, 8/21/97; Citizen, 6/23/97

GOVERNMENT

Needle exchange programs fail

Government attempts nationwide to stem the spread of AIDS by using needle exchange programs (NEPs) have not only failed to accomplish that goal, but

New video, online games glorify vio-

lently violent behavior. "We kill. It's O.K. It's not our fault any more than breathing or urinating." So says the main character in a cyberspace battleground via SegaSoft's controversial online HEAT network. And that attitude is common as video game companies compete for market share with increasingly violent and blood-soaked offerings.

In marketing HEAT, SegaSoft, a spinoff from Sega of America, says the game provides "fast, free, guiltless killing." HEAT is "guiltless" because the killing is done on "virtual battlegrounds," and may even have some therapeutic effect on players. Human traits like aggression and anger, says a HEAT ad, are "exorcised without any physical pain, torture, destruction or loss of [actual] human life."

The personal computer game, "Postal," invites players to "go postal" by pretending to be a madman who runs the streets killing anyone. Points are awarded for shooting police and innocent bystanders, but it is done in gruesome fashion: a flamethrower is used on members of a marching band, for example, and the player can hear screams of agony. If the game drags on, a button allows the player to commit suicide.

The game's manufacturer, a company which calls itself Running With Scissors, runs a grotesque ad at its website: "Listen to victims moan and beg for mercy."

Other examples of violent come-ons include an ad for "Nightmare Creatures" which brags that the game, produced by Activision, has "28 different ways to disembowel monsters, zombies and demons." And "Clock Tower" (ASCII Entertainment) shows an image of a madman wielding a

bloody, three-foot-long pair of razor-sharp scissors. The ad for this self-described "blood-soaked horror adventure" beckons players with this: "How will you avert decapitation and keep your entrails from spilling out over the kitchen floor?"

"Carmageddon" (Interplay) provides a different weapon for the greedy: a race car. The object of this new game is to hit and kill pedestrians. Wal-Mart rejected the game as "extremely violent."

Also, perverse sexual overtones abound. "Deathtrap Dungeon" is marketed with a highly inflammatory ad showing a voluptuous dominatrix, clad in black vinyl,

tormenting an Asian gameplayer, according to the Wall Street Journal. "Pandemonium 2" (Crystal Dynamics) tells potential customers that they can "[s]atisfy all your needs, wants and...desires," with the latter underneath a picture of the game's voluptuous female character Nikki.

What is the draw for these companies? Money. The electronic gaming industry alone is an \$8 billion grab bag, and industry sources say the online gaming business could soon be worth another \$1 billion.

This competition for available billions is driving companies to produce bloody ads that go even further than the games themselves. Says Debra Immergut in the Wall Street Journal, "[G]ame makers seemed to be locked in a death battle to determine who can produce the most gut-churning ad, with images and copy that are sometimes far more extreme than the games themselves."

Newsweek, 9/22/97; Wall Street Journal, 8/7/97; Advertising Age, 4/7/97; Next Generation, 9/97; Entertainment Weekly, 9/5/97; Orange County Register, 8/22/97



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have resulted in a host of additional problems, according to an article in the Illinois Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) bulletin.

Since 1988 the federal government has forbidden the use of federal funds for drug programs which allow needle exchanges. But groups like the American Medical Association, the National Institutes of Health, the National Academy of Sciences, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have called for an end to the ban.

Several government studies have failed to prove the link between NEPs and a decrease in AIDS, while other studies actually prove the opposite. A joint study by McGill and Montreal Universities (Canada) showed that participants in NEPs were twice as likely to become infected with HIV than those who did not participate, according to IDEA. A two-year study in San Francisco also showed an increase in HIV infection among those enrolled in a NEP.

At least one AIDS organization has abandoned the thought of NEPs. Shepherd Smith of Americans for a Sound AIDS Policy said on National Empowerment Television, "Our conclusion right now... is that the net effect of these programs is going to end up in more long-term misery, because more people are going to enter the drug-using community."

IDEA also found that NEPs served as "catalysts for continued drug use that, left unchecked, lead to death." In fact, the Illinois group discovered that the NEP locations provided "a formal coming together of drug addicts to exchange information on where to buy the best drugs."

That connection between the pro-

grams and drug abuse was nowhere more evident than in the deaths of two of NEPs most ardent supporters. Both John Watters, who helped pioneer the NEP in San Francisco, and Brian Weil, founder of New York City's NEP, died of drug overdoses. Weil died of a heroin overdose, Watters of an overdose from an unspecified drug, although reports said "a syringe, spoon and white powder lay on a nearby table and he had needle tracks on his arm."

In some states, the very intent of the law is being circumvented. In New York City, for example, researchers discovered the ease with which they could enroll in that city's NEP and receive up to 60 needles, even though state law mandates one clean needle in exchange for one dirty needle.

The IDEA article states, "What was intended to be a 'one for one' needle exchange system became a 'one man and all [the needles] he wanted' system. The adoption of needle distribution programs would be far more accurate."

Another danger of the NEPs: the article cited instances of innocent people, including a two-year-old girl and a pregnant woman, who were stuck by needles discarded by drug abusers.

The Best of IDEA, Spring/Summer, 1997;
USA Today, 8/5/97; NetNewsNow! 8/13/97

Big government adds pressure to small businesses

Already suffering under a sometimes bewildering array of federal regulations, small-business owners now find themselves facing another regulation that defies all efforts to understand it, according to an article in Human Events.

Under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), all employers are now legally required to accommodate people who have psychiatric and emotional problems. ADA had previously required that accommodation only for the physically handicapped.

However, a host of complications accompanies the new law, says Jack Faris, representing 600,000 small-business men and women as president of the National Federation of Independent Business. He says, for example, employers under the old ADA law were not allowed to ask potential employees if they had a history of mental illness, but are still required under the new regulation

to accommodate them. And ADA does not require an employee to submit a request for accommodation.

Furthermore, just what must be done to accommodate someone with mental illness is also unclear to business owners. Faris said, "While it may be obvious that someone in a wheelchair needs a ramp to enter a building or that the blind require special equipment for reading and writing, the needs of an individual who suffers from depression or obsessive compulsive disorder are not clear at all."

Another problem for small-business owners is that employees do not have to provide medical documentation to establish the existence of a mental problem. All that is required is that a friend or family member provide "credible testimony" to the employer.

"How will an employer know what to do if an employee's spouse calls the office to say that her husband is going through post-traumatic stress and needs a leave of absence?" asks Faris. "If he doesn't come to work for a month, is he protected by the disabilities act because his wife gave 'credible testimony'?"

Faris told Human Events that the difficulties with the new ADA requirements open small-business owners to expensive and frivolous lawsuits.

Human Events, 7/11/97

HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

U.S. automakers caving in to gays

The unrelenting pressure of homosexual lobbyists within the Detroit auto industry may be bringing about the desired change, according to the Detroit News. While gay activists don't have everything they're demanding, they believe the handwriting is already on the wall.

For the first time, the senior management at Chrysler has formally acknowledged a gay rights employee group within the company. Called "People of Diversity," the group was formed this year "to provide support for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people through business and social activities."

While Chrysler drew praise from the Rev. Jerry Falwell when it pulled advertising from the "coming out" episode of *Ellen*, it quickly and quietly resumed its sponsorship of the sitcom.

The automaker will also make diversity training available for its employees this fall, and will revise its code of ethical behavior to include sexual orientation in the near future.

Ford has already recognized a similar group, said the Detroit News, and last fall included sexual orientation as a category receiving full protection from discrimination.

General Motors has thus far resisted making such ground-breaking changes, but homosexuals within the company continue to push for concessions. In fact, GM already makes domestic partner benefits available for workers in Canada.

Said Allan Gilmour, a former vice chairman at Ford who is an open homosexual, "The momentum is definitely picking up and moving in the right direction."

Michelle Walters, co-founder of People of Diversity, was more confident. "The auto industry has no choice but to change," Walters said.

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1000 Chrysler Dr.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Phone: 810-576-5741
Toll Free: 1-800-992-1997

Ford Motor Company
Chrm. Alex Trotman
P.O. Box 1899
Dearborn, MI 48121
Phone: 313-322-3000
Toll Free: 1-800-392-3673

General Motors Corporation
Chrm. John F. Smith
3044 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: 313-556-5000
Fax: 313-556-1988
The Detroit News, 7/20/97

McDonald's under pressure to redefine family

A Washington, D.C., McDonald's mural depicting families has drawn fire from gay activists because a gay couple has not been included, according to the homosexual publication Washington Blade.

Pressure from homosexuals has halted work on the mural. John Morgan, a spokesman for the public relations firm that handles the McDonald's account in

the capitol, said, "Most of the calls were concerned that there wasn't representation of the entire community on the mural. So we've put the mural on hold while we try to evaluate our options and find a solution."

As to McDonald's next step, Morgan only said the fast-food restaurant is asking for "input from the community." He added, "[W]e want to make sure that everyone has their say in the matter."

Washington Blade, 8/15/97

President promises gay quota

President Clinton appears to be on the verge of setting some more "firsts" for the nation's chief executive, as he continues to show himself to be an ally to the homosexual movement.

