

Subj: Here is this week's issue of CultureFacts.
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Here is this week's issue of CultureFacts. The on-line version is available at:

'Gay' Group Budgets Top \$36 Million

The top 11 homosexual activist groups plan to spend more than \$36 million in 1999 fighting for homosexual "rights," according to the Washington Blade. The budget figure dwarfs the amount conservative groups plan to spend opposing homosexual activism, according to sources in the pro-family movement.

Leading the homosexual crowd is the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), with its projected 1999 budget surpassing \$15 million and 72 staffers (plus 20 interns and fellows). Following HRC is Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, with a projected budget of \$5.5 million and 52 staffers (including 14 attorneys), according to the Blade survey. The Lambda budget represented an increase of 36 percent over that of 1997. Lambda - which has offices in New York, Chicago, Atlanta and Los Angeles - reported its top priority for 1999 and 2000 as: "Take on cases to overturn sodomy laws in more states, including Texas and Arkansas."

Following Lambda Legal is the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), a more left-leaning group that has refused to renounce its partnership with sadistic sex advocates in a recent national campaign. NGLTF reports a projected budget of \$3.6 million. Its number one goal: "Continue to build gay, bisexual and transgender clout at the state and local level."

Number four on the homosexual list is the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the "gay" group that has taken chief credit for lobbying TV stations in D.C. and Florida to reject a pro-family ex-gay ad campaign. GLAAD reports 24 staffers and a project budget of \$3.2 million.

Other entries on the homosexual power list include the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network - which lobbies for homosexuals in the U.S. military - reporting 10 staffers and a \$1 million budget, and the homosexual Log Cabin Republicans listing a projected budget of \$700,000, up 49 percent from 1997. More on the "gay" juggernaut next week.

- PJL

Oh Canada, Part II

On June 11, Quebec's National Assembly became the first province in Canada to pass a law that gives homosexual lovers who live together the same status as heterosexuals in "common law" marriages. The bill, which passed unanimously, changes 28 Quebec laws to include homosexual partners in the definition of de facto couples, which are couples who have cohabitated for three years. This allows homosexual lovers to obtain spousal benefits from insurance policies and public pension plans.

Recognizing homosexual partners as de facto couples is not the same as marriage in Quebec. A spurned cohabitor would not be able to collect alimony, for instance. Women's organizations in Quebec are advocating for a new definition of a civil union that would allow women left by men they were living with to sue for alimony. Homosexuals would most likely qualify for the new civil union. This would create a coupling like marriage, without calling it marriage.

- YCC

Pro-Family Amendments Pass House

In the wake of the tragedy at Columbine high school in Littleton, Colo., the House of Representatives last Thursday passed several pro-family amendments meant to address cultural moral breakdown and curb school violence. Among them were the following:

.The Children's Internet Protection Act, which protects kids from exposure to on-line pornographic and obscene material. The amendment requires public schools and libraries that receive federal funding to use Internet filters.

.The Ten Commandments Defense Act, which reiterates the states' power to display the Ten Commandments and other religious symbols in public places.

.A third amendment that says that religious memorials may be held and statues or symbols may be placed on school property. Another bill allows voluntary religious expression by students.

The acts were passed in response to recent legal battles over whether the posting of religious displays, voluntary school prayers, religious memorials and other religion-centered issues are in keeping with the First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

- RER

QUOTE

On the Road

"Evolution is Science Fiction."

- Bumper sticker spotted in Northern Virginia.

* * *

"We Help Teens Make Responsible Choices."

- Planned Parenthood bumpersticker advertising "teenwire.com" web site, which dispenses sex-related advice to teens.

One pro-"gay" teenwire column asserted that there are 600 million homosexuals worldwide (calculated by applying the discredited 10 percent estimate to the world's population of 6 billion).

* * *

"Homophobia Is a Social Disease."

- Bumpersticker sold on the website of the National Organization for Women (NOW); go to www.now.org and look for "Lesbian Rights Products."

* * *

"Homosexuality is Nothing to Be Proud Of (But Overcoming It Is)"

- Bumpersticker sold by Americans for Truth. Readers are invited to send away for a copy of ex-homosexual Michael Johnston's testimony. To order call (703)491-7975 or see: www.americansfortruth.com.

