

AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION 

JOURNAL

www.afajournal.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AFA Departments

- Christians & Society Today **10**
- Columns **2**
- Don Wildmon*
- Tim Wildmon* **23**

Disney Boycott update next issue.

Center for Law & Policy

- CLP sues Wisconsin **3**

Church in America

- Pro-aborts in mainlines hold summit **17**

Culture

- Pokeman and role-playing games **20**

Homosexual Agenda

- Hate crime laws **4**

News of Interest

- New report on media and violence **7**

Pornography

- Workshop for wives of porn addicts **18**

Television

- Network reviews **14**
- Cable channel profile: Comedy Central **16**

AFA offers
"Hope"

SEE PAGE 12.

INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

Suggested contribution: \$15 per year

ALL-MEMBERSHIP PLAN

Subscriptions mailed directly to your church members:

- \$5 a year/each subscription (minimum 10)
- Send check or money order with your church name and legible mailing list to: AFA Journal, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803
- U.S. addresses only

Copies of this issue: \$15/50 copies

State sues AFA affiliate for \$300 million for opposing gambling

American Family Association of Alabama and its president, Tom Blackerby, have been named in a lawsuit in state court by a county government and a dog race track for publicly opposing a gambling bill. Other pro-family groups who spoke out against the measure have also been named in the suit, which seeks \$50 million in compensatory damages and \$250 million in punitive damages.

This past April the Alabama state legislature narrowly defeated a proposal which would have legalized video poker on the premises of dog racing tracks, already legal in Alabama. Pro-family groups see video poker as a particularly addictive form of gambling, especially within an atmosphere which already promotes betting.

AFA of Alabama and other pro-family groups, which had actively and publicly opposed the bill, were named in the lawsuit in August just four months after the law's defeat. Stephen M. Crampton, chief counsel for the AFA Center for Law & Policy (CLP), which is defending Blackerby and AFA of Alabama, thinks the timing of the suit is no coincidence.

"In October 1999 there is a statewide referen-

dum in Alabama on the creation of a state lottery, and it's a big issue," Crampton said. "This lawsuit appears to be an attempt to neutralize pro-family forces before the initiative comes to a vote, in an effort to pass the lottery measure."

Brian Fahling, senior trial attorney for CLP, said the most disappointing aspect of the lawsuit was that the government of Greene County was participating, presumably because the county stood to make money off video poker.

"It is almost inconceivable that taxpayer dollars would be used to fund a lawsuit designed to punish some of the very same citizens who paid the taxes in the first place," Fahling said. "This lawsuit is clear retaliation by government officials against those with whom they disagree."

Retaliation, said Crampton, is contrary to our concept of government. "Ordinary citizens should be active in the political arena. This lawsuit is the equivalent of Bob Dole suing Bill Clinton because he campaigned against Dole and won the 1996 presidential election. This is the scorched earth policy of so many people in politics nowadays. If you have an enemy, take him down using any means necessary."

Major television advertisers to fund new crop of 'family-friendly' shows

Eleven major television advertisers have banded together to fund TV programs that are more appealing to families, in an attempt to provide more advertising choices for sponsors. (See list on page 22.)

According to the August 11 Wall Street Journal, Proctor & Gamble (P&G), General Motors, International Business Machines, Johnson & Johnson, Wendy's, Sears and others have joined together to pay for the development of as many as eight "family-friendly" shows that would air on the WB network.

"This is an important step forward in the

ongoing battle to clean up television," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon. "We've been saying for more than 20 years that the wild card in that effort is the advertiser. These sponsors make television possible, and if Hollywood won't listen to parental concerns about what is on the tube, Hollywood will listen to the ones who pay the bills."

The advertisers have been pushing Hollywood to provide more programming choices which contain less sex, violence and profanity. (See *AFA Journal*, 6/99.) Now it appears that at least some

See **MAJOR** on page 22



Church must overcome its adultery-phobia

BY DONALD E. WILDMON • AFA President

It is time for the church to end its adultery-phobia.

How narrow-minded the church has been in denying respect and acceptance for those who live an adulterous lifestyle. The church has shut its doors to an entire group of people, told them they weren't wanted, that God has no place for them. It is time for the church to end their adultery-phobia.

These adulterers are God's children also. But the church has closed the door on them, not allowing them to serve as ordained ministers, unwilling to give them the full rights given to others. There is a small group of ignorant bigots who hold the opinion that they have the lock and key on God's acceptance. These people aren't willing to practice the love of Christ while denying that love to those whose lifestyle is different.

When will the church learn that people who are adulterers have no control over how God made them. And He did make them. They are God's children also. But a small group of radical right-wing bigots have blocked the acceptance of adulterers from becoming full members in God's church. Adulterers are born that way. Or their environment in early childhood created this nature in them. Either way they have no control over their sexuality and the church has to end its adultery-phobia. The church doesn't need to be kicking adulterers out, but opening their doors to all of God's children.

It is time for all adulterers to come out of the closet and end their silence. Many leaders in the church are ready to stand with them. These are our sons and daughters. They are good people, loving people who have much to offer. The church is so much poorer because of its adultery-phobia. After all, this is 2050, not the dark ages of the 1990s!

Bishop Lavation of the Council of Churches was right when he said that the old worn out rules of sexuality practiced by the churches, developed twenty centuries ago in an entirely different time period, need to be restudied in light of today's enlightened values and science. We can no longer allow the past or a handful of bigots to dictate the moral standards for today.

Social science studies show that nearly 75% of our society are practicing adulterers. Scientific studies show that adulterers suffer longterm problems from the church's refusal to accept them as full members.

At a time when corporations are ending their discrimination against adulterers; when Disney World is celebrating Adultery Pride Day; when intelligent people with the Public Broadcasting System and the commercial networks are pushing to right this wrong; when needed hate crime legislation against those who hate adulterers is being passed; it is time for the church to end their adultery-phobia as it ended its homophobia 50 years ago.

Perhaps, just perhaps, the church will change its attitude and rid itself of adultery-phobia. No one should be told he cannot have all the rights and privileges of the church simply because God created him to be an adulterer.

Who's in control of your retirement



BY NEAL CLEMENT
EFP Financial Advisor

Is a former employer controlling your investments?

If you have changed jobs during your career, I have a question for you. When you changed to your present employer, did you roll over your retirement plan into an IRA? If you didn't, then you are allowing your past employer significant control over those investment assets.

There are at least three good reasons to roll over your past corporate retirement dollars into an IRA through EFP.

First, through our affiliation with FSC Securities Corporation, an IRA rollover established at EFP can offer you access to the broadest selection of investment products available.

Secondly, through EFP you can invest with moral soundness. Our research enables Christians in all 50 states to make investments consistent with their values.

Thirdly, with an IRA through EFP, you can stay on top of your retirement account with a detailed statement every month, rather than only four times a year like many accounts.

If you would like to roll over your retirement dollars from your previous employer into an IRA through EFP, call us at 1-888-MORALS1 (1-888-667-2571); or write me at 218 S. Thomas, Suite 101, Tupelo, MS 38801; or nclement@efpinc.com.

Our team of committed, professional Christian investment advisors wants to build long-term relationships with clients who are concerned for both moral and financial returns.

EFP was established in 1985 and is a private investment advisory firm that manages over 200 million dollars in assets.

Securities offered through **FSC SECURITIES CORPORATION**, a registered broker/dealer. Member NASD and SIPC. \$25,000 minimum investment required.

AFA JOURNAL • Volume 23, No. 10

AFA Journal is a publication of the American Family Association. Published monthly except November/December. AFA is a Christian organization promoting the Biblical ethic of decency in American society with primary emphasis on TV and other media.

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

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

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

Please, no unsolicited manuscripts.



ADVERTISEMENT

AFA takes Wisconsin to

■ *Parental rights threatened by social workers*

The AFA Center for Law & Policy (CLP) has filed suit in federal court in Milwaukee on behalf of parents and a small private school challenging a Wisconsin state law which allows children to be interviewed by social workers without parental permission.

The case results from an escalating conflict between state officials, parents, and the administration of a Christian school over who has ultimate authority over the lives of children. "The zealous manner in which Wisconsin social workers behaved is unparalleled in anything we've seen," said Stephen M. Crampton, chief counsel for the CLP. "Their actions were in complete disregard for and disdain of the rights of parents to raise their children."

On December 16, 1998, two days before Christmas break, Wisconsin Department of Human Services (DHS) case workers Carla Heck and John Wichman arrived unannounced at *Greendale Baptist Academy in Greendale, Wisconsin, a suburb of Milwaukee. They told the principal they wanted to interview nine-year-old Thomas Smith (not his real name), a fourth-grade student at the school.

The case workers refused to say what they wanted with Thomas, but did say that the boy's parents were not a target of a DHS investigation. Later, however, it was discovered that Heck and Wichman were acting on an "anonymous tip" that Greendale Academy administered corporal punishment as part of its discipline policy.

The principal informed the visitors that he would first have to call the boy's parents, but the case workers told the principal that he was not allowed to call the Smiths. When the principal stood firm, the case workers called police.

When law enforcement officers arrived, they informed the principal that DHS workers had the right under Wisconsin law to interview Thomas without either parental knowledge or consent. The principal yielded, and while the case workers interviewed the boy, the police watched the principal to make sure that he did not call the Smiths.

Shortly after the interview was con-

cluded, DHS informed Mrs. Smith that she must also come into DHS offices to be interviewed. When the parents asked that the interview be rescheduled until after the Christmas break, Heck accused the Smiths of "hindering the investigation," and threatened to take all the Smith children away from the parents.

When Greendale Academy students returned to school from the Christmas break, case workers showed up at the school as well. This time the DHS representatives demanded to interview all of the children. When the principal refused, and called the school's attorney, Mike Dean, to come to Greendale Academy, caseworkers again called the police.

When the police threatened arrest, the principal stood firm. The caseworkers left, but said they were merely postponing the interviews of Greendale students.

The Smiths have since been informed that the DHS investigation into their family has been closed, but numerous Greendale families have received letters from DHS demanding that they appear for interviews.

Wisconsin state law does allow a child welfare agency to "contact, observe or interview the child at any location without permission from the child's parent, guardian or legal custodian if necessary to determine if the child is in need of protection or services."

The CLP is representing all the families of Greendale Baptist Academy, challenging the constitutionality of the Wisconsin state law which grants DHS such broad and open-ended powers. The lawsuit, which names Heck and Wichman, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, and the Department of Health and Family Services, seeks declaratory and injunctive relief as well as monetary damages.

Crampton said, "These DHS powers are virtually limitless. Not only does Wisconsin law give social workers the power to determine when and where to conduct their interviews without parental knowledge or approval, but the social workers can also decide what constitutes the 'abuse' of a child."

Twin cities tune out Howard Stern

Radio shock jock Howard Stern took a hit in August when WRQC radio in Minneapolis, Minnesota, dumped the daily broadcast of his show. The station owners will buy out the remaining eight-and-a-half months of Stern's contract for a reported \$280,000.

"An announcement like that is music to our ears," said Tim Wildmon, Vice President of AFA. "We just hope that this will be the beginning of the end for Stern's vulgar entertainment on both radio and television."

AFA has been monitoring the advertisers of Stern's radio show in the Twin Cities since February, 1998, sending them letters asking them to consider a more socially responsible way to promote their products. During that period, WRQC has seen over 91% of its advertisers dump the shock jock's program. Nationally, the average drop rate is over 86%.

