

Lively Bytes

17 May 2001

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2. Group to Challenge N.Y. "Anti-Bias" Law

Reverend Kristopher Okwedy of Keyword Ministries paid for two billboards in Staten Island that displayed four translations of Leviticus 18:22. The verse reads in the NIV, "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable." The Administrative Code of New York City Section 8-101 says that a city agency may "take other actions against prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, and discrimination and bias-related violence or harassment." Using this code, the president of the Staten Island Borough, Guy Molinari, had the billboards removed because they were "unnecessarily confrontational and offensive" and "created an atmosphere of intolerance which is not welcome in [the] Borough." Rev. Okwedy is challenging the city code and suing Mr. Molinari for violating the Establishment Clause.

Group to Challenge N.Y. "Anti-Bias" Law by Julie Foster World Net Daily

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=22797

3. School District Defies Supreme Court Rulings - Ban Religious Material

Two high school students in Michigan are suing the Houghton-Portage township School District and its principal for unconstitutional anti-religious policies. The students, Valerie Snyder and Danile Duefrene, are challenging the school district's ban on the distribution of any religious material, including the Bible, Torah, or Koran. The school stopped the students from handing out Campus Crusade for Christ Student Survival Kits. Erik Stanley, an attorney representing the students, said, "The Supreme Court has stated explicitly that students do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion at the schoolhouse gate."

4. Miller Lite Unveils Groundbreaking Gay-Inclusive Commercial

"Switcheroo," a new commercial for Miller Lite, includes two gay men in a positive light. Two women in a bar try to flirt with two men, until they realize the men are homosexual. One of the women responds, "Well, at least he's not married." The ad will be seen nationally on network prime-time.

5. Sexual Behavior Linked to New HIV Infections Among S.F. IV Drug Users

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, have published a study in *The Lancet* showing that sexual behavior is closely connected with the rate of new HIV infections among drug users. The study examined 1,192 injection-drug users who were not previously tested for HIV and discovered that after testing, female prostitutes were 5.1 times more likely to be HIV positive than all other female drug users. Homosexual men were 8.8 times more likely to be HIV positive than sexually active heterosexual men.

Sexual Behavior Linked to New HIV Infections Among S.F. IV Drug Users
May 10, 2001 <http://www.advocate.com/html/news/051001/051001health01.asp>

6. Syphilis Makes a Comeback Among Gay Men in Manhattan

During the first part of 2001, syphilis infections in Manhattan

more than doubled. According to city health officials, most cases involve homosexual or bisexual men. During 2000, 74% of the 117 cases of syphilis were gay or bisexual men. Health officials said the new statistics could mean an increase in HIV transmissions.

Syphilis Makes a Comeback Among Gay Men in Manhattan May 11, 2001
<http://www.advocate.com/html/news/051101/051101news03.asp>

7. Homosexual Group Possibly Connected to Pedophilia Applies to UN

A gay-rights group previously barred from the UN because of links to pedophilia groups is seeking reinstatement to the UN Economic and Social Council. The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) wants non-governmental organization (NGO) status to lobby and consult the UN Member States on issues such as human rights. The UN had revoked ILGA's NGO status in 1994 because the group was tied with NAMBLA, a pedophilia group. The ILGA says it has severed all ties with NAMBLA, but it still cannot vouch for the elimination of all such groups from its organization. ILGA wants the UN to consider any country without laws protecting homosexual marriage to be in violation of basic human rights.

Homosexual Group Possibly Connected to Pedophilia Applies to UN
C-FAM, May 11, 2001 www.c-fam.org

8. United Way Adds "Sex Orientation" to Nondiscrimination List

Earlier last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Boy Scouts' ban on openly homosexual men serving as scout leaders or members. Now the United Way of Greater Milwaukee has expanded its nondiscrimination policy to include "sexual orientation." Even with the new policy, the group has decided to keep funding the Boy Scouts. Officials said the local Scouts are lobbying the BSA to lift its ban on homosexuals serving as Scouts.

United Way Adds "Sex Orientation" to Nondiscrimination List
Associated Press, May 11, 2001

9. First Amendment Rights Violated - Attempt by Police to Obstruct Collection of Signatures "Unconstitutional" Says TakeBackMaryland.org

A new coalition of pro-family groups in Maryland, "TakeBackMaryland.org," is gathering signatures in Maryland to let the citizens of the state vote on Governor Parris Glendening's pro-homosexual bill which recently passed the General Assembly. In just two weeks, the group has gathered over 5,000 signatures. However, TakeBackMaryland.org has encountered opposition from state police and feel their First Amendment rights are being trampled by a governor who is trying to intimidate voters. Maryland police have told signature-gatherers that their activities were illegal on the Bay Bridge and at the Navy Academy Stadium.

