

Stern smut debuts on

■ Disney/Miramax sponsors vile show

For months CBS has ignored the complaints of outraged Americans who did not want the corrupt antics of Howard Stern being given a nationwide platform. And as Stern's new TV show was unveiled on August 22, CBS apparently got what it wanted: an hour full of strippers, lesbians kissing, nude women, and vulgar humor.

"CBS executives owe the American people an apology for embracing Stern and his sexual obsessions," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. "CBS has disgraced every community into which it has hustled Stern's smut."

The unholy matrimony between Stern and CBS was announced last April. The late-night Saturday TV show, called **The Howard Stern Radio Show**, was to be produced in association with CBS Television Stations Group, and marketed through CBS's Eyemark Entertainment.

Initially the show was to air on 12 of the net-

work's 14 owned-and-operated stations, covering about 30% of the U.S. television market. When it was discovered that Eyemark would then give some 200 CBS affiliates first crack at picking up Stern in syndication, AFA began a campaign to implore the affiliates to reject the show.

Most of those local CBS affiliates (more than 97%) informed concerned citizens they would not be putting **The Howard Stern Radio Show** on the air. But Eyemark successfully pitched the show to other networks and independent stations, so that when Stern's TV show first aired, an additional 40% of the nation's television viewers were added.

STERN: "I'M EMBARRASSED AT WHO I AM"

Oddly, when the show premiered, it was preceded by a parental advisory – "intended for adult audiences." Ironically, it was rated TV14, rather than TVMA (for mature audiences).

That wasn't a problem as far as Stern was concerned. On his August 18 radio program,
See STERN on page 3

Walt Disney Company profits

■ Mouse/Miramax releases new slasher film

Spokesmen for The Walt Disney Co. have been smugly claiming for months that the boycott of their company has had no effect, but signs are now beginning to point to the boycott's corrosive effect on the Mouse's bottom line.

For the three months ending June 30, Disney's overall net profit dropped 2%, even lower than most Wall Street analysts were expecting, according to *Daily Variety*. The dip in profit was due mainly to sluggish video sales, weaker-than-anticipated film performance, and decreased overall demand for consumer products. Disney CEO Michael Eisner has said in the past that new company ventures and expansion would yield yearly double-digit earnings increases.

Even at Disney's vaunted theme parks, long one of the company's most profitable foundation

stones, attendance was weaker than anticipated. The number of visitors to Disney World's four theme parks only climbed 5% this spring, although projected attendance was expected to grow 6 to 8% with the addition of the new Animal Kingdom park. According to an article in the Orlando Sentinel, some industry observers expect the final numbers for the fiscal year, which ends September 30, to reflect a "low single-digit increase" only.

That news followed on the heels of an 18% drop in the value of Disney's stock this summer, as market analysts became more skeptical about the company's immediate performance. Wall Street analysts lowered their profit forecasts and cut investment ratings.

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New AFA painting page 12

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Suggested contribution: \$15 per year
ALL-MEMBERSHIP PLAN
 Subscriptions mailed directly to your church members:

- \$4 a year/each subscription (minimum 10)
- Send check or money order with your church name and legible mailing list to: AFA Journal, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803
- U.S. addresses only
- Copies of this issue: \$12.50/50 copies



American Family Online – protection for your family

BY DONALD E. WILDMON • AFA President

Nearly 22 years ago God called me to begin this ministry. Through His blessing AFA has grown into a radio network and news service, an outreach division to help those addicted to pornography, a law center, and a monthly magazine.

In August we began another project, American Family Online. AFO is an Internet Service Provider (ISP). We began AFO because we want families to be protected from the destructive material that is so easily available on the Internet. Certainly none of the major national ISPs were interested in such a project. They were interested only in the amount of money they could make.

When companies which censor the Internet began to censor AFA's site (www.afa.net) we became even more committed to staking out a corner of cyberspace for families. In August, AFO went on-line offering a service that protects families from pornography and the other trash. The protection is implemented *at the server*. That means the protection software *cannot be overridden by any user*. Because the filter can not be bypassed, your whole family is protected.

I hope, if you are on the Internet, that you will subscribe to AFO to protect yourself and your family against the destructive material that's available with a simple click of the mouse.

As an encouragement to use AFO, we have established an affinity program through which 10% of your subscription fee will be returned to a pre-approved ministry of your choice. That makes the service attractive to

churches and other organizations.

AFO's subscription fee is \$23.95 a month. If you pay by the year, you get the service for \$240 – that is two free months! Yes, that's a dollar or two more than the national ISPs charge, but isn't your family worth it?

Currently AFO blocks over 500,000 porn sites. Since porn sites are being added to the Internet at the rate of 300-500 per day, there is no ISP which can guarantee 100% protection. However AFO has set up a quick and easy way to identify those sites and we believe our system offers the highest level of protection available. But since nothing is perfect, we still encourage mom and dad to be involved and informed.

I have always thought of AFA as a family. Working together we can use the Internet for the benefit it can provide our families with an absolute minimum of trash. There is so much excellent information available. We must not turn it over to those who seek to exploit our families like we did with television and movies.

One more thing. AFO is ready to work with local ISPs that share our goal of safe Internet access. Steve Ensley, President of AFO, has already prepared several agreements to work with other Christians involved in providing this service.

AFA has made a large investment to bring AFO into reality. I hope you will support it and encourage others to do so. Contact AFO on the Internet at www.afa.net or at 601-840-6464.

And please, remember to pray for this new venture by your AFA.

Why AFA offers gift annuities

BY GLEN FRADENBURG

AFA Executive VP
Financial Development



Many of our friends want to give more to AFA, but they live on a fixed income and can't afford to donate income producing assets. With our gift annuity program, they can make a significant gift and still retain lifetime payments. In some cases, they may even increase their annual cash flow.

Give and you shall receive. Yes, that's the way it works.

Example: John and Mary Jones are in their late 70s. They give \$10,000 to American Family Association for a two-life gift annuity. Assuming a gift annuity rate of 7.7%, they will receive \$770 annually for the rest of their lives. Even after a death, the surviving spouse will continue to receive payments. The Joneses will also receive a charitable income tax deduction of approximately \$3,920, and a substantial portion of their payments will be tax-free. This example could equate to receiving a 10.5% effective equivalent annuity rate.

Fixed payments, income tax deduction for itemizers, partial bypass of capital gains tax, possible reduction of estate taxes and ease of establishment – these and other benefits make an AFA gift annuity a prudent option for many. Because of the higher payment rates, some even obtain additional annuities as they get older.

If you are over fifty and would like more information about our gift annuity program, contact American Family Association Foundation, P. O. Box 3933, Tupelo, MS 38803 or call 800-326-4543 ext.206. With your birth date(s) and the dollar amount you wish to see illustrated, the staff will prepare and send you at no cost and no obligation, a detailed illustration for your own situation.

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Please, no unsolicited manuscripts.



STERN...from page 1

Stern told a journalist he was not concerned at all if “a lot of impressionable younger viewers” saw his TV show. “[I]f a teenager sees my show, I can’t imagine what harm it would do them,” Stern said. That statement came after Stern said, “No, I would not have my kids watch anything I do... I guess I’m embarrassed at who I am... But anybody else’s kids, it’s fine for [watching].”

Even outside the Christian community the show was flogged. A Washington Post review said, “CBS made the face of broadcast TV uglier Saturday night” with Stern’s premiere. The New York Post said, “Someone help Howard Stern – the man is sick,” adding that the TV show was “appalling,” “pathetic,” and “represented the very worst of what he is.” A CNN reviewer summed up his opinion with one word: “Yecch.”

But even with that “yecch” factor, it is unclear just how well **The Howard Stern Radio Show** will do on Saturday nights based on its initial performance. Preliminary figures showed that 4.9% of the country’s TV homes watched the premiere, and Stern finished No. 1 in eight urban markets – including five with CBS-owned stations.

But **Saturday Night Live** (NBC) did better, seen by 6.4% of homes, scoring higher than it did at the same time last year. Stern even failed to siphon off viewers from Fox’s **Mad TV**, which was seen in about the same 4% of TV households as it was last summer. Even though Stern’s show can be seen by only 70% of the nation, Greg Baerg of Ultimate TV said it didn’t matter: “[I]t’s doubtful that even with that [disadvantage], his debut would have done much better.”

If the future of Stern’s show is unclear in the U.S., it has become crystal clear in Canada. CHUM Limited announced on August 26 that its Toronto TV station would not be airing **The Howard Stern Radio Show** as planned. Concerns over the expected content had already caused CHUM to postpone airing the show’s premiere.

In a statement explaining its decision, CHUM said, “It is clear that the television show will not meet those standards [called for by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council].” CHUM also said its Montreal radio station would dump Stern’s daily radio show for the same reasons.

Another Canadian TV station, ASN in Halifax, Nova Scotia, dropped Stern’s television show after the first show. Station manager

Mike Elgie said, “The content is objectionable... it’s beneath our standards.”

DISNEY HELPS HOIST STERN

Bill Johnson, coordinator for AFA’s Stern Project, said national advertising was a rare commodity for the Stern opener, but there were a few daring sponsors, including Sony, Heineken, Virgin Cola and Disney/Miramax, which advertised its movie **54**.

But while CBS was pushing the limits of television content with **The Howard Stern Radio Show**, some CBS stations also pushed the limits on advertising as well. In New York and Los Angeles CBS ran an advertisement for Lifestyles condoms, and the spot is expected to run on CBS-owned stations in Chicago and Boston in October, according to *Advertising Age*. Other CBS network affiliates and local stations may follow suit, the industry magazine also said.

On CBS in at least five major cities – New York, Boston, Baltimore, Los Angeles, and San Francisco – stations ran an ad for little-known Virgin Cola, featuring a wedding between two homosexual men. The spot shows the two men kissing, a first for commercials in the U.S.

CHILI’S ANTI-STERN POLICY

Chili’s restaurants have a “strict policy against advertising on [Howard Stern’s] radio program,” according to Chili’s Public Relations Manager Louis Adams.