Wildmon said he believed the poor listener ratings coupled with virtually no sponsors led to the demise of the show. "I don't see how WRQC kept Stern on as long as they did. Evidently they must have decided they wanted to cut their losses as soon as possible," he said.

Not too many mourned Stern's departure. The St. Paul Pioneer Press said, "Howard Stern was fired and abruptly left Minneapolis-St. Paul..., marking one of the grandest failures in local radio programming history."

Stern's ouster from the WRQC lineup led AFA President Donald E. Wildmon to once again call upon CBS to follow suit and drop its promotion of Stern. CBS is the owner and syndicator of Stern's radio program through Infinity Broadcasting, and his late-night Saturday television show through Eyemark Entertainment.

AFA's state affiliate, the Family Association of Minnesota, said it will continue monitoring the sponsors of **The Howard Stern Radio Show** on CBS' WCCO. Executive Director Brannon Howse said, "This is a great victory for decency on our public airwaves. We are even more determined

Political solutions for criminal be-

■ Part two of a three-part series on hate crime legislation

It was only a fender-bender, but the two men let the emotions of the moment get out of control. After jumping out of their vehicles and shouting about whose fault the accident was, one man shoved the other. And called him a *queer*.

As it turned out, the man *was* a homosexual. The aggressor was charged with disturbing the peace – ordinarily nothing more than a simple fine. He was also charged under the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999 (HCPA) and sentenced to one year in prison. He was lucky: HCPA authorizes sentences of up to 10 years.

This scenario is not yet possible, of course, because HCPA has not yet been passed. In March of this year Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) introduced HCPA in their respective houses. However, the brutal deaths of homosexuals like Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama, and “gay” couple Winfield Mowder and Gary Matson in California, have produced a spontaneous surge of support for federal hate crime legislation.

While the fate of HCPA is still uncertain in the House of Representatives, it has already passed the Senate. In the light of such vicious killings, many in Congress seem to be so fearful of appearing unsympathetic that they may be forced by political considerations to vote for the legislation.

TARGETING A GROUP OF PEOPLE

As its name suggests, a “hate crime” is a crime which is motivated by hatred towards the victim. Beyond that, however, the animosity which drives the crime is said to actually focus on the group to which the victim belongs.

Thus, proponents of HCPA claim that hate crimes have a ripple effect throughout a particular segment of society. In its

website report on hate crimes, for example, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) said, “Criminal activity based on prejudice terrorizes not only the victim, but the entire community of which they are a part.”

The NGLTF insists that a law against hate crimes that are based upon sexual orientation is necessary to protect the group as well as the individual. While current law allows the federal government to seek additional penalties for crimes motivated by the victim’s race, religion or ethnicity, HCPA would add three categories of victims which would gain federal protection: gender, disability and “the actual or perceived...sexual orientation...of the victim.”

Many opponents of HCPA, however, insist with equal vehemence that homosexual activists have overstated the number of these hate crimes. While there is no doubt that some crimes are directed solely against homosexuals, FBI statistics show that such incidents represent a fraction of 1% of the total crimes committed in the U.S. (See *AFA Journal*, July, 1999.)

What else but political considerations, conservatives argue, would elevate crimes committed against homosexuals over those committed against others in society? Especially when the numbers of hate crimes against homosexuals represent a miniscule fraction of the total?

After noting the tremendous publicity generated by the murder of Matthew Shepard, for example, Boston Globe columnist Jeff Jacoby reminded his readers that there had been another 20,000 murders committed that year. “Virtually none of them will be mourned in candlelight vigils or written about in [the Boston Globe],” he said.

These sorts of observations have led HCPA opponents to argue that, as a matter of public policy, *all* crime should be considered a hate crime – and that particular

groups should not be singled out for special protection. Referring to a Wisconsin statute that allowed the sentence for a hate crime to be tripled, John Leo asked in *U.S. News & World Report*, “Is it morally three times worse to attack an Asian or a gay than to attack a randomly selected straight white male?”

Conservatives maintain that if society insists on making distinctions between similar crimes based on who the victim is, all sense of morality will disappear.

“Do advocates of this new [hate crime] law realize what they are saying?” asks culture critic and presidential candidate Pat Buchanan. “They are saying that if [Matthew Shepard’s] sadistic murderers had been gay, his killing would be of no special interest to them, and if Matt had not himself been gay, this atrocity would not be a hate crime.”

DIFFERENT PUNISHMENTS ALREADY EXIST

Supporters of HCPA, however, say the legal system already differentiates between crimes. The USA Today editorial board said, “Scores of laws allow additional punishment based on factors that offend our conscience: premeditation in murder cases, for example. The law can and should punish some similar crimes differently.”

That argument doesn’t hold water, said Stephen M. Crampton, chief counsel for the AFA Center for Law & Policy. “First of all, the focus in criminal law has always been conduct. All murders are crimes because they are *actions* – the taking of an innocent human life,” Crampton said. “Premeditation is considered as an evidentiary matter – it distinguishes, for example, between murder and manslaughter.”

Crampton also argues, however, that while premeditation is the contemplation of a previously-defined illegal act, HCPA goes further. “Hate crime laws actually delve one step deeper into a suspect’s mind:

they criminalize what a person *thinks* about a homosexual in the commission of a crime,” he said. “While hatred for anyone may be abhorrent, it is not illegal.”

As writer Fulton Huxtable explained, “Assault is assault and the motive does not alter the nature of the act. Motive explains the act, it does not excuse, mitigate or make it worse.”

In any case, said Crampton, the example of premeditated murder still begs the question. “The more appropriate comparison is not between premeditated murder and hate crimes. It would be to suggest that premeditating the murder of a homosexual should be punished more severely than premeditating the murder of a heterosexual. And most Americans would probably strongly disagree that homosexuals are more valuable than heterosexuals.”

A DETERRENT EFFECT

Even if homosexuals are given special protection by HCPA, wouldn't it be worth it if, as Northeastern University criminologists Jack McDevitt and Jack Levin suggest, “Hate crime legislation can serve as a deterrent”? Activists argue that just having such laws on the books would convince hoodlums to think twice before targeting homosexuals.

Opponents of HCPA, however, reject this line of reasoning, arguing instead that if murder laws do not deter hoodlums, why should hate crime laws? Following the murder of Matthew Shepard, columnist Stephen Chapman said: “Wyoming does have a law against murder, which did not stop his killers from pistol-whipping him into a coma and leaving him to die. The two men charged with the crime face the prospect of being put to death by lethal injection. If that didn't deter them, what earthly good would another law have done?”

In fact, some evidence is already suggesting that current state hate crime laws fail to deter those who prey upon homosexuals. In July, two brothers from Northern California, Matthew and Tyler Williams, allegedly killed Winfield Mowder and Gary Matson, a homosexual couple who lived in Happy Valley, California.

After the murder of the couple, Human Rights Campaign political director Winnie

Stachelberg complained, “In the aftermath of these grisly shootings, it should be abundantly clear to all people that hate crimes are increasing and we need to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.”

Stachelberg must have missed the contradiction: California has had a hate crime law for crimes committed against homosexuals since 1994 – apparently without effect.

The same is true in other states. Art Teitelbaum, a spokesman for the Anti-Defamation League in Miami, bragged to the Miami Herald, “The [hate crimes] statute in Florida is one of the toughest in the United States. It sends a very clear message to those who commit these types

“[Hate crimes laws] would... suggest that premeditating the murder of a homosexual should be punished more severely than premeditating the murder of a heterosexual.”



STEPHEN M. CRAMPTON
CHIEF COUNSEL AFA CENTER FOR LAW & POLICY

of crimes.”

Unfortunately, this “very clear message” doesn't appear to be deterring hate crimes. The state attorney general's office reported that hate crimes increased in 1998, including an increase of those based upon sexual orientation.

On the other hand, opponents of HCPA point out that states are successfully prosecuting crimes against homosexuals without the aid of hate crime laws. The murderers of Shepard and Gaither were apprehended and punished under existing law – in states which do not have hate crime laws to “protect” homosexuals.

A STATEMENT AGAINST “GAY-BASHING”

Activists often claim, however, that state and local law enforcement officials do not always prosecute crimes committed against homosexuals. A federal hate crime law is thus necessary to ensure that such incidents don't go unpunished.

Chapman responds that the complaint

against law enforcement officials is not fair. He said activists are “overlooking the fact that not every attack on heterosexuals is pursued either. Prosecutors drop cases all the time, for all sorts of reasons – weak evidence, lack of witnesses, overloaded dockets and so on. That's no reason to federalize street crimes that ultimately have to be combated by local law enforcement agencies.”


When all else fails, however, homosexual activists tout the importance of hate crime laws as symbolic of society's disapproval of crimes based on sexual orientation.

“I think [hate crime laws] are very strong community statements that a com-

munity does not condone hate violence,” said Rebecca Isaacs, a spokeswoman for NGLTF.

Yet, conservatives refuse to be painted into the corner by the reasoning of activists like Isaacs, as if opposing HCPA means one is in favor of “hate violence.” Instead, opponents of hate crime laws see the push to pass HCPA as being motivated by a broader agenda, which merely uses violence as a smokescreen.

“Why add serious federal charges on top of adequate state laws, even for less serious acts, like a shove or a punch in the nose?” Crampton asked. “It's for one simple reason: homosexual activists will not tolerate anyone who disapproves of their lifestyle, and society must be made to ‘cry uncle’ on the issue of homosexual civil rights. And activists will use HCPA as a big stick to get the job done.”

Next month: How activists might use HCPA to repress dissenting opinion on the subject of the homosexual lifestyle. 

news of interest

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

CULTURE

P&G rumors unfounded

They surface every so often, making the rounds at churches and gatherings where people swap stories they heard at the grocery store or the water cooler. More often than not, they turn out to be nothing more than “urban legends.”

Such is the case of the famous Proctor & Gamble (P&G) rumor, which alleges that the company’s long-time logo includes a symbol of Satanism; a company executive appeared on a national TV talk show and admitted to being a Satan worshiper; a portion of the company’s profits are regularly funneled to the Church of Satan.

None of these rumors are true, but they arise so often that P&G has a page at its own website (www.pg.com/rumor) to answer these whoppers. Letters are posted at the website from a number of Christian leaders, including the Rev. Jerry Falwell and Rev. Billy Graham, who encourage Christians no longer to spread the gossip.

Anyone with other questions concerning the P&G rumors can call their special customer service “rumor line” at 1-800-331-3774.

Drug-use trends reveal mixed bag

A new government survey shows that teen drug use has dropped for the second time in three years, but the 1990s have still been a decade in which teen drug abuse has grown.

In 1998 the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse revealed that the percentage of 12- to 17-year-olds who said they used an illegal drug in the past month declined to 9.9%, down from 11.4% in 1997.

While welcome news, the drop does not offset the fact that teen drug use increased steadily between 1992 and 1997, with only a slight drop in 1996. Teen drug abuse had been steadily declining since the late ’70s, bottoming out and beginning its climb in 1992.

Also cause for alarm: alcohol use among

kids 12 to 17 has not decreased. The survey revealed that 52% of respondents said they had used alcohol, 29.2% said they were binge drinkers, and 10.6% guzzled enough to be classified as heavy drinkers. The alcohol-abuse levels for teens has stayed at the same levels for the last 10 years.