Clinton will become the first sitting President to participate in person in a gay and lesbian civil rights event when he gives the keynote address at the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) national dinner. The HRC is the largest homosexual political organization in the nation, and works hard to elect pro-homosexual candidates and promote the gay and lesbian agenda.

Scheduled November 8 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C., the dinner will also feature actress Ellen DeGeneres, who will receive an HRC award for her much-hyped coming-out episode on Disney/ABC's sitcom *Ellen* last April. Some 1,500 people are expected at the dinner.

Meanwhile, during a meeting with homosexual activists at the White House, President Clinton said he intends to appoint five openly gay and lesbian individuals to major administration posts, according to the homosexual magazine *The Advocate*.

Clinton met with a dozen representatives of the homosexual community, including Elizabeth Birch, executive director of HRC; Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Lorri Jean, executive director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

Jean told the president that "there really is a 'gay agenda,'" but that it was "the very agenda upon which our nation was founded: liberty, equality."

The President seemed supportive of those goals, telling the activists that he wanted "to continue to expand the horizons of liberty, equality, and decency." But, said *The Advocate*, Clin-

ton also warned of the huge "cultural divide" that had to be crossed before homosexuals could expect to be viewed as the equals of heterosexuals.

President Clinton has been trying his best to elevate gays and lesbians to that equal footing since he took office. He has been the first U.S. president to: openly endorse gay rights legislation; push for allowing gays and lesbians in the military; create the position of White House liaison to the homosexual community, with salary paid for by American tax dollars; appoint an open lesbian as a federal judge; give an interview to a homosexual publication; and grant federal security clearances to open homosexuals.

While the President seems enthusiastic about supporting the gay and lesbian cause, Clinton has been less so about the nation's Christian roots.

The President has refused to issue a proclamation setting aside Thanksgiving Week, November 23-29, as Christian Heritage Week. Coral Ridge Ministries, headed by Dr. D. James Kennedy, has spearheaded a petition drive to request the proclamation.

AFA Texas Update, 9/25/97;

USA Today, 9/24/97; The Advocate, 9/2/97

Government grant awarded to silence "homophobia"

The Clinton administration has given \$500,000 towards a pro-homosexual seminar that blames the unsafe sexual practices of homosexuals on the religious and moral beliefs of a homophobic society. The grant was awarded through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Homosexual psychologist Dr. B.R. Simon Rosser of the University of Minnesota and 30 homosexual colleagues oversee "Man-to-Man: Sexual Health Seminars," in which gay men are taught to accept their sexual orientation. Rosser believes homosexuals practice unsafe sex because of "internalized homophobia," caused by religious and moral objections to homosexuality.

Rosser said that "if your spirituality and sexuality are not in harmony, then you've got to take a look at that.... Maybe that means you need to distance yourself from your religion." That self-condemnation in homosexuals is lowered by subjecting seminar participants to almost eight hours of sexually explicit videos "as systematic desensitization

and implosion techniques.”

Human Events, 8/22/97

Media promotion of homosexuality wins mainstream converts

The one-track message from the entertainment and media industries has been that homosexuality is normal and should be accepted by mainstream Americans. Apparently, that gospel is finding converts.

Reviewing data compiled by polls since the 1930s, Karlyn Bowman, a senior resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, said people in this country have changed their minds about homosexuality in dramatic fashion. The number of people who believe one is born a homosexual was only 16% in 1983. Fourteen years later it has almost doubled to 31%.

On the hot-button issue of civil rights, a 1977 Gallup poll showed 56% of respondents thought homosexuals needed protection against discrimination in the workplace. Now 80% believe that way.

Washington Times, 6/24/97

Airlines continue campaign to normalize homosexuality

American and United Airlines continue trying to outdo one another in the race for gay consumer dollars, as both are enthusiastically lending their corporate name to everything from homosexual travel agencies to pro-homosexual summits.

American Airlines was one of the official sponsors of the third annual Progress Summit for Workplace Leaders, held in Dallas in September. Progress describes itself as “the nation’s largest coalition of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employee resource groups.”

Also on its pro-homosexual resume, American sponsored: Gay and Lesbian Day at Walt Disney World in June; “Outfest ’97,” the gay and lesbian film festival held each year in Los Angeles; and the 1997 International Conference of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) held in Orlando, Florida.

American Airlines is also an official sponsor of homosexual “White Party” events, such as the Thanksgiving bash in Miami this year and the 1998 Easter weekend party in Palm Springs. The White Party circuit has become con-

troversial because of the prevalence of illegal drugs and “anything goes” sexual activities.

United Airlines, meanwhile, is the official airline for Above and Beyond, a gay and lesbian corporation overseeing a “worldwide network of gay owned/managed tour companies.” In American cities or cities like Paris, Amsterdam, and Rio de Janeiro, Above and Beyond directs homosexual travelers to the hottest gay and lesbian resorts, nightclubs, and gay pride celebrations.

In one of the company’s brochures, Above and Beyond brags that United “supports our [gay] community” in many ways: it was one of the first airlines to implement non-discrimination employment based upon sexual orientation, as well as being “supportive of gay and lesbian social, cultural and health issues,” including Gay Men’s Health Crisis, film festivals, and employee AIDS sensitivity training.

American Airlines also stepped proudly into the homosexual travel market when it became the official airline of Olivia Cruises and Resorts, which claims to offer “Unique vacations for lesbian women.” Olivia’s Internet information states that American Airlines offers discounts and specialized service to Olivia’s travelers. The web site also praises American’s “exceptional service and their dedication to the lesbian and gay community.”

PORNOGRAPHY

Porn consumers traveling down information highway

Once upon a time, those with an appetite for smut had only dirty magazines and peep shows to which they could turn. Now porn is growing in availability in other forms, and consumers are buying into it.

As a result, porn on the printed page appears to be hemorrhaging badly in market share. *Penthouse* magazine, for example, reached its peak in sales in 1977, when it sold 4.6 million copies. But since then its circulation has shrunk almost 80% – last year it sold just over a million copies, according to the Magazine Publishers of America. And according to *Advertising Age*, during the first half of 1997 (compared with the first half of 1996), *Penthouse* circulation fell another 19.7%.

Playboy has seen a decline as well. In

the first six months of 1996, newsstand sales were only 48% of what they were in the comparable 1987 period. Paid subscriptions for the magazine in the first half of 1997 dropped almost 2% from the first half of 1996.

But such figures don’t herald a return to Puritanism in the U.S. Adult videos now account for over 13% of the total video market, says USA Today, with rentals skyrocketing from 410 million in 1991 to 665 million last year, a 62% increase.

And the Internet appears just as busy as the video store. According to a spokesman for Softbank Interactive Marketing, one survey of Yahoo, a popular Internet search engine, showed a solid majority of searches were porn or sex-related: six out of the top ten searches were sexual inquiries. Thirty-eight out of the top 200 searches were for sex-related topics.

USA Today, 9/5/97; Advertising Age, 8/25/97, 11/18/96; Philadelphia Inquirer, 6/8/97

FOLLOW-UP

Clarification – In the October issue of the *AFA Journal*, we reported comments made by David Wolfe, a professor of psychology at Wheaton College. Wolfe holds that position at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, not Wheaton College in Illinois.

Correction – Corrections to the September, 1997, *AFA Journal* story on the Episcopal Church:

1. The Episcopal General Convention takes place every three years, not annually as reported in the story.

2. The measure which would have added a blessing ceremony for homosexual couples to its Book of Occasional Services failed by two votes in the House of Deputies, not one. The vote in the lay order and the vote in the clergy order each failed by one vote, for a total of two votes. To amend the Book of Occasional Services an affirmative vote would also have had to pass in the House of Bishops.

3. The convention did not create a

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Liberal groups push church to accept homosexuality

Methodist university compromises on homosexual unions

Emory University has temporarily put controversy to rest after a compromise was reached over the issue of “celebrating” same-sex unions. The Board of Trustees at the United Methodist Church (UMC) school voted to allow UMC pastors and chaplains to determine what sort of ceremonies take place at churches and chapels at the school.

Since ordained UMC ministers are required to uphold church policy which forbids its ministers to perform homosexual unions, the vote was seen as a defeat for gay activists. Some conservatives, however, felt the decision did not go far enough, since Emory’s non-religious facilities were not covered.

The controversy arose last May, after a homosexual couple was refused access by a dean to one of the Emory chapels for a gay “marriage” ceremony. But Emory President William M. Chace apologized to the gay men for the decision, claiming that such a policy violated the school’s Equal Opportunity Policy. Chace demanded that a new chapel policy be formulated. The Board then came under pressure from the bishops in the North Georgia Annual (regional) Conference to reverse Chace’s decision.

Good News, September/October, 1997

Radicals bring pressure on UMC to sanction homosexuality

Promising to push the UMC to change its teaching on homosexuality, a pro-gay group called “Reconciling Congregations” drew nearly 500 people to its convocation in Atlanta, Georgia. The group is not an officially recognized caucus within the UMC.

According to *Good News*, the convocation honored the actions of 15 UMC bishops, who last year opposed the denomination’s stance on sexual morality – especially relating to homosexuality – at the UMC’s General Conference in Denver.

