

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

# Boycott blackens Mickey's

## ■ Disney profits plunge again

The Magic Kingdom may not be crumbling, but The Walt Disney Company may be losing its magic touch nonetheless. For the fourth quarter of 1998 (ending September 30), Disney's earnings were down 31%, following a 2% drop in profit for the third quarter.

While Disney's 1998 growth performance will probably exceed 1997 by 8%, that is still far below the expected 15%-20% the company normally demonstrates. A growth rate of 20% has been the yearly goal that Disney Chairman and CEO Michael Eisner has come to expect.

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon said, "We knew from the beginning that this was going to be a protracted boycott effort. This is a long-distance endurance run, not a sprint. As more people learn what this boycott is all about, more will join, and the financial pressure on Disney will continue to mount."

Disney's weaker financial outlook has already affected its image on Wall Street: its stock has dropped 43% since it peaked last April. That decline included a one-time June 30 stock plummet that was the largest in almost nine years for Disney.

As a result of the company's financial turbulence, analysts have found themselves forced repeatedly to revise their estimates on the Mouse's expected performance. According to *Daily Variety*, Wall Streeters have slashed their expectations for 1998 growth by 12%.

David Londoner, an analyst at Schroder & Co., said his company had already lowered their earnings estimate for Disney, but said fourth quarter performance "was even worse than we thought."

Another possible indication of the boycott's influence is that Disney's problems seem to be unshared by other entertainment industry heavy hitters. In contrast to their more pessimistic rating of the Mouse, Wall Street analysts raised

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# Stern continues TV ratings free

## ■ AFA's Stern Project highly effective in 20 markets

Shock-jock Howard Stern's new late-night Saturday television show continues to hemorrhage viewers and lose TV stations willing to air the show. Meanwhile a remarkable number of advertisers on Stern's national radio program are also dropping the show.

"This is an indication that decent people don't want to subject themselves to the lowest depths of cultural filth as presented by Howard Stern," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. "While CBS seemed to think that naked women, kissing lesbians and strippers are entertainment, we disagreed. Now it looks like most people feel the same way."

The TV show, called **The Howard Stern Radio Show**, is produced by the CBS Television Stations Group and marketed by Eyemark Entertainment,

CBS' syndication arm. Since Stern's program debuted on August 22 it has continually lost viewership. By the seventh show Stern's national television ratings had dropped 45% from his premiere. In the 27 markets where Stern went head-to-head with NBC's **Saturday Night Live (SNL)**, the shock-jock netted a mere 2.7 rating compared to SNL's 7.9. (An overnight ratings point equals 598,000 homes.) Even Fox's **Mad TV** has been beating the self-proclaimed "King of All Media," keeping Stern in last place.

Besides the precipitous drop in viewers, **The Howard Stern Radio Show** has been dumped by at least three U.S. stations which had already committed to carry the sleazy program: KJTV in Lubbock, Texas; KTVK in Phoenix, Arizona; and

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## Teen survey reflects diminishing moral values

BY DONALD E. WILDMON • AFA President

For the past three decades or so the Christian moral ethic has been under attack in our society. We have seen this attack in the entertainment industry, in education, in the legal realm. In fact, there are few areas where the Christian moral ethic has not been under attack. Even within the leadership of the Christian church there are those who seem determined to rewrite the moral laws of Christ and the New Testament.

Who suffers most when Christians fail to take a stand and fight for the moral teachings of the New Testament? Our children.

Recently the Josephson Institute of Ethics released the findings of a poll they conducted during the past two-and-one-half years. They surveyed 10,000 10th-12th graders about their actions in the previous 12 months.

Their findings should cause us great concern:

- 46% say they have stolen something from a store (up from 39% in 1996).
- 70% say they have cheated on an exam (up from 64% in 1996).
- 92% say they have lied to a parent (up from 85% in 1996). And 78% say they have lied to a parent two or more times (up from 73% in 1996).

Michael Josephson, president of the California-based institute, says that, if anything, the numbers are low. "Thieves and cheaters will lie on a survey," he said.

He also warned that "the impact of this

growing hole in our moral ozone" will only begin to be felt as this generation enters the work force. "They're going to be nuclear inspectors and bank auditors and legislators and mechanics – and if they bring to their workplace the same kind of attitudes revealed here, just imagine the havoc."

Want to know something even more scary? Teens who say religion is very important in their lives nonetheless confess to significant levels of dishonesty. For instance, 73% of students who say religion is unimportant say they have cheated on exams – but so do 69% of students who say religion is very important to them.

Those of us who call ourselves Christian have our work cut out for us. We have been too silent – even inside our churches – when it comes to taking a stand for righteousness. And our children are paying the price.

Our society – including our youth – are being told constantly that lying is acceptable. Look at our White House. The leader of our country admits that he has lied to the American people for eight months. How does our society react? The majority say that his lying is OK because he was lying about adultery.

OK, pastor. OK, Christian. We have our work cut out for us. Let us get busy doing it before even more of our children become the victims of secular humanism's great lie – that lying is acceptable.



## Investments can yield a moral return

BY NEIL CLEMENT

Are Christians tilting at windmills when we object to a company's immoral products, practices and policies?



Universal Pictures has decided not to distribute a new movie with a pedophile theme. The film's producer told National Public Radio that Universal didn't want to risk the negative publicity that might occur if Donald Wildmon called for a ban on products made by Universal's parent company, Seagrams. He expressed concern at the possible negative impact to Universal's stock prices. No doubt, when Christians impact a company's bottom line, the company listens.

Imagine the financial earthquake that would erupt if Christians pulled their retirement dollars out of investment products that promote immorality and invested only in portfolios that passed a moral screen. The tremors would be felt in corporate board rooms across America.

EFP (Executive Financial Planning) has created a financial vehicle to do just that – Value Investment Portfolios (VIP).

With our VIP program you can know that EFP will minimize the support of pornography, abortion, anti-family entertainment or non-marriage lifestyles within your investments.

On a recent business trip I had the opportunity to explain our VIP program to an investment wholesaler. (His job is to sell his financial products to registered representatives like myself.) He asked me to conduct a screen on his company's financial products and the results surprised him. Most failed the screen. When I asked him what it would take for his company's investment manager to

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# Gay activists blame Christian ads in

AFA has expressed dismay at the ongoing campaign by gay activist groups and some media to link the murder of a Wyoming college student with Christianity.

Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old homosexual student at the University of Wyoming, was allegedly robbed and beaten to death in October by two men. Gay activists have blamed Christian ministries for the death, especially those, including AFA, which recently sponsored newspaper ads offering ministry for homosexuals who wanted to leave that lifestyle.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, for example, called such newspaper ads "anti-gay rhetoric," asserting that "when anti-gay rhetoric escalates, so does anti-gay violence. Hate crimes are a result of that intolerance."

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon denied any such link. "Christian groups abhor such criminal violence as was committed against Matthew Shepard, and condemn it without qualification," he said. "But to blame the historic teachings of the church which clearly regard sexual immorality as a sin – including homosexuality – is nothing less than religious bigotry."

Law enforcement working the Shepard case has said the motive for the crime was robbery, but gay rights activists have demanded that the case be treated as a hate crime since Shepard was a homosexual.

As part of their agenda, gay rights groups have long demanded that Congress and state legislatures pass hate crime laws. Such laws would add criminal penalties to any crime that is committed with even a hint of an anti-gay motivation.

"Gay activists have no shame, exploiting the death of a young man to ratchet up the rhetoric for one of their pet political projects," said Wildmon.

"To engage in the mental gymnastics necessary to link those ads with this crime – and then to demand hate crime legislation – clearly demonstrates that the real motivation behind such hate crime laws is to silence Christians. Gays will now feel free to blame any crime against a homosexual on Christians, ending reasonable public

## Top Stern radio advertisers

### Andrew Jergens Company – Jergens

Mr. William J. Gentner  
2535 Spring Grove Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45214-1773  
Phone 513-421-1400

### Chrysler Corporation

Chrm. Robert J. Eaton  
1000 Chrysler Drive  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
Phone 800-992-1997

### Dunkin' Donuts, Inc.

Mr. Robert M. Rosenberg  
14 Pacella Park Drive  
Randolph, MA 02368  
Phone 671-961-4000

### Geico Direct Insurance

Mr. Tony Nicley  
One Geico Plaza  
Washington, DC 20046  
Phone 800-824-5404, ext. 2462

### ITT Technical Institute

Pres. Rene Champagne  
5975 Castle Creek Parkway, North Drive  
P.O. Box 50466  
Indianapolis, IN 46250-4340

### Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America

Pres. Kazue Naganuma  
6400 Katella Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
Phone 714-372-6000

### 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

### Subway Franchisee Ad Fund Trust

Pres. Frederick DeLuca  
325 Bic Drive  
Milford, CT 06460  
Phone 203-877-4281

### STERN...from page 1

KUSI in San Diego. Stern's television show was dropped by two Canadian stations in late August.

Stern was also hit with bad news on the radio front, where his program airs in some 49 markets, five hours a day, five days a week. In Denver, Colorado, KKHK-FM canceled Stern's radio show a mere 12 hours before it was scheduled to debut. While KKHK spokesman David Juris did not cite the TV show as a reason, he did mention listener reaction to Stern's reputation.

"We received hundreds of phone calls,

letters and e-mails requesting that we not put Stern on the station," said Juris. "We respect the views of our listeners. This is one of the few times that a media company has listened to such a negative response and then taken immediate action."

Advertisers on Stern's radio program are also taking action. In the 20 radio markets where AFA is monitoring Stern's broadcast and contacting sponsors about the show's filth, 81% of advertisers have withdrawn their spots. The radio monitoring campaign, is being headed by AFA of Michigan Director Bill Johnson.

## CKE/Hardee's gets clean bill

At the time of AFA's spring monitoring project, CKE Restaurants, owner of Hardee's fast foods, appeared on the Dirty Dozen list as owner of Boston Market restaurants. That information came from the *International Directory of Corporate Affiliations* (1997 edition), the industry's most widely trusted source of corporate data. Boston Markets' television ads were what put CKE on the list.

When CKE began to hear from AFA Journal readers, the company called our offices to correct the information. CKE had at one time been a franchise owner of Boston Markets in southern California, but no longer has any such ties. The 1998 edition of *Director of Corporate Affiliations* – which was not available to AFA until late summer – verifies that information. AFA is pleased to acknowledge that CKE should not be on the Dirty Dozen list.

# Slipping the Mouse a mickey

■ New books reveal how Eisner has radically altered Disney

BY ED VITAGLIANO

AFA Journal News Editor

“A brand is a living entity,” Disney CEO Michael Eisner says in his new autobiography, *Work in Progress*, “and it is enriched or undermined cumulatively over time, the product of a thousand small gestures.”