Time, 8/30/99; USA Today, 8/19/99

Drug-free gangs are new wave

They don’t take drugs, drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes or sleep around. No, these aren’t good church kids who have decided to turn over a new leaf. They are called Straight Edgers, a loosely-knit international movement consisting of middle class kids who avoid loose living and are into body piercing and mosh pits at concerts. They also, however, don’t mind beating someone to death with a baseball bat, according to an article in *Time*.

In Salt Lake City, for example, Straight Edger Randy Haselton admitted that, instead of being into mind-altering drugs for a high, his group gets its “rush” from fighting. Another Straight Edger, Josh Anderson, became a vegetarian and swore off red meat. However, rather than evangelize the culture around him to his new outlook on life, Anderson firebombed a local McDonald’s. The capital of Utah and headquarters of the Mormon Church has an estimated 50 to 100 more Straight Edgers.

Not everyone in the movement, however, is like Anderson or Haselton. Many declare themselves pacifists and don’t even consider the Straight Edgers to be a “gang.” Not being a “thug” appears to be one of the tenets of Straight Edgers.

Just what a “thug” is seems to be open to interpretation, however. Some within the movement have been accused of fire-bombing anything having to do with meat, leather or fur goods. In Salt Lake City three Straight Edgers were set to go to trial in the brutal murder of a Hispanic kid – whose father had moved his family from California to escape violence. The murder victim was clubbed and stabbed to death.

Theresa Martinez, an assistant professor at the University of Utah, who has taken an interest in studying the Straight Edgers,

believes that the majority within the movement are nonviolent. “Thank God someone is coming out and saying we need structure,” Martinez told *Time*. She and others see in the Straight Edge kids a rebellion against an out-of-control culture.

Or maybe, some are wondering, is it just plain rebellion?

Time, 8/30/99

EDUCATION

Kansas board removes evolution from required school subjects

The Kansas Board of Education passed guidelines allowing local school boards the freedom to decide what will be taught to children regarding human origins. The ruling changes the current state law, which required that students in public schools be provided an understanding of the theory of evolution.

The 6-4 decision does not mandate that creation be taught. Because the board debated the subject of evolution, the subject of creationism also arose. A proposal that defined creationism – “the idea that the design and complexity of the cosmos requires an intelligent designer” – and required it to be taught was considered but dropped.

The decision in Kansas led some to compare the resulting furor to the 1925 trial of a Tennessee high school science teacher named John Scopes, who was convicted of teaching evolution in class in violation of state law and fined \$100. The trial, derisively nicknamed the “Scopes Monkey Trial” by the media, provided ammunition for those who ridiculed the Bible and its description of Creation.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled twice on this controversial issue. In 1968 the high court declared that state laws which forbade the teaching of evolution in public schools were unconstitutional. Then in 1987 the Supreme Court also struck down laws in Arkansas and Louisiana, which had mandated that if evolution were taught in public schools, creationism must receive equal time.

Columnist DeWayne Wickham worried that the shift to local responsibility in Kansas “opens the way for zealots on both sides of this issue to pressure school boards” to yield to their respective viewpoint.

One thing is certain, however: the strong convictions held by people on both sides

of this ideological chasm regarding human origins guarantees that the struggle over what children will be taught in public school will continue into the foreseeable future.

USA Today, 8/12/99, 8/17/99; Time, 8/23/99

NEA's pro-homosexual sympathies demonstrated again

At its annual convention in July, the National Education Association (NEA), the country's largest teacher's union, again exhibited its intention to promote the homosexual agenda in the nation's public schools.

Held this year in Orlando, Florida, the NEA's Representative Assembly – consisting of 9,600 delegates from around the U.S. – passed resolution B-8 on “Racism, Sexism, and Sexual Orientation.” That measure states that the NEA “believes in the equality of all individuals. Discrimination and stereotyping based on such factors as race, gender, immigration status, physical disabilities, ethnicity, occupation, and sexual orientation *must be eliminated.*” (Emphasis added.)

In order to eliminate “stereotyping” of homosexuals, the NEA said “plans, activities, and programs” should be developed to educate not only teachers and staff, but children, parents and the community about homosexuality.

The NEA would include teaching “acceptance” of homosexuals, teaching children about the contributions of homosexuals throughout history, and identifying “how prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination” of and against homosexuals has hurt them in society.

Part of Resolution B-8, which promises to be extremely controversial, is that public schools should provide for “the recruitment, hiring, and promotion” of homosexual employees within the educational system. Some conservatives view such language as a call for hiring quotas which would require that homosexuals be placed throughout all levels of public education.

Education Reporter, 8/99

Two teachers get reprieve after arrest in sex club

Two teachers in Broward County, Florida, got their salaries reinstated after the school district had suspended them without pay for their extracurricular activities – specifically that the teachers had been

Report details media's influence on vio-

■ Music's impact on youth likened to that of a “virus”

Culture critic Thomas L. Jipping has released a new report which focuses on the impact of television and especially music on the wave of youth violence in the last few years, and the potential for more of the same.

Entitled *There Is a Virus Loose Within Our Culture: An Honest Look at Music's Impact*, the report says both television violence and the messages of nihilism, rebellion and violence within a large segment of modern music has played a role in the violence within our society.

Jipping is Director of the Center for Law & Democracy, Free Congress Research & Education Foundation, and has been a consultant to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Jipping makes a strong case for his contention. His report highlights some of the vulgar and profanity-laden lyrics in the music of shock-rocker Marilyn Manson, for example, which contain violent themes of anger, hate, revenge, and suicide. Manson's music, Jipping said, was linked by media reports to the lives of teen killers like Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris in Littleton, Colorado; Kip Kinkel in Springfield, Oregon; Andrew Wurst in Edinboro, Pennsylvania; and Luke Woodham in Pearl, Mississippi.

Manson responded that such media reports had “unfairly scapegoated the music industry” and unjustly blamed him for teen violence. Even more mainstream artists chimed in to take music off the hook. Billy Joel said to link music with violence was “absurd,” while Elton John said it was “absolute rubbish.”

However, Jipping says in his report, “No one, of course, argues that popular music is the sole cause of youth violence.... The question is not whether popular music is the *exclusive cause* of youth violence (something no one seriously argues), but whether there is any ‘basis in truth’ for the proposition that some popular music makes a real *contribution* to youth violence (something only the music industry denies).” (Emphases are in the original.)

Even stronger is the case made by Jipping for the contention that television violence contributes to violence in the surrounding culture and among young people. According to an article in *The Western Journal of Medicine*, for example, Jipping said that “as much as 15-20% of violence in society can be attributed to the influence of media violence.”

One professor cited by Jipping, Leonard Eron, addressed the Harvard University School of Public Health and concluded that “a recent summary of 200 studies published through 1990... offers convincing evidence that the observation of violence, as seen in standard everyday television entertainment, does affect the aggressive behavior of the viewer.”

Moreover, Jipping noted, more than 1,000 studies going back almost 45 years have produced a link between media violence on television and aggressive behavior in society.

Those interested in getting a copy of Jipping's full report (cost \$5) can contact the Free Congress Foundation website (www.freecongress.org) or call 1-800-638-

arrested for performing lewd acts in a sex club.

The county sheriff's office raided two so-called “swinger's clubs,” in which members pay fees to have sex in front of onlookers. The sweep yielded a bit of a surprise, however: two high school teachers, Kenneth Springer and Tonya Whyte. The two were allegedly caught in separate sexual

acts at one club and arrested on charges of lewd and lascivious conduct. Only Whyte was formally charged.

The arrests led the Broward County School Board to vote 8-1 to suspend the two teachers indefinitely without pay. But according to media accounts, public outcry arose in protest of the severity of the punishment, and the board reversed itself just

two weeks later. Pending further investigation, both Springer and Whyte will remain within the public school system at full pay, but will not return to the classroom.

Edwin Darden, a spokesman for the National Association of State Boards of Education said the initial Broward County board decision was fraught with difficulties. "It can't simply reflect the board's moral judgment. The members have to look at what sort of impact the behavior will have on the teacher's ability to be effective in the classroom," Darden said.

While some in support of the teachers saw the issue as one of freedom of expression, those in support of the original suspension saw it differently. "If someone is copulating with another party, that's conduct," said Scott Berghold, a lawyer and executive director of the National Family Legal Foundation. "And there's a difference between conduct and speech under the First Amendment."

USA Today, 8/6/99, 8/18/99

ENTERTAINMENT

Clinton appointee contradicts past media concerns

At a White House conference in May on youth violence President Clinton took Hollywood to task for its endless production of violence on both the big and small screen. The verbal scolding – holding Tinseltown partly to blame for disasters like the shocking shooting deaths at Columbine High School – caused many in Hollywood to brace for a storm of threatened government intervention.

They needn't have worried. The president in August appointed Jeff Bleich, 38, to head up the White House campaign to lower youth violence, a man whose ties to the entertainment industry led *Electronic Media* to wonder if he was an "industry flack." That's because Bleich is a First Amendment attorney whose law firm has represented ABC, CBS and Universal Studios.

In fact, Bleich has made it clear that Hollywood is completely off the hook when it comes to discerning the causes of youth violence, since he said there is no scientific evidence linking media violence and violence committed by individuals.

"Our principal approach right now is to rather than try to impose things on

the media, is to recognize the media as a reflection of consumer demand and to try to reduce consumer demand for violence," he said.

Electronic Media's Doug Halonen said, "Some industry sources speculated that Mr. Bleich's selection may also have been influenced by the White House's desire to keep Hollywood campaign contributions flowing as Vice President Al Gore runs for president.

Electronic Media, 8/23/99

Hollywood groups defend NC-17 film's sexual content

Influential groups and individuals within the entertainment industry hammered the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) for its rating decision concerning the late film director Stanley Kubrick's final film.

Eyes Wide Shut, a sexually explicit movie starring Tom Cruise and actress/wife Nicole Kidman, was originally rated NC-17 by the MPAA because of a vivid orgy scene. Because an NC-17 rating – which replaced the former "X" rating – is usually a box office kiss of death, Kubrick changed 65 seconds of the movie in order to earn an R-rating. Even after the cuts, the tamer rating still allowed **Eyes Wide Shut** to keep frequent scenes of graphic sex and full frontal and rear nudity.

That still wasn't good enough for some Hollywood big whigs. Movie producers, directors and film critics all complained about the MPAA's required alterations. The Los Angeles Film Critics Association, for example, released a statement which protested that the changes to **Eyes Wide Shut** ended up "diluting" the movie's "impact and meaning."

In its own public statement, the New York Film Critics Circle actually called the MPAA ratings system "out of control," insisting that the process is "effectively trampling the freedom of American filmmakers."

AFA President Donald E. Wildmon, however, insisted that the brouhaha over **Eyes Wide Shut** clearly demonstrated Hollywood's passion for explicit content.

"Most of our culture thinks in terms of the Ten Commandments. But Hollywood has only One Commandment: the artist must be allowed to create his vision

without restrictions," said Wildmon. "The Hollywood elite absolutely despises any attempts by society's moral or religious communities to limit content, and now they are gnashing their teeth at the MPAA. Tinseltown's appetite for graphic sex and violence is unquenchable."

The MPAA is funded by seven Hollywood companies: Buena Vista/Disney; Fox; MGM; Paramount; Sony; Universal; and Warner Bros. The organization's rating board uses anonymous parents to rate movies based on the MPAA's code – G, PG, PG-13, R and NC-17. Movie studios voluntarily rate their movie releases according to the MPAA rating.