Speakers addressing the Atlanta attendees often made bizarre statements in demonstrating their pro-homosexual

views. Bishop Melvin Wheatley (retired) said, “Gayness is good. In many ways it’s better than straightness.” He added that he and his wife “find it dullsville among straight persons.”

David Otto, professor of religion at United Methodist-Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, told the convocation that he was a Christian homosexual. Explaining about the first time he expressed his homosexuality openly, he said he asked a cashier at a McDonald’s drive-thru window for his phone number. “It was a happy meal,” Otto said.

Mark Tooley of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, said that Otto also joked about the Genesis account of Jacob wrestling all night with a stranger. Otto said, “I’ve done that before! Occasionally with a god!”

Perhaps the most stunning twist on Scripture came from Kelly Brown Douglas of Howard Divinity School in Washington, D.C. She told listeners at the convocation, “All human bodies are vehicles for God’s presence. The sinners are those who cause homophobia, and not gay and lesbian persons. For the church to be homophobic is to be of anti-Christ.”

Tooley said the Reconciling movement now includes 127 congregations, 18 campus ministries, and six annual conference groups.

Good News, November/December, 1997

Church groups support homosexual employment bill

Homosexual activists intend to push the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) again this year. ENDA would forbid discrimination in hiring, promotions and dismissals on the basis of sexual orientation. According to one gay lobby group, ENDA will have plenty of support from some denominations within the Christian community.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) claimed in a fund-raising letter that the Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ were all in full support of ENDA. The

letter also said that “religious political extremists” were trying to stand in the way of the measure.

Most conservatives see nothing but disaster if ENDA is passed, with repercussions including the institution of hiring quotas for homosexuals and an increase in litigation against both large and small businesses, using ENDA as a weapon. Perhaps more frightening, ENDA does not make an exception for business owners whose religious beliefs view homosexuality as a sin. That means Christians, Moslems and Jews could be prosecuted under ENDA for refusing to hire homosexuals.

HRC said other liberal groups supporting ENDA included American Federation of Teachers; American Bar Association; Common Cause; and the National Education Association.

The measure almost passed the Senate last year, failing by only one vote.

U.S. Catholic bishops issue statement on homosexuality

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) of the U.S. Catholic Conference issued a letter urging parents not to reject their homosexual children, and stating that homosexual orientation alone is not a sin.

The pastoral letter, entitled “Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers,” describes itself as an “outstretched hand” to the gay children of Catholics. It urges parents to love, accept and support their children after finding out about their homosexual orientation, even in the face of church teaching that homosexual activity is a sin.

“Generally, homosexual orientation is experienced as a given, not as something freely chosen,” the letter states. “By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes the freedom to choose.”

The letter was written primarily “to get [parents] to accept the fact that their son or daughter is gay or lesbian, and that their child was not damned forever,” said Bishop Joseph Imesch of Joliet, Illinois. The NCCB statement said gay sex was not permissible according to church teaching, noting that all Christians, including homosexuals, are called by God to live chaste lives outside marriage.

Christians Society TODAY

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NOV/DEC, 1997

Ministers pray for army of intercessors in UMC

Two United Methodist Church (UMC) ministers are trying to enlist one million UMC members to begin praying for revival in their denomination by the year 2000.

Rev. Perry M. Dalton of Pine Forest United Methodist Church in Pensacola, Florida, and Rev. Tim Jones of Florida State University Wesley Foundation initially set a target of 10,000 intercessors last April. But Dalton said in an interview that number has already been surpassed.

The desire to see UMC members praying for revival within the denomination was spurred by the 30-month revival taking place at Brownsville Assembly of God, just 12 miles away.

"We endorsed the Brownsville revival, which didn't set well with some people," Dalton said, adding that though he and Jones want to see a spiritual awakening in the UMC, "the hunger for revival is across denominational lines."

Dalton stressed that this prayer effort had no political, economic or even theological agenda driving it, saying in a letter, "Many seek to bring political and/or financial pressure for change. We believe revival can and will come only if we humble ourselves and pray before Almighty God."

The two pastors also have a burden for Methodist pastors, as a result of a spiritual experience Dalton had while praying. "I had a vision or a flash of

a picture come to mind of well-fed, well-dressed clergy holding empty rice bowls," he said. "I understood that to mean that our clergy are well-fed but have a spiritual famine in their lives. As a result we felt that God was calling us to do something for pastors."

Last August Dalton and Jones hosted a pastor's conference, attended by 117 ministers. They will host another conference in May.

Methodists United in Prayer

Pine Forest United Methodist Church
2800 Wilde Lake Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32526
Phone: 904-944-0197

Students taught more than three Rs

With more and more frequency the public school classroom is becoming a place for children to be indoctrinated with liberal ideas or subjected to an amoral approach to society's ills.

In Michigan parents are suing to stop the distribution of a controversial 9th-grade health textbook. Called *Holt Health*, the book contains segments that take only a liberal approach to hot-button issues like homosexuality and gun-control. As part of classroom discussion, for example, the book asks students, "Are there other family structures not mentioned in the text... gay families, adoptive families, foster families...? The family unit is fluid, constantly changing..."

Holt Health was dropped in Texas when the publisher refused to alter portions of the book as requested by

the Texas Board of Education.

In Lancaster, Texas, six teachers were suspended from a high school for distributing a math test to students using outrageous examples that appear morally neutral on issues like gangs, drug dealing and prostitution.

One such question dealt with drive-by shootings: "Johnny has an AK47 with an 80-round clip. If he misses six out of 10 shots and shoots 13 times at each drive-by shooting, how many drive-by shootings can he attempt before he has to reload?"

Lancaster Superintendent of Schools Bill Ward told the Dallas Morning News, "You can come up with word problems that are relevant to students without including sex, violence and drugs."

Dallas Morning News, 8/20/97;
AFA of Texas newsletter, 8/21/97

On record

"One of the many signs of mushy thinking today is the claim that arguments against homosexuals or women in the military are parallel to arguments against blacks in the past. Think about it: The arguments against eating toadstools are parallel to arguments against eating tomatoes in the past. The only difference is that tomatoes don't kill nearly as many people as toadstools."

Columnist Thomas Sowell

The Advocate, 9/16/97

"Between birth and age 18 a young American spends 9% of his or her time in school. What occurs in the other 91% colors, and overwhelms, the 9."

Columnist George F. Will, discussing 187, a movie about urban violence and the faith that some have in the power of schools to save our young people

Commercial Appeal (Memphis), 8/14/97

Scholars enlighten the masses – reject the divinity of Christ, replace initials BC, AD

Every year for the last dozen years a liberal group of scholars – collectively calling themselves the Jesus Seminar – has poured over the pages of the Gospels in an attempt to find what is real and what is not. The results, however, published annually and usually given widespread attention in popular magazines like *Newsweek* and *Time*, have made hardly a ripple among the general populace.

Not for long. Seminar founder Robert Funk and the rest of the 50 religion professors are dispatching teams of scholars to take the message of the real Jesus on the road, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The goal, according to Funk, is to evangelize the general population to effect a “radical reformation” of Christianity and “set Jesus free” from the “mythology” of His divinity, the virgin birth, His miracles and His literal, bodily resurrection.

One of the voting members of the seminar is filmmaker Paul Verhoeven, whose pornographic movies **Basic Instinct** and **Showgirls** insulted the sensibilities of communities across the land. Verhoeven, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, plans to produce a movie on the life of Christ – based on

Stats show teens may be rebelling against the sexual revolution

Young people may be reaching the point of sexual burn-out, perhaps even turning the tide of the sexual revolution, according to Mark Judge writing in *Insight* magazine. The result? A possible return to more traditional dating and courtship patterns.

In his article entitled, “America’s Sexual Right Turn,” Judge cites recent surveys which demonstrate a decline in sexual activity among teens for the first time since 1970. In the years between 1990 and 1995, the number of young people ages 15-19 who had had sex fell 5%, according to two federal studies, from 55% to 50% for girls, and from 60% to 55% for boys.

While that may not indicate a sweeping trend towards an old-fashioned morality, he said, it does represent a slow-down of the sexual revolution. And a national survey of more than 200,000

the work of the Jesus Seminar.

In another rejection of the Biblical faith, many in America seem to want to distance themselves from the nation’s Christian heritage. A growing number of intellectual and educational elites are apparently refusing to honor God with the use of the initials BC (“before Christ”) or AD (Latin *Anno Domini*, “in the year of our Lord”) when dating current or historical events.

In a recent article, columnist William Safire said many individuals outside middle America instead use BCE (“before the Common Era”) and CE (“Common Era”). This is being done, Safire said, because of a politically correct desire to be “ecumenical” and more “inclusive.”

To understand the issue more, Safire asked his readers to write with their opinion on whether to keep the traditional designation or the PC approach. He said those writing in who were scholars favored ending the use of BC and AD by a two to one margin. In fact, said Prof. Harold Bloom of Yale in his response, “Every scholar I know uses BCE and shuns AD.”

In Washington, D.C., the Supreme

teens for USA Today may back him up. In that poll, a majority of teens said that a young person should be 18 years old before having sex for the first time, with “thousands contending that sex should wait for marriage,” Judge said.