Eisner was referring, of course, to the Disney brand name, and there is little doubt that the Mouse House has been made rich, if not enriched, with Eisner as the Big Cheese. Since he was named CEO of The Walt Disney Company 14 years ago, its financial picture has improved dramatically. Between 1984 and 1997, Disney’s market value increased from \$2 billion to \$75 billion, with both revenues and net income soaring.

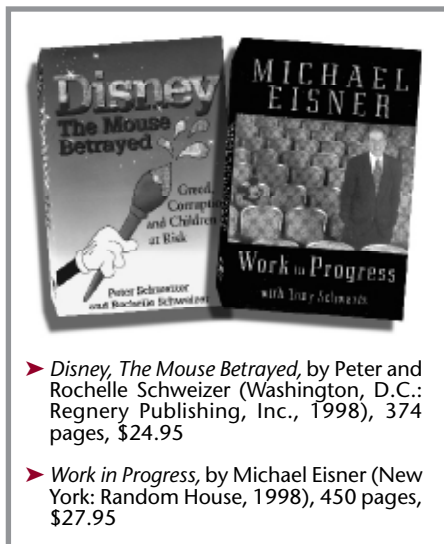
Throughout *Work in Progress*, Eisner spreads plenty of praise around for others, but it is obvious he considers himself the chief architect of Disney’s resurgence. As CEO and “chief creative officer,” Eisner sees his responsibility as being not only “an advocate for change but also a fierce protector of our brand.”

Eisner’s autobiography avoids Disney controversies that have led to a widening boycott of the company – there is no reference, for example, to Gay Day at Disney, Ellen DeGeneres, or controversial Miramax projects like *Priest* or *Kids*.

However, another recent book takes the Mouse to task. In *Disney, The Mouse Betrayed*, husband-and-wife team Peter and Rochelle Schweizer, both investigative journalists, interviewed those both inside and outside Disney to get a glimpse into the true nature of the company. And that image is not pretty.

## CHANGING DISNEY’S MISSION

Even before coming to Disney, Eisner said he knew that the company’s name stood for something. “The name ‘Disney’ promised a certain kind of experience: wholesome family fun appropriate for kids of any age, a high level of excellence in its products, and a predictable set of values.”



- ▶ *Disney, The Mouse Betrayed*, by Peter and Rochelle Schweizer (Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 1998), 374 pages, \$24.95
- ▶ *Work in Progress*, by Michael Eisner (New York: Random House, 1998), 450 pages, \$27.95

In fact, he said Disney was “not just the premier name in family entertainment but the only true brand name.” Eisner felt Disney was unique in this way, since people felt a sense of loyalty, not just to the Disney products, but to the company itself. That, he said, was a loyalty worth protecting.

Nevertheless, when Eisner first came to Disney, he said the company “had begun to seem awkward, old-fashioned, even a bit directionless.” While Disney’s “underlying qualities” were still there, Eisner said the company needed “to bring back the magic, to dress Disney up in more stylish clothes and expand its reach....”

The key, in Eisner’s mind, was for Disney “to produce films aimed beyond the traditional Disney audience of families and kids.” But since that traditional audience represented the core mission of the company’s founder, Eisner’s change in direction was actually quite radical.

One of those interviewed by the Schweizers was Spencer Craig, a Disney employee for almost 25 years. Craig started with the company in 1971, and by the early 1980s was heading up training for EPCOT at Disney University.

While Craig admits that Eisner increased profits at Disney, he said the CEO subtly changed the company’s mission. Craig’s

first taste occurred shortly after Eisner came on board, when the CEO had employees remove the Disney motto from their business cards, which had read: “We create the finest in family entertainment.”

Eisner’s new management appeared to want a clean break from the past. “There was a concerted effort [by management] to minimize Walt’s legacy in the company,” Craig said. “You’d hear things [in meetings] like ‘Walt’s not here now.’ And ‘who cares if he rolls over in his grave.’”

This is not simply the perception of a single employee. Disney board member Philip Hawley, who voted to bring Eisner on as CEO, also saw the change. “I thought back in ’84 we needed a change in management,” he told the Schweizers. “But what we ended up getting was a change in company mission. Does the company stand for what it used to? I don’t think so.”

The view of Craig and Hawley seems to be widespread among many at Disney. In a survey of employees at Walt Disney World, for example, The 1997 Cast Excellence Analysis Tool found that 65% of employees *disagreed* with the statement, “The heritage and traditions of Walt Disney World continue to be valued by our company.”

## THE ARTIST’S CREED

The goal of going beyond mere family entertainment was perhaps most evident in the altered approach to movie-making at Disney. Long the source of clean, fun films for the entire family – in keeping with Walt’s original mission – Eisner brought a more “open-minded” approach.

“In the years since Walt’s death, Disney had become something of a filmmaking backwater,” Eisner said. Lacking the creative instincts of Walt Disney, the company was not attracting new talent.

To reverse this trend, Eisner said it would be necessary to “offer [good writers, directors, producers, and actors] the opportunity to do the projects that most interested them.”

Eisner’s new willingness to push the

envelope became clear in 1985, when Disney (Touchstone) decided to produce **Down and Out in Beverly Hills**. “We were immediately drawn to the project,” he said, “even though we knew that it would almost surely earn an ‘R’ rating – something that Disney, even under its Touchstone label, had never before permitted.”

It was a calculated leap away from the company’s family-oriented past. By producing a movie with foul language and explicit sex, Eisner said, “We sent a message that Disney was prepared to support talented filmmakers and to make movies that dealt frankly with contemporary adult life.”

More importantly, even though Eisner knew producing **Down and Out** “ran the risk of alienating our core audience,” he was willing to gamble. Eisner scored a win – the movie was a box office success, and it “prompted no backlash” against Disney.

### **MAKING MONEY AT ALL COSTS**

For the sake of success at the box office, Eisner has continually demonstrated his willingness to produce controversial films, even when it sacrificed Walt’s original family-friendly core value. Nothing underscores that reality better than Disney’s 1993 purchase of Miramax Films.

The brainchild of brothers Harvey and Bob Weinstein, Miramax was well known in the movie industry for buying independent films cheap and distributing them for a tidy profit. Many of those films were controversial not only in their graphic violence and sexuality, but in the exploitative manner in which the Weinsteins marketed them.

Miramax marketing official Mark Gill admitted as much when he said, “We spend a lot of time making movies look more provocative than they really are. Our cheap cliché is: ‘Sex, betrayal, murder.’ People want to see things that are provocative. You’ll see a lot of women with no clothes on their backs in our ads. We’ll put a gun in the ad if we can. It works.”

After Disney purchased Miramax, Eisner called it “the smartest move we made in the movie business.” And the Disney CEO made it clear that he was not taken by surprise by the nature of Miramax or its product, which even he admits were “often controversial films aimed mostly at a sophisticated adult audience.”

Nevertheless, the seeming contradiction

between Disney’s family-friendly past and the aggressive edginess of Miramax raised eyebrows in the industry after the purchase. But that didn’t matter to Disney. When Jeffrey Katzenberg, then head of Disney’s film division, was asked if he thought Walt Disney might not be spinning in his grave over the deal, he said, “I don’t know. I haven’t been over to the grave lately.”

Disney executive Joe Roth admits that Disney and Miramax are “odd bedfellows from a content standpoint, but from a busi-

...in 1989 Disney became a full partner in a pay-per-view company called Viewer’s Choice, which in the 1990s has become a leader in providing “soft-core” pornography to its customers.

ness standpoint, we’re terrific partners.”

Marketing Miramax is apparently so important to Eisner that Disney recently opposed a congressional measure that would protect children from online pornography. The Child On-Line Protection Act (COLPA) was intended to require all Internet web sites to verify an adult’s age before allowing him to view pornography or other material deemed “harmful to minors.”

But Disney and others, including the Motion Picture Association of America, resisted COLPA. Lobbyists for Disney said the company was worried that some of its films, especially those produced by subsidiaries Miramax and Touchstone, could not be marketed online if the measure passed.

### **DISNEY SELLS PORN**

With the Mouse firmly entrenched in its new money-making mindset, it was no surprise that Disney would throw off all moral restraints in its quest for profits. The Schweizers write that in 1989 Disney became a full partner in a pay-per-view company called Viewer’s Choice, which in the 1990s has become a leader in providing “soft-core” pornography to its customers.

While Viewer’s Choice initially ran mainstream Hollywood films, in 1993 the pay-per-view company added “Hot Choice,” which airs “adult” movies. The channel offers such fare as **The New Video Vixens; Erotic Heat; American Stripper on Tour; Erotic Confessions;** and **Beautiful Kinky**

### **Nudes.**

No other company owns a larger stake in Viewer’s Choice than Eisner’s Mouse House, but the Schweizers said Disney “won’t talk about its role as a partner in [Viewer’s Choice] or the size of its profits.”

Yet profits are undoubtedly impressive. Viewer’s Choice serves more than 1,000 cable systems, with more than 59 million pay-per-view channel subscribers. The Schweizers said, “Every time someone watches these programs, each partner in the company gets a cut, including the new Disney.”

### **PROTECTING THE MOUSE AT ALL COSTS**

As a self-defined “fierce protector of [Disney’s] brand,” Eisner apparently puts the name of Disney above all other considerations. In this regard, some of the charges made by the Schweizers are chilling.

To avoid bad publicity, for example, the Schweizers write that officials at Disney World have stifled on-site homicide investigations, not reported sex crimes and refused to fire Disney employees that were caught peeping on guests in changing rooms.

More disturbing, the Schweizers say, “The same company that continuously peddles its ‘child friendly’ image won’t cooperate with police efforts to deal with the very real pedophile problem at Disney World.”

In fact, when informed about *Disney, The Mouse Betrayed*, ABC News prepared a **20/20** segment about it. The news show had an exclusive contract with the Schweizers, promising that though Disney owned ABC, that fact would not affect the story.

But ABC News cancelled the story, saying only that it “did not work.” A source at ABC told Conservative News Service that jobs may be lost because of the segment.

The network has also denied that Disney had anything to do with the decision. But Peter Schweizer said, “If this were a story about any other company in America, would there be this problem?”

In reality, there is no other company in this country like Disney. It has an unparalleled heritage and commands a unique loyalty in the hearts and minds of Americans. But as Eisner said, even this prestige can be “undermined cumulatively over time, the product of a thousand small gestures.”

Ironically, Eisner’s autobiography opens with a quote from Maxwell Anderson, who says “inherited morals dissipate as rapidly as

# Y2K, keeping a Biblical perspec-

BY BRANNON S. HOWSE



The Year 2000 (Y2K) computer crisis is just around the corner. For Christians, the Y2K problem could be the greatest ministry opportunity in the last thousand years. A correct spiritual and practical preparation plan that honors the Lord and fulfills our Biblical mandates could have eternal results.

Proverbs 22:3 tells us, "A prudent (wise) man sees danger and takes refuge but the fool ignores it and suffers for it." Proverbs 27:12 says, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished."