Valenti said the ratings were developed more than 30 years ago to help parents gauge a movie's content, "to give them advance cautionary warnings so they can wisely guide their young children's movie watching."

USA Today, 7/23/99, 8/2/99; Preview, 7/27/99; Daily Variety, 7/20/99, 7/30/99;

Entertainment Weekly, 8/13/99

FAMILY

Young women surrendering hope of successful marriage

Pessimism seems to mark young women today when they contemplate the likelihood of ever being happily married – and staying that way.

A new report from David Popenoe, a sociologist at Rutgers University and co-founder of the National Marriage Project, found that many young women especially seemed to doubt their prospects for wedded bliss. Only 30% of high school girls questioned in 1995, for example, felt that their lives would be happier in the future if they were married, rather than remaining single or living with someone, according to USA Today. That figure is down 9% since 1976.

This gloomy view of the institution of marriage even extended to motherhood, as more young women are likely to accept out-of-wedlock motherhood as a substitute arrangement. Between 1976 and 1995, the percentage of high school girls who felt that having a child outside of marriage would be worthwhile rose from 33% to 53%.

USA Today, 7/1/99

Sex is new fad in middle schools

A nationwide network of physicians expressed concern about media reports that middle school kids are treating oral sex as a fad, creating the potential for an increase in new cases of sexually transmitted diseases among those barely out of childhood.

In July the Washington Post reported that students in Washington, D.C., middle schools had been practicing oral sex in an effort to experiment sexually without engaging in intercourse. The Post reported that oral sex is “now the expected minimum behavior. The kids say if you’re not going to have sex, at least do this.”

The Consortium of State Physicians Resource Councils (CSPRC), with over 2,000 members, blamed sex educators in the public schools for the new fad, which shocked parents and school administrators alike.

“The disclosure of the widespread practice of oral sex by children should shock all parents; however what’s even worse is that such behavior is recommended to teens by Planned Parenthood and SIECUS (Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S.), organizations funded by the Clinton Administration with our tax dollars,” said CSPRC spokesman Dr. John Diggs in a press release.

“As physicians, we are apprehensive that governmental encouragement of oral sex among children as young as 11 years old will lead to a vast increase in the spread of sexually-transmitted disease, starting at younger and younger ages,” Diggs said.

Researchers fail to link religious beliefs to domestic violence

Sociologists who theorized that conservative religious beliefs would increase the likelihood of spousal abuse discovered no such link, and in fact discovered that the opposite was true.

Researchers at Mississippi State University, the University of Texas at Austin, and Drew University examined data from a national sample of 2,420 women and 2,242 men.

“Contrary to our first hypothesis, we find no evidence...that men or women from Conservative Protestant denominations, or those who embrace conservative beliefs about the Bible, are particularly likely to commit violence against their partners,” the report stated.

The evidence actually suggested the opposite: regular attendance at a conservative

Protestant church reduced the likelihood of domestic violence.

The Family in America, New Research, 7/99

Parents gain victory in school strip-search case

A federal judge has ruled that the East Stroudsboung (Pennsylvania) School District violated the civil rights of eight girls in 1996 when school officials initiated a strip-search physical exam without parental consent and over the objections of the girls.

The case received national attention after 59 sixth-grade girls were given internal genital exams. Several of the girls began to cry and objected, asking for permission to call their parents first. School officials denied their request, and in some cases physically barred the girls from leaving the room.

Parents, who only found out about the exams after the fact, complained to school officials. Dr. Ramlah Vahanvaty, the physician who conducted the genital examinations, told a local newspaper, “Even a parent doesn’t have the right to say what’s appropriate for a physician to do when they’re doing an exam.”

U.S. District Judge A. Richard Caputo ruled against the school district, however, stating that the exams amounted to “unreasonable searches” and thus a violation of the Fourth Amendment.

A spokesman for the Family Research Council said in a press release, “More importantly, the decision recognizes the right of parents to have informed, decision-making authority concerning their children’s welfare.”

HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

New Jersey court orders Boy Scouts to admit homosexuals

In a stunning defeat that could take the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America had violated the state’s nondiscrimination law by removing a member who had publicized his homosexuality.

The Boy Scouts consider homosexuality to be inconsistent with its moral views, and whenever a Scout leader or member declares his homosexuality he is asked to leave the organization.

The New Jersey case centered around James Dale, 29, who as an assistant scout-

master was expelled from the Boy Scouts in 1990 when the organization’s officials discovered from a newspaper article that Dale was a homosexual.

The state’s supreme court ruled that such a dismissal violated New Jersey’s anti-discrimination law, which forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, among other things. The law has been in effect since 1992.

In court, homosexual activists have pounded away at the Boy Scouts numerous times in attempts to force the group to accept their lifestyle. The state supreme courts in four other states – California, Connecticut, Kansas and Oregon – have previously sided with the Scouts. Activists, however, finally won in New Jersey.

“Another domino in the campaign against GLBT [gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered] people has fallen,” crooned Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Lobel said in a press release that “[t]he decision shows the importance of work on the state level to pass civil rights laws.”

In fact, said AFA President Donald E. Wildmon, the New Jersey case clearly demonstrated one of the most effective strategies employed by homosexual activists.

“Homosexual groups promote these state nondiscrimination laws with very pretty packaging, couching them in terms like fairness, equality, and tolerance,” Wildmon said. “But the real goal is to use the force of law like a club on the head, bludgeoning anyone who refuses to admit that homosexuality is normal, natural and healthy.”

USA Today, 8/5/99, 8/6/99

Transgender librarian demands right to use women’s bathroom

A Minnesota high school finds itself squarely between the state’s nondiscrimination laws and common sense decency, as the school’s librarian, a male crossdresser, is demanding the right to use the ladies room.

David Nielson caused a nationwide stir in May 1998 when he decided to legally change his name to Debra Davis and start dressing as a woman on the job – as a librarian at Southwest High School in Minneapolis.

Perhaps because Minnesota is the only state in the U.S. to protect transgendered individuals in its nondiscrimination law, the school gave its blessing.

Christians & Society TODAY

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

OCTOBER, 1999

New AFA video confronts dangerous library poli-

■ Radical policies from American Library Association exposed

A new video produced by AFA warns parents that their kids may not be safe in the local library because of policies that allow even children unrestricted access to pornography.

That extreme policy flows out of the American Library Association (ALA), a private organization that has a virtual deathgrip on how many public libraries are run. The ALA is the largest national library association in the world, with a membership of more than 55,000.



Agenda in Public Schools was a huge success from Excess Access. A mother wants to know why pornography is available to children in her public library.

"We hope to get the word out on the ALA with this latest video because we are very concerned by the influence this organization has and the damage they can

cause our nation's children," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon.

The ALA opposes any restrictions on access to pornography in public libraries – even for children. Many public libraries adhere to this ALA policy, and refuse to place filters on their computers to screen out sexually explicit websites.

The written policy at the Los Angeles Public Library, for example, says, "As with other library materials, supervision of a child's use of the Internet is the responsibility of a parent or legal guardian."

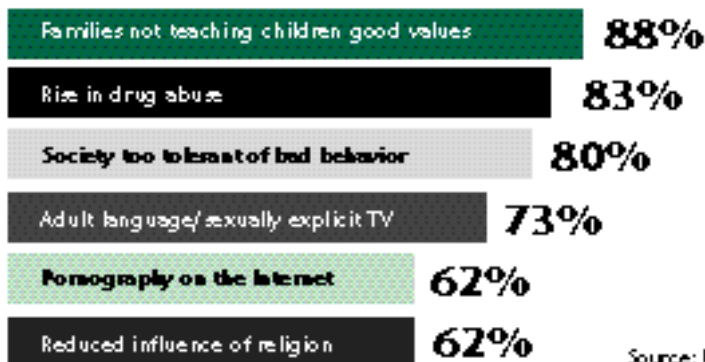
So extreme are the views of the organization that ALA spokeswoman Judith Krug said, "Blocking material leads to censorship. That goes for pornography and bestiality too. If you don't like it, don't look at it."

Wildmon said that libraries are not excluded from sharing responsibility for the welfare for our children. "Libraries must once again become part of the community, helping parents to uphold the standards of decency that keep our children safe," he said. "Citizens must actively seek to break the ALA's chokehold on the library system."

Excess Access can be ordered by calling 1-888-FAMILIES (option #4). A donation of \$20 is suggested.

What is causing our moral decline?

Nearly 60% of Americans say the most serious problem facing the country is a decline in moral values. But what has been responsible for this decline? According to a survey by Peter D. Hart Research Associates for Shell Oil Company, here are the percentages of adults who believe the following are contributing factors:



Source: USA Today, 8/2/99

Les Parrott to speak at Day of Heal-

The seventh annual Day of Healing sponsored by Wabash Friends Church will be held October 30 at Wabash Middle School, 150 Colerain St., Wabash, Indiana.

Dr. Les Parrott, keynote speaker and his wife, Dr. Leslie Parrott, are authors of several best-selling books, including *Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts*, *Helping the Struggling Adolescent* and *High-Maintenance Relationships*. "We are extremely fortunate to have a speaker of his caliber and expertise," says Scott Makin, Director of Counseling at Wabash Friends Church.

In addition to Dr. Parrott, 20 workshops

will be led by professional counselors, covering such topics as: *Coping with Depression*, *Sexual Abuse – A Hope for the Future*, *Raising Children with Integrity*, and *Homosexuality and the Church*.

The annual one-day event has established a growing reputation, and draws some 500 attendees each year. It is approved by the National Board for Certified Counselors for 5.5 continuing education hours.

To register, send a \$10 check payable to Wabash Friends Church to 3563 South State Road 13, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

For a brochure with more information, call Wabash Church at 800-292-5238; or

BRIEFLY

Depth of friendship strengthens marriage, author says

The author of a new book says the success of a marriage is not found so much in the couple's communication skills or conflict resolution, but in the depth of their friendship.

That's the premise of John Gottman's book *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. Gottman is a psychology professor at the University of Washington, who based his book on 25 years of research.

Other aspects of a successful marriage touted by researchers and counselors – like communication – don't create friendship, but merely grow out of it, Gottman says.

USA Today, 4/1/99

Church offers model video library

A church video library of almost 1000 titles is the result of one layman's vision and commitment. Don Walker, a member of Jesus the Good Shepherd Church in Owings, Maryland, established the library a few years ago and now offers guidelines and helps for other churches who wish to duplicate his efforts.

The Good Shepherd library began with children's videos, but has expanded to include Christian music videos, Christian movies and other family-friendly titles that promote sound moral values.

For more information on starting a church video library contact Walker at

New Light Company, 7616 Investment Court, Owings, MD 20736; telephone 410-257-7424. Walker's library guidelines can also be accessed via his website: www.newlightco.com.

Leftist political movements altered social views on marriage

A new study shows that participants in liberal political movements in the 1960s and '70s were more likely to cohabit than to marry. The study from the University of Arizona found that "people who participated in the women's movement and who demonstrated in opposition to the Vietnam War are considerably more likely to have cohabited than are nonactivists."