The way teens relate in dating is also changing. He said a growing revulsion to some of the effects of the sexual revolution – like AIDS, divorce, and a culture saturated with sex – has “made young people look to a new generation – that of their grandparents – for romantic role models.”

Nancy Kirsch of “It’s Just Lunch,” a dating service in Washington, agrees: “People definitely are more conservative. In the last five or six years, there’s really been a trend among young people” toward more traditional dating patterns.

Insight, 6/2/97

Court also pays homage to this politically correct approach, Safire said. For the last year those applying to practice before the court have been given the choice of whether they wanted AD or CE to be used on the certificate.

But not everyone agreed. “It is one thing to deny the divinity of Christ,” said one respondent. “It is quite another to deny His historical existence, which is what is implied by the superfluous switch from the traditional BC to the PC BCE.”

Commercial Appeal (Memphis), 8/19/97;
U.S. News & World Report, 8/4/97



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Fall TV season grows

As the new 1997 fall television season opened, one thing became very clear: despite the concerns of parents, TV will continue to produce trash in bulk quantities. Violence, an increased and more militant homosexual presence, and sitcoms with humor anchored firmly in sexual dialogue permeate the airwaves again this season.

As CBS proudly advertised, its new cop drama, **Brooklyn South**, pushes the level of violence on television further than ever before. (See review below.)

With the controversy fading from last year's "coming out" episode of Ellen DeGeneres' sitcom character, this season promises to be even more steeped in pro-homosexual propaganda. According to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, this fall's network prime-time lineup has increased the number of openly homosexual characters by almost a third – from 23 to 30. GLAAD's entertainment director, Chastity Bono, praised the television networks for being at the "forefront" of normalizing homosexuality.

And despite the public's disdain for TV's tiresome infatuation with sexual humor, new sitcoms like **Veronica's Closet** (NBC), **Dharma & Greg** (ABC), **Tony Danza** (NBC), and **Union Square** (NBC) only continue the trend.

General Motors sponsors prime-time's first TVMA

General Motors has emerged as a leading sponsor of **Brooklyn South**, Steven Bochco's (**NYPD Blue**, **Public Morals**) new fall bloodfest. The first episode broke new ground with its TVMA (mature) rating, a first for a prime-time series.

■ Brooklyn South P26 S V TVMA

CBS, 9/22 – The debut episode delivers as promised, with a gut-wrenching opening sequence, shocking in its violent brutality. A drug addict is shown coolly shooting down civilians and cops, killing three and wounding four. During the melee, a sniper takes advantage of the confusion by trying to kill some cops. One shot explodes the top of a policeman's head. The victim falls to the sidewalk, where he lies in a pool of blood.

September 29 P13 S V TV14

This episode featured even more graphic blood and gore, though the rating was reduced to TV14. Though the action was not depicted, one scene returned again and again to the bloody genital area of a man whose genitals had been shot off. Filthy dialogue filled the scene. A seductive skin scene was also featured.

Warner-Lambert promotes sitcom lesbian

Ellen DeGeneres, prime-time's leading lesbian, jumped into the fall season determined to make homosexuality normal. Warner-Lambert advertised on all of the following episodes of her family-time sitcom.

■ Ellen H P4 S TV14

ABC, 9/24 – In this fall premiere episode, many lesbian jokes accompany

Ellen's search for a same-sex relationship. Every plot gimmick one might expect for heterosexuals is altered to demonstrate that homosexuals are no different from anyone else. Ellen even goes on a blind date, and when she meets an old boyfriend, he notes how happy she looks (now that she's "come out"). Casual sex of the heterosexual variety is also frequently discussed.

October 1 H P3 TV14

Ellen and Lisa, her fitness instructor, flirt at the gym, and Ellen asks her out. It's as normal as a man-woman relationship. Ellen's friend Paige reminds her that coming out was "about being totally honest with yourself." Three-way sex is treated humorously.

October 8 H P3 S TV14

An eight-second kiss between Ellen and her friend Paige earned this episode a parental advisory warning of adult content. Paige, who is not a lesbian, nevertheless French-kissed Ellen. Another woman who viewed the embrace spoke approvingly of it, calling the kiss "beautiful."

Unilever leads pack for NYPD Blue sleaze

Continuing its commitment to prime-time profanity, skin scenes and the homosexual agenda, Unilever still chooses **NYPD Blue** as a favorite spot for the company's ads.

■ NYPD Blue H P15 S TV14

ABC, 9/30 – While attention was focused on new shows, Steven Bochco's four-year-old drama premiered with more skin and more graphic vulgar language than the series had offered before. Slang terms for sexual arousal and genitalia were used,

as well as the street slang for urination, the latter many times. Two different couples were depicted in illicit sex scenes.

News America pushes ABC/Disney's anti-Christian message

ABC's controversial new series **Nothing Sacred** has been able to depend on advertising support from News America, another media giant. The owner of the Fox network has appeared on several of the early episodes, including this one.

■ **Nothing Sacred** **AC P3 TV14**

ABC, 10/9 – Rachel's pregnancy creates a crisis for her as she considers whether to have an abortion – merely a pretext for the episode to thrash the Catholic Church for its medieval approach to the issue. Every conceivable argument in favor of abortion is brought to light, while the Church's position, as represented by the old, sour-faced and disapproving Father Leo, is never offered or explained. In the confrontation between Leo and Father Ray, the young, hip parish pastor, Leo tells him that someone needs to stop Rachel from having an abortion. But Ray chastises him, saying, "This isn't 1957, Leo. We don't have to live with those consequences (Rachel's pregnancy) – she does!"

AT&T is sole sponsor of school sex ed special

AT&T feels strongly that casual sex is desirable for teenagers, as evidenced in the corporation's sole sponsorship of this CBS special.

■ **Too Soon for Sex: Class of 2000 P2 PC**

CBS, 9/4 - This one-hour, politically-correct approach to the issue of teenage sexu-

ality ought to give every parent nightmares about the current generation, as kids and parents are interviewed about their sexuality. Reasons kids give for having sex are varied: everybody is doing it; poor self esteem; alcohol; boredom; and the influence of the media.

No moral objection to premarital sex is ever presented. The only limitation deemed reasonable – by either teens or parents – was that a young person be "ready" for sex, "in love" with somebody, or be able to "handle it." No definition of those criteria was ever given.

The only mention of religion in the entire program was the fact that a sexually-active 15-year-old girl, who began having sex when she was only 13, was in the choir at church. But, she said, she didn't "mix" her religion with her social or sexual life.

Grand Met picks sitcoms with illicit sex, anti-Christian themes

The following sitcoms, all sponsored by Grand Met, focus on illicit sex and/or caricatures of inept clergymen.

■ **Dharma & Greg** **P7 PC S TVPG**

ABC, 9/24 - Greg, a yup-

pie assistant U.S. attorney impulsively marries Dharma, a New Ager who believes in astrology and reincarnation, has a statue of Buddha in her apartment, and whose mother reads palms. The parents provide a clear delineation between acceptable lifestyles. Dharma's parents are aging hippies who walk around their apartment naked, talk freely about sex and despise the institution of marriage. Yet they are shown as honest, understanding and accepting. Greg's parents, on the other hand, are establishment, portrayed as uptight, intolerant snobs who only care about money. It is suggested to Greg's mom that she loosen up by getting a shower massager and learning to masturbate.

■ **The Drew Carey Show** **P10 S SA TVPG**

ABC, 9/24 – Drew and Mimi scrap over who should be president of the proposed union for the company's singles, but it is only the backdrop to an episode full of sex jokes. "I'm going to get me some [sex]" becomes a mantra for Drew's union, and the raunch never stops: condoms, sperm, masturbation, and genitals are the source of this episode's humor. Beer drinking outside

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KEY TO TV REVIEW 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 does *not* earn a commendation.)

• **TV network ratings are indicated in black.**

work is constant.

■ **Jenny**
P2 S TVPG

NBC, 9/28 – Jenny, the series star and a former Playboy bunny, and her best friend Maggie leave their humble Utica heritage to live in Hollywood when Jenny's father (whom she never met) leaves her his Hollywood mansion. The main source of humor is sex – illicit sex, lesbian sex, homosexual sex, promiscuous sex, casual sex.

■ **Just Shoot Me**
P7 S TVPG

NBC, 9/23 – The season premiere focuses on the sex lives of those working at *Blush* magazine. Nina brags about her promiscuity, and even reminisces about betraying a friend by sleeping with her boyfriend. There is crude talk about lusting after a male model and about the female anatomy.

■ **The Simpsons**
AC P2 TVPG

Fox, 8/31 – This episode takes a cynical look at ministers in the person of Rev. Lovejoy. Marge Simpson has to drag her family to church, only to see them – and everyone else in the congregation – fall asleep at the reverend's painfully boring preaching. Marge's husband and kids would rather spend the day at the local dump.

Lovejoy has lost his youthful idealism, and is overwhelmed by the problems of his parishioners. In a vision the stained glass "saints" ridicule Lovejoy, telling him that he's lucky God "isn't here" in the church, or he'd *really* be in trouble. Ultimately Marge teaches Lovejoy that "there's more to being a minister than not caring about people."