First Amendment Rights Violated - Attempt by Police to Obstruct Collection of Signatures "Unconstitutional" Says TakeBackMaryland.org May 10, 2001 Tres Kerns www.takebackmaryland.org

10. Are We Free to Believe? Playing the Sex Card

A lesbian employee of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children was recently fired because "a homosexual lifestyle is contrary to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children core values." With help from the ACLU, the former employee, Alicia Pedreira, is now suing the Baptist Homes for Children for illegal discrimination. Pedreira's attorneys believe that objections to homosexual or extra-marital sex are contrary to the principles of the sexual revolution. If Pedreira wins her case, the ACLU plans to attack parts of the Charitable Choice law of 1996, which allows groups to hire or fire employees based on their adherence to the religious practices of the organization.

Are We Free to Believe? Playing the Sex Card by Charles Colson the Daily BreakPoint, May 11, 2001 Prison Fellowship Ministries.

11. Disney Welcomes Gay Days Celebration

Walt Disney World in Orlando has scheduled its next "Gay Days at Disney" event. The Mannequins Dance Palace and the 8TRAX have been rented out for homosexual dancing for several nights during "Gay Days." The American Family Association and many other pro-family groups called in 1996 for a boycott of Disney because of its celebration of homosexuality. "Gay Days" at Disney attracts tens of thousands of homosexuals each summer during the week-long

festival.

Disney Welcomes Gay Days Celebration

<http://headlines.agapepress.org/archive/5/112001f.asp> AgapePress
2001.

12. Minute Maid Commercial Criticized for Homosexual Theme

The Culture and Family Institute is concerned that Minute Maid, a division of Coca-Cola, may be promoting homosexual themes to children with its use of cartoon characters in its commercials. One Minute Maid commercial seems to show Popeye and Bluto more interested in each other than in Olive Oyl. Although a Minute Maid spokesman says too much is being read into the spot, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation believes "the innuendo in the commercial is clearly resonating with the homosexual community."

Minute Maid Commercial Criticized for Homosexual Theme

<http://headlines.agapepress.org/archive/5/112001f.asp> AgapePress
2001.

13. Teachers Union Opposes Resolution

The largest teachers union in Oklahoma is opposing a proposed National Education Association resolution that would encourage teachers to tolerate homosexual teachers and students and to teach such tolerance in the classroom. The president of the Oklahoma Education Association, Carolyn Crowder, said this proposal could be interpreted as promoting a social agenda. Other NEA resolutions already address discrimination, and Crowder said many of her colleagues in Oklahoma agree with her position that the new proposal should not be heard at the national convention in July. The proposal has also been criticized by the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators.

Teachers Union Opposes Resolution The Oklahoman, May 10, 2001

http://www.oklahoman.com/cgi-bin/show_article?ID=682713&pic=none&TP=getartic

14. AIDS: CDC Public Health Alert

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published a Public Health Alert that reports HIV and sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise among homosexual men in the United States. The CDC alert states that homosexual men account for 42% of the new HIV infections and that these men are at an increasing risk for HIV infection. According to the report, these disease rates are directly due to high-risk sexual behavior which appears to be on the rise in homosexual communities.

AIDS: CDC Public Health Alert NCHSTP:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/nchstp.html>

15. Homosexual Men More Likely to Have Been Abused

A recent study published in the April issue of Child Abuse and Neglect found that 20.6% of homosexual men were sexually abused as children. These rates are significantly higher than those of the general population. The study was done by the University of California San Francisco's Center for AIDS prevention. Homosexual men that were abused as children were also more likely to be HIV positive and were more likely to engage in "risky" sexual behavior.

16. Betty DeGeneres Signs on as Columnist on HRC FamilyNet

HRC FamilyNet, a project of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, has a new monthly columnist. Betty DeGeneres, the mother of the lesbian actress Ellen DeGeneres, is an advocate for homosexual issues. DeGeneres will hold interviews with other homosexual activists about parenting, religion, equality about marriage, and other "family" issues. The interviews will be published monthly as "Conversations With Betty." The HRC is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization. HRC FamilyNet hosts the largest panel of homosexual "family" experts on the internet.

Betty DeGeneres Signs on as Columnist on HRC FamilyNet
<http://www.hrc.org>