The research suggests that those who rejected the political status quo also saw traditional institutions like marriage worthy of rejection. The research revealed that it was the "acting on liberal beliefs" which seemed to increase the chances of cohabitation, rather than merely holding

Frontlines

REPORTS FROM AFA AFFILIATES

AFA of New York (Port Washington 516-944-3544) – State Director Frank Russo will testify before the Youth Services Committee of the New York City Council on behalf The Library Internet Porn Bill. The proposed bill will require local libraries and public schools to report to the City Council what Internet filtering software they have analyzed for use on their computers. The bill will then require a pilot program of Internet filtering using the program found to be most successful in blocking child pornography, obscenity, and material harmful to minors. The NYC Board of Education appears to be backing the legislation along with 25 of the 51 City Council members. The only major opposition is from members of library organizations.

AFA of Virginia (Forrest 804-525-3197) – State Director Joe Glover hosts regular Action Lunch meetings on a variety of issues of interest to Christians in Virginia. From education to taxes, abortion to homosexuality, the AFA Action Lunches keep conservative Christians informed on the important issues of the day. Glover recently hosted a luncheon that was keynoted by Dr. E. Michael Caner, Pastor of Central Baptist Church in Aurora, Colorado. Dr. Caner spoke about his experience as the lead minister on the scene of the Columbine High School shooting in April. Caner was contacted by police just minutes after the first shots were fired and spent 72 consecutive hours on site, organizing a crew of pastors

If you don't say something, who

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

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

How? There are plenty of ways. Just write and ask for our informative PAW Packet. It includes an action guide full of ideas on how you can personally raise

your community standards. Remember, campaigns can never begin too early, but they can begin too late.

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

OCTOBER 24-31, 1999

**PORNOGRAPHY
AWARENESS WEEK**

ACTION IN-

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

Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.

Chrm. Charles A. Heimbald, Jr.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154
Phone: 212-546-4000
Fax: 212-546-9585
Toll Free: 1-800-468-7746
Web Site: www.bms.com
Products: Ban antiperspirant, Clairol hair products, Excedrin pain medication, Keri lotion, Ultrasse hair coloring, Vitalis toiletries

*General Motors Corp.

Chrm. John F. Smith
3044 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: 313-556-5000
Fax: 313-556-5108
Web Site: www.gm.com
Products: Chevrolet automobiles, DirecTV direct satellite broadcasting, Oldsmobile automobiles, Pontiac automobiles, Saturn automobiles

J.C. Penney Co., Inc.

Chrm. James E. Oesterreicher
P. O. Box 10001
Dallas, TX 75301
Phone: 972-431-1000
Fax: 972-431-4944
Toll Free: 1-800-953-9421
Web Site: www.jcpenney.com
E-MAIL: jmuir@jcpenney.com
Products: Eckerd Drugs, J. C. Penney department stores

*The Procter & Gamble Co.

Chrm. John E. Pepper
P. O. Box 599
Cincinnati, OH 45201
Phone: 513-983-1100
Fax: 513-983-4381
Toll Free: 1-800-435-9254
Web Site: www.pg.com
Products: Bounty paper towels, Crest toothpaste, Jif peanut butter, Pert shampoo, Sunny Delight drink, Tide detergent, Zest detergent bar

Adultery made appealing, violence made inviting Network summer movie reruns use violence, sex to draw viewers

■ Bridges of Madison County

P11 S

TVPG

NBC, 8/21 – This three-hour movie is nothing more than an adulation of adultery. The highly romanticized “love” affair of the movie’s quiet heroine is clearly a good thing – if one is to believe the movie’s slant. In reality, it is a cheap, dangerous four-day sex fling with a total stranger who wanders into her home while hubby and teenage kids are away.

Advertisers: J.C. Penney, Procter & Gamble

■ Fear H P11 S V TV14-DLSV

Fox, 8/11 – Nicole, 16, accompanies her wild friend Margo to a dance at which a riot breaks out and Nicole meets David, a guy she falls hard for. Scenes at the dance include one male couple making out. A later scene focuses on Nicole’s rapt face while David stimulates her sexually as they ride a roller coaster. David is a psycho who beats Nicole, then – out of jealousy – beats one of her male friends to a bloody pulp. He harasses her and her family when she tries to break up. In a bloody, graphic violent climax, David and friends break into Nicole’s house with intent to kill her and her family.

Advertiser: General Motors

■ Frighteners P48 S V TV14-LV

Fox, 8/18 – This movie is a showcase for the

occult. Spirits run rampant in the town of Fairwater, under the command of Frank Bannister, a psychic private investigator who commissions them to commit mayhem in Fairwater homes. He then hires himself out to cleanse the homes of the evil influences. One vulgar scene features simulated sex between one of the spirits and a mummy.

Advertiser: Procter & Gamble

■ Her Costly Affair P6 S V TV14

NBC, 7/24 – College student Jeff Dante initiates a sexual affair with Dr. Diane Weston, his English professor, then charms her daughter when the mother tries to break off the affair. The clear implication is that he will seduce the teenager, too. The triangle ends when Diane stabs Jeff.

Advertisers: General Motors, Procter & Gamble

■ Judge Dredd AC P9 V TV14

NBC, 8/1 – The violence is bloody and bountiful, including gunfire, explosions, futuristic warfare, and hand-to-hand combat. The sci-fi plot is set in the third millennium, revealing a new order of chaos and anarchy in society. Minor characters include a backward, hermit-like desert man and his sons who are apparently Christians, evidenced by their bizarre prayers and reference to “The Faithful.”

Advertiser: General Motors

Dramas, sitcoms repeat some of worst

The networks selected some of prime-times worst for summer repeats, including anti-Christian episodes, casual sex and drug abuse.

■ Ally McBeal AC P1 PC TV14-DL

Fox, 8/16 – A politically correct clergyman counsels Ally that her kissing Billy (a married co-worker) is nothing to feel guilty about. Ally thinks that her lustful thoughts are the equivalent of adultery, but the pastor assures her, “Jesus was a little off the mark... It’s the deed, not the thought.”

Another character, Sen. Watkins, is a self-righteous, religious man who campaigned against a

porn bookstore. The bookstore goes out of business, sues Sen. Watkins and wins.

Advertisers: Procter & Gamble, Bristol-Myers

■ Law & Order AC P7 TV14

NBC, 8/9 – A teen dies while (or after) she is beaten by “Sister Rosa” in an exorcism. The former nun practices her bizarre brand of faith in the inner city, where residents count on her spiritual help. Series attorneys make it clear that Satan is only a metaphor, the creation of a mythical religion.

Advertiser: Procter & Gamble

■ **Nash Bridges** P22 S V TV14-DLV

CBS, 8/6 – Series hero Bridges (a cop) interrupts a would-be rapist in the bedroom of Caitlyn, his own love interest. Caitlyn (also a cop) is harassed by a man she once helped put in prison. Harvey, a series regular, rents a \$1,500 hotel suite planning to have sex with a woman on their first date.

Advertisers: Procter & Gamble, Bristol-Myers

■ **Drew Carey** P2 S TVPG-D

ABC, 8/18 – Series heroine Kate dashes out of a bar at 2 a.m. to chase Bill, because Bill just broke up with his girlfriend Sharon. Sharon leaves the bar with Drew, and goes home to have casual sex with him. She wants Drew to continue having sex, but not date.

Advertisers: General Motors, Procter & Gamble

■ **It's Like, You Know** P4 S TVPG-D

ABC, 8/3 – Arthur, who has a gift certificate for a massage by Lauren, is afraid that if his relationship with her becomes “professional” he won't be able to pursue her for sex. Lauren opines that marriage should be for only a seven-year contract. Jennifer, a series star, has sex with a man on the first date.

Advertiser: Bristol-Myers

■ **Just Shoot Me** P8 S SA TVPG

NBC, 8/24 – Jokes about sexual arousal, bondage and other perversions fill the episode. The only subplot focuses on Nina, a series star, who shamelessly lies to her boss and cheats the company on her expense account. She also cracks jokes about her drug addiction.

Advertiser: Procter & Gamble

■ **Mad TV** P6 S SA V TV14-DLSV

Fox, 7/23 – Originally a late-night series, Fox brought this sleazefest to prime-time for summer. This episode included these skits: a woman using her naked body to paint walls; Yale students questioning President and Mrs. Clinton about sex; a “comedian” wearing only a towel and screaming a list of things he hates; a man who urinates all over himself; plus substance abuse jokes, casual sex jokes and more.

Advertisers: General Motors, Procter & Gamble

■ **Sports Night** AC P5 PC S TVPG-D

ABC, 8/17 – A bomb threat is traced to “God-fearing people” who didn't like a talk-show host's impersonation of Jesus with a lisp. Dan, a series hero, has been dating a married woman who confronts him about why he's been avoiding

her. Casey, the other series hero, is having a secret sexual affair with a co-worker.

Advertisers: General Motors, Procter & Gamble

■ **Thanks** AC P1 S TVPG

CBS, 8/16 – This summer replacement series debuted earlier, and continues anti-Christian themes. It is set in 1621 Plymouth, Massachusetts, and peopled by Pilgrims. In this episode, granny steals a broach from a widow she helps move. The idiotic clergyman has “little voices in [his] head” and constantly tries to shame everyone into good behavior.

Advertiser: Procter & Gamble

■ **That '70s Show** P15 S SA TVPG-DLS

Fox, 8/23 – Eric discovers his parents in the middle of having sex, and the trauma it causes him is the focus of the rest of the episode. In one scene, Eric sneaks beer (to serve his friends in the basement) as his parents have a party upstairs.

Advertiser: General Motors

■ **Will & Grace** H P5 S TVPG

NBC, 8/17 – This episode focuses on Will (series hero) and his search for a homosexual sex partner. He and Grace, his roommate, compete for the attentions of a new male neighbor. A



■ **Cosby** + TVG

CBS, 8/11 – Eleven-year-old Jurnee is staying with the Lucases (series stars) when she comes home from a birthday party drunk from spiked punch. The Lucases persuade Jurnee to tell her dad who put alcohol in the punch at the party.

Advertiser: J. C. Penney

■ **Early Edition** + TVG

CBS, 7/31 – In this Valentine's Day repeat, series star Gary is the hero again when he saves a professional pitching star from calamity – by shielding him from injury by a falling camera.

Advertiser: J. C. Penney

■ **Signs From God: Science Tests Faith**

+ TVPG

Fox, 7/28 – This hour-long special was very

ACTION IN-

Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Chrm. Arthur C. Martinez

3333 Beverly Road

Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

Phone: 847-286-2500

Fax: 847-286-2444

Toll Free: 1-800-732-7780

Web Site: www.sears.com

Products: Craftsman tools, Diehard batteries, Kenmore appliances, Sears department and specialty stores

* While Procter & Gamble and General Motors appear in many of the offensive shows cited on these pages, both are members of the Family-Friendly Forum. (See page 1.) Please commend them for this positive step.

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.

Crude Comedy Central offers rancid

■ Anti-Christian theme appears on numerous programs

Seventh in a series of profiles of cable channels. Comments are based on viewing 16 hours of selected programming that aired between 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., August 2-8, 1999.

In an apparent attempt to dig to the very bottom of the cultural latrine, the Time Warner Entertainment Company and Viacom International have teamed up to give viewers Comedy Central. This network provides an abundance of evidence that the sophomoric and smutty sense of humor we all thought we left behind in junior high school lives on, sponsored by the likes of Disney/Touchstone, Kellogg's Pop Tarts, and Planter's nuts.