■ **Soul Man**
AC TVPG

ABC, 10/7 – Father Mike is the series star and one of two clergymen in this sitcom. In this episode he has his son Fred, about six years old, lie to a parishioner on the telephone, telling her that the priest is not at home. When Mike's Harley-Davidson disappears, Fred asks his frantic dad if he's tried praying. "Nahhh," says the priest, "I wouldn't want to bother God. He's got enough to do."

■ **Tony Danza**
P8 S TVG

NBC, 9/24 – This new show about a writer raising his two daughters promises more sex jokes, which makes its TVG rating a surprise. His daughter Tina jokes with him about "tongue-kissing a boy." Tony compares a beeper to a vibrator, and a crude reference is made to "Horny Miss Cooper," a teacher at Tina's school. The teenage bellboy confesses to Tony that he's been having masochistic dreams about Tony's voluptuous assistant, Carmen.

■ **P&G parades through sex-filled sitcoms**

Illicit sex is a major story line or an underlying plot element in the following sitcoms. Procter and Gamble advertised on all of them.

■ **Cybill**
H P4 S TVPG

CBS, 9/15 – Series star Cybill opens the fourth season with a guilty conscience because she continually dreams and fantasizes about having sex with her best friend's sex partner. Illicit sex is the mainstay of the episode. A homosexual waiter is a recurring character.

■ **Friends**
P5 S TV14

NBC, 10/9 – Chandler has casual sex with his friend Rachel's boss, a woman he

detests. Rachel makes him promise to break up with the woman, who leaves Chandler, wearing only a shirt, handcuffed to her office chair. When Rachel and a co-worker find him, Rachel wants to free him, but is afraid what her boss will do if she finds out Rachel's been in her office. She agrees to exaggerate Chandler's genital size to women they know.

■ **George & Leo**
H P5 TVPG

CBS, 10/13 – Leo (Casey's dad) came to town broke, after having worked for the mob in Las Vegas. George (Casey's father-in-law) allows him to stay in a bedroom above George's bookstore, but the two men cannot get along. Customers assume Leo is George's homosexual lover, and the book club president pledges all of their business because they want to support the men. George allows the lie to grow in order to get the business.

■ **Gregory Hines Show**
P5 S TVG

CBS, 9/26 – A surprising G rating touted this debut episode as a family-friendly show. In reality, illicit sex is a major theme. Ben, the series hero, is the widowed father of a 12-year-old son. Ben and his brother Carl vie for the attention of the same woman in this episode.

■ **Toyota ads push casual, promiscuous sex**

Promiscuity, casual sex, homosexuality and other perversions are promoted in the sitcoms reviewed below. Toyota was the common advertiser on all.

■ **Friends**
P9 S TVPG

NBC, 9/25 – This fourth season premiere revisits the theme that made it a hit: the

sex lives of its characters. As Ross and Rachel talk about getting back together, he tells her about his sex life with interim girlfriend Bonnie. Later Ross and Rachel are in bed together after sex. Meanwhile Phoebe discovers that she was the product of a three-way relationship between her birth mother and the parents who raised her.

■ **Seinfeld**
P2 S TV14

NBC, 10/2 – Casual sex is again a major theme for the series' four principals. The primary emphasis is on Elaine and her boyfriend who have broken up numerous times, but who can't stay out of bed together. They are shown in two bed scenes in this episode. Elaine declares, "It was no big deal." Series star Seinfeld is also shown in bed with his girlfriend.

■ **Spin City**
H P6 S TVPG

ABC, 9/24 – This sitcom's first offering of the season continues with the free-wheeling sexuality of its main characters. Paul and Claudia have moved in together, even though he is afraid of commitment. Carter, the mayor's homosexual assistant, is concerned that he may be "heterophobic," since he can't stand looking out his window and watching the newlyweds continually having sex in the apartment building next door – although he can't keep from watching. Everyone else shows up at Carter's apartment later to watch them having sex.

■ **Union Square**
P7 S TVPG

NBC, 9/25 – Juvenile humor at its worst mars this sitcom's debut episode. A stream of jokes about casual and premarital sex are the core of the show's comedy, as well as crude references to

the female anatomy and masturbation. Even sex between dogs gets a mention.

■ **Veronica's Closet**
H P6 S TVPG

NBC, 9/25 - This debut episode presents the struggles of Ronnie, a romance "expert" who also owns a lingerie company which apparently will be the pretext for a weekly parade of women in nighties and teddies.

The theme of adultery dominates this show, as there is a constant discussion of the adulteries of Ronnie's philandering husband. Ronnie's dad cheated on her mom, but says he still loves his ex-wife. His hope for his daughter: "Somewhere there might be someone wonderful enough to cheat on your husband with." Sexual talk, including a crude reference to masturbation, permeate the dialogue. And there is the token homosexual subtext: everyone knows Josh is gay but Josh himself.

Unilever consistent in sponsoring sleaze

The following dramas are representative of what the networks offer. Anti-Christian themes, homosexuality, the crudest of language and profanity, and illicit sex are common. (See specific code letters on each review.) Unilever is the advertiser who appears on every show.

■ **Ally McBeal**
P3 S TV14

Fox, 9/8 - This debut episode has a flashback to the childhood of two main characters (Ally and Billy) when they sniffed each other dog-style to determine if they were in love. He is now married and they both work for the same law firm. Ally defends a porn publisher who is sued by a minister.

The firm's unisex bathroom provides a backdrop

for sexual dialogue.

■ **Cracker**
P16 S V TV14

ABC, 9/18 - Series star Dr. "Fitz" Fitzpatrick is a foul-mouthed college psychology prof/police shrink/therapist/radio talk show shrink/big boozier/gambling addict. Vulgar and perverse sex jokes are frequent in this episode, including Fitzpatrick talking to his teenage son about the "big-boobed" girl the boy got pregnant. Photos of murder victims figure prominently in the episode.

■ **413 Hope Street**
AC H P10 S V TV14

Fox, 9/11 - 413 Hope Street is the address of a refuge for runaways and street people. Among the main characters is a homosexual. This debut episode features an attempted suicide of another young man who has AIDS. He says a priest told him AIDS is his punishment for sin.

■ **Melrose Place**
H P12 S TV14

Fox, 9/8 - The sixth season premiere of this promiscuity-pushing series features the regulars in their favorite activities - bed hopping and back stabbing. Bride Sydney dies when a drunk driver crashes across the church lawn into her wedding party. Peter proposes to Taylor (continuing an affair begun when they were both married), but his only intent is to destroy Taylor. Other characters manipulate each other and connive to create new sexual relationships.

■ **Nash Bridges**
H P12 S SA V TV14

CBS, 9/12 - This repeat episode featured series star Nash discovering that the woman he's having sex with is married. He also learns

The Good Stuff

P&G sponsors some of prime-time's best

Procter and Gamble was the one sponsor common to the positive reviews below.

■ **Kids Say the Darndest Things + TVG**

CBS, 9/18 - Bill Cosby hosts this hour-long special featuring his conversations with kids, along with many clips from Art Linkletter's classic **House Party**. Linkletter appears at the end of the hour when it is revealed that the entire audience is composed of people who had been child guests on **House Party**.

■ **Promised Land + TVG**

CBS, 9/25 - In this second season premiere of this family drama, Russell Greene's estranged brother Joe has come home, dragging tragedy with him. In an auto accident he caused two deaths; now his family helps him take responsibility for his rebellious attitudes and for the pain he has caused others.

October 9 + TVG

In this episode Russell and his wife Claire learn that she's pregnant. They have a son, 17, and a daughter, 13. They also care for nine-year-old Nathaniel, Joe's son. They begin making plans for settling down from the gypsy-like lifestyle they've been enjoying.

■ **Step by Step + TVG**

ABC, 9/26 - Mom learns a lesson from her day-care age child when she refuses to take Mom's fancy cake to her school's bake sale. The child was supposed to help, but Mom was subconsciously competing with those mothers who would all try to outdo each other. In the end, Mom watches as the child begins spooning mountains of cookie dough onto the baking sheet.

that his sister and his old girlfriend are now lesbian lovers. Graphic violent scenes also occur, one in which a woman grinds her spike heel into a man's stomach - in an attempt to arouse him sexually.

Warner-Lambert sponsors program with subtle pro-choice message

AFA received calls and letters about this episode. Some interpreted it to be pro-life, but, in reality, the main characters' words reveal a commitment to the pro-choice philosophy.

■ **Touched by an Angel**
P5 PC TVPG

CBS, 9/28 - At first it appeared to be a pro-life theme when a pregnant woman, age 42, decided not to abort her Down's Syndrome baby. Her husband, pushing for abortion, says, "You were the one that was preaching pro-choice all these years! What happened!?"

"I'm still pro-choice!" she insists. "And, Bill, I just made one. I'm going to have this baby!"

Later, angel Monica reassures her, "You made the choice that was best for you."

Better TV yes, but who dares to suggest no TV?

BY LLOYD GRAY

Editor, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal • October 7, 1997

For years now, television programming has been under intense scrutiny, particularly for its impact on children. Political pressure, advertiser boycotts and other means have been used in an attempt to force the industry to clean up its act.