More Good News

Some great news on the homosexual - or should we say ex-homosexual - front. Jim Hanes, Administrative Director of Americans for Truth about Homosexuality, has returned from an Alaska honeymoon with his new bride, the former Sarah Carr. The couple was wed in a beautiful Christian ceremony in Maryland on June 12, attended by several members of the CultureFacts staff.

Hanes, who lived for four years as an open homosexual, left the lifestyle two years ago after hearing of the possibility of change on a Christian radio broadcast, WAVA's "Janet Parshall's America." He met Sarah through a mutual friend who also had left his "gay" identity a year earlier.

Hanes said what has struck him most about married life is its purity - a quality, he said, that is always lacking in homosexual relationships. "It wasn't until my marriage that I understood what a gift from God this really is, and what a perversion of God's ideal homosexuality is. There is

innocence, freedom, and joy in marriage, whereas I always felt guilty from my homosexual behavior."

To send e-mail congratulations to newlyweds Jim and Sarah Hanes, write: jimhanes@erols.com.

- PJL

By George, Princeton!

Princeton University has appointed a leading conservative thinker and devout Catholic, Robert George, to the Cyrus Hall McCormick Professorship. George becomes the fifth scholar to hold the prestigious chair, in a list that started with Woodrow Wilson.

Professor George, who teaches philosophy of law and civil liberties and has been appointed by President Clinton to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, represents a needed balance to the liberal orthodoxy at Princeton.

George was recently quoted as opposing Princeton's hiring of bioethicist Peter Singer to a tenured chair at its Center for Human Values. Singer, an animal-rights activist and infanticide advocate, has been quoted as saying: "Killing a disabled infant is not morally equivalent to killing a person. Very often it is not wrong at all."

Dr. George said that the Singer appointment "gives legitimacy to the practice of infanticide."

- TJD

Kiss a Baby, Hug a Lesbian

Vice President Al Gore paused in answering questions from students at a high school in Los Angeles to comfort a lesbian teenager who described the verbal abuse she was forced to endure.

Gore said that he believed that Americans "have grown in our understanding to [sic] what is to be human. Now we have to expand the human circle of dignity to include lesbians and gays."

The Vice President and his wife, Tipper, attend Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. At its annual convention in Atlanta this month, the SBC reaffirmed its opposition to homosexual behavior by approving a resolution criticizing President Clinton for proclaiming June "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month."

"Our love for our president compels us to rebuke him and publicly to deplore his most public endorsement of that which is contrary to the Word of God," the resolution said.

In related news, senior White House aide and open lesbian Virginia Apuzzo recently resigned to take a job with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.

- TJD

Q&A

Q: With the passage of many religion-related amendments in Congress and state-level attempts to restore religious freedom, it is important to ask: How should we define "free exercise of religion?"

A: First, we have the right to exercise religion, not because the government allows it, but because the framers of our government recognized in the Declaration of Independence that people "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights" which the government is duty-bound to protect. The framers are excellent authorities on the subject, beginning with the first Supreme Court Chief Justice John Jay, who wrote the New York constitution in 1777: "The free exercise and enjoyment or preference, shall forever be allowed to all mankind. Provided that the liberty of conscience shall not be construed to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state."

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Virginia Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom that government could prohibit "religious exercise" only "when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order."

James Madison viewed religion - "the duty which we owe to our Creator" - as an inalienable right "wholly exempt" from government regulation, because one's opinion "and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence."

In simple words, true religion does not harm or hinder the rights of others. Licentious acts or threats to the health, safety and peace of society can be prohibited without violating one's religious freedom. Therefore, laws against murder can stop someone from sacrificing a child, or laws against drug use can prevent someone from claiming free exercise to smoke peyote. Bad behavior, whether under the color of religion or not, is within the jurisdiction of the government to regulate because it is not truly religious behavior. Conversely, true religion - or good conduct - is not to be prohibited or regulated (at least by the federal government), but to be commended.

For instance, if a landlord refuses to rent an apartment to an unmarried couple because of his religious beliefs, he has that right to exercise his religion. Or, if a judge wants to display the Ten Commandments in his courtroom, he is

protected in his right to do so. To paraphrase Madison, the landlord and the judge are just fulfilling their duty to God as they see fit.

- RER

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