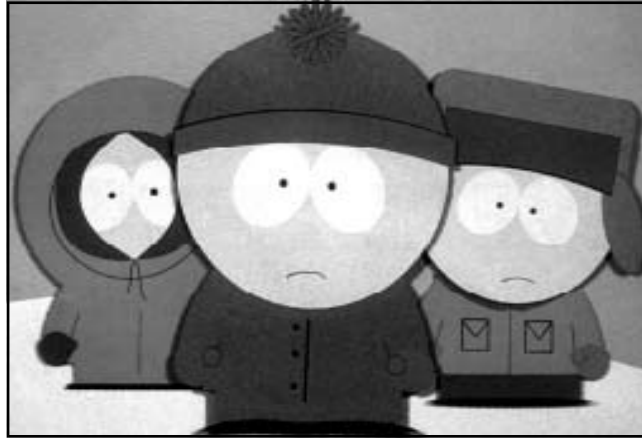
One of the network's regular prime-time offerings is *Comedy Central Movies*, reruns of comedies long since deposited on video store shelves.

Airheads (August 3), for example, was about a rock 'n roll trio who take over a radio station and hold its employees hostage in order to get their music demo played on the air. The movie contained an incredible 80 profanities, as well as numerous references to male genitalia and sex, jokes about masturbation, a graphic sex scene, and a couple of clear shots of a man repeatedly giving the finger to a crowd of admiring young people.

Comedy Central seems to take great pains to produce original programming, however, and the network seems to have a taste for animated comedy, with shows like *Bob and Margaret* and *Dr. Katz*.

Another cartoon feature which covers the lives of a gang of foul-mouthed youngsters, the infamous *South Park*, certainly lived up to its ribald reputation. The August 4 episode – merely 30 minutes long – contained 50 profanities, graphic animated violence, a character singing about group sex, and a running joke about a homosexual handpuppet.

Comedy Central's foray into live-action originals produced two very strange sitcoms – *Uptight Citizen's Brigade* and



Strangers with Candy.

The latter was absolutely bizarre, focusing on the life of a hapless 46-year-old ex-con woman named Jerri Blank, who has returned to high school as a freshman. In the August 2 episode, homosexuality is the subject of much of the episode's humor. For example, two male teachers are portrayed having sex in a public restroom. Later, Jerri must team up with another girl for a school project, but begins to treat the relationship as a lesbian partnership. While her initial attempt to seduce Tammy in a motel room fails, Jerri's comments at the end of the show indicate that she later succeeded in persuading Tammy to have sex.

Game shows are also a network fixture. One unique concept, *Comedy Central's Vs.*, pits cultural opposites against each other in a battle of wits – such as astronomers vs. astrologers, environmentalists vs. fishermen. More offensive pairings included Elvis impersonators vs. drag queens, soccer moms vs. (leather-clad) dominatrices, and housewives vs. fetish models. Dialogue was frequently vulgar, including jokes about masturbation, male arousal and both male and female genitalia. A similar problem also plagued the game show *Win Ben Stein's Money*.

Even *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, a mock news show, used jokes about sex as its primary laugh-getter.

More along the line of a frat-house variety show was *The Man Show*. This celebration of male hedonism is full of scantily-clad women, crude jokes and lots of beer drinking.

Five separate programs featured top stand-up comedians – *Comedy Central Presents Elvira Kurt*; *Jeff Foxworthy: Check Your Neck*; *Comedy Central Presents Mark Curry*; *Third Annual*

Comics Come Home; and *Pulp Comics: Caroline Rhea*. As in the other programming, Comedy Central never departed from its almost constant theme of profanity and sex.

If most Christians would find the repetition of these themes offensive, they would be outraged to witness the volume of anti-Christian themes and language including regularly allowing God's name to be taken in vain and the profaning of "Jesus" and "Christ." *South Park*, *Strangers With Candy*, and *The Man Show* all took the name of Jesus Christ in vain on more than one occasion. In *Airheads*, not only is God's name used in vain 14 times, but "Christ" is used six times in vain.

On the August 2 episode of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, an ad spoof ridiculed Teen Mania Ministries and religion on TV. The August 3 show continued its mockery of Christianity with a blasphemous suggestion that the apostle Peter had had sex with Jesus.

For sheer contempt of Christianity, however, nothing surpassed *Uptight Citizen's Brigade*. In a skit about "Spaghetti Jesus," the image of Jesus appears in a bowl of spaghetti. At a public gathering, "Spaghetti Jesus" is to be revealed for the first time, but the plan is foiled when someone eats the noodles. The offender is prod-

By Mark Tooley and Holland Webb

Ecumenical abortion rights coalition hosts Washington sum-

■ *Gathering included United Methodist, Presbyterian(U.S.A.), Episcopal agencies*

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) hosted its annual “Breaking the Silence” summit on black sexuality in Washington, D.C., attracting over 600 clergy and laity. Summit speakers defended not only the full availability of abortion, but also the full acceptance of homosexuality by churches and the distribution of contraceptives to sexually active children.

With few exceptions, RCRC speakers were skeptical of sexual abstinence programs for teenagers and declined to mention traditional Christian teachings about heterosexual marriage as the proper context for sexual expression.

RCRC is a coalition that includes 44 religious organizations, including agencies of the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, several Jewish organizations, and numerous independent church caucuses such as Catholics for a Free Choice.

Although RCRC is comprised primarily of predominantly white religious bodies, the annual summit on black sexuality appears to be an attempt to enlist more socially conservative black churches in the abortion rights movement. RCRC is absolutist in its defense of abortion on demand, defending the legality of late term partial-birth abortion and opposing parental notification or consent laws for under-age teenagers seeking abortions.

“This movement is really picking up speed,” boasted the Rev. Carlton Veazey, RCRC president. “God is in this movement,” he affirmed. “The work that we are doing is holy work.” Veazey, who is

Baptist, also expressed hope that churches are beginning to change their traditional opposition to homosexual practice.

AN ANGRY MESSAGE

Perhaps one of the most theologically provocative speakers was John Kinney, who is American Baptist and Dean of Virginia Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He bewailed the notion that God is “over” humanity or that God is threatened by human “self-expression.” Similarly, Kinney dismissed the notion that spirit should control the body, as both spirit and body should be accepted as equally powerful. He likened this balance between spirit and body with Jesus as the incarnation of both God and man. He called this balance an “africological understanding of the body.”

“Theologically, Mary was not a virgin,” Kinney said of Jesus’ mother. Whether she was biologically a virgin or not Kinney said only God knows. But he said she had been so influenced by her patriarchal culture that she believed she needed a man to father her child when God told her she was to conceive. This dependence on a man meant Mary could not be a true virgin.

Kinney blamed Christianity’s too often false view of God as “above” humanity on the serpent in the Garden of Eden, who told Adam and Eve that God would resent their knowledge. “If God’s place is over, and your place is under, you go to a church with no God,” Kinney complained. “Your humanity is an invitation to majesty.” He asked the audience to love their bodies and to refrain from sexual activity when “whole love” is not present, but he did not define whole love.

Kelly Brown Douglas of Howard Divinity School shared an angrier message with the RCRC audience. As a self-professed “womanist” theologian and theorist of the “black Christ,” she blamed sexual irrespon-

sibility among black youth on America’s racist, patriarchal, classist and heterosexual system. “It is our sexuality that allows us to put into action Jesus’ words to love one another,” she said. But too many are oppressed by the “white, Euro-centric view of the body as evil.” Sexual discourse is the first step towards loving ourselves and loving others, she affirmed.

Workshop leader Jay Cooper, a student of Morehouse College, also faulted sexual irresponsibility on racism. He compared the black, inner-city situation to the situation of European Jews under the Nazis. “There’s a holocaust going on in our community,” he announced, inferring that America was similar to the Hitler regime. “I don’t dislike white people,” he admitted, “but I don’t particularly like them either.”

He also urged greater condom distribution to combat the fear of AIDS.

Deya Smith, a lobbyist with the National Minority AIDS Council, also touted condoms. “The religious community is afraid to talk about condoms in schools... [because] of abstinence only,” she said. Abstinence-only programs originate with conservative Christians, of whom Smith expressed distrust. The church must educate youth in safe sex procedures, she insisted.

An audience member gained applause by responding to Smith by saying, “I believe Jesus would give someone a condom.”

Jeremiah Wright, a United Church of Christ pastor in Chicago, told the RCRC audience how he once had been “homophobic” but now accepts that God has created a certain number of animals in each species to be attracted to the same sex. He now asks parents to accept their children’s homosexuality and to avoid the example of Saul in the Bible, who Wright

Mark Tooley is Executive Director of UMAAction, a committee of the Institute for Religion and Democracy (IRD), an independent agency working for renewal in mainline denominations. Holland Webb served an internship with IRD.

See **ECUMENICAL** on page 22

Workshop offers hope to wives of porn

An anonymous testimony

I sat gazing out the plane window overlooking the city where I would attend a workshop for wives of sex and pornography addicts, wondering what to expect. Having been a preacher's wife for over 30 years, I felt embarrassed and humiliated, and was angry with my husband for my needing to be there in the first place. I was sure that was no place for a Christian's wife, much less a preacher's wife! When the plane landed, I took a deep breath and headed to the terminal where I was to meet a woman I didn't even know to car pool to our destination. As we waited for other participants to arrive, we began to get acquainted and were shocked at how easy it was and how much we had in common! By the time our entire group was there and we reached our destination, we were totally amazed at how much we had in common and how much we had already bonded! And do you know what, their husbands were Christians – and some were church leaders too!

We arrived at the complex where the workshop was to take place and were directed to our rooms. It was soon time for our first group meeting. We learned what to expect during our time there and were divided into small groups where we could safely talk openly about our individual problems and receive priceless support and direction. Then, some of the staff began to share their stories and, lo and behold, they had also been in similar situations. During this meeting, we sang praises to God and heard encouraging scriptures and prayers on our behalf, which gave us hope. Early the next morning, we were back at it, where we met in a collective group for lectures, group praise and worship, and more sharing by the staff. A couple of times a day, we met in our small groups where we were encouraged to unveil the secrets and hurts we had kept locked inside. It was difficult for some of us to pierce through that thickened, tough skin that we had developed to protect ourselves from extreme hurt and to be able

to start revealing those things that hurt us so badly, that were stuck in there, digging into our souls! It was extremely painful and traumatic, but so very therapeutic and healing. The group leaders were compassionate, and the other group members were empathetic and supportive.



If your spouse is trapped in the shame and guilt of sex or pornography addiction, know this:

1. You are not alone.
2. We can help you.

Esther Ministries – 662-842-0580
 P. O. Box 2874 • Tupelo, MS 38803 www.estheronline.org

Each woman had her own story, but woven through each one were “threads” of the same colors, portraying very similar tapestries. Common threads seen there were love, commitment, disappointment, loneliness, confusion, fear, low self-esteem, panic and pity. The woven tapestries revealed women who were withdrawn, skeptical, hurt, sad, desperate, defeated and angry.

A couple of things presented by the staff were particularly interesting and helpful

to me. First is to “be aware of the spirit within us.” I wrestled myself half to death for over 30 years trying to get a “handle” on my situation – to know what I should do regarding my marriage. I thought I was seeking the Lord's help but kept on trying to work it out myself, wondering why He didn't help me. It wasn't until a couple of months before this workshop that I reached the end of my rope and in desperation cried out to the Lord, telling him I could not take any more; that I had to get out. Believing that adultery is the only reason for divorce, I prayed for God to take my life or my husband's life – or whatever it would take to dissolve our marriage. That's desperate! Within a week after that, I overheard a late night conversation between my husband and his mistress, of whom I had been unaware! After confronting my husband about that conversation he admitted that he had had an affair with this woman and also that he had been addicted to pornography throughout our marriage! For the first time, a lot of things made sense – and I realized I wasn't crazy after all! If we just let God have control and pray for his guidance and leave it there, “trusting” and “watching” for Him to reveal what we need to know, how much more peaceful life is!