The complaints have been largely on target. There is too much violence on TV. Programmers seem to have an adolescent fixation with sex. Little of real educational value is shown. Children can acquire some messed up values if they watch a lot of television, and so can the rest of us.

Out of all the hand-wringing has come a rating system for TV programs and, last week, a new federal requirement that broadcasters weekly show three hours of children's educational fare. Organized pressure continues, with mixed results, to get networks to tone down their excesses.

Yet all of this discussion revolves around a questionable premise: that television is indispensable to modern life. It seems to take for granted that we all have to watch TV, the children included, so the goal is to improve what we see. Rarely if ever does anyone involved in the TV crusade, from the President on down, suggest that life without television is actually a possibility.

Sure, there's the frequently heard response to critics of TV programming that they can simply "change the channel" or "turn it off." And there are the periodic campaigns to get people to go for a day or two or even a week without watching television.

But the bold suggestion that people don't really need TV – that they can do just fine not only with the set turned off but without one in the house at all – is not part of the discussion. Yet there are people, rare though they may be, who live a perfectly happy life in a home with no TV.

Dr. Mark and Ann Blair Huffman of Tupelo and their three children, for example. They don't own a television set. Never have, and as far as they can see, never will.

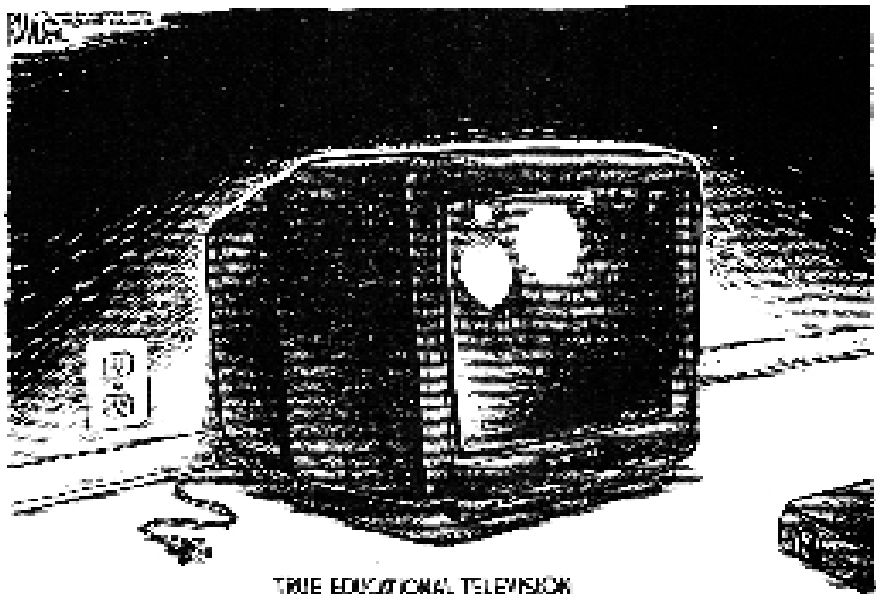
They didn't one day get mad, say, "We've had enough," and in a dramatic display of righteous indignation cast the set on the trash heap. They've just never felt the need for it.

Ann Blair was already conditioned this way since she grew up in a TV-less home, the choice of her parents who simply felt there were more important, useful and interesting things to do with your time. Her childhood was bereft of such critical cultural clues as the name of the Beverly Hillbillies' banker or the birth order of Adam, Hoss and Little Joe. She survived. She expects her children will, too.

Of course, they get looks of disbelief from some people when they find out they don't have a TV. And there was the baby sitter who met the Huffmans at the door when they returned home one night with the anguished cry, "Where is

it?!" But the family takes all this in stride.

If Ann Blair simply doesn't need TV, Mark doesn't need the temptation of one around the house. He admits he'd watch it all the time if it were there, and he's got lots of other things he needs to get done. Since there's never been one



Rarely if ever does anyone involved in the TV crusade, from the President on down, suggest that life without television is actually a possibility.

around, he doesn't miss it.

And remarkably, the children don't either. It's not that they've never been exposed to it. They'll watch at neighbors' or friends' houses, and on rare occasions, such as the Olympics or when relatives are coming, their parents will rent one for a few days. But they don't pine away for the TV set.

What's the result? "The kids do a lot more reading in the evenings than they might do if we had a TV," Mark says. (So much for the need for "educational programming.") And, he adds, having them not exposed to a lot of the objectionable material on TV is a nice extra.

The bottom line: "The kids are learning you don't have to have a TV to function quite nicely in this world."

Is that a lesson any of the rest of us might dare to learn?

Second-hand steam...

Why do we tolerate simulation when the real thing's not allowed?

BY JOEL BELZ

Reprinted from *World magazine* • August 23/30, 1997

It would have to be among the most startling of invitations you've ever received. You've lived next door to your neighbors for half a dozen years, and you thought you knew them fairly well. They are fine, upstanding folks in the community, active in school activities and little league. They're members of a different church from yours, but you know they're faithful there and that they take their Christian faith seriously. You've had some fun times with them, but also some serious backyard discussions about politics, kids' behavior, and music styles.

So you're not quite prepared for his invitation tonight. He drops by just before you sit down to dinner with your own family, pulls you aside, and calmly suggests: "Later tonight, my wife and I will be heading for bed – and my guess is we'll be – ah – well, you know, probably doing some of the things married people do. I thought maybe you and your wife would like to come by and watch."

You are aghast. The idea is so grotesque you can't imagine how to mention it to your wife – although when you do, it will certainly not be in the "shall we?" but more in the "how could he?" category of discussion. The images in your mind are repulsive.

Your neighbor is sensitive, and sees your uncomfortable surprise. "I'm not suggesting any hanky panky," he assures you. "Our marriage is terrific. I know yours is too. I'm just talking about watching." Then, sensing that your reluctance is real, he suggests an alternative: "Maybe this would be better. I have the phone number of a couple who would come over – a couple neither of us knows personally. That way, all four of us could just sit and watch them."

You know he meant it as a solution. Some solution.

If all this seems like a bad dream, with little or no place in *World*, try this: Every evening this week, hundreds of thousands of evangelical Christian people will sit down and settle for "the solution." Not in person, of course, but on video. Not X-rated videos, but on regular evening television and in the standard fare at your neighborhood movie theater.

Author Doug Wilson first suggested this outlandish hypocrisy in his excellent book *Reforming Marriage*. He points out that too many people in the evangelical community have come to justify watching on the screen various activities we wouldn't think of viewing in the flesh. Things that would embarrass us all if they were real, embarrass us not at all because they are only simulated. The outlandish invitation described in my first paragraph is regularly extended, and regularly accepted, with just a few video adjustments.

AFA JOURNAL • NOV/DEC, 1997

The rationalization no longer works.

The phony distinction first hit me with force a couple of years ago when the movie *Braveheart* took all kinds of awards and became a favorite of thousands of Christians. *World* itself gave *Braveheart* a good review – noting especially its commitment to a story of principled courage in the face of anti-Christian mayhem. And the most memorable love scenes in *Braveheart* are supposedly set in the context of marriage. So bare flesh – as long as it's within marriage – gets our stamp of approval.

Yet to produce that love scene, two people who weren't married to each other pressed their undressed bodies to each other while millions of the rest of us watched and gave our sentimental assent. What we'd never do with our next-door neighbor we paid money to do with someone else's neighbor.

All this took on a new perspective for me last week when I read a column, "Public Displays of Affection: How Much Is Too Much?" The first of writer Scott Smith's several vignettes goes like this: "Exhibit A: Rush hour. Man and woman leaning against a bus stop bench in an ardent embrace. Open mouthed kisses. Roving hands. Intertwined torsos. Gawking motorists."

The picture, mind you, is not a movie. It's real life. Mr. Smith goes on to add several similar scenarios, and then pops his question: "Ain't love grand? Sure, up to a point – the point where private, intimate actions

become public, exhibitionistic performances." And then, frankly acknowledging his growing worry about such "public displays," he explores what's prompting so many people to do such astoundingly private things in public.

Amazingly, though, Mr. Smith never touches on the role of the media. To suppose that people, watching together, can witness unending intimacies, bedding, and coupling, and then not think it normal for those same people to imitate all that behavior while everyone is still watching – is to engage in wishful thinking.

But by the same token, for Christians to think they can consume such a visual entertainment diet and not be affected is to think of ourselves much more highly than we ought to think. What makes it right to gaze with fascination at simulated "public displays of affection" when we wouldn't tolerate a glance at the real thing? It's a rationalization too many of us have passed on unthinkingly to our sons and daughters. It's also a rationalization it's time to reject.



The Ten Commandments and civil liberty in a pluralistic society

BY J. LIGON DUNCAN

While there has been much clamor over the refusal of an Alabama judge to follow a superior court's directives to cease to open court sessions with prayer and to remove a displayed copy of the Ten Commandments, and even more furor over the Governor of Alabama's declaration that he would surround the courthouse with State Guardsmen before he would accede to such an edict, there has been little attention to the more significant underlying issues.



On the one hand, one detects much handwringing by "law and order liberals" suddenly piously concerned that we show sacred respect for an institution (the American judicial system) that they bear much responsibility for bringing into ill repute. "This judge is undermining the rule of law," they whine. Pardon me, but methinks the lady doth protest too much.

On the other hand, the knee-jerk reaction of outraged anti-federal government libertarians has not necessarily been more thoughtful. "We're not going to put up with these federal courts coming in here and telling us what to do," we hear. Surely, there is a reasoned argument with which to respond to relativistic judicial activism.

And sure enough, there is. It is found in our nation's fundamental documents, her history, and her principles and theory of government. Indeed, the secular pluralists of today, so watchful and frightened of those who would intrude "religion" into the civic life of our nation fail to appreciate the stance of the Founding Fathers in at least two aspects.

First, the Fathers' constitutional prohibition of "the establishment of religion" and ban of "religious tests" was not a denial of the right of government officials to appeal to transcendent moral principles or the divine origins of those moral principles. Quite the opposite. Not only did the Founding Fathers guard against the national establishment of a particular organized religion, and protect against the imposition of denominational opinion and practice on the judicial character of the land, they also expected all officeholders to acknowledge transcendent moral law and the divine lawgiver who gave it.

Even a cursory review of the Declaration of Independence makes this clear. Thus no man who denies the transcendent moral law or the divine (and hence, unalterable) origin of that law is capable of "supporting the Constitution."

This position, enshrined in the Declaration, acknowledging "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" is not a "religious claim" or position (from a constitutional point of view). Indeed, "the Laws of Nature" are, as the Founding Fathers argued, universal, self-evident, principles (underived from any religion).

The Founders of our nation taught that acknowledgment of these principles alone protects our nation from totalitarianism. Acceptance of "Nature's God" as the divine lawgiver is thus based on universal, self-evident, first-principles and not on religious truth claims (according to the tenets of Scottish Realism, the philosophy which supplied the Fathers with the language and content of much of their political epistemology). Those who, today, wish to argue that such claims are religious tests from a constitutional perspective will find themselves at odds with the authors of the Constitution.

Second, the wholly novel idea that the Bill of Rights' prohibition of Congress' "establishment of religion" requires the officers of the U.S. government and the judges of its courts to be irreligious in the exercise of their duties, and compels the government itself to ban religious activity from its properties (including the forbidding of prayer and the outlawing of the display of the Ten Commandments in courtrooms) and to discourage (or prohibit) such activity in its schools, is based upon a breathtaking ignorance of our history as a nation, a total lack of appreciation of the nexus and overlap between the Laws of Nature and certain aspects of revealed religion, and (we must say) a view radically different than that of the Founding Fathers on the appropriate relation of religion to public life.

We do not hesitate to state that between these two views, the one of the Founding Fathers and the other of latter-day relativistic civil libertarians, only the former is capable of sparing us from tyranny. For no one who denies the existence or knowability of transcendent and absolute moral principles can believe in inalienable rights or unchangeable principles of human liberty.

If we can appeal to no higher authority than the Supreme Court of this land, then there is absolutely nothing from keeping that Supreme Court from abolishing all of our rights and turning our national principles on their heads. If murder is wrong only because our courts currently think that it is, then we are in trouble. If there is no longer an unchangeable core of civic moral principles on which we have societal consensus, then we are in trouble.

And we are. For when judges think that the Laws of Nature, as summarized in the Ten Commandments, no longer have a place in our public life (we'll offend the people who only believe in nine – opined Barney Frank) then they have just consigned us to tyranny and divested us of the principles on which this nation was founded.

Our first revolution was waged in opposition to incursions on human liberty far less serious and significant than that.

Ligon Duncan III, PhD, is a former John R. Richardson Professor of Systematic Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary; and senior Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi.

It's time to tell the truth about pornography

BY JAMES L. LAMBERT

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from *Porn in America*, James Lambert's new book for Huntington House Publishers. Lambert speaks publicly about pornography's harmful effects on the individual and the community. He lives in California with his wife, Lorraine, and their family.

This book will deal with the question of establishing absolutes in our lives. It will make a case for strong personal application in dealing with porn use and addiction. It will offer encouragement for those who are struggling with addiction. Later chapters will also provide practical advice to Christians who have been secretly involved in viewing porn.

Pornography is a problem for millions of men across this country simply because it is so much more available than it was just 10 years ago. It seems easy for some of us to hide our heads in the sand and ignore the harm this material causes in our communities, yet daily the sale of hard-core pornography significantly contributes to "the epidemic of sexual violence and crime in America." Further chapters will provide evidence that makes a strong case linking porn to this epidemic.

Chapters two through eight establish that America has a strong fascination with pornographic, sexually addictive material. Some might wonder why so much of the book is devoted to proving this point. The explanation rests with the fact that much of the public is either misinformed or uninformed about the proliferation and the harm (including mental, physical, and spiritual effects) this material presents to our populace.

Not until we become educated about the long term effects of porn and the message it conveys, will we be able to understand how this material desensitizes our perceptions about women, children, family, and the proper role of the gift of sex in our lives. Our tolerance of this material runs contrary to all decent, traditional standards. If we knowingly allow ourselves to financially support this industry and businesses that are involved in this industry, we become part of the problem, not the solution.

This message is even more profound for those who hold strong religious convictions. The God of the Bible repeatedly calls on His people to live holy lives. Both Bible believing Christians and Jews can agree on this point. In the Torah, we are told by God to "be holy for I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 20:7). In the New Testament, Jesus exhorts His followers to "sin no more" (John 5:14). The Bible speaks against lascivious behavior and shows it has no place in the lives of people dedicated to following God. In fact, in the country of Iran where Islam is the state religion, the production of porn is a capital offense, which could include the death penalty (NY Times, 12/21/93).

Yet, how seriously do we take the Bible's exhortation to live our lives pleasing to God's will and way? How seriously are we willing to stand against immorality and be criticized for positions we take against evil in our community? I believe that this is a question every believer needs to ask himself – just how committed am I?

Part of the problem in recognizing evil in our society is to get past the misconceptions that proponents of evil present to the public in defense of what they do. This is certainly the case in the porn industry. One of the first things that pornographers do in setting up their business is to get a good defense attorney. They are well prepared to fight law enforcement or any groups that oppose their activity. However, their arguments are based on a number of misconceptions that are reviewed in chapter ten. This material is important because it is helpful in understanding the pornographers' justification of their own business. After scrutinizing the facts presented in this publication, I am hopeful that you will be able to recognize the extent to which porn has invaded everyday commerce in our country. We should also be able to see how porn's influence is contributing to our moral free fall.

It would be completely wrong and irresponsible to blame all of America's moral slide on the growth of pornography. The presence of pornography is evidence that we have a severe character problem in this country. While pornography contributes to many social and personal problems, it would be naive to give the pornographers more credit than they deserve. We can blame our nation's condition on our own "human condition" and unwillingness to change.



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Promise Keepers travel to the nation's capitol

BY ED VITAGLIANO

AFA Journal News Editor

"The locusts in the book of the prophet Joel, chapter two, are, in my opinion, an analogy for the progressive deterioration that results from unrepented sin," said Willis Lucroy, 42, as 17 men sitting in an otherwise empty church listened intently.

Of locusts and men

It was 11 p.m., and this group from Morton, Mississippi, was about to embark on its 18-hour bus ride to Washington, D.C. There, they would meet with hundreds of thousands of other men on the Washington Mall on Saturday, October 4, to take part in a sacred assembly to repent of their sins and pray for revival. Appropriately called Stand in the Gap, the gathering had been called by Promise Keepers (PK), the Christian men's movement that has seen its attendance at events skyrocket from just 72 men in its first meeting in 1990 to over one million last year.

Like so many men who have taken part in Promise Keepers events since its inception, Lucroy is not a preacher. He is director of finance and risk management at BC Rogers Poultry, Inc., in Morton. Lucroy taught the men about the terrible destructiveness of locusts that have plagued the Middle East for thousands of years, and how wave after wave would strip fields of every last vestige of produce. When sin is left in our lives, he said, it does the same thing: it strips Christians of their fruitfulness for Christ. The men responded by praying for one another to overcome whatever "locusts" plagued their personal lives. An hour later, their long trek to the nation's capitol began.

They were joined by men from every state in the U.S.

and almost 60 nations, traveling in cars, on buses, and on more than 175 charter planes. As the innumerable journeys across varied terrain were underway, many of the men who arrived in Washington had already begun their spiritual journeys. Whether it had started months ago or hours before,

they had been asking God to search their hearts, that they might repent of the sins that had kept them from being the men of God they were called to be.

Glen Crotwell, 43, a pastor from Morton, had attended numerous PK events in the past. He had begun his spiritual journey more than a decade before. "Ever since about 1984 when I heard a series of sermons saying there's a new wave of revival coming, I've been really praying, 'Lord, I don't want to miss what you're doing. I want to be right in the middle of it.' And that's been a constant theme in my heart," he said. And Crotwell believes Stand in the Gap is part of that wave.

Once in Washington, the ocean of Godly men generated tremendous excitement, as attendees felt that the gathering was a sovereign act of God. Paul Konstanski, 41, who works with Campus Crusade for Christ in Bloomington, Indiana, was at the Promise Keepers event and held high hopes for what Stand in the Gap might portend for the nation as a whole.

"I'd love to just see it be the start of revival. I mean, I've been a part of small, little things that have happened where I've seen God's Spirit move in a special way, and you just can't describe it," Konstanski said. "And I'd love to be able to see that happen on a nationwide basis, that it would just start a spark here that would go on, to take it back to different churches and different communities."

Promise Keepers certainly has its detractors, and in the days prior to October 4 many were stridently warning that PK was downright dangerous. *The Humanist* magazine, for example, called the men who attend Promise Keepers gatherings "storm troopers in the culture war," as if the PK leadership was intent on raising an army of holy warriors for a Christian *jihad*. And the National Organization for Women (NOW) screeched about the "chilling" agenda of Promise Keepers, which was nothing less than an "ultra-conservative social and political" blueprint to hurl America back into the Dark Ages of patriarchal dominance.

But for Bobby Jenkins, 40, who owns a car repair business in Morton, politics was not why he was in Washington. "I'm



not here to make a political statement, I'm here to make a personal commitment, to humble myself before a living God," he said. "We realize we cannot change this country in our own strength, but we have to depend on God to change it."

For Jim White, 39, a state trooper from Wakefield, New Hampshire, if there was any statement being made, it was a spiritual one. "My prayer is that this is a turning point, that

"My prayer is that this is a turning point, that this is a day where America sits up and takes notice of men who are concerned with families and men who love the Lord."

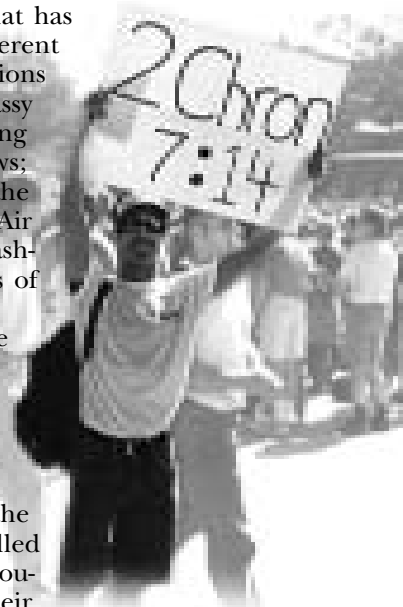
this is a day where America sits up and takes notice of men who are concerned with families and men who love the Lord," White said.

As Lucroy had said, the prophet Joel warned Israel of a coming plague of locusts that would strip her lands of their sustenance if God's people did not repent: "Yet even now," declares the Lord, 'Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments....'"

In the capitol of a nation that has left God, Christian men of different races, tongues and denominations stood before the Lord on the grassy mall stretching from the building where legislators pass our laws; past the Smithsonian Institute, the National Gallery of Art, and the Air and Space Museum; past the Washington Monument; to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

For more than six hours, these men who had traveled so far, both geographically and spiritually, worshipped God, listened to the preaching of His Word, and prayed. Many had been and were fasting. When the Promise Keepers leadership called for repentance, thousands and thousands of men literally fell on their faces asking for God's forgiveness. On the grass and underneath the trees, with hands spread out before them or tightly clasped in quiet desperation, men cried out to God in their own way: some wept openly, others whispered their prayers, still others petitioned their Sovereign in silence.

There, in our nation's capitol, was the sound of men rending their hearts before God, a sound that could be heard throughout the nation, around the world, and before the very throne of God.



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What liberals mean when they say “bigot”

BY DON FEDER

Creators Syndicate, Inc.

Welcome to “The Psychology of Liberalism 101.” Today’s lecture: Why liberals are addicted to ad hominem, and what they mean by “bigot.”

This is inspired by a recent communication from a reader. After complimenting my mother (I did a column on her 85th birthday), he wonders how – with such a wonderful mom – I turned out to be “so narrow-minded and bigoted.”

Aside, why are liberals prone to insult-overkill to the point of redundancy? I’m not just “bigoted,” but “narrow-minded” too. Thus, I may be distinguished from all of the tolerant, progressive and cosmopolitan bigots.

This correspondent was put to shame

by one Jane Grey, who did not provide a return address, probably for fear that I would show up with my hooded friends one evening and burn a Star of David on her lawn.

Does the “mean-spirited, pompous trash” I write “bolster” my “deplorable sense of self-esteem?” Lady Jane inquired. The letter was larded with references to my “rantings,” “kindergarten mentality,” “preachy morality,” “puritanical ravings,” “bad-tempered reviling” and “small-minded bitchiness.” Like her namesake, Jane has lost her head – but hardly notices its absence.

Liberals are frequently reduced to sputtering impotence. Their choleric rage is the product of arrogance (the conviction that opposing viewpoints are either evil, idiotic or a combination thereof) compounded by subconscious inferiority.

Having for so long dominated the political debate, they are unaccustomed to dealing with ideas, constructing arguments and presenting evidence. Those who can’t contend ultimately fulminate

“Bigot” is their favorite invective, along with its variations: “hateful,” “intolerant,” “prejudiced” and “mean-spirited.”

Their point is that conservatives—really, anyone who refuses to prostrate himself before their idols – are a medley of David Duke, Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott, the late George Lincoln Rockwell and the early George Corley Wallace.

Since liberals refuse to define their terms, here’s a handy guide to what they mean by “bigot.”

A bigot is a white person (by definition, non-whites can never be bigots, regardless of how much they hate) who isn’t eager to confess his culpability for something others of his pigmentation did 50 or 150 years ago.

A bigot refuses to recognize the inherent justice of stealing a job or educational opportunity from one who deserves it (on the basis of merit) and presenting it to another, due solely to race or gender.

A bigot is a man, or a woman, who clings to the sexist delusion that biol-

ogy impacts on behavior and has the nagging suspicion that the female of the species (whose nature inclines her to nurture) may not be as effective in combat as the more aggressive – not to mention larger and stronger – male.

A bigot is someone who believes the culture that produced Michelangelo, Mozart, Shakespeare and Edison is superior to those whose idea of a good time is female genital mutilation, tribal genocide and pleading for alms.

A bigot wonders why X should arise at 6 a.m. and work 10-hour days to support Y and her brood, when Y’s exclusive occupation is the production of fatherless children who will grow up to mug him.

A bigot asks why America must accept a majority of the world’s immigrants (including millions who break our laws each year to come here), when we currently have no shortage of poverty, disease, illiteracy and racial tension.

A bigot refuses to put a lifestyle whose chief contribution to civilization is the spread of venereal disease on par with heterosexual monogamy, which assures both the continuity of the human race and the socialization of succeeding generations.

In short, a bigot is one who clings to sinister superstition (religion), vile chauvinism (love of country), outmoded patriarchy (the family) and judgmental ethics (an objective moral code).

Pity, we can’t all be as tolerant as the left. Hollywood’s treatment of the Catholic Church and evangelicals, and the educational establishment’s regard for the traditional family are among the many manifestations of liberal benevolence.

This curious and dwindling breed lacks the remotest self-awareness. A lawyer friend told me that when she mentioned one of my columns to a colleague, he responded, “That Don Feder, he’s so intolerant I could just kill him.” So, when they call you a bigot, consider the source and wear it as a badge of honor.



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Note: Faithful & True Groups define sexual wholeness as the ability to be sexual only as an expression of emotional and spiritual intimacy in a heterosexual Christian marriage.




NOTHING... from page 1

the fact that when a TV show falls below the viewership numbers projected by a network, advertisers are entitled to a discount. **Nothing Sacred** had just such a shortfall: 27% in the first two weeks alone. According to USA Today, that translates into a \$15,000 loss on each

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AIS complained about ABC's move in a letter to ad agencies, but the network defended its actions. Marv Goldsmith, ABC president of sales and marketing, said, "There is some sensitivity to these shows and we're protecting the

advertisers" from potential boycotts.

The real problem for **Nothing Sacred** is a simple one: no one's watching. Although the drama has met with critical acclaim, it has attracted mediocre to abysmal viewer numbers. Among Catholics, an informal USA Today poll found that less than 10% had watched at least one of the episodes this fall. After its fourth episode, the show was mired in 79th place among prime-time network programming.

While Disney/ABC insists it remains committed to the show, **Nothing Sacred's** producer David Manson said, "We all understand that in the end this show has to deliver an audience."

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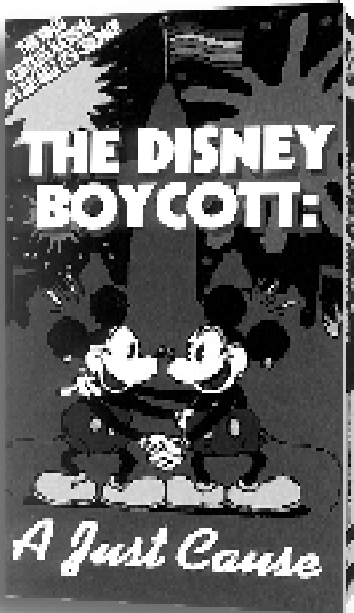
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