How bad the Y2K crisis will be is unknown. But everyone must do his own research and answer two important questions: 1. How severe will the Y2K problem be? 2. How long with the Y2K crisis last?

Once you have answered these questions for your family, you must begin making preparations. Those who refuse to take this problem seriously may very well be putting their family in danger. The Bible is clear about the responsibility of a father in providing, defending and protecting his family. I Timothy 5:8 says, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Some see no need to be concerned about Y2K. If my research is sound, and I believe it is, those who are responsible for loved ones will not only fail them, but also the Lord's command to provide for one's family.

Some say they will wait until January 1, 2000. But let me ask: "Do you have car insurance, medical insurance, home owners insurance? Do you wait for your house to catch fire before you call the insurance man for quotes on coverage? If you live in Kansas do you have a tornado shelter? Or do you say, 'Whatever happens, happens, I am just trusting the Lord?'"

Great, trust the Lord, and in your trusting remember the Lord's mercy to have given you the opportunity to prepare for Y2K and the ministry opportunities that lay ahead. The Lord warned Joseph of impending famine so that he and the people for whom he was responsible could prepare. Genesis 41:36

says, "And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine."

In Luke 21:20-23 the Lord tells of the destruction that will come upon Jerusalem and warns Christians to get out of harm's way: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in

Christians make? Should we run for the hills or stay put? Only you can answer that question seeking God's leading.

For those who live in the suburbs of large cities, preparations should be taken in case looting or stealing spills over into your neighborhood. However, by staying with your neighbors, friends, church and possibly extended family, your opportunity for ministry and leadership could bring great honor and glory to the Lord.

While you are making your Y2K plans, avoid the temptation to become selfish and rely on your plans rather than the Lord's. Be sure to store enough food and provisions to include neighbors, other Christians and the poor. Romans 13:9 says, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Proverbs 19:17 adds, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

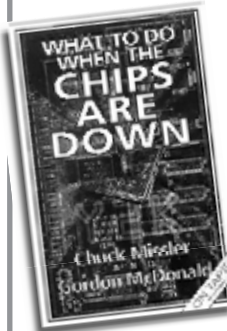
## CORPORATE PREPARATION

Pastors, begin to educate your flock about Y2K, so each family can be ready. At the same time your church should make corporate preparations. A clothes closet and food pantry can be used to share God's love and act as servants. If the families in your church have not prepared, the clothes and food will simply be used by members and leave little to share with your community. Proverbs 14:21 says, "But he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he." Colossians 3:14 tell us, "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." II Peter 1:7 says, "And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

Our Y2K goal must not be to look out for our own welfare, as the world does, but consider the welfare of those around us. On January 1, 2000, be prepared to show God's grace to your world.

*Brannon Howse is President of American Policy Institute (www.americanpolicy.org), a bestselling author and talk show host.*

## What To Do When the Chips are Down



This cassette series is essential information for Christian families. Totaling three hours and stored in an attractive album, *What To Do When*

*the Chips are Down* includes an 8-page special report on the Y2K problem, supplemental notes and a Y2K preparedness checklist.

To order, call:  
**1-800-954-1122, Ext 500**  
 or send \$20 postage paid to:  
**The American Family Policy Inst.**  
**P.O. Box 25062**  
**St. Paul, MN 55125**

Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them enter thereunto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

## PREPARATION AND PRAYER

So, how much Y2K preparation should

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

## CULTURE

### UPDATE: More Kinsey revelations

The identity of the previously unnamed pedophile who provided sex researcher Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey with information regarding the “sexuality” of children was revealed in a British television special.

Known formerly only as “Mr. X” or “Mr. Green,” the British documentary **Secret History: Kinsey’s Pedophiles** said the man’s name was Rex King, a child molester who allegedly abused at least 800 children. King recorded his “experiments” in diaries which Kinsey used as part of his “scientific research.”

In 1948 Kinsey, a professor at Indiana University, began publishing his research about human sexuality in the U.S., work which was the springboard for the sexual revolution. In books published in 1990 and 1998, however, Dr. Judith Reisman demolished Kinsey’s research as purposefully deceptive and based on inept science. (See *AFA Journal*, 8/98.)

Perhaps more disturbing, according to Kinsey’s own published materials, 317 boys as young as two months old were “stimulated” by adults to discover how the children reacted sexually. With the information obtained, Kinsey argued that children were sexual from birth – a “fact” that has become the basis of sex education being taught in public schools to children as young as kindergarten.

In 1995 Reisman and the Family Research Council (FRC) demanded that the Kinsey Institute open its files so the public might discover the truth about Kinsey’s data. Institute director John Bancroft refused, but according to FRC, Bancroft did acknowledge that most of the data on children’s sexuality came from a single pedophile.

The producer of the British documentary, Tim Tate, told the London Sunday Observer, “When we set about investigating how such a respected scientist came to public accounts of child abuse by pedophiles as evidence that children enjoy sex with adults, we discovered that Kinsey’s relationships with habitual child molesters were considerably more extensive than had ever been revealed.”

## Sponsors demand cleaner TV

If Hollywood ignores the pleas of parents who demand quality entertainment, will they ignore the companies that spend billions sponsoring TV programs? That’s a question many may be asking after a group of some of the country’s largest advertisers met to join forces and ask Hollywood for more family-friendly TV.

Called the Forum for Responsible Advertisers, the group’s initial meeting in September consisted of representatives from Johnson & Johnson, Procter & Gamble, Ford Motor Co., General Motors, IBM, Coca-Cola, Sears, McDonald’s, Nestle and Warner Lambert. The group intends to hold more meetings at a later date.

Gretchen Briscoe of Procter & Gamble said, “We want access to high-quality, family-friendly programming that attracts a mass audience.”

If more advertisers follow suit, it would signal a remarkable change. Most sponsors do not exactly shy away from TV shows with “adult” themes. In fact, the shows with the most expensive advertising price tag are often the raunchiest. For example, **Frasier** (NBC), **Friends** (NBC), **The Drew Carey Show** (ABC), **Veronica’s Closet** (NBC), and **Ally McBeal** (Fox) – which are all loaded with foul language and sexual themes – are on the top ten list for cost per 30-second spot.

Briscoe said the Forum for Responsible Advertisers may be necessary because the actions of one company wouldn’t be enough to influence Hollywood. “It’s going to take a collective industry effort,” she said.

Daily Variety, 9/29/98; Advertising Age, 9/21/98; The Wall Street Journal, 9/4/98

In addition to King, **Secret History** also stated that Kinsey colluded with a Nazi pedophile in attempting to gather “research” about children’s sexuality.

Should authorities insist on reviewing that research, however, former Kinsey researcher Paul Gebhard was quoted on **Secret History** as saying that the Kinsey Institute would prefer to destroy the pedophile diaries rather than surrender them to investigators.

Culture Facts, 8/26/98, 9/2/98;  
LifeSite Daily News, 8/11/98

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Hollywood striking down taboo against pedophilia

Following in the footsteps of the controversial pedophile film **Lolita**, Universal Pictures studios financed another movie that has broken that once iron-clad taboo.

The film, entitled **Happiness**, is about dysfunctional family life and includes such disturbing elements as on-screen masturbation and a fantasy about mass killings in a park. But even worse, one of the main characters in **Happiness** is a psychiatrist who makes a habit of drugging and then raping his 11-year-old son’s friends.

In what seems to be a demonstration of the nature of the artistic crowd, the movie has been critically acclaimed, winning the International Critics Prize at this year’s Cannes Film Festival. Reviews in mainstream magazines such as *Newsweek*, *Time* and *Entertainment Weekly* were also favorable, and USA Today gave **Happiness** three-and-a-half stars (out of four).

Nevertheless, **Happiness** has also generated enough controversy that Universal pressured its subsidiary October Films to drop the film. **Happiness** was eventually released by its own production company, Good Machine, in October.

The film’s director, Todd Solondz, does not try to portray his characters – even a habitual child molester – as intrinsically evil. “Sometimes I’m called misanthropic. The fact that I feel compelled to show all the warts and flaws of my characters and am still willing to embrace them, I think, makes me quite the opposite,” Solondz said. “If the audience looks at **Happiness** and says they’re freaks, I’ve failed.”

Meanwhile **Lolita** appears likely to be a box-office bomb. Because of its controversial subject matter – it is about a 45-year-old man who had a torrid sexual affair with his

14-year-old stepdaughter – the movie failed for almost two years to find an American company that would distribute the film. Finally **Lolita** was shown to American audiences on cable's Showtime.

Samuel Goldwyn Films distributed the movie to theaters in September, but **Lolita** did not attract ticket-buyers. In 15 theater locations in the New York and Los Angeles area – which were expected to be more likely to overlook the offensive theme – **Lolita** earned a paltry \$105,000.

Daily Variety, 9/28/98; Time, 10/12/98; Newsweek, 10/12/98; Rolling Stone, 10/29/98

### Store sinks **Titanic's** sex, nudity

A video store in Utah has been receiving plenty of attention from customers for offering to edit the objectionable scenes from the mega-hit movie **Titanic**. Unfortunately, the store has also been receiving plenty of attention from Paramount Pictures, which produced the sinking-ship epic.

Sunrise Family Video in American Fork, Utah, has had hundreds of customers who bought a copy of **Titanic** elsewhere and then asked him to cut the two scenes that were most offensive to viewers – one in which the heroine poses for a nude drawing and another involving steamy sex. Sunrise charges \$5 to edit the video.

Store owner Don Biesinger said his lawyer told him the procedure was legal as long as customers bought **Titanic** somewhere else. In fact, Biesinger said his store doesn't even sell the movie – edited or unedited.

"As long as people own the movie, they can do anything they would like with it," Biesinger said.

But Paramount has threatened legal action, claiming that any alteration which it does not authorize is an infringement of its copyright trademark. Biesinger said, "[H]ow can we be infringing on their copyright law when we are not dealing with their product? We are dealing with people's personal, private videos. It's not over copyrights, it's over property rights."

WorldNetDaily, 9/4/98

### HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

#### UPDATE: Religious discrimination charged in Wilkins case

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has found "reasonable cause" that an employee was terminated

from his job solely because of his religious beliefs regarding homosexuality.

Tim Wilkins was a marketing supervisor for the Raleigh News & Observer newspaper, but was fired soon after a front page story quoted Wilkins as saying that he left the homosexual lifestyle following his conversion to Christianity. (See *AFA Journal*, 9/98.) In that story, Wilkins said he believed that the Bible called homosexuality a sin, and that others could also leave that lifestyle.

With a superb work record, Wilkins filed a complaint with the EEOC, which determined that the "evidence... supports a finding that [the Raleigh News & Observer] terminated [Wilkins] when it became aware of [his] religious beliefs." The EEOC is recommending conciliation between Wilkins and his former employer, according to a press release issue by Wilkins.

#### Supporters agree with AFA's position on homosexuality

A huge majority of AFA supporters believe the organization's position on homosexuality and the gay agenda conforms to Biblical principles, according to an informal survey distributed in September. A total of 31,304 returned the survey.