The second thing that was so helpful to me was to become more aware of my relationship with Jesus Christ. To know that I am the “bride” of Jesus Christ! He is my husband! I have spent so many lonely hours needing to be intimately loved by my earthly husband and have missed out on the ultimately intimate love of my Lord and Savior. He wants to talk to me any time I will take the time to listen! He will listen anytime I want to talk.

I need to get my priorities straight and put the emphasis where it belongs. Most likely, the rest will fall into its proper place when I do that.

I am grateful to all of the staff and the women who shared their lives with me. They made a difference in my life.

The workshop described above was not conducted by Esther Ministries, but by most of the same staff who now conduct Esther



Ameri- Fam- Radio

ALABAMA

Carrollton (WALN)	89.3
Ozark (WAQG)	91.7
Selma (WAQU)	91.1
Sheffield (WAKD)	89.9
Troy	91.1

ARIZONA

Fredonia	89.1
Holbrook	90.3
Mesa	89.1
Winslow	91.3

ARKANSAS

Arkadelphia	91.9
Bentonville	88.1
Blytheville (KBCM)	88.3
Clarksville	89.9
Crossett	91.7
El Dorado (KAUG)	91.9
Fayetteville	90.1
Forrest City	91.5
Fort Smith (KAOW)	88.9
Jonesboro (KAOG)	90.5
Piggott	88.1
Pocahontas	91.1
Prescott	88.9
Sheridan (KANX)	91.1
Warren	91.3

CALIFORNIA

*Quincy (KNLF)	95.9
----------------	------

COLORADO

Trinidad	91.7
----------	------

FLORIDA

*Florida City (WMFL)	88.5
*Key Largo (WMKL)	91.7

GEORGIA

Americus	90.3
Cordele	90.3
Cuthbert	89.3
Dublin	91.9
*Griffin (WMVV)	90.7
Waycross (WASW)	91.9

ILLINOIS

DeKalb (WWGN)	93.3
Effingham	91.3
Flora	88.5
Kankakee	88.1
Mt. Vernon (WAPO)	90.5
Ottawa (WWGN)	88.9
Salem	91.3

INDIANA

*Greensburg (WAUZ)	89.1
Michigan City	88.5
Plymouth	91.3
Vincennes	89.9
Terre Haute (WAPC)	91.9

IOWA

Creston	90.9
Fairfield	88.7
Ottumwa	88.1
Sioux City (KAYA)	91.3

KANSAS

Arkansas City	89.7
Beloit	91.3
Enterprise	88.7
Great Bend (KBOA)	89.7
Hays	89.7



Independence (KARF)	91.9	Oxford	101.3
Marysville	91.7	Port Gibson (WATU)	89.3
Norton	91.5	Starkville (WJZB)	88.7
Oberlin	91.3	Tupelo (WAFR)	88.3
Ottawa (KRBW)	90.5	West Point	96.9
Salina (KAKA)	88.5		
Topeka (KBUZ)	90.3		
Wichita (KCFN)	91.1		

KENTUCKY

Ashland	91.1
Campbellsville (WAPD)	91.7
*Central City (WMTA)	1380AM
Mt. Sterling (WAXG)	88.1

LOUISIANA

Alexandria (KAPM)	91.7
Jonesboro	89.7
Jonesville	91.9
Lafayette (KSJY)	90.9
Many (KAVK)	89.7
Monroe	94.9
*Russell Springs (WIDS)	570AM
Ruston (KAPI)	88.3
St. Joseph	89.9

MINNESOTA

Montevideo	89.7
Windom	90.9
Worthington	88.1

MISSISSIPPI

Ackerman	96.9
Brookhaven	90.5
Cleveland (WDFX)	98.3
Columbia	90.9
Duck Hill (WAUM)	91.9
Forest (WQST)	92.5
Gulfport (WAOY)	91.7
Hattiesburg (WAIL)	89.3
Laurel (WATP)	90.7
McComb (WAQL)	90.5

NATCHEZ

Natchez	91.1
---------	------

*Affiliate Station – may not carry all AFR programming.
All stations listed are FM unless otherwise indicated.

Mt. Airy	90.3
New Bern (WAAE)	91.9
Sanford	88.7

NORTH DAKOTA

Devils Lake	89.9
Harvey	91.1
Jamestown	90.7
Watford City	89.1
Williston	91.7



OHIO

Martin's Ferry	91.1
Steubenville	88.9
Shelby (WAUI)	88.3

OKLAHOMA

Ada	88.7
Ardmore	91.9
Atoka	91.7
Durant	89.3
Elk City	91.9
Idabel	91.9

Norman	89.3
*Okmulgee (KOKL)	1240AM

Poteau (KARG)	91.7
Stillwater	89.7
Weatherford	90.5

OREGON

Baker City	90.7
Grants Pass (KAPK)	91.1

PENNSYLVANIA

Franklin (WAWN)	89.5
*Youngsville (WTMV)	88.5

SOUTH DAKOTA

Aberdeen	90.1
Spearfish	90.1

Brownfield	90.7
Conroe (KAXF)	88.3
Crockett	91.9
Dalhart	91.7
Del Rio	89.9
Dumas	91.7
Hereford	90.7
Kermit	91.5
Lamesa	91.3
Levelland	91.9
Lockhart	88.5
Midland	89.5
Morton	91.1
Pampa (KAXH)	90.9
Pecos	91.3
Plainview (KBAH)	90.5
Stephenville	90.5
Van Horn	89.9
Victoria	88.5
Wellington	91.7

UTAH

St. George	88.7
------------	------

VIRGINIA

Bristol	90.5
Culpeper (WARN)	91.5
Elkins (WBHZ)	91.9

WASHINGTON

Sunnyside (KAYB)	88.1
------------------	------

WEST VIRGINIA

Elkins (WBHZ)	91.9
---------------	------

WYOMING

Gillette (KAXG)	89.7
-----------------	------

ALBERTA, CANADA

Three Hills (PBC)	89.9
-------------------	------

from sea to shining





Pokemon and the dangers

Who are the strange little creatures from Japan that have suddenly turned into global superstars? Most kids know: They are called *Pokemon* (short for POCkEt MONster) and they have stirred up mixed reactions.

Any child exploring the most popular Pokemon websites will be linked to a selection of occult games such as *Sailor Moon*, *Star Wars*, and others more overtly evil. A click on the ad for *Magic: The Gathering* brings Pokemon fans to a site offering promotions such as this:

A global games phenomenon, *Magic: The Gathering* is to the 1990s what *Dungeons and Dragons* was to the 1980s, but with the added dimension of collectibility. Here is the official reference to the biggest new teen/young adult fantasy game of the decade, complete with full-color reproductions of every existing Magic card.

THE POKEMON MESSAGE

These websites give us a glimpse of the mysterious little creatures called Pokemon. Ponder the suggestions in this greeting:

Welcome to the world of Pokemon, a special place where people just like you train to become the number-one Pokemon Master in the World!

Pokemon are incredible creatures that share the world with humans.... There are currently 150 documented species of Pokemon.... Each has its own special fighting abilities;... Some grow, or evolve, into even more powerful creatures.... Carry your pokemon with you, and you're ready for anything! You've got the power in your hands, so use it!

Berit Kjos is a columnist, conference speaker, grandmother and author of *Brave New Schools* and *A Twist of Faith*. An expanded version of this article can be found at www.crossroad.to

What if children follow this advice, as many do. It makes sense to those who watch the TV show. In one episode (May 20), Ash, the boy hero, had just captured his fifth Pokemon. But that wasn't good enough, said his mentor. He must catch more to become a Pokemon master. The more he catches and trains, the more power he will have for future battles.

Ash didn't understand the supernatural powers he faced. Neither do most young Pokeman fans today. Unless they know God and His warnings, they cannot understand the forces that have captivated children around the world. And if parents underestimate the psychological strategies behind the mass marketing, they may dismiss Pokemon as innocent fantasy.

MARKETING A NEW LIFESTYLE

The Pokemon television series is free, but it inspires the obsessive new games that disrupt families by giving children a seductive vision (to become Pokemon masters) and a tempting promise (supernatural power).

These enticements are drilled into young minds through clever ads, snappy slogans, and the "Pokemon rap" at the end of each TV episode: *I will travel across the land / Searching far and wide / Each Pokeman to understand / The power that's inside. / Gotta catch them all!*

The last line, the Pokemon mantra, fuels the craving for more occult cards, games, gadgets, and comic books. While children delight in these mysterious realms, concerned parents wonder what kinds of beliefs does Pokemon teach?

CHANGING BELIEFS AND VALUES

Back in 1995, Cecile DeNozzi's local elementary school had found an exciting way to teach math using *Magic: The Gathering*.

Mrs. DiNozzi refused to let her son participate in the "Magic club." But a classmate gave him one of the magic cards

which pictured spirits rising from graves. Like all the other cards in this ghastly game, it offered this morbid advice: "Sacrifice a white creature."

"What does 'summon' mean?" he asked his mother after school one day.

"Summon? Why do you ask?"

He told her that during recess the children would "summon" the forces on the cards they collect by raising sticks into the air and saying "Spirits enter me." They called it "being possessed."

Occult role-playing games add a sense of personal power and authority through identification with godlike superheroes. Though the demonic realm hasn't changed, today's technology, media, and multicultural climate makes it easier to access and harder than ever to resist.

In role-playing games the child becomes the master. As in contemporary witchcraft, he or she wields the power. Children from Christian homes may have learned to say, "Thy will be done," but in the role-playing world, this prayer changes to "My will be done!" God, parents, pastor and other authority figures no longer fit.

When the game includes occultism and violence, the child-hero becomes an extension of the spiritual power used to destroy opponents. In Pokemon, the repetitive choices to fight, poison and evolve will sear the conscience, devalue life, and produce automatic responses in the player.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

These suggestions can help you prepare your child to resist occult entertainment:

1. Consider scriptures such as Ephesians 5:8-16, 6:10-18; Philippians 4:8; and Colossians 2:9.
2. Teach a biblical attitude toward evil with comments such as, "Who would want to play with that bad monster? Let's find something that makes us happy instead."
3. Ask, "What does this game show you about magic? About God? About you?"

Safe to surf



American Family Online

American Family Online (AFO) makes your www.afo.net safer by protecting your family from the dark side of the Internet. Pornography, bomb-making, nudity, crude and vulgar vocabulary, "adult" material and distasteful sites are all filtered for your protection.

Your family can surf cyberspace with maximum protection because AFO's powerful blocking filter operates from our server, not from your computer. There are no password overrides.

AFO protection is available for only \$21.95 monthly. Plus we provide local dial-up numbers (no long distance charges) in a large and growing

number of communities across the nation.

But even if you don't live in an area with a local AFO dial-up number, you can subscribe to our "filter-only" service. It's just \$36 per year. You can use our filter and your local Internet service provider and still protect your family.

For more information or to sign up, call the number at the bottom of this ad. Or, if you are already on the Internet, go to www.afo.net.

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

1-888-817-9314

ECUMENICAL... *from page 17*

believes opposed Jonathan because of a homosexual relationship with David. "Fag hags [meaning women who support homosexual causes] need to rise up and put homo-bashers in their place," Wright concluded.