Johnson had received no response from his letters to Chili’s corporate offices concerning the Chili’s commercials that were appearing on the Stern show. Subsequently, AFA listed Chili’s as a Stern advertiser in the September issue of the *AFA Journal*.

However, when he began receiving calls about those ads, Adams believed they were in error and contacted the *Journal* offices.

After investigating, Adams wrote, “We’ve learned that in two markets, individual radio stations played our commercials during the Stern program in error. Be assured that we’ve contacted those stations to reiterate our position of not allowing our commercials to air while Stern is on.”

“We commend Chili’s for establishing a responsible corporate policy, and for trying to make sure that it is carried out,” said Don Wildmon, AFA president.

Chili’s Restaurants, 6820 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240, Phone: 972-980-9917.

Write CBS and Stern sponsors

CBS Corporation
Chrm. Michael H. Jordan
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019
E-mail: marketing@cbs.com
Phone: 212-975-4321

*The Walt Disney Co.
Chrm. Michael Eisner
500 Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521
Phone: 818-560-1000
Fax: 818-560-1930

●Dunkin’ Donuts, Inc.
Mr. Robert M. Rosenberg
14 Pacella Park Drive
Randolph, MA 02368
Phone: 781-961-4000

●Intel Corp.
Mr. Gordon E. Moore
P.O. Box 58119
Santa Clara, CA 95052
Phone: 408-765-8080

●SAAB Cars USA, Inc.
Pres. Joel Manby
4405 A International Blvd.
Norcross, GA 30093
Phone: 770-279-0100

●Triarc Company (*Snapple*)
Chrm. Nelson Peltz
280 Park Avenue 41st Floor
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-451-3000
Fax: 212-451-3023
Snapple toll free: 800-762-7753

*●Sony Corporation
Dr. Aoki, President
1 Sony Drive
Park Ridge, NJ 07656
Phone: 201-930-1000
E-mail: Joanne_Hvala@sonyusa.com

*TV show advertiser
●Radio show advertiser

UMC says no to gay marriag-

While the issue of homosexuality continues to boil over in virtually every area of American life, the nation's second largest Protestant denomination may have taken a major step in closing a rift over the issue within its own ranks.

The Judicial Court, the highest court in the United Methodist Church (UMC), ruled in August that its ministers are not allowed to perform same-sex marriages. Those that do can be tried by church courts and, if convicted, be reprimanded or even

defrocked.

While there had already been a frothy fracas over homosexuality within the 8.5 million-member UMC, there was one name that threatened to turn it into a free-for-all that could split the denomination: Jimmy Creech. Last fall Creech, then pastor of First UMC in Omaha, Nebraska, performed a same-sex "commitment ceremony" after being warned by Nebraska Bishop Joel Martinez not to do so. He was subsequently brought before an ecclesiastical court, but

was acquitted by a single vote.

That verdict centered on the implications of a single line in the UMC document *Social Principles*, which states, "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." Creech and his supporters argued that *Social Principles* was not binding, but was intended only as a guideline for pastors. After the court acquitted Creech, the denomination was thrown into pandemonium, with some churches threatening to leave the UMC.


Whatever catalytic force Creech's action has had, the gay issue had been smoldering beneath the surface for the last two years. It was spurred by a 1996 UMC statement released after its quadrennial meeting, which reaffirmed the traditional Christian belief that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

That stirred up a counterattack led by those within the UMC who were sympathetic to the gay cause. Earlier this year more than 1,300 UMC ministers signed a statement protesting their denomination's policy which prohibits the ordination of practicing homosexuals and the performance of same-sex marriage rituals. The effort was in support of a similar protest signed by 15 Methodist bishops in 1996.

But the Judicial Council has now rejected Creech's argument, and that decision seems for the moment to have quelled the uproar. Bishop Bruce Blake of Oklahoma, who testified before the high court, said, "I hope we can divert our energy back to making disciples for Christ."

As for Creech, Bishop Martinez refused to reappoint the pastor to his position in Omaha, stating that his actions have split his church. Martinez then appointed another pastor who shares Creech's views on homosexuality to serve the Omaha church.

Creech has since moved back to North Carolina, which his family considers home, and where he is now helping his wife clean cottages for a living. In 1990 Creech was forced to leave the church he pastored in Raleigh – also over the same issue.

With his standing intact in the UMC, however, Creech must be offered another position if he desires. And the minister said he will ignore the verdict. "This decision validates an institutional form of bigotry," he said. "I will not be bound by it." 

This bad news will do a lot of good.

Tell your community the truth – ***pornography devastates lives.***

By promoting **Pornography Awareness Week** in your community you could be rescuing someone from the depths of depravity. You could be saving a marriage. And in some cases, you could even be helping to avert an unspeakable crime against a child.

How? Here are some ideas:

- Ask your mayor or governor to issue a proclamation announcing Pornography Awareness Week.
- Survey your community to find out how much and where pornography is available. Report your results in a newsletter dedicated to Pornography Awareness Week.
- Boycott distributors of pornography and let them know why. Ask others to join you.
- Support retailers who make a commitment to the family by not selling pornography.

We can suggest many more simple, practical ideas to fight pornography in your community. Just write and ask for our informative **PAW Packet**. It includes a booklet entitled, *What One Person Can Do About Pornography*, James Lambert's book *Porn in America*, and other practical resources.

Write: AFA Pornography Awareness Week, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803. A donation to cover shipping and handling is appreciated.

Pornography Awareness Week
October 25-November 1, 1998

Pfizer, MCI, Glaxo Wellcome top sponsors of prime-time trash

Other well known companies included in "Dirty Dozen" list

AFA has issued its biannual list of advertisers who sponsor the most prime-time sex, profanity and violence on the four major networks. AFA called upon the 12 worst offenders, nick-named the "Dirty Dozen," to heed the concerns of parents and lower the level of cultural toxins they sponsor.

"People are growing weary from the overwhelming assault on their values by Hollywood," said AFA President Donald E. Wildmon. "And these cultural toxins are aired because companies sponsor the programs coming into America's living rooms."

AFA monitors prime-time shows for ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox during both the spring and fall "sweeps" period. The number of incidents of sex, violence and profanity on each show is recorded, and the companies which advertised on the program are noted.

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Between May 3 and May 30, 1998, 337 programs were viewed, 91% of which had at least one incident of either sex, violence or profanity. The total number of these three categories combined for an amount that was almost 8% more than the number of incidents recorded during last fall's monitoring period.

HOW THE SCORES ARE OBTAINED

Most companies rarely sponsor an entire program. Usually they only help sponsor programs by running one or more 30-second ads on those programs. Each company's score is the average amount of sex, violence and profanity the company helped sponsor with every 30-second commercial it ran. If a company ran one 30-second commercial on a program which had 5 sex incidents, 4 violence incidents and 10 profanity incidents, that company would receive a score of 19 for that program. If it ran two 30-second commercials—that company would receive a score of 38 (multiply 19 x 2 ads) for that program. At the end of the monitoring period, all the scores from all the programs the company helped sponsor are totaled and

Top 12 sponsors of sex, violence and profanity on prime-time television, May 3-May 30, 1998

RANK	COMPANY	Products	Score	Previous ranking
1.	Pfizer Inc.	Ocuhist, Visine, Zyrtec	19.54	
2.	MCI Communications	1-800-COLLECT, Friends & Family	16.04	3
3.	Glaxo Wellcome Inc.	Flonase, Imitrex, Zantac 75	15.63	
4.	Time Warner Inc.	People, Sports Illustrated, Time	15.35	7
5.	Ford Motor Company	Ford, Hertz, Mercury	15.26	
6.	News America Publishing	20th Century Fox	15.17	
7.	Unilever United States	Degree, Lawry's, Mentadent	14.38	
8.	Sears, Roebuck and Co.	Diehard, Kenmore, Sears	14.15	
9.	Toyota Motor Sales	Lexus and Toyota autos	14.03	10
10.	Tricon Global Restaurants	KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell	13.56	9
11.	CKE Restaurants Inc.	Boston Market, Hardees	13.51	
12.	Nissan Motor Corp., USA	Nissan and Infiniti autos	13.40	2

then divided by the number of 30-second ads they ran on all those programs. This gives the average number of sex, violence and profanity incidents for the company.

For the complete monitoring results, call 601-844-5036, ext. 215 or go to www.afa.net on the Internet.

ADDRESSES TO CONTACT ADVERTISERS

Pfizer Inc., Chrm. William C. Steere, Jr., 235 E. 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, Phone 212-573-2323, FAX 212-573-1853, Toll Free 1-800-438-1985, WEB SITE: www.pfizer.com .

MCI Communications Corporation, Chrm. Bert C. Roberts, Jr., 1801 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006, Phone 202-872-1600, FAX 202-887-2967, Toll Free 1-800-444-3333, WEB SITE: www.mci.com .

Glaxo Wellcome Inc., CEO Robert A. Ingram, P. O. Box 13398, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, Phone 919-483-2100, Toll Free 1-800-722-9292.

Time Warner Inc., Chrm. Gerald Levin, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10019, Phone 212-484-8000, FAX 212-245-8132.

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

News America Publishing Inc., Chrm. K. Rupert Murdoch, 1211 6th Ave., New York, NY 10036, Phone 212-852-7000, See **PFIZER** on page 21

ACTION IN-

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

Burger King Corp.

Chrm. John McGrath
P. O. Box 020783
Miami, FL 33157
Phone: 305-378-7011
Fax: 305-378-7262
Products: Burger King restaurants

The Clorox Company

Chrm. G. Craig Sullivan
P. O. Box 24305
Oakland, CA 94623
Phone: 510-271-7000
Fax: 510-832-1463
Toll Free: 800-677-2624
Products: Clorox bleach, Hidden Valley Ranch dressing, Liquid-Plumr drain opener, Pine-sol cleaner, Soft Scrub cleanser, Tilex cleaner

The Walt Disney Company

Chrm. Michael Eisner
500 S. Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521
Phone: 818-560-1000
Fax: 818-560-1930
Products: Hollywood Pictures, Touchstone Pictures, Walt Disney Pictures, Miramax Films, Disney stores

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Chrm. S. Robson Walton
702 S. W. 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716
Phone: 501-273-4000
Fax: 501-273-4329
Toll Free: 1-800-WALMART
Internet: www.wal-mart.com
Products: Wal-Mart stores, Sam's American Choice brands, Sam's Wholesale Club

Disney is partner in prime-time gar-

Not only is the Walt Disney Company attacking morality with corporate policy (via their commitment to the gay agenda), but the entertainment giant is also front and center among prime-time TV advertisers on recent offensive programs.

Disney's Miramax subsidiary helped sponsor the debut episode of Fox's controversial new sitcom, **That '70s Show**, set in small town, USA, in 1976.

In this first episode, which aired August 23, Eric (17) and his three sidekicks reveal only positive effects of smoking marijuana. When Eric's parents call him upstairs to give him a car, they have an extended conversation without the stupid parents ever suspecting that their son is stoned.

Other Disney-sponsored programs included the following shows.

■ **Ally McBeal** P3 S TVPG-D

Fox, 7/27 – Sleazy dialogue is a mainstay of this series which regularly deals with the bizarre and the perverse. Sexual innuendo flows freely throughout. The series' stock uni-sex toilet scenes with accompanying scatological humor are included. Series star Ally is assigned to represent one of her heroes, renowned artist Seymour Little; she is chagrined when he demands a "lawyer with pants and a penis." Another woman teaches attorney John Cage how to kiss, so he will not be embarrassed on his first date with Ally.

■ **Just Shoot Me** P8 S SA TVPG

NBC, 8/13 – Jokes about sexual arousal, bondage and other perversions fill this episode. The only subplot focuses on Nina, a series star, who shamelessly lies to her boss and cheats the company (buying shoes on her expense account). She also cracks jokes about her drug abuse.

■ **Maximum Bob** H P4 S TV14

ABC, 8/4 – This debut episode introduces the series' main players: Judge Bob Gibbs, public defender Cathy Baker, Sheriff Hammond and the Crowes, (a family in which incest is the norm). A Florida swamp town is the setting.

Judge Gibbs regularly hands down bizarre sentences, e.g. sentencing to the electric chair a man who violated parole by drinking and driving. A homosexual couple are a part of this episode's story line.

August 18 P19 S TV14-L

The judge's ex-wife is arrested for smuggling

Cuban cigars into Florida, and Maximum Bob declines to recuse himself from hearing her case in court. In another storyline a dance instructor urges Sheriff Hammond and Cathy to have sex as a means of enhancing their ballroom dance skills for competition.

■ **Melrose Place** P14 S V TV14-SLV

Fox, 7/27 – This early season debut included steamy shower and bed scenes as series regulars begin their coupling for a new season. Regulars for the series' six-year run include Billy (who's been married twice and lived with two other women); Michael (who's been married four times); Megan (former hooker who has lived with two different men); Amanda (who's been married at least twice and lived with numerous others). The rest of the players are moral carbon copies of these leaders.

August 3 P25 S V TV14-LV

In the course of two days' time, Amanda divorces Kyle, marries Blake, watches as Blake dies when he and Kyle fight, and remarries Kyle. It's a typical Melrose story – total hedonism, the hallmark of which is always illicit sex.

August 10 P25 S TV14-DS

Dr. Cooper lives with Megan, and his ex-wife Lexi lives with Dr. Peter Burns (Cooper's partner). Cooper remarries Lexi because each will inherit \$5 million from her dad's estate if they remarry and live together for a year.

■ **Philadelphia** H P16 TV14-DL

CBS, 8/9 – This critically-acclaimed movie takes a compassionate look at the physical suffering and discrimination suffered by a lawyer who was fired when his law firm discovered he had AIDS.

Unfortunately, the film is also an unabashed propaganda piece for the gay movement. Homosexuals are said to be born with that sexual orientation, and those who think homosexuality is abnormal are portrayed as hateful, irrational and ignorant.

Christians in particular are shown to be heartless Bible-toters. Although the lawyer admits that he has had sex in the gay porno theaters he frequented, the movie admonishes the viewer that morality and personal responsibility have

Burger King leads worst ad offenders

Among the offensive prime-time offerings reviewed below, Burger King appeared more often than any other advertiser. Typical of the programs which carried their commercials were the following.

■ **The Bachelor's Baby**

AC P14

TVPG-L

CBS, 7/26 – Jake Henry's life is changed forever when Jamie, a two-week summer sex fling from his past, shows up to introduce him to his son Zack. Jamie's brother Dwight has custody, but Jake enters the fray determined to save his son from Dwight, who turns out to be a deceitful, obnoxious, manipulating Christian.

■ **Buffalo Girls** **P55 S** **TVPG-LV**

NBC, 8/2 & 4 – This four-hour miniseries used the profanity "G-- d--" four times in an Old West setting. The violence was not particularly graphic, but the illicit sex lives of the players and their profanity filled the program.

■ **The Drew Carey Show**

P3 S

TVPG-D

ABC, 8/5 – More than 40 lines in this episode's dialogue depended on sexual perversions, including one story line about laboratory monkeys trying to make a man their "girlfriend." It is typical of the series' offerings.

■ **Friends** **H P8 S** **TVPG**

NBC, 8/13 – Carol (Ross' ex-wife) travels with their son Ben and Susan (Carol's current lesbian "wife") to visit Ross and his bride Emily. Ross and Carol grow fearful when Susan and Emily hit it off so well. Another story line follows Rachel and her new lover Joshua.

■ **Getting Personal** **P5 S** **TVPG-D**

Fox, 8/7 – In this repeat of the series' debut, sexual innuendo, condom jokes and genitalia jokes reign. The story is nothing more than a vehicle for illicit sex humor.

■ **Holding the Baby** **P8 S** **TVPG**

Fox, 8/23 – Casual sex and sexual innuendo are standard, though secondary to the main plot in which Gordon's wife calls home to tell him she's leaving him and their infant son for a man she met at her women's retreat. Gordon has a sex-hungry single brother whose main goal is illicit, casual sex.

■ **Into the Arms of Danger**

P12 S

TV14

NBC, 8/7/ – Diana is the lonely single mother of 17-year-old Carly, a high school senior. Diana's boyfriend tries to assault Carly, and Carly – not wanting to hurt her mom – runs away from their Salt Lake City home. In Los Angeles, she is befriended by a man who turns out to be a pimp, and who puts her to work dancing in a strip joint.

■ **Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story**

H P5 PC

TV14

NBC, 8/22 – This 1995 repeat follows Col. Cammermeyer's legal battle with the Army when she reveals that she is leaving her four sons with her ex-husband, in favor of her lesbian lover. The movie invokes sympathy for the "honorable" colonel in her noble battle against "antiquated" Army policies that have stood for generations.

■ **Spin City** **H P3 S** **TVPG-D**

ABC, 8/11 – Mike's old girlfriend Lori shows up, and he's not sure he wants to get back together until she asks for sex; then they both dash for the bedroom. Carter's Valentine's Day flowers, addressed to "honey bunny," are from a former homosexual lover.

■ **Suddenly Susan** **H P6 S** **TVPG**

NBC, 8/13 – Susan, series star, has charged Congressman Francis Schaeffer with sexually accosting her when she interviewed him in his office. Schaeffer turns the tables by charging Susan with the same. In another story line, the office mail delivery man discusses his upcoming wedding to Hank, his homosexual lover.

AFA TV CODES

AC Anti-Christian

H Promotes homosexual agenda

P Profanity; the number following the "P" is the number of times profanity is used in the program.

PC Politically correct in dealing with an issue identified in the review

S Objectionable sexual content (may include partial nudity)

SA Substance abuse (drugs or alcohol)

V Violence (graphic or gratuitous)

+ Positive theme with no objectionable elements (A good story told with profane language earns no commendation.)

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

Clorox, Wal-Mart sponsor good dra-

■ **Promised Land** **+** **TVG**

CBS, 8/13 – The Greenes roll into Sundown Ski Area, Utah, where they quickly become friends with the Elias family. Conflict develops as it is learned that Mr. Elias has a checkered past and is wanted by the FBI. Russell Greene helps him face his past so that his family can quit running.

August 20 **+** **TVG**

Nathaniel Greene buys a purple heart at a flea market and tracks down the medal recipient's daughter. She is estranged from her father, but the Greenes set about trying to bring reconciliation in the other family.

■ **Touched by an Angel** **+** **TVG**

CBS, 8/23 – Richard, an artist and father of three young sons, is terminally ill with Lou Gehrig's disease. His wife Sally is distraught that he seems to be in denial. The angels enter the story to help Richard, Sally and their boys accept and deal with Richard's imminent death.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood company agrees to distribute pedophile film

The controversial film **Lolita**, about a 45-year-old man’s love affair with his 12-year-old stepdaughter, will now be distributed to theaters after finally finding a company willing to market the movie: the Samuel Goldwyn Co.

Lolita languished for two years, unable to find a film distributor willing to risk public outrage by putting the movie on U.S. screens. The French-made film is an adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov’s infamous book, which the author describes as “a short novel about a man who liked little girls.”

The Goldwyn Co. agreed to market **Lolita** after the Showtime cable network aired the movie in August. Showtime’s broadcast premiere of the pedophile movie gave Showtime its top rating in the past two years, according to *Daily Variety*.

To qualify for Oscar consideration, a film must appear in theaters before it can be shown on television. **Lolita** thus had two brief premiere runs in Los Angeles and New York before its appearance on Showtime. Goldwyn intended to send the film to theaters beginning in September.

In his review of the movie **Lolita** for The Wall Street Journal, Joe Morgenstern describes the male character as “a craven pervert who seduces his innocent stepchild and subjects her to compulsive sex – ‘hard sex,’ the book says – during a mad transcontinental odyssey.” **Lolita** is portrayed not only as an enthusiastic sexual partner, but as even the initiator of the deviant relationship, according to Morgenstern.

While the movie is filled with flirting, seduction and sexual talk, it also contains two graphic sexual encounters between adult and child. It is every pedophile’s fantasy and every parent’s nightmare.

While conservatives lambasted **Lolita**, people within the Hollywood and artistic community rushed to malign those who opposed the film. **Lolita**’s filmmaker, Adrian Lyne (**Fatal Attraction**, **Indecent Proposal**), who calls the movie “a love story,” said opposition to the film’s premise was “unhealthy and sinister.” Dick Morris,

who will be booking the film in theaters in the Southeast, called the resistance to **Lolita** “frightening.” And Eamonn Bowles, president of TSG Pictures, said people adverse to the movie were “slow-minded.”

But AFA president Donald E. Wildmon said most Americans shouldn’t care what the Hollywood community thinks. “We can’t change their minds about movies like this, because a decent person with a conscience in working order wouldn’t produce or peddle such porn in the first place,” he said.

“However, anyone who owns a local theater and who’d show a movie like this ought to hear from people loudly and clearly. If Christians won’t draw the line at pedophilia in their communities, where will they draw the line?”

New York Post, 7/9/98; USA Today, 7/10/98; The Wall Street Journal, 5/11/98

Parents angry at irresponsibility of Abercrombie & Fitch catalog

Some parents have charged that a popular catalog aimed at college students has crossed the line of responsibility within its pages, with instructions on how to get drunk and have sex.

In its “Back-to-school” issue the Abercrombie & Fitch (A&F) quarterly magazine-catalog drew especially harsh criticism for its advocacy of college drinking. In a section entitled “Drinking 101,” the catalog highlighted drinking games to allow students to “indulge in some creative drinking” in place of the “standard beer binge.” Recipes for drinks came complete with clever nicknames like “Brain Hemorrhage,” “Dirty Girl Scout Cookie,” “Foreplay,” and “Orgasm.”

Karolyn Nunnallee, president of the Dallas-based non-profit organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), called the catalog’s emphasis on recreational drinking “an abomination.”

The Center for Science in the Public Interest, a public interest group in Washington, was also appalled, according to an AP report. A statement released by the group said, “The Abercrombie & Fitch promotion callously exploits a college drinking culture that is dangerously out of control.”

After the uproar, A&F admitted the “Drinking 101” piece should have been more balanced, and stickers have been placed on catalogs advising responsible drinking.

But other aspects of the catalog attracted

the concern of parents. One section listed some tips for college sex life, including avoiding loud sex, negotiating special rates at local motels, and having sex in a single bed, on the floor, or outdoors. Another section indicated where students at selected colleges are likely to appear naked in public, and included a photo of young men running naked across a college green.

A&F has more than 165 stores in 38 states and the District of Columbia, and its designer-brand clothing enjoys a growing popularity among high school and college students. Its catalog has a circulation of about one million.

Write: Abercrombie & Fitch, Four Limited Pkwy. E., Reynoldsburg, OH, 43068.

The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, MS), 7/25/98; World, 8/8/98

HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

American Airlines still supporting gay agenda

Despite assurances made to pro-family organizations earlier this year, American Airlines has continued on course in its support of the gay agenda, and critics charge that the company is getting the reputation as the nation’s “homosexual airline.”

After a year-long campaign by AFA and other Christian groups, American Airlines agreed last March to stop promoting the gay agenda, saying it would take a neutral approach to the homosexual lifestyle in its corporate activities. Specifically, American agreed to cease its sponsorship of gay parties, and refrain from open advocacy or endorsement of organizations with active political agendas.

Soon after that, however, American Airlines sent a letter to its gay employee group disavowing the agreement, according to the homosexual magazine *The Advocate*.

Subsequent evidence has proven that to be the case. According to an airline reservation form for Travelon Travel Agency, “American Airlines is the official airline for the Human Rights Campaign(HRC).” That organization is the largest homosexual and bisexual advocacy organization in America.

This summer American Airlines sponsored a booth at the San Diego Gay Pride Festival in San Diego, California. Literature passed out at American’s booth included photographs of homosexuals kissing.

An ad for "Outfest '98, the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival," appeared in the August issue of *XY Magazine*, a publication directed at gay teenagers. The advertisement states that the festival is "presented" by American Airlines and other sponsors. That issue also has a story for gay teens titled "The Biology of Lust," which includes this statement: "The most striking thing about gay sexuality is that you don't need a class to be good at it."

American recently announced a "Registered Companions" travel pass for their employees. Company literature said, "Many single employees felt they didn't enjoy their travel privileges as much as their married counterparts, because married employees have... travel privileges for their spouses, and single employees do not have the equivalent." The literature further said, "Only single employees who are not legally married may designate a Registered Companion."

American continues to advertise in homosexual magazines and mislead those that write and call concerning their promotion of the homosexual lifestyle, saying that they are "neutral on this issue." According to Allen Wildmon, director of public relations for AFA, who attended the meeting with American in March, "Evidently American Airlines' chairman and president were not sincere when they met with us. They looked us in the eye and said that they would no longer actively promote or support the homosexual lifestyle. We seem to have been misled. That's unfortunate."

Wildmon also said, "Every airline ticket purchased from that company helps to promote the message that American Airlines is truly America's homosexual airline."

AFA will continue to track American's support of the homosexual cause, and encourages Christians to contact the airline and express their opinion.

Address: Chrm. Donald J. Carty, American Airlines, MD 2400, P.O. Box 619612, DFW Airport, TX 75261-9612, Phone 817-967-2000

Lesbians run for Congress

For the first time in U. S. history, there is a chance that an openly lesbian candidate could win a seat in Congress when the votes are counted this November.

While members of Congress have come out of the closet after being elected – such

Sprint mails crude ad pack-

The Sprint long distance phone company angered some parents whose children received in the mail what they considered to be a lewd advertisement that compares doing business with Sprint to sex.



Sent in a back-to-school "Cool Stuff Mailer," the Sprint ad shows a zipper on a pair of blue jeans with the words "Not so fast." Readers must then pull down the zipper to see the rest of the advertisement. Inside it says, "'Can't we get acquainted first?' Get to know Sprint on an intimate basis. And start by getting \$5 worth of calls. Free."

One mother called AFA and said her 16-year-old daughter received one of the



ads addressed to her in the mail. The mother said her daughter was "shocked and offended" at the advertisement.

When contacted by AFA, Sprint spokeswoman Robin Pence said the ad campaign was directed to college-bound students, and that any teenagers who received the ad did so by mistake.

Admittedly the ad was "edgy," Pence said, but that Sprint had wanted to catch the eye of college students. Nevertheless, she said, after receiving some complaints the advertisement was pulled by Sprint. "We heard what people were saying, and we felt that people's complaints were important enough for us to discontinue [the ad]," Pence said.

as Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), and former representatives Gerry Studds (D-MA) and Steve Gunderson (R-WI) – none have declared their homosexuality at the outset and still gone to Washington. And an open lesbian has never served in Congress.

Perhaps the most well-known lesbian activist running this fall is retired Army colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer, who is expected to be the Democratic nominee in Washington state's traditionally Democratic

2nd District. Cammermeyer battled successfully to avoid being discharged by the U.S. Army after her lesbianism became known. Her fight was the subject of a 1995 made-for-TV propaganda piece entitled **Serving in Silence**, produced by Disney-affiliated Storyline Entertainment.

Three other lesbians hope to join Cammermeyer in Congress: Wisconsin State Assemblywoman Tammy Baldwin, San Diego City Councilwoman Christine Kehoe, and former Massachusetts State Representative

AFA proposes guidelines for Christians to address gay agenda

Sometimes concerned Christians contact AFA and ask why our organization spends so much time and energy in exposing and opposing the gay movement. Here is a list of principles governing AFA's treatment of this critical issue.

1. Scripture declares that homosexuality is unnatural and sinful. It is a sin grievous to God and repulsive to Christians because it rejects God's design for mankind as heterosexual beings.
2. Though there may be many influences in a person's life, the root of homosexuality is a sinful heart. Therefore, homosexuals have only one hope of being reconciled to God and rejecting their sinful behavior – faith in Jesus Christ alone. AFA seeks to use every opportunity to promote and encourage the efforts of ex-gay ministries and organizations.
3. It is the duty of individual Christians and Christ's Church corporately to bring the gospel to homosexuals and to speak out against the acceptance of sin in our culture.
4. AFA opposes the gay movement's efforts to convince our society that their behavior is normal because we fear the judgment of God on our nation.
5. The gay movement is a progressive outgrowth of the sexual revolution of the past 40 years, and will lead to the normalization of even more deviant behavior.
6. The gay movement's promotion of same-sex marriage undermines the God-ordained institution of marriage and family which is the foundation of all societies.
7. We oppose the efforts of the gay movement to force its agenda in schools, government, business and the workplace through law, public policy and the media. Our strong opposition is a reasoned response to the gay movement's aggressive strategies.
8. We oppose the effort to convince our culture that because individuals participate in homosexual behavior, they have earned the right to be protected like other, legitimate minority groups.
9. While we are resolute in our opposition to the gay movement, we recognize the importance of maintaining Christian integrity in all our efforts. By God's grace we will reject the temptation to become bitter or hateful in our words or actions.
10. Finally, we seek faithfulness more than victory. We work with the confidence that the one true Sovereign God of the Bible will fulfill His purposes.

Susan Tracy are all running as Democrats in elections this fall.

The number of out-and-proud lesbians makes 1998 a "watershed year," said congressional analyst Charles Cook. But it has not occurred out of the blue.

According to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which provides money and political advice to homosexuals running for office, the number of openly gay and lesbian candidates elected to state and local office has almost tripled since 1991, from 52 to 146.

Gay activists see this as an opportunity to discover where the general public is on the subject of homosexuality. Kehoe said

she realizes "people are still coming to terms with the sexual-orientation issue overall. This race will be a test of where the voters are, where their attitudes are, in 1998."

Cook reads those attitudes and says the chances are good that one of the lesbian candidates will win in November, adding that "before long in politics we're going to have 'The Year of the Gay.' It's a trend that I think is irreversible."

The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN), 7/28/98; The Philadelphia Inquirer, 5/3/98

PORNOGRAPHY

Concern over porn growing

For years most Americans seemed to equate "pornography" with what they thought were harmless "girlie magazines." Now, many are discovering that porn is dangerous – both to the individuals who use it and to the society that is victimized by the porn addict's depraved deeds.

Jeff Cavins, host of the Catholic television program **Life on the Rock**, which airs on the Eternal Word Television Network, sees porn addiction as a growing problem among men with whom he has talked. Speaking before a men's conference, Cavins said pornography is a common "secret sin" that is "compromising them as fathers and crippling them as lovers with their wives."

According to the *Catholic Review*, Cavins told the conference the heart-breaking true story of a father who always taught his son about God, but who was secretly addicted to Internet porn. One day the 12-year-old son accidentally discovered the truth while looking at some files his dad had neglected to erase. The boy "scrolled, and scrolled, and scrolled, and saw his father's heart. And he cried. He was crushed," recounts Cavins.

Dr. Mary Anne Layden, director of education for the University of Pennsylvania Health System in Philadelphia, said that mental health professionals are now beginning to understand the extent of the problems caused by porn addiction, especially that caused by easy Internet access to smut sites.

"I have been treating sexual violence victims and perpetrators for 13 years. I have not treated a single case of sexual violence that did not involve pornography," she said.

But Layden warned that the porn involved in sexual abuse is not always hard-core. "In almost every case of sibling incest that I have treated, the pornography involved was soft-core pornography in magazines."

She also spoke of the tremendous power of porn addiction to hold people captive. "I have found it is more difficult for a pornography addict to get into remission than a cocaine addict. Also, pornography addicts are more likely to relapse than cocaine addicts," she said.

Catholic Review, 6/25/98; Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal (Tupelo), 8/7/98

Pro-gay U. S. Episcopal bishops rebuked by worldwide Anglican community

■ Infamous Bishop Spong calls African Christianity superstitious

At an international Anglican conference, bishops from Africa, Asia and the Indian sub-continent stood firmly against a movement to normalize homosexuality, calling the practice “an immoral act.” That movement has picked up steam in the U.S. and U.K., and liberal bishops at the conference seemed unrepentant.

At the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, England, held once every 10 years, bishops passed a resolution declaring homosexuality to be “incompatible with Scripture” and stating that homosexuals should not be ordained into the ministry. According to Associated Press, the resolution passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 526 to 70, with 45 bishops abstaining.

The bishops also affirmed the biblical tradition that sex is reserved only for the sanctity of marriage, requiring abstinence for all others.

“Homosexual practice is nowhere sanctioned in Scripture....It is condemned in both Old and New Testaments as an immoral act, and therefore a sin,” said the Right Rev. Eustace Kamanyire, a bishop from Uganda.

Other African bishops wanted the conference to adopt language that disapproved of homosexuality “as a sin which could only be adopted by the church if it wanted to commit evangelical suicide.”

The leaders at the consultative body represent the world’s 73 million Anglicans throughout 160 nations. While issues can be debated and resolutions adopted at the conference, they are not binding. National churches – like the Church of England, the Anglican Church of Canada, and (in the U.S.) the Episcopal Church – are free to do whatever they wish.

Nevertheless, the conflict over homosexuality highlighted the split between liberal factions within Anglicanism – mostly from the U.S. and Europe – and the traditionalists that are strongly rooted in nations once held as European colonies.

“We spoke for the truth. We are quoting what is in the Scriptures,” said African Bishop Henry Orombi of the Lambeth resolution. “Don’t you forget that the church in England took us the Scriptures, and we are not reading anything different.”

But liberals in the U.S. such as the Right Rev. John Spong, bishop of Newark, New Jersey, thinks the pro-homosexual movement within Anglicanism is destined to be victorious, and even predicted that at the next Lambeth Conference “there will be openly out gay bishops.”

As for the conservative African bishops, Spong had arrogantly scolded them a month earlier for their “superstitious Christianity” and ignorance on the subject of homosexuality. In *The Church of England Newspaper*, Spong was quoted as saying the African bishops had yet “to face the intellectual revolution of Copernicus and Einstein that we’ve had to face in the developing world....Scientific advances

have given us a new way of understanding homosexual people...If they feel patronized that’s too bad. I’m not going to cease to be a 20th century person for fear of offending somebody in the Third World.”

Others, like the Right Rev. Catherine Roskam of New York, said they would ignore the Lambeth resolution. “I’m not taking the language of condemnation back to my constituency,” she said.

But not all U.S. bishops supported the radical ideas of those like Spong. The Right Rev. James Stanton, bishop of Dallas, has been at the forefront of conservative efforts to oppose the normalization of homosexuality. He applauded the conference vote, calling it a “victory for the Gospel.” He said the decision “will have a strengthening effect on the faithful.”

Culture Facts, 8/12/98; *The Commercial Appeal* (Memphis), 8/6/98; *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* (Tupelo), 8/8/98

PCUSA stands against ordaining homosexuals

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA) refused to reopen the homosexual can of worms at its annual general assembly, after a contentious dialogue on the subject last year.

After a week of debate in Charlotte, North Carolina, the PCUSA assembly rejected by a 412 to 92 margin an attempt to revisit the issue of ordaining practicing homosexuals. Last year the denomination affirmed its policy banning such ordinations. But delegates did agree to hold a national conference within the next six months to explore issues relevant to the subject of homosexuality, according to *Christianity Today*.

The break in the battle over sexuality is seen as important for a denomination that

lost 22,000 members last year alone. Since 1983, the 2.6 million-member PCUSA has lost 1.5 million congregants.

Indiana pastor Richard Hutchison said, “It really is time to step back. I don’t mean to sweep it under the rug. What we need to be talking about now is how we can live together with our differences...as opposed to how we resolve our differences.”

A small group of pro-gay activists protested outside the coliseum where the PCUSA assembly was meeting, calling for further discussions of homosexuality. They carried signs with messages such as “God’s Awesome Yes (GAY)” and “Prejudice is not love.”

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tolle ad

Christians Society TODAY

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

OCTOBER, 1998

Court says teacher can't allow profanity in school work

In a decision that stunned both sides, a federal appellate court ruled in favor of a school district which fired a teacher who allowed her students to use profanity in their school work.

Cissy Lacks, an English and journalism teacher with 25 years experience, had been allowing her students at Berkeley High School to use profanity in their writing and plays. Lacks had been fired for that practice in 1995, but had sued the school district and won a verdict entitling her to more than \$800,000.

The teacher said she was simply allowing her students to express themselves in class when they wrote papers containing profanity. And express themselves they did. In one example presented by the school district, a 40-minute videotaped play produced by an 11th-grade class contained more than 150 vulgar words.

But the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the lower court, ruling that the school district was within its rights to discipline a teacher. Profanity is explicitly banned by the school system, and the court said Lacks was well aware of that rule.

Lacks said she was shocked by the ruling, and even school officials were surprised. "I'm very well aware of how important free speech is, but I still think we all have academic parameters we operate under," said school board president Jeanne Garofalo. She added, "I don't think this [ruling] will thwart great writers."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 6/23/98

Day of prayer for persecuted Christians set November

An estimated 100,000 churches will observe the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church on November 15. More Christians have died for their faith in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined. Persecution is fast becoming one of the most talked about subjects in both political and religious circles.

The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) is one of numerous ministries dedicated to raising the awareness level and/or motivating Congressional action to intervene in nations where Christians face persecution or risk death for their faith.

This year, VOM offers "Remember the Persecuted" yard signs as a visible reminder for Christians to pray for the persecuted. The signs are durable coroplast (plastic), designed to last a year without fading, and complete with metal prongs for placement in the ground.

Ordering information: 18"x 24" 1-9 signs: \$15 each (includes shipping); 24"x 30" 1-9 signs: \$18 each (includes shipping). For quantity discounts, contact VOM by phone: 1-800-75VOICE; or at their web site: www.persecution.com. Their mailing address: Voice of the Martyrs, P. O. Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005.

IDOP has a \$15 resource kit including a video, prayer map and materials for group study. Call toll-free 888-LETS-PRAY to order the kit.



Congress spurns pro-family is-

When Republicans stunned their opposition and took control of the 104th Congress in 1994, pro-family groups thought they might finally be on the way to the Promised Land. But as the 105th Congress winds up its current session, the hoped-for conservative victories have not materialized. Instead, pro-family forces have been routed in the GOP-controlled Congress. Among the defeats:

► By a margin of 224-198 the House of Representatives approved federal money in July for family-planning devices, including

those that induce abortions.

► In July funding for the National Endowment for the Arts was once again approved, this time by a 253-173 margin.

► The Executive Order issued by President Clinton giving special rights to homosexuals was approved by the House in August by a 252-176 margin.

► Two amendments banning mixed-gender basic training barracks were soundly defeated in the Senate on consecutive days in June, by margins of 56-37 and 53-39.

Hate-rocker releases new album, video, plans tour, TV appear-

A new album from Christian-hating, shock-rocker Marilyn Manson was slated for release September 15. Manson came to the Christian community's attention two years ago with his album "Anti-Christ Superstar" and a highly offensive stage act which performed in many U. S. cities.

At least three large chains – Wal-Mart, Target and K-Mart – have rejected the album entitled *Mechanical Animals*, which will carry a parental advisory label.

The New York Times rejected an ad for the album because the ad incorporated the album's cover art which shows an alien-like androgynous nude image of Manson.

This time around Manson has traded his ghoulish appearance for what *Rolling Stone* magazine calls "a glam look." However the album's lyrics are thematically similar to Manson's earlier efforts. The songs promote a nihilistic, depressing, hopeless world view.

Songs also include references to the recreational use of drugs. The first single and video from *Mechanical Animals* is entitled *The Dope Show*. Other song titles include *Fundamentally Loathsome* and *I Don't Like the Drugs (But the Drugs Like Me)*.

Rolling Stone says *Mechanical Animals* has "trade[d] the topic of teen satanism for drug-addled space themes and sci-fi love stories." Numerous incidents of crude and objectionable language also appear in the lyrics of the album.

Manson is also hoping to kick off a tour in mid-October to promote *Mechanical Animals*. Concerts are planned "specifically in communities where attempts were made to ban his performances," according to an article written for *Pop Eye*.

However, that might be easier said than done. So far, venue operators in Washington D. C., Tampa Bay, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Houston, Dayton, Cincinnati and Rochester have said no thanks to the band.

Manson was scheduled to perform live at the MTV Video Music Awards Show on September 10. On September 14 he was to be a guest on Howard Stern's raunchy radio show, and on Stern's CBS late night TV show on September 19.

When he first climbed out of cult popularity into the mainstream rock music scene about two years ago, Manson referred to himself as "Reverend." His stage antics sometimes included ripping apart a Bible. "Each age has to have at least one brave individual that tries to bring an end to Christianity....No one has managed to succeed yet, maybe through music, we can finally do it," he once told *Metal Edge* magazine.

Manson's music has been linked to several incidents of suicide and violence including a shooting of a teacher at a middle school prom in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, last April.

Rolling Stone, 9/15/98; Pop Eye, 8/16/98;

BRIEFLY

NCAA reverses ruling on Sabbath observance

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has revised its game scheduling policy to permit schools with religious convictions to avoid competing on their Sabbath. This reverses a recently instituted NCAA policy, which forced all schools – including those with religious objections – to participate in championship events on Sundays.

EP News Service

Study: talk about faith, prayer common in workplace

Most people (70%) talk about faith in the workplace – and half say they talk with coworkers about religion at least once per month, according to a Lutheran Brotherhood nationwide survey of adult Americans by Yankelovich Partners.

Women are almost twice as likely as men to discuss religion at work more than once per month (29% vs. 15%). Americans in rural areas are also more likely to talk about religion at work compared with people in the suburbs (28% vs. 17%). People living in the South are the most likely to talk about religion at work compared with other U.S. regions.

People who talk about religion at work include most weekly churchgoers (85%), three-fourths (76%) of people who attend church monthly and half (54%) of those who rarely or never go to church.

EP News Service

Christian students win right not to fund political causes with college fee

Paying mandatory student fees might seem like a part of the college experience. But thanks to a recent federal court ruling, students may now be able to challenge another part of campus life: the use of those fees to support causes with which the students disagree.

A 7th U.S. Court of Appeals panel in Chicago ruled in favor of three students, all evangelical Christians, who sued the University of Wisconsin for using part of their student fees to support groups which favored abortion rights, feminist activities, and gay rights. "Forcing objecting students

to fund private organizations which engage in political ideological activities violates the First Amendment," the court ruled.

According to USA Today, the decision does not affect the use of fees for non-political and non-ideological groups, such as health centers or a student union.

The ruling applies only to schools in Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois. But if the University of Wisconsin appeals the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, then any decision by the high court would cover all public institutions in the country.

USA Today, 8/12/98

Local ordinances control sexually oriented businesses

American Family Association local affiliate organizations are leading the way in helping communities adopt sexually oriented business ordinances.

Orange County, Garrett & Munster, Indiana; Waycross, Georgia; and Pike County, Mississippi, now have laws to rein in sexually oriented businesses, thanks to AFA affiliates. One strip club owner actually said of the law, "It would stop me if I had to go in with all of those restrictions."

If your community is plagued with sexually oriented businesses, or your community needs an ordinance before the situation arises, the AFA affiliate office is available to help. Call 601-844-5036, ext. 214

Safely navigating the Internet

BY STEVE ENSLEY • *American Family Online President*

Remember the 1975 blockbuster film, **Jaws**, the movie that made everyone swim a little closer to shore? I particularly remember the scene in which the great white shark claimed its first victim. A young lady had gone for a swim in the ocean at night, never expecting what the rest of us knew was about to happen. Then it was too late.

Swimming the waters of the Internet can be like that. All looks calm on the surface, but underneath in the dark, cybersharks lie in wait to claim a naive victim.

While you can find an incredible catch of wonderful information in the Internet ocean, the trick is to avoid the dangerous waters. New safe navigating tools such as the protection software used by American Family Online coupled with some basic knowledge can insure your family doesn't become a cybershark snack. Here are three major dangers to avoid.

PORNOGRAPHY

The Internet has become arguably the primary delivery system for pornography into our homes. There are over 300,000 web sites dedicated to providing pornographic material. Most sites charge for their service, but some are free and even those who charge for their sites provide free samples intended to lure the curious. Normally the only protection is a warning screen which does not prevent access. It is a voluntary warning and many sites do not even comply with this minimal standard.

The pornographers have gotten very clever in naming the sites so that just about any word search you conduct will return addresses for pornographic sites. Imagine your child doing school research on a space project and entering the acronym for our space agency, NASA. This search will deliver the space site address, but also several other sites with similar names and these sites are undisguised porn sites. With 250-300 new pornographic sites added every day, it can be very difficult for even the most innocent person to avoid the pornographic sites.

CHAT ROOMS

The seemingly innocuous practice of Internet users talking to each other live through a town square type forum called a chat room is extremely popular. This particular function is very popular with adolescents and others who are seeking companionship. It seems like a great way to make friends and many times it is, but it is also a primary hunting ground for pedophiles and kidnappers. A pedophile will pretend he is a teenager and strike up a conversation in a chat room with other teenagers. Since users can't see or hear one another in a chat room, they are dependent on what is typed into the computer as their only source of information. This allows a predator to appear to be very friendly and non-threatening. He can portray any image he likes and then he lures unsuspecting children into a trusting relationship based on falsehoods. The next step by the pedophile

is to arrange a person-to-person meeting with the child and the crime is committed. Some times this results in children disappearing forever. This is no longer an infrequent occurrence. It happens every day and many lives are destroyed as a result of this so-called fun activity.

VIOLENCE, VULGARITY AND RACISM

As the world increasingly rejects God, the void is filled with violence, vulgarity, racism and every other form of sin that can be imagined. The Internet has become a favorite place for promoting violence including bomb making and illegal militia groups among others. It has also become a forum for every type of vulgarity and racism under the guise of free speech. As was noted before, the Internet makes it possible for almost anyone to express himself to a world wide audience and some use this to

Get started with these Internet sites

<http://www.afa.net>

AFA's homesite. Links to live broadcast of American Family Radio Network, news, information, AFA divisions, electronic version of AFA Journal and much more.

<http://www.botcw.com>

Best of the Christian Web, a huge site with links to online Bibles, Bible studies, Christian publications, ministries, organizations, etc.

<http://www.gospelcom.net/ccmag/>

The online version of Christian Computing magazine including Internet only features.

<http://www.americanpolicy.org>

American Policy Center. Wealth of info on education and related issues.

<http://www.cfcministry.org>

The home page of Christian Financial Concepts. A wealth of financial information, resources and links, including Y2K information.

<http://www.filteringfacts.org>

Filtering Facts, an online source for information on making Internet access in

libraries safe for children and communities.

<http://www.religiontoday.com>

Excellent news source for Christians.

<http://www.edmunds.com>

A comprehensive sight for new and used car prices and more.

<http://www.gospelcom.net/>

Links to Christian ministries including Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Renewing Your Mind with R.C. Sproul, Youth For Christ and many more.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

The essential site for legislative information on the Internet.

<http://www.mapquest.com/>

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<http://www.bluemountain.com/>

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express every form of hate.

So far, we have painted a very bleak picture of the Internet, but there are some things you can do to enjoy the best of the Internet and avoid the worst.

For starters, try to find an Internet Service Provider (ISP) that has filtering and blocking at the server level. Blocking at that level is far more effective since it is constantly updated. Some services even provide a filter with no override. Ask your ISP if they have a filter and ask them if the override can be eliminated. The best filters will block out 98% of the bad sites and make it harder to get to the remaining sites.

Put your computer in a public place in your home. Never put the computer in a child's room where he can access the Internet for hours without direct supervision. Excessive time on the good sites can also be harmful. Even the advertising that is seen on good sites can be graphic and unsuitable. You need to be able to see what your child is doing. Along with this, there should be no access of the Internet without parental supervision. Put a password on your machine to prevent access in your absence. This applies to ALL ages of children, not just the younger ones.

Know what your children are using on the Internet. Make it a point to be as comfortable with the Internet as your children are and make sure you know how to monitor the Internet areas they have used. Almost all Internet software has a history tracking capability. Know how to use it and check it frequently. This is NOT a privacy issue for minors. You do not let them view bad movies or television and they should not be allowed unsupervised access to the Internet.

Never participate in chat rooms. Even the good ones (which are actually a favorite target) can leave you open to becoming a victim of criminal activity. When you need to communicate, use E-mail and never give your address or telephone number unless you know exactly to whom you are talking! And don't give out your E-mail address freely without some discernment. Be peaceful like a dove, but wise like a fox!

Parents, be the best models. Children will watch what you do. For your own sake and for theirs, never access Internet sites that contain the materials that are so destructive. If you have a filter, use it yourself and never turn it off. Many marriages have been

destroyed because of Internet pornography and chat room romances that have developed. In fact the spiritual and emotional adultery that is committed on the Internet is becoming epidemic.

In summary, be watchful and discerning and the Internet tool will be a tremendous aide to you and your family. Ignore the risks

and your family will be hurt.

In future articles we will be talking about the tremendous good that can be accomplished on the Internet. Look for articles on audio, video, your own web sites, ministries and much more.



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By the way, AFO is a subsidiary of American Family Association, a Christian organization that has been protecting the family and fighting pornography for over 20 years.



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Porn obsession results in rape, ruined lives

BY DAVID MILLER • *American Family Association Affiliate Director*

Editors note: *After reading a newspaper account of the case, AFA Affiliate Director David Miller traveled to Columbus, Ohio, to interview Mark Johns. Mark is now serving his sentence at the Mansfield Correctional Institute. Readers who would like to write an encouraging letter to Mark can call 601-844-5036, ext. 314 for the address.*

If you or someone you know is struggling with a sexual addiction, call the AFA OutReach Division at 601-844-5128.

It's an all too typical experience for a young boy living in the shadows of the sexual revolution: He accidentally discovers the enticing flame of pornography and has no idea of how badly he can get burned.

For some, the next decision is one of the most crucial he will ever make. He can turn away or he can indulge his curiosity and possibly find himself drawn into a moral abyss. The truth is that rarely do any of us know where our decisions will lead until we get there. And many times it's not where we expected to be or where we would have chosen to be if we could start over again.

For Mark Johns, a youthful wrong decision led to an addiction to pornography that resulted in the rape of four women and eventually a 49-year jail sentence. No doubt he'd give anything to return to the crossroad where he took the wrong turn.

RIGHT TURNS WRONG

So where does a story like Mark's begin? How does a life go so wrong?

In most cases the pornography belongs to an adult in a boy's life, someone who thinks he has the right to read or watch anything he wants. "Nobody's going to tell me what I can look at!" the elder arrogantly boasts. "And besides, it doesn't hurt any one."

Although Mark's parents were divorced when he was three, his mother and stepfather were able to create a fairly normal, middle-American home where Mark and his sister were loved and cared for. Then, around age eight or nine on a weekend visit to his father's house, Mark stumbled upon

his dad's cache of *Hustler* magazines – really hard core, according to Mark.

Mark's interest in pornography grew as



he invaded his dad's *Hustler* stash on each visit. But weekend looks were not enough. He began to steal the magazines and take them home. Masturbation became a habitual routine as he immersed himself daily in sexual imagery.

Over the next several years, some of the most important and formative years of a young person's emotional and sexual development, an insurmountable stronghold

developed in Mark's life. And given that he never recalls seeing a Bible in his home and only remembers attending Sunday school a few times, Mark was left alone and unarmed to fight a losing battle. "If I had known about God early on, I wouldn't have ended up like this," he says.

OBSESSION AND DECADENCE

Pornographic magazines became a steady diet during the subsequent years, and eventually led to other anti-social behaviors. Tragically, Mark fell squarely into a well-established pattern showing that sexual arousal diminishes with repeated exposure to sexual scenes.

Soon common pornography wasn't enough. His private masturbation deteriorated to public masturbation and exhibitionism, flashing, indecent exposure in public places, voyeurism, phone sex and picking up prostitutes.

His every thought and action had become consumed by the prospect of his next sexual high. Oblivious to where it was leading, Mark lived a fantasy life of out-of-control compulsion. Soon scrapes with the law became common.

But Mark's wife gave him unwavering support. She stuck by her husband through a half dozen arrests, often pleading for him to get help. She would make appointments for Mark to see a therapist or counselor, but he couldn't bring himself to go. Something kept him from admitting he had a sexual addiction and needed help. "I couldn't seem to help myself and no one out there seemed to have any answers for me either," he concedes.

NO HELP FROM COURTS

Mark claims that the legal system provided absolutely no help for his problems. Again and again, he found himself standing before the same judge and prosecutor, who he says made little attempt to help him change his behavior.

He describes being shown a sex education film and participating in group counseling

sessions where sex offenders discussed the details of their cases. Both exercises had the opposite of their intended effect.

Although his anti-social behaviors might wane temporarily during a probation period, Mark's sexual appetite continued to escalate. When peeping in windows stopped satisfying, he began to intrude into homes to confront women face to face. And when that stopped giving him a sexual thrill, nothing was left but rape.

After each rape Mark says he was filled with grief and shame. He says he was repulsed by his own behavior, yet unable to suppress his obsession.

For short periods of time, the routine of his job and home life would return a sense of sanity – at least enough sanity for Mark to fear someone was going to discover his Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde existence.

Then on October 29, 1996, Mark's dark life was finally exposed. He was arrested and charged with rape.

REPENTANCE AND REDEMPTION

By any human measure, life was over for Mark. His wife of six years could take no more and filed for divorce. Realizing he would be incarcerated for many years, Mark had no hope in living and twice attempted to end his life.

By God's grace, a pastor read about Mark in the local newspaper and visited him in the Medina County Jail.

On November 21, 1996, Mark Johns realized he was a sinner, turned from his sin and asked Jesus Christ to come into his life to forgive and save him. Over the next ten months, Medina County Jail Chaplains Larry and Susan Jarvis disciplined Mark in his new life in Christ. "Although I may be in jail," Mark says, "the Lord sets the prisoner free."

Ironically, it was October 31, 1997, the end of Pornography Awareness Week 1997, that inmate Mark Johns was finally sentenced for four charges of rape to which he pleaded guilty. He is now serving a minimum 49-year sentence.


At his sentencing, Mark faced the packed courtroom of Medina County Common Pleas Judge Judith Cross. Addressing his victims, he said, "I do want you to know that I am totally appalled at myself for these horrible crimes that I have committed,"

he said. "I'm sorry from deep within my heart that I have caused so much pain for everyone here today."

"There is not a day that goes by that I don't regret getting involved in pornography and eventually becoming addicted to it to the point where I no longer functioned as a normal adult."

PORN'S HEAVY PRICE

Today, Mark describes his life as a bad dream from which he can't awake. "It seems like just yesterday I was playing with the kids and now they're gone."

To those who have a porn problem, Mark admonishes, "Get out of denial. Get help or it's going to take over your life. It's not worth losing everything you love." 

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Government can't fix family, it can only confiscate

BY CHARLEY REESE • *The Orlando Sentinel*

■ A politician interested in 'restoring' the family is a demagogue or a fool.

I noticed in a directory of conservative organizations a proliferation of organizations concerned about the family. Most of them claim to have an interest in "public policy" matters.

Sorry, folks. The imperial government is guilty of a lot of stuff, but it is as innocent as Snow White on this issue. The government did not break the American family. The government cannot restore the American family.

When you hear a politician claiming to be interested in "restoring" the family, write him off as a demagogue or a fool. No law, no appropriation, no bureaucratic program can fix what's wrong. It's all personal and private. It's a morality issue, not a public policy issue. It's not just the government that has gone sour in America; it's the people.

It's people who spend \$8 billion a year on pornography. It's people who spend God knows how many billions in gambling casinos. It's people who take vows and break them. It's the people who bring children into the world and abort, abandon or abuse them. It's people who watch Jerry Springer or listen to Howard Stern. It's the people who patronize trash. It's people who approve of Bill Clinton, a sleaze and failed president.

The government has nothing to do with it. The government didn't corrupt anybody. It would be closer to the mark to say people have corrupted the government.

The first idea Americans ought to get over is that government can fix whatever we decide ails us at any given moment. Government is quite limited in what it can do. It is just force. The government can kill people, confiscate their property, deprive them of liberty or threaten them with all of the above. It can confiscate money and write checks on the confiscated money and thus buy votes. That's it, as far as basic powers go.

Wise citizens would be as leery of asking the government to solve a problem as they would be of asking a wolf to watch their children. The problem won't get solved, but the government will use the attempt as an excuse to widen its jurisdiction into even more areas of our lives – and, naturally, confiscate even more of our money.

Traditional Americans believed, and wisely so, that the power of government should never be used except to protect public health and public safety. A government cannot make bad people good, but good people can make bad government good.

Write Charley Reese at The Orlando Sentinel, 633 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801, or e-mail at OSOREESE@aol.com

Studies uphold traditional family

► *Behavioral problems in stepfamilies*

A seven-year study of 180 families by a Baylor College psychologist demonstrated again that breaking up a traditional family results in problems for kids.

Psychologist James Bray compared 90 stepfamilies with 90 nuclear families (a mother and father with their biological children) and found that 20% of children in long-term stepfamilies have serious behavioral problems by the time they reach adolescence, according to USA Today. That is double the rate of problems for kids in traditional families, Bray said.

Even though the children in some stepfamilies seemed to adjust to the changes well, Bray said for some there was a noticeable "boomerang" effect in their teenage years.

USA Today, 8/17/98

► *Depression for mothers while cohabiting*

When the soothsayers of the sexual revolution demanded an end to the oppressive institution of marriage, "shacking up" together took the place of wedded bliss for thousands of couples. Now it seems that cohabitation is the more oppressive arrangement, at least for women who have children.

Sociologist Susan Brown of Bowling Green State University (Ohio) studied almost 400 cohabiting couples and 2,226 married people to discover the incidence of depression.

According to USA Today, Brown's study showed that married couples showed the highest degree of satisfaction with life. Couples who lived together for a brief time showed less satisfaction, with long-term cohabitation producing the most dissatisfaction for both men and women.

Particularly susceptible to depression were women who had children when the mother was living with her boyfriend. Brown said this detrimental effect on mental health appeared due to the woman's fear that the relationship might dissolve completely. Almost half of the women in Brown's study who were cohabiting with a boyfriend had children.

USA Today, 8/20/98

PFIZER... from page 5
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Question #3: What long distance phone company is the carrier for Working Assets, an affinity phone company that donates part of its profits to groups like Planned Parenthood, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and others?

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DISNEY...from page 1

Although there were admittedly more factors at work than just the boycott, AFA president Donald E. Wildmon said Disney's weaker financial picture was an encouraging sign. "People are boycotting Disney, and that means fewer people seeing its movies, going to its theme parks, and buying Disney merchandise," he said. "We want to encourage people to remember that this is a protracted boycott, and this is an indication that things are going our way."

DISNEY PEDDLES OFFENSIVE FILM

In the wake of the success of its teen-targeted "splatter films" **Scream** and **Scream 2**, Disney subsidiary Miramax/Dimension Films released yet another one this summer – **Halloween: H20**.

Earning a smooth \$40 million in its first two weeks, **H20** was the sixth sequel to the original **Halloween** (1978). **Halloween: H20** treated viewers to a decapitation, slit throats, crushed limbs and repeated stabbings.

Bob Weinstein, co-chairman of Dimension Films and Miramax, minced no words about the company's target audience. "Dimension is about genre entertainment, and our movies are marketed almost exclusively to a teen audience," he said.

But targeting such violent movies to teens is disturbing to many, especially after a wave

of schoolyard killings last school year.

Ronald Stephens of the National School Safety Center, associated with Pepperdine University in California, told Reuters, "We tend to become like those things we think about, and if we are fed a continual diet of murder, mayhem and violence, it's those things we enact in our lives."

Stephens said movies such as **Halloween: H20** may contribute to teen violence. "I'm not sure it's a total stretch to compare these slasher movies to gun crimes. The youngsters committing these acts tend to be the youngsters that are excessively preoccupied with violence, the macabre, the dark side," he said.

In a bizarre confirmation of Stephens' contention, a 15-year-old California boy told police that the fiendish killer in **Halloween: H20** directed him to stab and choke a 62-year-old woman as she was baby-sitting other children in his home. The woman survived the attack, and the boy was placed in a mental hospital for observation.

Even when watching such movies on the small screen, their power to influence some young people still seems potent. A 10-year-old Alabama boy was found hanging by a nylon rope from a tree in his yard. Rescued and resuscitated, the boy later told his parents he had gotten the idea while watching the video version of **Scream**.

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Pro-family groups parade "real" Disney

Pro-family activists exposed the offensive policies and practices of The Walt Disney Co. during parades honoring the company in four U.S. cities, resulting in a backlash of government resistance, cursing and even the threat of physical violence. AFA was a major monetary underwriter of the protest project.

Disney had sponsored a nationwide essay contest, asking children to describe how their hometown shared the enthusiastic spirit exhibited by Mickey Mouse. Winning communities were promised a "Mickey's Hometown Parade." The parades were held in Platteville, Wisconsin; Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Vermillion, South Dakota; and Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

City officials in Platteville initially denied access to the anti-Disney activists seeking a spot in the July 4th parade. Since the proper applications had all been

filed and all requirements met, the AFA Law Center threatened Platteville with federal litigation if the city continued to deny pro-family demonstrators their First Amendment rights to march in public. The city then approved the pro-family group's application.

In Vermillion, South Dakota, the pro-family group was virtually assaulted as they followed behind the parade with signs and banners, such as "Disney betrays God/Family" and "Disney Funds Pornography, Sodomy, Abortion."

Protest participants said the onlookers of the parade began screaming and cursing at the pro-family group, pouring into the street in an attempt to block them. Police restrained the crowd, and the group finished the parade. Afterwards protesters handed out literature and explained their views about Disney.



Nation has moral crack in her

BY TIM WILDMON • *American Family Association Vice President*

In 1987, my dad decided to buy a boat. I don't exactly remember what prompted this decision, but boating is something the whole family could enjoy – even if you don't like to ski – so I think that's the reason he had the idea. Not wanting to go all out for a new boat, we began to watch the want ads for used boats.

One Saturday morning there appeared an ad for a 1977 Glastron ski boat in "excellent condition." The owner lived about 50 miles from Tupelo, so dad, my brother Mark (eight years my junior) and I drove down that morning to take a look at this boat said to be in "excellent condition." The owner, a farmer, made dad a really good price and we bought it.

The following Saturday we took this fine "new" boat out on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway to show her off. Let loose that Mercury 150 and blow past any ski boats, sail boats or paddle boats that dared to challenge us.

Also, I was looking forward to a boat which could pull me straight up out of the water instead of my friend's small fishing boat which we had tried to rig up into what amounted to a redneck surprise. We didn't have much money, but we had fun and we had a boat with rope, my friends and I. Pitiful little motor though.

But this boat of ours was nice. Despite the fact that it was 10 years old, it was in good condition. As far as the looks go anyway.

Well, we got out into the middle of the waterway. Dad was driving and Alison, Mark and I were waiting for a good place to ski or ride the innertube. Man, this baby was humming. It was cutting across the water looking good. Once we found a good spot, we stopped and Mark jumped onto the tube and we put some rope between him and the boat. We were excited. Here we were on the waterway with our own ski boat. Feeling kind of proud and puffy, I have to be honest with you. Dad pulled the rope tight and Mark gave him the big thumbs up.

"Let's do it!" yelled Mark with a big grin.

"Hit it!" I relayed to dad.

Dad pushed the throttle forward. We were starting to move. Ten, 15, now 20 miles an hour. We continued to gain speed, we were all smiles, when all of a sudden there came a loud cracking sound from the rear of our fine ski boat that was in "excellent condition." Dad pulled back the throttle as Alison went to see what had caused the noise. As I pulled up the little skirt that separated the gas tanks from the passengers I immediately recognized two major problems: 1) The wooden back panel of the boat was cracking open; and 2) Huge amounts of water were gushing into our "fine new" ski boat which was in "excellent condition."

It was clear that if this continued for a couple more minutes our "fine new" ski boat would be at the bottom of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway – in "excellent condition."

"Get to shore or we're gonna sink!" I yelled to Dad, who himself

saw the huge cracks in the rear hull.

All the while Mark was looking at us unable to hear what all the commotion was about because the Mercury 150 was still running.

"Untie Mark! We don't have time to pull him in," Alison told me. So all Mark could see was me taking his rope off the boat, throwing it off into the water, and then us speeding away. You should have seen the perplexed, dumbfounded look on his face. As we moved swiftly away I tried to yell something at him, but I knew he couldn't understand a word I said. He jumped up on his knees and threw his hands into the air. We were leaving my baby brother out in the middle of the waterway all alone.

We raced to the shoreline and were able to pull the boat out of the water before it sank. As long as we were moving fast, it wasn't taking on water.

Our new ski boat looked great to the casual eye. It was sleek and smooth. The motor purred. But on the inside it was rotten. So rotten that when the first real test of strength came along it ripped apart from the inside out.

I thought about that boat the other day. I thought about how America is a lot like it. The President of the United States has proven to be a serial adulterer and pathological liar. He cannot be trusted. He has no character. And yet, when I look at the polls and surveys, I get the real sense that most Americans don't see anything wrong with his behavior or they just flat don't care. They say the economy is good, so what?

Yes, when you look at America, the economy is doing very well. We are the most affluent and most educated people in the history of the world. Who among us goes hungry? And yet, we have lost our moral compass. We no longer know right from wrong or – perhaps worse – we no longer care. We are rotting from within while we think we are so strong.

It is really discouraging when I hear Americans choosing money over morality. I would not wish financial calamity on anyone, but if we continue to mock God's laws, we shouldn't be surprised when he judges our nation, perhaps with economic hard times. It seems today, money has become our god.

We desperately need to return to the true God – repair the widening cracks on our boat before we take on too much water and it's too late.

If you would like a copy of Tim's new book of humor *I Wonder What Noah Did With The Woodpeckers*, a collection of short stories published by Barbour Books / Promise Press, ask your local Christian book store or call 1-800-887-6555.

Sentimentally yours

Reprinted from Christianity Today magazine, 8/10/98

In June, the American Film Institute (AFI) released a list of the 100 best American movies. Quite apart from arguments over the comparative merits of this or that film, the list is valuable for what it reveals about the mind set of the entertainment industry and the public it serves. Beneath the surface variety, a clear pattern emerges. Two kinds of films dominate the list: the sentimental – for example, **Gone with the Wind** (4); and the nihilistic – **Pulp Fiction** (95). The nihilism provides a flattering thrill – “We’re giving it to you straight!” – and a warrant to ignore the inconvenient moral absolutes, which, the movies are telling us, are just a polite fiction anyway. The sentimentalism offers emotional, even kitschy, comforts at the expense of ethical and intellectual concerns.

As Christians, we are used to hearing jeremiads about the increasing depravity of the entertainment industry, and of movies in particular. We hear thundering denunciations of the “cultural elites” who are out of touch with the values of the American mainstream. And what happens? The next weekend, half the congregation heads to theaters to watch **Titanic** for the third time, while the other half goes to Blockbuster to pick out a video or three.

What is noteworthy about the AFI list is not only the heavy doses of violence and sex. No, it’s also that overpowering sentimentality: sweet, sometimes bittersweet, and oh so seductive – designed to paralyze the critical faculties. Certainly Christian leaders are right to point to the corrupting influence of violent and perverse entertainment. But equally pervasive, and just as destructive – if more subtle in its effects – is the influence of sentimentality.

Sentimentality is the unremarked common denominator between American popular culture and the evangelical subculture. Sentimentality offers powerful emotional satisfactions abstracted from genuine human context: abstracted from the relational and ethical complexities of real life. So movies from **Doctor Zhivago** to **Titanic** offer illicit sex packaged like one of those flavored

“European” coffees (“it tastes so good, it must be right”).

Sentimentality is destructive because it is unreal. It severs emotions from their holistic context. And the more it is indulged, the more it has the power to exploit and twist genuine feeling. Hymns and praise songs that speak of an intimacy with Jesus

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can be vehicles of worship, but when the congregation merely mouths the words dreamily, never testing the depth of their commitment to Jesus’ commands, worship becomes merely sentimental, with emotions savored for their own sake.

When you walk into a typical Christian bookstore, you won’t see a calendar featuring naked models. That’s good; there is a lot of

slime that Christians are warned to avoid. But you will find products that exude a yucky, artificial “niceness” radically at odds with the life of Jesus. Sentimentalism is our blind spot, the largely unnoticed entry point where the world infiltrates the church.

Too often Christian books, music, radio, and TV serve to invite us to dwell in an artificial gated community. In this sentimental kingdom, where we regale each other about our battles with the world and savor stories about victories over our enemies “out there,” something else is missing too: the texture of everyday life in which Christians are to be salt and light to the world, as Jesus was, dining with tax collectors.

Christian media critics should begin rating movies (and books) with an S, connecting the sentimentally that scores big at the box office with a prevailing tone of the evangelical subculture. Maybe in the process they will provoke us to ask whether the comforts of fuzzy emotionalism should be what guides Christians rather than the hard edge of Scripture, the jarring example of Christ, and the deep wisdom of the Holy Spirit.



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