Ninety-eight percent (30,658) agreed that "homosexuality is unnatural and sinful." Respondents also believe "homosexuals, like all people, need Christ."

The survey found strong opposition to the forced acceptance of homosexuality in our society.

#### "Don't ask, don't tell" gay policy upheld by courts

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled the current policy on homosexuals in the military constitutional, the fourth federal appeals court to do so. The decision may signal the last gasp for gay activists intent on changing guidelines.

The court upheld the policy of "don't ask, don't tell," deferring to the judgment of military leaders who have remained steadfastly against any change. "Courts are ill-suited to second-guess military judgments that bear upon military capability or readiness," the court said.

"Don't ask, don't tell" is so-named because it allows homosexuals to remain in the service if they are silent about their sexual orientation and refrain from engaging in

homosexual acts.

"The [current] policy supports the maintenance of unit cohesion and morale as well as preserving the privacy of the individual," said a Pentagon spokesman.

The only remaining option for gay activists is taking the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Since federal appellate courts have all ruled in favor of the military policy, legal analysts see the chances of the high court accepting an appeal as extremely unlikely. That makes this latest ruling appear to be the final word on the subject.

USA Today, 9/24/98; NY Blade News, 9/25/98

#### Media convention shows support for gay movement

Several major media organizations demonstrated their wholehearted endorsement of the gay movement and its agenda by hosting the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) convention.

The seventh annual NLGJA meeting was sponsored by Disney/ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, Fox, Turner Broadcasting, Time, Inc., the Times Mirror Newspapers, and The Washington Post.

One of the goals of NLGJA is to increase the amount of coverage given to the gay movement in the mainstream media. The media organizations all sent recruiters to the convention in order to seek out homosexual journalists.

Topics covered by speakers at the convention included "Covering the Radical Right," and a number of speakers made clear their antagonism toward conservative Christians. According to *CultureFacts*, for example, New York Daily News *Sunday Magazine* Deputy Editor Kevin Hayes referred to a hypothetical critic of homosexual rights as "Reverend [expletive] bag."

CultureFacts, 10/7/98

#### UPDATE: Christians protest homosexual "Christ" play

More than 2,500 Christians protested outside a New York theater during the performance of a play in which Christianity was ridiculed and Jesus Christ was portrayed as a practicing homosexual.

The play, **Corpus Christi**, stirred plenty of pre-performance controversy when the New York Times obtained a copy of the script, in which a modern-day homosexual Christ-figure named Joshua leads a band of 12

disciples. (See *AFA Journal*, 7/98, 9/98.)

William Donahue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, saw the play and said its perverse message lived up to its advance publicity.

“The basic message of **Corpus Christi** is this: Jesus was no more divine than the rest of us and the reason why He was crucified was because He approved of homosexuality,” Donahue said.

In the play, Joshua has his first homosexual experience with Judas in his high school bathroom, and later has sex with another disciple, Philip, at his high school prom. Later, the Christ figure confronts a priest who recites the Bible’s teachings condemning homosexuality. Joshua responds to the priest and accuses him of “pervert[ing] my Father’s words.”

As Donahue relates, Joshua then says “that no one should take everything that he says literally. The Bible, he says, is about love. Joshua then presides over a ‘wedding’ between James and Bartholomew. Not finished damning the priest, Joshua says ‘I despise you,’ and then proceeds to hit him several times.”

**Corpus Christi** playwright Terrence McNally has written numerous gay-themed plays, and has been the recipient of three Tony awards for his work.

The play was produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Inc. (MTC). According to a grant reward letter obtained by AFA, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) gave MTC \$31,000 in 1996 “to support expenses for the development and world premiere of the new play, **Corpus Christi**, by Terrence McNally.”

The NEA is a government agency created and funded by Congress. The organization’s habit of funding blasphemous art and plays like **Corpus Christi** has made it a perennial target of conservatives.

*Time*, 10/5/98; *CultureFacts*, 9/30/98

### **Evidence lacking of job discrimination against gays**

One of the most potent arguments being used by gay activists is that homosexuals lack protection against job discrimination based upon sexual orientation. While such a claim often carries weight with fair-minded Americans, the evidence suggests that the cry is a hollow one.

For example, one needs to look no

### **THE FAMILY**

#### **Kids remember the violence, not the message**

Sometimes the purveyors of violent shows sprinkle positive messages throughout a program, and then argue that overall the show is responsible. A new study, however, demonstrates that the violence is all that many younger children remember.

Researchers from St. Anselm College interviewed 68 children after they watched an episode of **Mighty Morphin Power Rangers**. That show strews trendy messages throughout its fight-laden scenes. After viewing **Power Rangers**, the children were asked, “What was the one thing, or most important thing you remember from the program?” Younger children (ages 4 to 7) usually answered “the fighting.” Completely lost on these kids, the study demonstrated, were any “messages.” Researchers said that younger children have a “predisposition to remember violent acts more clearly and as having more importance than other material viewed.”

The Family in America, New Research, 10/98

#### **New book says parents don’t matter**

For all those parents who thought their behavior could affect how their children behave and develop, psychology textbook writer Judith Harris has something to say: “You’re wrong.”

Harris argues that parents have no “important long-term effects on the development of their child’s personality.” Rather, a child’s genetic make-up and his peers are the only formative factors that matter. This startling, counter-intuitive and wildly controversial thesis appears in Harris’ new book, *The Nurture Assumption*.

Harris has been assailed by experts in the child development field for a number of reasons, not the least of which is her lack of credentials. Harris is neither a psychologist nor sociologist, and has no Ph.D. in any field. What she does for a living is merely rewrite the work of other psychology professionals for textbooks.

Most experts also view Harris’ entire idea as absurd. That was the opinion of T. Berry Brazelton, professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and a best-selling author. Brazelton said the “basis for all learning, social and cognitive, is laid down by parents in the first years of a child’s life.”

Psychologist Wendy Williams of Cornell University said Harris’ “extreme position” is contradicted by the “many, many good studies that show parents can affect how children turn out in both cognitive abilities and behavior.”

Beyond its scientific flaws, however, columnist John Leo finds the thesis of Harris’ book downright dangerous. “Our society is hip-deep in evidence of the pain and loss of underparented and unparented children,” he said. “It’s no time to celebrate a foolish book that justifies self-absorption and makes nonparenting a respectable, mainstream activity.”

*U.S. News & World Report*, 9/21/98; *Newsweek*, 8/24/98, 9/7/98; *Time*, 8/24/98

#### **“Dear ol’ mom” a boon to children**

Most people intuitively believe that a mother’s presence is a benefit to her children. But if anyone needed scientific proof, psychologist Mohammadreza Hojat of Jefferson Medical College provided it in a recent study.

In studying more than 900 medical students, Hojat found that those who had a recollection of their mother as being “available and devoted” during their childhood had lower levels of loneliness, depression and anxiety. They also had higher self-esteem and more tenacity in confronting the trials of life.

Conversely, students who reported less satisfaction in their childhood relationships with their moms also scored lower in measurements of self-esteem and had more troubles in peer relationships.

The Family in America, New Research, 10/98

further than President Clinton's executive order that purportedly protects gays from discrimination within the federal government. A congressional source told AFA that, with almost 2.8 million federal civilian employees, neither the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board nor the U.S. Office of Personnel Management could provide one recorded case in which an employee was terminated because of homosexuality.

Even some gay activists agree that the "problem" is virtually nonexistent. In recent articles gay columnists Dan Savage and Andrew Sullivan separately knocked the claim that gays face job discrimination.

According to Savage, in states where such employment protection laws have passed, "sexual orientation makes up a minuscule proportion of the whole caseload." In California, for example, with a total population of 33 million people, discrimination claims based on sexual orientation number just 173 – only 1% of the total.

The other nine states which have such non-discrimination laws and track the resulting complaints have similarly negligible claims. Perhaps that's why Sullivan said "the push for gay empowerment rights is unconvincing and whiny."

"Gay leaders often repeat the mantra, 'In 40 states you can be fired for being gay.' When the question is asked, 'Are they being fired?' the answer is no," said AFA Public Relations Director Allen Wildmon.

"And the fact is, a person can be fired for being a Yankees fan, or overweight, or unattractive, or loud, or having a beard. Are we going to insist on special laws to protect all these people? And that demonstrates that the nature of homosexual demands is special rights," he said.

Out, 10/98

## MEDIA

### **Distrust in media growing**

Several controversial and highly publicized scandals within major news media organizations are contributing to a further decline in the American public's confidence in that institution.

One of the most sensational incidents was a recent retraction by CNN for reporting an alleged use of nerve gas by the U.S. military against American defectors during the Vietnam war. Three producers lost their jobs over the scandal.

That came at virtually the same time as other recent outrages: a writer was fired at the Boston Globe and another at the *New Republic* for inventing people, quotes, and other salient facts for their stories; NBC's **Dateline** lost a civil suit for misrepresentation during a report of safety violations within the trucking industry; and the Cincinnati Enquirer was forced to apologize to Chiquita Brands International Inc. for false stories about the company's business practices in Central America.

A poll taken in the wake of the CNN fiasco and published in *Newsweek* demonstrated once again what other surveys have found: The confidence of the American public in the national news media has been steadily eroding. In the *Newsweek* poll, conducted by the Pew Research Center, 53% of respondents said they believe only some or very little of what the media report. Another 53% characterized news reports as "often inaccurate."

While such dismal figures have become the norm, the spate of most recent incidents has worsened public perceptions of the news media. In the *Newsweek* poll, 62% of respondents said such cases of "media inaccuracy" made them "less likely to trust" the media. Only 30% viewed the recent events as "isolated incidents."

For most Americans, such inaccuracies are the result of factors such as the increasing competition for big stories, pressure to improve ratings and thus profits, a desire for personal fame and its attendant benefits, and personal bias.

CNN founder Ted Turner once told the Radio and Television News Directors Association, "News is what you News Directors interpret it as. News is what we at CNN interpret it as. The people of this country see the news we think they oughta see."

The problem may be, however, that most people don't like what they're seeing.

U.S. News & World Report, 7/20/98; *Newsweek*, 7/20/98; Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN), 7/9/98; *World*, 12/13/97; *Parade Magazine*, 3/2/97

## PORNOGRAPHY

### **Porn actors reaping AIDS**

The pornography industry in America has been stunned after learning that five of its porn stars have tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The industry's

solution? Require all of its male actors to wear condoms.

There is concern that the one male and four female porn stars who are infected point to a larger group of as-yet undetected HIV-positive actors and actresses. Pornography relies on frequent sexual contact between the stars, and the revelation of AIDS among them has brought a new sobriety to the industry. As one porn veteran said, "Recess is over in the playpen of the damned."

The porn industry rakes in billions of smut-related dollars every year, and last year alone some 7,000 titles were released.

Daily Variety, 7/29/98

### **ACLU: Pornographers are heroes**

At a conference on issues affecting the pornography industry, the president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) applauded those who produce and act in porn films as defenders of the First Amendment.

ACLU president Nadine Strossen, author of a book entitled *Defending Pornography*, addressed over 600 attendees at the World Pornography Conference in California. She said, "Once we cede to the government the power to violate one right for one person, or group, then no right is safe for any person or group. So when we defend sexual expression, we really are making a stand not only against a specific kind of censorship...but human rights in general."

The conference was headed by sex researcher, Dr. James Elias. "The view of human sex as bad and dirty and not very nice has been very, very disturbing psychologically, culturally and intellectually," Elias said. "This kind of conference can help by forthrightly addressing issues of sexuality."

Those issues included workshops such as "Spanking Stories: Straight Theories, Bent Practices," "A Short History of Sex Toys," "The Gay Pornographic New Wave," and "The Role of Fetishism."

According to *CultureFacts*, Elias began his career as a researcher at the Kinsey Institute, an organization that grew out of the efforts of sex researcher Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey, a leader in the sexual revolution beginning in the 1950s. Kinsey's work has come under steady fire from conservatives for his deceptive practices, inept science, propaganda and the alleged child abuse by some researchers working for Kinsey. (See related story, page 7.)

# U. S. culture desperate for spiritual influ-

## ■ Interest in religion growing, but not necessarily Christianity

While many Christians are convinced that a major religious revival in America is either under way or imminent, the proof of such an awakening is not yet conclusive. In fact, most evidence indicates that the church has a lot of work to do if it is to impact society.

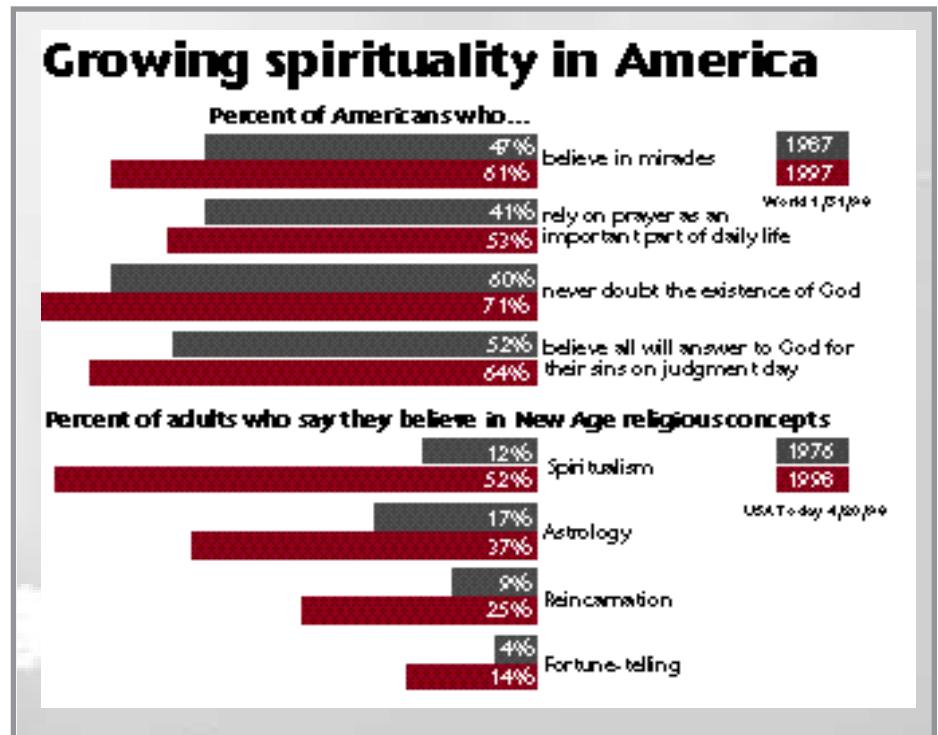
There is no doubt, say researchers, that a pervasive spirituality is anchored firmly in the American psyche. A survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found "strong religious faith soared" from levels just a decade ago. (See chart.)

Even among college students, the non-Christian web magazine *Link* says there is a veritable "revolution" afoot – a "resurgence of religious zeal on America's college campuses." Other observers see the same thing happening all over, from the heartland campuses like Indiana University to the traditionally liberal Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

Explanations vary for the growing interest in religion throughout American society. Some cultural observers say it is because the new millennium is just over the horizon. Others, like Michelle Rapkin, the head of the division of Bantam Doubleday Dell that sells religious books and videos, also think Baby Boomers increasingly understand that life requires "more than a BMW and a 10-room house" to make one happy.

That recognition is sparking a search among Americans for answers to spiritual questions, a search which is opening up their wallets. Books and videos dealing with religious subjects have reaped a \$3 billion windfall for the companies who understand the mood of the country. According to the *New York Post*, religious books of all types outsold every other adult trade book category during the last two years, raking in a cool \$1 billion.

But if there appears to be a growing interest in religious matters, it doesn't necessarily mean the religion is Christian. A survey in *USA Today*, for example, shows a dramatic increase in America in the percentage of adults who believe in New Age



and occultic spirituality.

On college campuses, hand-in-hand with a deepening faith among Christians, *Link* says many students "worship a postmodern God – a composite deity that combines the most useful aspects of any religion at hand."

And even with hot-selling religious books, Christianity is not necessarily on the reading list. Other topics abound, such as non-Biblical views of life after death, the end of the world, and angels. Some major bookstore chains, for example, carry as many as 60 titles on the subject of angels alone, many of which do not promote orthodox Christian doctrine.

Some Americans also appear to claim to be Christians in a reflexive manner. "[T]he importance of religious and spiritual matters does not always translate into direct action by Americans," said the Barna Research Group, which conducts an annual survey on religion in America. Survey results revealed that, between 1991 and 1997, there was no change in such things as Sunday School attendance, small group religious

meetings, volunteering at a church, or in the percentage of born again or evangelical Christians. And in categories such as church attendance and Bible reading, there had actually been a decline.

In fact, when it comes to church attendance, some are suggesting that attendance estimates have been inflated all along. *World* magazine asked the question, "Are Americans lying to pollsters about their church attendance habits?" The magazine presented compelling evidence to indicate that many poll respondents put the best possible spin on their religious habits.

In his new book, *The Second Coming of the Church*, George Barna examines the spiritual health of the church in the U.S. as well as the culture at large. He suggests ways in which the church can inject a Christian worldview into American society.

Freedom Club Report, 9/98; *World*, 6/13/98; *Newsweek*, 3/16/98; *New York Post*, 2/24/98; *Link*, Oct/Nov 1997

# Christians & Society TODAY

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

NOV/DEC, 1998

## States' gambling experience provides warning

As the state of Alabama once again considers whether to legalize gambling in the form of a state-run lottery, pro-family groups are examining the experience in neighboring Georgia and elsewhere, and they don't like what they see.

According to Gary Palmer, president of the Alabama Family Alliance, the odds of a Georgia teenager either becoming addicted to gambling or at risk of addiction are over 260,000 times greater than the odds that someone will purchase a ticket and actually win the lottery jackpot.

Nationally, states that have legalized gambling have seen huge percentages of minors experimenting with it. "In Louisiana, 86% of sixth through 12th graders... have gambled; in Indiana, 90% of minors have gambled, with 65% of those playing lottery games," Palmer said. "And in California, gambling among adolescents increased 40% after the state instituted a lottery and began a relentless advertising campaign to get people to play."

Studies show that 10-15% of youth nationwide who gamble regularly become problem gamblers.

Palmer said gambling addiction, costs society far more than the monies provided to states by gambling itself. "Nationwide, it is estimated that gambling addiction costs Americans over \$40 billion per year. Yet combined gambling revenues and taxes for all states with casinos, lotteries, dog tracks and other forms of gambling average less than \$17 billion per year - a net loss to the people of \$23 billion," Palmer said.

## U.S. military bases purge most porn, *Playboy* stays

In accordance with the Military Honor and Decency Act, U.S. military bases around the world must refrain from selling or renting "sexually explicit" material. The 1996 law was recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court after a legal challenge initiated by *Penthouse* magazine.

The measure defines "sexually explicit" to mean "an audio recording, a film or video recording, or a periodical with visual depictions, produced in any medium, the dominant theme of which depicts or describes nudity, including sexual or excretory activities or organs, in a lascivious way."

According to the Department of Defense Resale Activities Review Board, charged with determining what material is covered by the law, magazines such as *Penthouse* and *Hustler* cannot be sold or rented. However, conservatives were surprised that the Review Board determined that *Playboy* was not covered.

"That *Playboy* is not sexually explicit will come as a surprise to the magazine's many subscribers and to Hugh Hefner himself," said Patrick Trueman, AFA director of governmental affairs. "Only in an era of Clintonian sexual newspeak could the nation's top-selling nudie magazine not be considered 'sexually explicit.'"

Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), who pushed for passage of the Military Honor and Decency Act, said military personnel, their families, and veterans could express their opinion of the *Playboy* ruling by contacting Dr. W. Steve Sellman, chairman of the Resale Activities Board of Review. Work phone: 703-695-5525. Mailing address: Director for Accession Policy; OASD FMP MPPAP; Room 2B271; 4000 Defense Pentagon; Washington, DC 20301-4000.

USA Today, 9/24/98

## Ministries produce Christian movie to evangelize

When the video **Apocalypse** hit the scene early this year, Prophecy Partners, a coalition of ministries who produced the film, was overwhelmed by response. Exciting drama and a viable evangelism component made the video a popular tool in reaching the lost.

Now, Prophecy Partners is completing **Revelation**, a second project which producers hope may show in theaters in

addition to video. **Revelation** is set for release about January 1.

Prophecy Partners' Peter Lalonde said, "We have a vision to bring Christian media into the next millennium with unprecedented production values and themes that will both encourage the believer and challenge the skeptic."

Lalonde became a Christian after attending a church film night in 1983.

# Major discounters continue to ban explicit music lyrics

## ■ Marilyn Manson promotes album with tour of U.S., Europe

In answer to parental concerns over the lyrics, themes and cover art of music albums, major store chains such as Wal-Mart and Kmart are continuing to refuse LPs that carry "parental warning" stickers.

Marilyn Manson is a recent example, as both chains turned down the shock-rocker's latest offering, *Mechanical Animals*. That album cover contains a bizarre picture of a naked Manson – with what appears to be the body of a woman. The front-cover nudity also caused Target, which does carry some albums with warning stickers, to refuse to carry *Mechanical Animals*.

Despite the ban from Wal-Mart and Kmart, *Mechanical Animals* entered the record charts in the top slot selling about 223,000 copies the first week.

For the last two years restrictions imposed by major chains like Wal-Mart and Kmart have led record labels to edit offensive lyrics and change cover art in special editions that pass muster. Groups such as Nirvana and White Zombie and solo artists like John Mellencamp have revised their work to reach the shelves of Wal-Mart.

Some warn, however, that musicians who give the appearance of having complied with store chains have continued to keep explicit themes on their albums. An investigation by SonicNet Music News, for

example, examined a cross-section of music at both Wal-Mart and Kmart stores. They found strong objectionable subject matter on some non-stickered albums, even after foul language and bad cover art had been excised.

Kmart spokesman Dennis Wigent said the system is not foolproof, and sometimes such explicit themes are missed. "When that comes to our attention, we'll do a review of it again," he said. "If it's something that shouldn't have been carried to begin with, we'll just pull it."

Meanwhile Manson is promoting *Mechanical Animals* with a tour that will take the act into 13 states and Europe. Concerts planned for the U.S. include: Kansas City, Kansas (10/26); Milwaukee, Wisconsin (10/29); Chicago, Illinois (10/30); St. Paul, Minnesota (10/31); Houston, Texas (11/4); Dallas, Texas (11/5); New Orleans, Louisiana, 11/7); Atlanta, Georgia (11/9); Richmond, Virginia (11/11); Camden, New Jersey, (11/13); Cleveland, Ohio (11/14); Detroit, Michigan (11/16); Syracuse, New York (11/19); Boston, Massachusetts (11/21); and New York, New York (11/22).

Venue operators in Washington, D.C., Tampa Bay, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Houston, Dayton, Cincinnati and Rochester have said no to a live performance by the band.

SonicNet Music News, 8/17/98; 9/9/98;

Wall of Sound News, 9/30/98;

E! Online, 9/24/98

## Politics, drugs and rock 'n roll

Rockers, actors and activists are using their cult hero status to promote left-wing causes.

The Spitfire Tour is a traveling ensemble of celebrities whose goal is to convince college students that marijuana should be legalized, homosexuality normalized and free speech limitless. The presentation includes music and video and was conceived by human rights activist Zach de la Rocha of the rock band Rage Against the Machine. The tour was slated to hit several colleges across the nation during

October.

In September grunge superstars Pearl Jam headlined a pro-abortion concert in Washington, D.C. Proceeds went to the abortion-rights group Voters For Choice whose president is longtime feminist activist Gloria Steinem. The concert was expected to raise more than \$120,000 in support of pro-abortion congressional and gubernatorial candidates.

SonicNet Music News, 9/18/98;

USA Today, 9/18/98

## Fractured families take toll on kids

A study published in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* demonstrated that teens are more at risk of being suicidal if they live in a broken home or one in which family ties are weak. The study looked at 272 high school students and determined that 14% could be classified as suicidal.

"Adolescents whose families were emotionally involved, spent time together, and had common interests were significantly less likely to be suicidal," researchers said.

Even more troubling for this country's divorce-and-remarriage culture, the study found that teens in stepfamily relationships are more vulnerable to suicidal behavior (38%) than those living in a single-parent family (20%). The study showed that 9% of teens from intact families are suicidal.

The authors said, "The particular vulnerability [of teens] in remarried families may be understood in the context of lower levels of cohesive family interaction and higher levels of stress."

Another recent study shows that easy divorce doesn't make life easier for children. Debunking the notion that removing the stigma attached to splitting up would help the children of divorced parents, the study focused on almost 8,000 young people from nearly 40 countries. Psychologists at the University of Illinois examined both the circumstances under which children were raised and their well-being.

As has been demonstrated by other studies, researchers found that "[i]ndividuals whose parents remained married reported higher levels of life satisfaction than those whose parents were divorced."

But surprisingly, the children of divorced parents in countries with lower divorce rates actually did better than those in countries with higher divorce rates. The study concluded that lower levels of well-being were not linked to "cultural norms such as the stigma attached to divorce in cultures where divorce is rare."

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# Study decries TV ratings as unreli-

## ■ AFA monitoring confirms findings

A new study has proven what is beginning to be seen as old news: the TV ratings system adopted by the industry is not a reliable tool for parents who want to protect their children – and themselves – from excessive violence, sex and profanity on television.

The report was commissioned by the Kaiser Family Foundation, an organization which studies the impact of the entertainment industry on American culture and the family. After intense pressure was applied to Hollywood by congressional hearings, the industry adopted an age-based system in January, 1997, which rated most television shows TVG, TVPG, TV14 or TVMA based on age-appropriateness. Ten months later a content-based ratings system was added. (See *AFA Journal*, 2/98, for complete explanation of the TV ratings system.)

The study examined the accuracy with which participating networks labeled their programming with the letters "V" (violence), "S" (sex), "L" (crude language), and "D" (suggestive dialogue).

After examining more than a thousand programs, the study found that 79% of shows with violence were not rated "V," 92% with sex carried no "S," 91% with foul language had no "L," and 83% with sexually suggestive dialogue had no "D" rating. Besides the networks, the study watched programs which appeared on the cable networks USA, TNT, HBO, Lifetime and Nickelodeon.

Following the publication of the Kaiser study, USA Today's editorial board blasted the networks: "Having been dragged kicking and screaming to provide content labels in the first place, the networks seem to think they can get by with work so shoddy, even the worst government bureaucrat would be ashamed."

AFA's reviews of opening shows in the new season found many examples of G-rated shows with objectionable content, including: **Brother's Keeper** (ABC, 10/2) with jokes about sexual fantasies and alcohol abuse, and the use of God's name in vain; **Diagnosis Murder** (CBS, 9/17), which included six profanities; **Home Improvement** (ABC, 10/6), with numerous sex/genitalia jokes and five profanities; **Touched by an Angel** (CBS, 10/4), which included four profanities – three of them God's name in vain; and **Two of a Kind** (ABC, 9/25), which includes a senior citizen telling her 11-year-old neighbors – in thinly veiled innuendo – about sex with her boyfriend. Disney advertised on all of the episodes.

USA Today, 9/29/98; AP, 9/24/98

## P&G, Levi's, Nissan join Disney in sleazy sit-

### ■ The Brian Benben Show

**H P10 S TVPG-DL**

CBS, 9/21 – In this debut episode, main characters are the members of a Los Angeles television news team. Series star Brian is bumped from his long-time anchor position by a younger, more charismatic man. Brian is relegated to doing bizarre features on "unusual LA characters." There are at least 12 sex jokes, including clear indication that one of the men is homosexual.

Advertisers: Nissan, P&G

nudity shown) in preparation for sex. Incidentally, they ultimately decide to postpone having sex.

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### ■ Conrad Bloom **P4 S SA TVPG**

NBC, 9/21 – Series star Conrad, an ad copywriter, discovers his idol in the profession is a boozier and on drugs. Conrad and his good friend Molly discuss her breast size, and Conrad has casual sex with Alison on their third date.

Advertisers: Disney, P&G

### ■ Caroline in the City

**P4 S TVPG**

NBC, 9/21 – The series' fourth season premiere features the male and female leads finally deciding to have sex – after his short marriage and her numerous sex partners, live-in and otherwise. The illicit lovers' friends wander in nonchalantly as both male and female appear nude (no frontal

### ■ The Drew Carey Show

**P12 S SA TVPG-L**

ABC, 9/23 – There are references to lead female character Kate's promiscuity in high school. Mimi spends the night with a man who has just walked into the office to apply for a job. (The next morning he tells her he's married.) One minor character is a "funny" drunk.

Advertiser: Nissan

■ **Frasier P7 S TVPG**

NBC, 8/27 – In this episode, series star Frasier, a pompous, uptight radio psychiatrist, has sex with a woman on their first date. At first, he is a little embarrassed, because the two have nothing in common. By show's end, however, the sexmates agree that casual sex with no commitment and no responsibility is a wonderful thing.

Advertiser: P&G

**September 3 H P12 S TVPG**

Frasier's brother Niles (who is getting a divorce) has sex with Lilith, Frasier's ex-wife, who came to town to tell Frasier that her current husband is leaving her for another man.

Advertiser: P&G

■ **Getting Personal P11 S TVPG-DLS**

Fox, 9/11 – Illicit sex is the only theme of this second season premiere episode. Best friends Milo and Sam compete for sex with a therapist they meet. There are at least 25 sex jokes.

Advertiser: Levi's

**September 25 P21 S TVPG-DL**

This episode includes a lengthy series of crude sex/genitalia jokes. Series star Robyn is jealous of the success of her ex-boyfriend, who now has a TV sitcom. Consequently, she sets out to deceive him at his premiere party. Her co-workers Sam and Milo crash the party, pretending to be producers in hopes of getting sex from wannabe starlets.

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■ **Just Shoot Me P11 PC S SA TVPG**

NBC, 9/8 – Maya is about to have sex with a man on their first date, but he hurts his back. Naturally he turns out to be a married congressman who is hypocritically always "pushing family values." There is a lot of sexual humor, and alcohol is shown as part of any fun date.

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■ **King of the Hill P5 S TVPG-D**

Fox, 10/6 – Sexual innuendo and double entendre are the mainstay of dialogue in this episode of the animated sitcom. Everyone but Dale knows that his wife has been having a 12-year affair with John Redcorn. Dale's son is the mirror image of the Native American Redcorn, but stupid Dale still does not have a clue.

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■ **Mad About You P8 S TV14**

NBC, 9/22 – More than 30 sex jokes are packed into this 30-minute episode which focuses on hero Paul's use of Viagra. Meanwhile, his wife Jamie strolls through New York dressed only in a towel after locking herself out of the gym.

Advertisers: Disney, Nissan

■ **The Simpsons P5 S TVPG-DL**

Fox, 9/27 – Nelson, a friend of Bart Simpson, is belligerent and rude to adults. In this episode he steals a roll of carnival tickets to redeem them for a prize; there is no negative consequence to the act. There are homosexual jokes about Bart and Milhouse, another friend. Advertiser: Levi's

■ **Spin City H P1 S TVPG-D**

ABC, 9/22 – This show continues its habit of using sexual humor to get laughs, with vulgar comments about genitals, masturbation, kissing and sexual fantasy. Carter Heyward, the show's homosexual character, is featured prominently as usual.

Advertiser: P&G

■ **Suddenly Susan H P7 S TVPG**

NBC, 9/28 – Susan and Jack have their first sexual encounter, and it doesn't go as they hoped. They are shown twice in bed together afterwards, and throughout the episode there are a number of double entendres about foreplay and sexual positions. They even discuss their masturbation habits as 15-year-olds. Pete, who "married" his boyfriend, returns from his honeymoon.

Advertisers: Disney, Nissan

■ **That '70s Show AC P9 S TVPG-L**

Fox, 9/6 – Parents are stupid dolts in this new series. Series star 17-year-old Eric, for no particular reason, streaks naked through the auditorium when President Ford comes to town. Only a smiley face covers his genitals. For some reason, his father is proud of Eric's stunt. In another scene, Eric and his friends strike a mocking "Last Supper" pose in the cafeteria.

Advertisers: Disney, Levi's

■ **Will and Grace H P9 TVPG**

NBC, 9/28 – This humorous new series features an openly homosexual man and his friendship with a straight woman. While not as concerned with the politics of the gay agenda, there is continuous and open recognition of homosexual relationships as normal. Advertiser: P&G

**October 5 H P12 SA TVPG**

Will talks about his past relationship with

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### AFA TV CODES

**AC** Anti-Christian

**H** Promotes homosexual agenda

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

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

**S** Objectionable sexual content (may include partial nudity)

**SA** Substance abuse (drugs or alcohol)

**V** Violence (graphic or gratuitous)

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

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

his live-in lover, and the show's flamboyant homosexual, Jack, is always on the lookout for "cute guys." Grace's secretary makes fun of marriage – she's been married twice (for money), and sees nothing special about the relationship between husband and wife. The show also includes a joke about smoking pot, where marijuana is referred to as a "bag full of happiness."

Advertisers: Disney, P&G

■ **Working P3 S** **TVPG**

NBC, 9/29 – The entire story is built around "funny" sex for sale. The boss at Matt's investment counseling firm, sends Matt to have sex with a woman in order to keep her business. Naive Matt learns that trading sex for business is his firm's normal procedure.

Advertiser: P&G

## Disney, General Motors, P&G drive drama

■ **Ally McBeal P3 S** **TV14-D**

Fox, 9/14 – Sexual double entendre runs rampant throughout this hour as series heroine Ally, an attorney, fantasizes about sex with an 18-year-old boy. Ally and Georgia discuss sex with teens, then sex with Billy, Ally's former fiance and Georgia's current husband.

Advertiser: Levi's

■ **Chicago Hope H P8** **TVPG-L**

CBS, 9/30 – Hancock, the series' homosexual doctor, is the hero when he rescues a woman from a bank after poisonous gas overcomes people there.

Advertisers: General Motors, Nissan, P&G

■ **Cupid P5 PC S** **TVPG-L**

ABC, 9/26 – This romantic show has one of the season's most original ideas, as Cupid comes to earth to bring lonely people together. Unfortunately, Hollywood can spell "romance" only one way: s-e-x. Euphemisms for having sex abound, as does the politically correct demand for "safe sex."

Advertisers: General Motors, P&G

■ **ER AC P4 S** **TVPG**

NBC, 9/10 – A smooth-talking televangelist and his very ill wife manipulate her stay at the hospital to bilk their innocent viewers out of more money. In another story line, a love triangle creates an incident of sexual harassment.

Advertisers: Disney P&G

■ **Maximum Bob AC P16** **TVPG-L**

ABC, 9/1 – Judge "Maximum" Bob has Pastor Buddy help him find an exorcist to rid Bob's wife Leanne of Wanda Grace, her second personality. In the end, Pastor Buddy (who is married) hires a dog to attack the organist with whom he has had a three-year sexual affair.

Advertisers: Disney, General Motors

■ **Nash Bridges H P11** **TV14-V**

CBS, 9/11 – Heroes Nash and Joe take an off-duty job work-

ing for a homosexual football star. (To secure the job, Joe told the man Joe and Nash are also gay.) The episode showcases same-sex marriage.

Advertisers: Disney, P&G

**September 25 H P8 V** **TV14-V**

A friend of Nash falls from a roof as Nash tries to persuade him not to jump. An accountant and investment counselor, the man had been scammed by a bogus investment scheme. Nash eventually arrests Jonas and Christine Talifero in the scam. Christine is a former sex partner of Nash, and is currently having sex with Kerri, her husband's personal assistant. Nash's lesbian sister also appears in the episode.

Advertiser: General Motors

■ **The Practice P7 S V** **TVPG-LV**

ABC, 9/20 – With no warning (by rating or context), the show opens with 13-year-old Kevin ending a family argument by shooting his mother to death at the dinner table in front of his father and younger sister. It is a gruesome, gory scene.

Advertiser: P&G

■ **To Have and To Hold AC P9 S** **TVPG-DL**

CBS, 9/30 – Explicit dialogue regarding sex is common as Sean, a cop, and Annie, a public defender, prepare for their wedding. At the wedding, Sean demands of the priest: "Let's have the short version...or you'll have to answer to my mother, and she would spill the blood of the blessed Savior Himself if He prevented this wedding from happening."

Advertisers: General Motors, P&G

## The Good Stuff

■ **About Sarah +** **TVG**

CBS, 10/4 – This movie focuses on family relationships, especially that of Mary Beth and her mother Sarah, a mentally handicapped woman. Only after the death of Grandmother Rose (who cared for Sarah) do others acknowledge how much fuller Sarah's life can be.

Advertiser: P&G (sole sponsor)

■ **ABC News Special: The McCaughey Seven +**

ABC, 8/23 – ABC relied heavily on their earlier special on the Iowa septulets soon after their birth in November, 1997. Updated footage includes conversations with a number of neighbors who are volunteering to help the McCaugheys. Christian faith is portrayed as the strength of the remarkable young parents.

Advertiser: General Motors

■ **Touched by an Angel +** **TVG**

CBS, 9/20 – The fifth season premiere is set in a hospital as the angels help medical staff and patients sort through the mystery surrounding a "resident angel" who appears to terminal patients.

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# Political scientist calls for common sense in pornography issue

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

*Editor's note: Dr. Christenson is the author of six books and has contributed to numerous newspapers, magazines and professional journals. He is a recipient of both The Effective Educator Award voted by Miami University alumni and the Benjamin Harrison Award denoting an educator with a national influence. This feature is excerpted from an article that first appeared in the AFA Journal in March, 1989.*

The pornographers of America should take warning! The winds of change are blowing. Your days of wine and roses are fading. The public has seen what you do with the freedom you have been granted, and they don't like what they see. Nor do America's feminists. Nor do other women who care about their families, their community and their country. Nor do many of America's leading intellectuals – as I will point out later.

Let me start from square one.

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

The Supreme Court has never accepted the absolutist view that no restrictions can ever be imposed on speech or press. A score of marginal restraints have been imposed, most of which are noncontroversial.

Nor has the Court ever conceded that obscene material is protected by the First Amendment. But the Court has made two

glaring errors; first, it took a long leap and gave commercial entertainment as much constitutional protection as political discourse. Well, almost. Then it tried to reconcile its exclusion of obscenity with its protection of commercial entertainment by setting up interpretive roadblocks which make effective enforcement of anti-obscenity laws next to impossible.

The pornographers have exploited this opening by employing expensive – very expensive – and unscrupulous lawyers concerned with nothing but the bottom line. Prosecutors are usually no match for these legal hit men, skilled as they are at throwing sand in jurors' eyes. The pornographers have also used the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as their front line of defense. The strategy has been brilliant, successful – and disastrous to those who care about the quality of life in their communities. In Minneapolis and Indianapolis, feminists have sought to deal with some aspects of pornography by declaring it violates women's civil rights and jeopardizes their prospects for obtaining genuine equality. They are doomed to fail. They have come too close to saying that speech which is deemed to be socially harmful has no constitutional protection. The implications are too broad and I regret that I cannot support the language employed by the well-intentioned people who drafted the language of these statutes. There is almost no chance that the courts will accept such law.

They should have used a more direct, straightforward approach. They should have sought a new federal law which banned the movement in interstate commerce of any material real or simulated, or any performance which involves visually explicit sexual behavior, intended for commercial entertainment.

This could be defined as any performance or material which visually depicts ultimate sexual acts, including intercourse, sodomy,

cunnilingus, fellatio, anilingus and masturbation, where the penetration or ejaculation of the genital organs is visible. And that, I might add, would largely dispose of the nagging problem of statutory vagueness. And with the uncertainties involved in *Miller vs. California*: "patently offensive," "appeals to the prurient interest," "the work taken as a whole" and the "LAPS" test.

They should have argued that such entertainment is outside the orbit of constitutional protection because it does not contribute to the kind of social discourse which the Founding Fathers had in mind or which a reasonable interpretation of its purpose, in a democratic society, would justify.

They should, then, have noted that the Supreme Court has always permitted reasonable restrictions on marginal aspects of speech and press., e.g. laws forbid perjury, libel, incitement to violence, divulging military secrets, advocating federal strikes, making obscene, threatening or harassing phone calls, advertising cigarettes on TV, fraudulent ads and many more. Indeed the First Amendment itself limits free speech by implicitly forbidding religious indoctrination in public schools.

The point is that pornography falls squarely into this category of excepted speech and press.

That pornography is a marginal aspect of speech and press cannot, it seems to me, be denied. But are the proposed restraints reasonable? Yes, because of the damage we can reasonably expect pornography to do.

I agree with Professor Wilson of Harvard who states that social science does not have sufficiently sensitive and sophisticated techniques and tools for definitively proving what damage pornography does or does not do. Especially when it comes to its long-range impact and its impact on people who are not emotionally healthy and hence are particularly prone to commit anti-social acts. I might add that science can't

tell us whether love is better than hatred, democracy better than dictatorship, peace better than war or about anything else in the realm of values – that is, in the things that matter most.

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

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

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

I would emphasize the significance of the study by professors at the University of Indiana and the University of Evansville showing that persons who see a lot of pornography believe rapists should be treated more indulgently than those who don't. Charles Peters summarized earlier research from Purdue, Colorado, Wisconsin and Manitoba as indicating that violent pornography inspires violence. Peters added, "This strikes me as about as surprising as the news that hungry men want to eat." And *Newsweek* reported on the University of Wisconsin study which showed that sexually violent films like **The Texas Chainsaw**

**Massacre** make men more likely to accept the notion that women enjoy rape. It also reported a UCLA study demonstrating that men exposed to violent pornography show an increased willingness to inflict pain on women.

Conclusive proof? No. Persuasive evidence, yes.

If, then, we can reasonably assume that a flood of pornography will gradually erode barriers against irresponsible sex, what are the ultimate implications? Here I would like to cite a highly significant study made 50 years ago by Professor J. D. Unwin of

Cambridge, a study in which the author found the opposite of what he hoped to find. (That always impresses me, because it is so easy for social scientists to formulate a study, or interpret its findings, to get the results they want.)

After examining the sexual practices of more than 80 primitive and more advanced societies, Unwin concluded that sexually permissive behavior led to less cultural energy, less creativity, less individualism, less mental development and less cultural

**CONTINUED ▶**

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

William Stephens, after studying 90 primitive cultures, wrote that the tribes lowest on the scale of cultural evolution have the most sexual freedom. Sigmund Freud, surprisingly to some, associated cultural advances with limitations on sexual activity. Arnold Toynbee, celebrated student of world civilizations, declared that a culture which postpones rather than stimulates sexual experience in the young is a culture most prone to progress. Will and Arid Durant, after a lifetime of studying world history, wrote in *The Lessons of History* that it was imperative to maintain rigorous sexual restraints upon the young.

Again, this does not constitute irrefutable proof. But it is surely evidence worthy of respect – and it would have received that respect, and widespread publicity, if only its findings had been what liberals wanted to hear. That is why most of you have never heard of it.

So we aren't talking about trivial matters here, or matters of limited or peripheral importance to our society. We are getting down to bedrock. Since the widespread circulation of pornography is doubtless an important factor in subverting cultural barriers against irresponsible sex, there are solid grounds for our concern.

Do we have a religious obligation to fight pornography? I think we do. Can you imagine what the outspoken prophets of the Old Testament would have said if they could witness the kind of debauchery that floods our newsstands and postal channels and X-rated theaters and videocassettes? Is there any doubt what their attitude would be? No wonder the American Jewish Congress has expressed concern about the growth of pornography in this country.

What would St. Paul have said about the current scene, the same St. Paul who denounced the sexual licentiousness of his day? Would he have said, "Condemn it, but then shrug your shoulders and walk away"? I don't think so. Should not Christians actively oppose grave social evils, especially when they are recognized as evils not only by Christians but by responsible people of every religion and no religion?

To privately deplore but publicly ignore is to default on the responsibility we all have to promote the well-being of our community and our country. Certainly Christians are not exempt from this obligation.

Happily, we have allies today which not long ago were not with us. Feminists, although often intimidated by the ACLU, are up in arms about pornography. They see beyond the superficial and glib arguments of porn's defenders to the heart of what is really involved.

I might add that the ACLU has done many constructive things during its history. It has fought some noble battles for the Bill of Rights. Occasionally, it still does. But it has become shrill, dogmatic and closed-minded on the issue of pornography. It cavalierly ignores the arguments of those who disagree with it, and it insists that the freedoms we all cherish will be gravely imperiled if *Hustler* is hustled off the scene. No censorship, it cries, hoping that buzz word will frighten people from exercising independent thought in this field.

Well, let me tell you something. Almost everyone in America believes in censorship, including those who think they don't.

What sensible person believes that a community would exceed its proper authority if it denied a license to an entertainment troupe which wanted to exhibit men lashing women with whips for their sexual pleasure, operating on the principle that women as well as men can relish sexually-related pain if only they have the proper perspective? What sensible person thinks a community would exceed its proper boundaries if it forbade a license for entertainers to perform live sex on stage? And [many] of those who vow "No censorship" want to censor child pornography.

The truth is, then, that almost everyone believes in censorship, including newspaper editors who say they don't, and a lot of ACLU members who think they don't. They just

draw the line at a different point.

So much, then, for those who say, "See what you want to see and turn away from what you disapprove, but don't tell others what they can and cannot see." People who say that haven't thought things through.

Parenthetically, doctrinaire liberals are often monotheists. They worship only one god and its name is the ACLU. When this deity speaks, they reverently genuflect, suspend their critical judgment and parrot its lines. And feel very smug and superior to the great unenlightened masses who, being clear-eyed rather than dogma ridden, regard pornography as a disgrace which ought to be curbed.

Note I said doctrinaire liberals, not all liberals. On many issues, I am more liberal than conservative, so I don't want to be misunderstood.

It is often implied that only yahoos and Puritans worry about pornography or favor its censorship. Well, listen to this.

Irving Kristol, co-editor of the *Public Interest* and columnist for the Wall Street Journal, favors it. Charles Peters, editor of the respected *Washington Monthly*, says, "Pornography seems clearly outside the realm of political discourse – while the argument that we should have the right to publish pornography is clearly within it." (That's precisely what I'm saying). Peters further states that the censorship of violent pornography on TV "does not bother me in the least and I am astonished by the legal minds who cannot distinguish between it and the censorship of political discussion...."

James Fallows, political editor of one of the nation's most prestigious magazines, *The Atlantic*, says "...can't we use common sense, if not First Amendment absolutism, to agree on the difference between political beliefs and sexual services? Can't we find a way to ensure the Klan's right to march and the Communists' right to organize without waiving our culture's right to shape its moral environment?"

In a recent issue of *Harper's* magazine, editor Lewis Lapham observes that Americans "have insisted on the right to free speech...to the point of confusing it with pornography." Charles Krauthammer, an editor of the *New Republic*, wrote an essay in *Time* in which he said, "Many are prepared to make expression a bit less free in order to

make their community a bit more whole, or as skeptics might say, wholesome. That is nothing to be ashamed of."

Henry Fairlie, another contributing editor to the *New Republic*, says liberals "have abetted the perversion of the First Amendment until it is used to protect the peddlers of filth."

Norman Podhoretz, editor of *Commentary*, wrote that "Committed indiscriminately...to free speech, on what grounds of principle could (liberals) stand against the tidal wave of hard-core pornography...?"

Identifying himself with those who place a

high value on community life, Prof. Michael J. Sandel of Harvard says "Communitarians would be more likely than liberals to allow a town to ban porno bookstores, on the grounds that pornography offends the way of life and the values that sustain it."

George Kennan, initiator of America's long-maintained "containment" policy, lists pornography as one of the most serious threats America faces from within.

Finally, George Will, in *Statecraft as Soulcraft*, writes, "Even more injurious than the flood of obscenity that has been let loose have been the arguments for let-

ting it loose."

Some yahoos! Some Puritans!

Not all of these would extend censorship as far as some of us would, but these citations should illustrate the point that many intellectuals are either allies or potential allies of our cause.

I think the time has come to act. Time to confront presidential and congressional candidates with a proposal to ban from interstate commerce material or performances which involve visually explicit sexual behavior intended for commercial entertainment, and time to force them to take a stand. Time for the nation to realize, for the courts to realize, that communities have a right to set minimal standards of decency and a right to enforce them.

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## INVESTMENTS...from page 2

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## BOYCOTT...from page 1

their earnings estimates for Disney's largest competitors – Time Warner, News Corp. and Viacom. Merrill Lynch analyst Jessica Reif Cohen told *Daily Variety* that the earnings drop was "very much an individual thing for [Disney] right now." Even worse for Disney, most analysts on Wall Street expect more financial woes for the Mouse House in fiscal 1999. Cohen said, "It's clear that with basic earnings lower and the trends continuing... '99 should be lower than previously thought."

Lehman Brothers analyst Larry Petrella echoed those sentiments, saying, "Our confidence level for next year is not high."

Disney claims its profit plunge was primarily the result of a weaker-than-expected performance from its creative content division (film studio and consumer products), with operating income declining 20% from last year. While Disney says its drop in consumer product sales has been driven by the Asian

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# And for your seasonal enjoyment, the distinctive song styl-

BY TIM WILDMON • American Family Association Vice President

*Chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Jack Frost nipping at your nose. Yuletide carols being sung by a choir...*

Oh, hello. You caught me singing. You know, Nat King Cole and I would have made an *Unforgettable* duo. He, the romantic crooner, and me, the definitive song stylist. When you got it, use it. Why are you laughing?

Actually, it's Christmas music I love. Usually sometime in July I'll pop in a CD or cassette of holiday songs. *Sleigh bells ring are you listenin', in the lane snow is glistenin'.....la, de, da, da, la, de, da, da, walkin' in a winter wonderland.* The *la, de, da's* come in handy when I forget the lyrics. Anyway, if I keep *la, de, daing* long enough, I simply segue into another tune.

Ah, yes, Thanksgiving and Christmas and the days in between. To many it's *The most wonderful time of the year...la, de, da.*

Thanksgiving is unique to America. It's our own celebration of God's goodness and blessings. I wonder what the unbeliever does on Thanksgiving. Maybe eat traditional turkey and watch a football game. But to whom or what does he give thanks for the incredible blessings of over 250 years of freedom and bounty – blessings no other nation has ever known.

This fall my wife Alison and I visited Philadelphia. We saw the Liberty Bell and visited Independence Hall where our Founding Fathers met, forged a new government and risked their very lives by signing the Declaration of Independence. Their dream would become the United States of America, a representative republic if it survived the impending revolution. And that was a big "if." There was little certainty that the colonies could prevail against the mighty Great Britain. But they put their faith in Almighty God and pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

Oh, for a little sacred honor today. The freedoms we enjoy can be traced to the faith and courage of those men who met at Independence Hall. As we left the building I told Alison that other than Calvary's hill, which I have also had the great privilege to see, this building is arguably the most significant place in history – at least to Americans.

Christmas, of course, is celebrated around the world by Christians. We remember the birth of Jesus Christ – the Son of God. We all have family holiday traditions. On Christmas Eve my family gathers at my parents' house and Dad reads both gospel accounts of the birth of Christ. I am always struck by the humble

and earthly reality of the circumstances. "The Son of God born in a stable? A dirty, smelly barn? Why would God make it happen like this?" I've thought. But when you read the gospels you come to understand that Jesus' entire earthly life was lived in humility and lowliness.

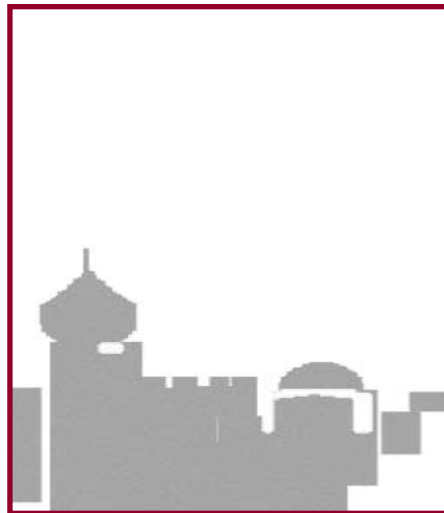
I believe one reason God did this was to demonstrate His love and concern for common people, those without great wealth or power. No doubt the Lord indeed loves the wealthy and the noble. However, He didn't want His message of redemption confused with the message the world often gives that in order to be significant one has to be wealthy or powerful.

When I was a child my dad told me God cares as much about the ditch digger as He does about the President. I've never forgotten that. Each life has worth and value to the Creator. Christianity has nothing to do with our position in this world. What a great truth.

Now let me tell you about a tradition in the Wildmon family that only lasted one holiday. It was Christmas Eve about 10 years ago. We all gathered around the old, terribly out-of-tune piano to sing some seasonal songs. Let me just say that we were not a blessing to ourselves. We have no individual or collective musical talent whatsoever. Except me. I can sing. Why are you laughing again?

One of my sisters started banging on that poor piano. But for some reason, which had nothing to do with drinking eggnog, we started to "sing" that evening. After a song or two we tried *Silent Night*. We got to the part when you have to go way up – you know "*sleep in heavenly peace.*" Oh, my. It was ugly. And my sweet momma was the worst. I told her I loved her deeply, but that she needed to stick with cooking. In the kitchen mom has few peers.

OK, now for more of my distinctive song stylings. *We three kings of Orient are, la de da we've traveled so far. La de da, la de da following yonder star....* What? Your laughter mocks me yet again. You really need to get in the Christmas spirit.



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.

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