Joining Wright in the same workshop was Bishop Kwanebe Rainer Cheeks of the Inner Light Unity Fellowship, a New Age-type group. Cheeks, who is homosexual, said, "My sexuality is a gift of God. It is between me, God and whoever I'm with." He said he was merely following the example of Jesus, who preached love and acceptance but was rejected by the religious elites of His day.

Most prominent among the speakers was current U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, who encouraged churches to talk about sex, a topic on which the church he believes has been silent for too long. Churches should help young people by helping to raise their self-esteem and by encouraging sex as appropriate only for "special relationships."

Seemingly the only major speaker at the RCRC conference who vigorously upheld traditional Christian teachings regarding sexuality was David Blow, a pastor at the New Psalmist Baptist Church in Baltimore. "We have allowed our young people to get turned out every day because we allow them to awaken love without support and barriers," he lamented. The black church needs to begin re-teaching the beauty of the word "virgin," he suggested.

Blow complained that parents were not offering sufficient sexual guidance to children, who instead look for direction from movies, television and rap music. While the media must realize their responsibility to the youth culture, parents must accept the primary responsibility for the rearing of their children, he urged. Youth should understand that the body is good, Blow said, but also that it must be used according to God's mandates.

The traditionalist message that Blow delivered received little affirmation by other speakers. A ceremony during the conference honored graduates from an RCRC program for youth called "Keeping It Real." The program is an apparent response to church-based abstinence-only programs. According to one leader who spoke, "We need to stress abstinence, but we need to understand that not everyone is going to do

that." According to another, "I would rather tell our young people that, 'If you are going to do something, use a condom.'"

The overall theme of "Keeping It Real" is one of dialogue and openness about sexuality among youth, acknowledging the option of abstinence, but also "keeping it real" by arming young people for safe sex.

"People ask me how I get into the black community," said RCRC president Veazey at the concluding press conference. "I get into the black community by talking about the whole range of reproductive health. Choice is only one issue; it's a big issue for us, but it's only one issue."

Added Bishop Cheeks, "Conferences like this begin to open the door [to acceptance of homosexuality in the churches]."

MAJOR... *from front page*

put their money where their concerns are.

The less than \$1 million that the companies would spend would not be a huge gamble, however – the amount represents about the same money an advertiser would spend during one week's worth of prime-time television.

P&G spokesman Robert Wehling told The Wall Street Journal, "We're not going to be involved in the content. We're asking that in general the shows be ones that it would be reasonable to assume a multigenerational household unit could get together and watch without embarrassment."

Wildmon said he hoped the plan would express to Hollywood the commitment of advertisers to sponsor more wholesome programming. "Parents want cleaner TV, pro-family groups want it, most congressmen want it, and advertisers clearly want it. Only Hollywood seems slow to get the message," he said.

AMERITECH CORPORATION

Chrm. Richard C. Notebaert, 30 South Wacker, 34th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, Phone 312-750-5000, Toll Free 1-800-257-0902, URL: www.ameritech.com , E-mail: www.ameritech.com/feedback_java.html

AT&T CORPORATION

Chrm. C. Michael Armstrong, 32 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10013, Phone 212-387-5400, Toll Free: 1-800-222-0300, URL: www.att.com , E-MAIL: cerc@attmail.com , mailto:cerc@attmail.com .

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

Chrm. John F. Smith, 3044 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202, Phone 313-556-5000, FAX 313-556-5108, URL: www.gm.com , E-mail: <http://www.gm.com/tools/feedback.html>

IBM

Chrm. Louis V. Gerstner Jr., New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504, Phone 914-765-1900, FAX 914-765-4392, URL: www.ibm.com , E-mail: <http://www.ibm.com/contact/query>

JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Chrm. Ralph S. Larsen, One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 08933, Phone 732-524-0400, FAX 732-214-0332, TOLL FREE: 1-800-635-6789, URL: www.jnj.com , E-mail: <http://www.jnj.com/feedback.html>

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE ENTERPRISE,

Chrm. D. Richard McFerson, One Nationwide Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215, Phone 614-249-7111, FAX 614-249-1347, URL: www.nationwide.com

PFIZER INC.

Chrm. William C. Steere, Jr., 235 E. 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, Phone 212-573-2323, FAX 212-573-7851, Toll Free: 1-800-438-1985, URL: www.pfizer.com .

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

Chrm. Arthur C. Martinez, 3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60179, Phone 847-286-2500, FAX 847-286-2444, Toll Free: 1-800-732-7780, URL: www.sears.com , E-mail: <http://www.sears.com/cserv/custserv.htm>

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

Chrm. John E. Pepper, P. O. Box 599, Cincinnati, OH 45201, Phone 513-983-1100, FAX 513-983-4381, Toll Free: 1-800-435-9254, URL: www.pg.com , E-mail: <http://www.pg.com/about/contact1.htm>

WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY

Chrm. Melvin R. Goodes, 201 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950, Phone 973-540-2000, FAX 973-540-7027, Toll Free: 1-800-223-0182, URL: www.warner-lambert.com E-mail: <http://consumer.warner-lambert.com/feedback.html>

WENDY'S INTERNATIONAL INC.,

Chrm. Gordon F. Teter, P. O. Box 256, Dublin, OH 43017, Phone 614-764-3100, FAX 614-766-3979, URL: www.wendys.com

WARNER BROTHERS (WB) TV NETWORK

Publicity Chrm. Brad Turell, 4000 Warner Boulevard, Burbank, CA 91522, Phone 818-977-3627, FAX 212-333-3987, URL: www.tv.wb.com .

Tim and Mark Wildmon will host an 11-day tour of the Holy Land and Greece. The tour departs New York City on March 15, 2000. For a free brochure about the tour: Holy Land Tour, c/o Tim Wildmon, American Family Association, P. O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803 or 1-888-326-4543 or twildmon@afa.net



Vintage values grace greatest generation

BY TIM WILDMON • American Family Association Vice President

The other day I sat down in the new easy chair Alison bought for me. I don't know about other men with three children, but I rarely have time to enjoy this very comfortable sitting place. Remembering Archie Bunker, I always thought this was the birthright of every American male. You know, head of the household gets to sit in his chair while the wife cooks and cleans and the children bring his slippers, channel flipper and tall glass of iced tea. What a crock. This has never happened to me. There's no time for this kind of stuff. Besides – for better or for worse – Alison and my three kids are liberated.

But after 15 years of marriage Alison decided to purchase some new living room furniture and my new chair was one of the new pieces. As I looked around the room I was impressed with the new couch, love seat and another chair we had recovered. Or is that reupholstered? What's the difference? Anyway everything looked real nice. Then my eyes went to one of the two tables placed at each end of the sofa. Something didn't look right. As I looked closer it appeared the new furniture had not been dusted. In fact, there was dust all over the legs and the top of the tables. Poor Alison is slipping here in her mid-30s, I thought. Believe me, my wife is legendary for her clean and orderly home. But then as I ran my finger across the table top, nothing happened. That's strange, I thought. I tried another place and then I realized – this isn't real dust at all. This is fake dust. On brand new furniture? What's this all about? Then I noticed prominent chip marks on the top of the table. "At what garage sale did Alison pick this stuff up?" I asked to myself.

"Alison, come here for a minute, baby," I said with a voice of concern. "What's up with the fake dust and chip marks on our brand new furniture?"

"Oh, it's supposed to look that way," she responded. "It's to give it a rustic, sort of antique look and feel. Don't you like it?"

"First, let me say, I don't want to know how much it costs, I really don't. Ignorance is good for my soul here. But second, why in the world would anyone buy new furniture where the dust has been painted on – think about what I just said, painted-on dust – and someone in a shop somewhere has obviously taken a screwdriver and made a whole lot of scrapes and indentions in it on purpose? Our kids would be grounded for three months if they did to this furniture what someone got paid to do."

"Well, I just thought the old look added personality to the room," Alison said, looking at the table and smiling back at me.

"Let me ask you a question. You like to dust, right? You know where I'm going with this already but still let me ask you. What's the point? Will the real dust bother you and the painted-on dust not?"

Readers, let me break in here to say Alison and I have reached a

pivotal point in this conversation. For me, it's time to back off and let it go. We often mock what we don't understand, don't we? For Alison, it's time to remember not to tell me what this stuff costs.

"Well, you've got a point there," she said.

"Will you let me get the video cam out and you say that again?"

"What?" she laughed.

"You know, the part when you say, 'You've got a point.'"

Actually, I like the old, used-look tables more and more each day. Or, the tried-an-tested look, if you will. One thing I've learned in life is that newer is not always better. Change is not always for the best.

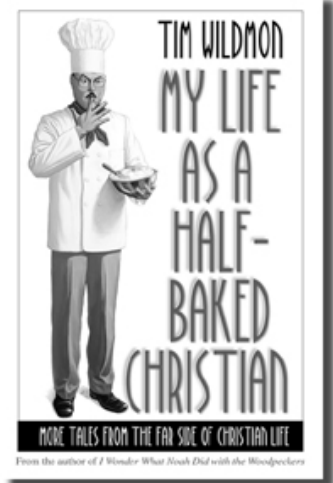
Earlier this year I read most of Tom Brokaw's best-seller *The Greatest Generation*. I rarely am willing to pay \$25 for a book but this one is worth every penny. The back cover of the book reads: "They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America – men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement and courage gave us the world we have today."

It tells the stories of Americans who brought our country through the Great Depression and World War II. These were not perfect people, but there was a certain sense of decency to these people that is missing today. They are a people who held in high esteem Biblical morality. Honesty mattered. Remember the saying from that era, "A man's word is his bond." Keeping your home together mattered.

I'm talking about what some would call old fashioned values.

While they were not a perfect generation, still there is much we can learn by looking back on what made our country great during that most difficult and trying time in our nation's history. I encourage you to add Mr. Brokaw's book to your "must read" list. I think it should be required reading for every high school senior in this country.

In fact, I think I'll sit down in my new chair right now to finish *The Greatest Generation*. You know, it's hard to break one of these things.





A little planning can go a long way

YEAR-END GIVING TIPS FROM AFA FOUNDATION

In 1990 Jim and Linda bought \$2500 worth of stock in a then unknown electronics company. Today that stock is worth \$10,000. If they sold the stock, they would incur \$1,500 in capital gains taxes on their \$7,500 profit. (The maximum capital gains tax rate for securities held over 12 months is 20%.)

Instead, the couple gave the stock to American Family Association, saving \$3960 in income tax. (They are in the 39.6% tax bracket.) They also saved the \$1,500 in capital gains tax. Their total savings: \$5460. After-tax cost: only \$4540.

The benefits of year-end giving simply make good stewardship sense:

- Potential tax savings from charitable deductions
- Increased income from non-productive or low-producing property
- Avoidance of capital gains tax on highly appreciated property
- Income tax deductions this year for gifts actually made in future years
- Personal satisfaction in knowing

that you are involved in a worthwhile mission.

But to receive these benefits, planning is essential. To assist you, American Family Association Foundation has prepared a special planning report, How to Maximize

Your Year-End Giving.

To request your free copy of this useful report, or if you need help in planning your year-end giving, simply call 1-800-326-4543, Ext 206. There is no obligation.

AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

P.O. Drawer 2440
Tupelo, Mississippi 38803

Internet websites

www.afa.net
www.afr.net
www.afo.net

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 36
Gordonsville, VA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED