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Horse Suit Thrown Out by Judge Connolly

The suit by Save Our Horses was dismissed last month by Judge Thomas E. Connolly in Boston's Superior Court.

"This motion should have been filed much sooner. The harm here, if any, was caused by the plaintiff's own retained commercial signature gatherer and not the Commonwealth," said the judge.

This is what Citizens for Marriage has been saying since last November when this allegation first arose.

"It has become very obvious that this is not an attempt to save any horses but has been done merely for the purpose of attacking the marriage amendment," said Sarah McVay Pawlick, President of MCM. "The only question now is who is behind this smear attempt to influence our voters."

MassNews reported earlier this week that two attorneys with the law firm of Palmer & Dodge, Neil Arkuss and George Ticknor, are the ones behind the frivolous suit.

Pawlick's remarks appeared to be validated by the announcement that even though Susan Wagner, head of Save Our Horses, told Associated Press that their hopes of getting on the ballot are slim, they were going to appeal the decision.

A.P. said the decision "effectively ends any chance of getting the question on this year's ballot," according to Wagner.

Public Service Committee Opposes Marriage Amendment

Committee Report Has No Practical Effect

The Public Service Committee opposed the Marriage Amendment by a vote of 15-2 yesterday, but this has little real effect on the measure.

"We knew that the Committee was stacked against the Amendment," said Sarah McVay Pawlick, President of the Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage (MCM). "That was evident by the 'circus' they conducted in place of a hearing."

She said the majority report "deliberately and maliciously distorts the effects of the amendment. But that is no surprise."

Now the measure goes to Sen. President Tom Birmingham who has until May 8, under the state Constitution, to call a Constitutional Convention. But the Convention does not need to be held that day. It could be postponed to any future day before the Legislature adjourns at the end of July.

"However, Sen. Birmingham could bottle the measure in Committee if he chooses to violate the requirements of the Constitution. We do not expect he would do that, particularly when he is running for Governor and knows that 60% of the electorate favor the Amendment.

"But we must begin to send as much mail and make as many phone calls as possible to all our Representatives and Senators so that they know we are watching.

"The anti-marriage forces are terrorized by the thought of a public vote on this issue because

Timetable for Marriage Amendment

The Joint Public Service Committee has now fulfilled its Constitutional duty to forward the Marriage Amendment to Senate President Tom Birmingham.

May 8. Sen. Birmingham is required to call a Constitutional Convention on or before May 8. But there is no penalty if he violates that duty - other than the wrath of voters whose concern and interest must be expressed to every legislator before May 8. Sen. Birmingham will be seeking their advice. Telephone calls and other messages are crucial to getting their attention.

End of July. Sen. Birmingham must bring the Amendment to a vote before the end of July. At that time, 50 of the 200 members of the House and Senate must approve sending the measure to the people for their decision.

they know the people of Massachusetts overwhelmingly want to preserve traditional one-man/one-woman marriage."

Fifteen members of the Committee signed the Majority Report while two Republicans, Reps. Reed V. Hillman (Brimfield) and Paul K. Frost (Auburn) abstained.

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'Spotlight Team' Report Lawyers from Palmer & Dodge Slander Marriage Amendment

Artists and Staff at Concord's Center for Arts Also Implicated

Two lawyers from Palmer & Dodge, plus artists and staff from the Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts in Concord, are the people behind the slander and libel of the sponsors of the "Protection of Marriage Amendment."

"We have been very quiet while this slander has been going on," says Sarah McVay Pawlick, President of Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage. "But this news is especially disappointing. Why can't these people play according to the rules? Their calumny is disheartening, to say the least."

Both of the Palmer & Dodge lawyers are original signers of the "Save Our Horses" petition which was unsuccessful in its attempt to gain enough signatures last fall to be placed on the ballot.

They have been conducting a very vocal, contentious attempt to say they failed because the voters were tricked into signing the Marriage Amendment instead of the Horse petition.

Pawlick wondered, "How would they like it if a large headline in the New York Times went across the country falsely accusing them of fraud?"

She said she would like to ask them, "Why

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Women Are Violent, Say Mass. Adult Lesbians

The tiny number of women who are lesbians, 1%-2%, are thrust into our faces daily by extreme feminist media such as the Boston Globe.

Even more important, schools and colleges are pushing the lesbian lifestyle at teenagers and children, with the most recent effort starting in kindergarten and younger.

They are trying to change the basic political structure of our society. (As quoted in article.)

Most people would like to ignore this tiny subculture which has become so powerful and pretend it does not exist. But can we afford to do so?

Lesbians are deeply involved with the serious problems which exist at DSS and in the courts, particularly against fathers and straight women.

They are also the most vocal of the opponents of the Protection of Marriage Amendment to the state Constitution. They have been pushed out front on that issue by the extremist feminists at NOW, the Boston Globe and others.

There are serious problems with domestic violence from women, says the "Network for Battered Lesbians," a Boston group which was formed in 1989 to protect Massachusetts women from such abuse.

The "Network" is a mainstream part of the women's movement in Boston and is recommended by the state government on the Dept. of Revenue's website under "Domestic Violence." (That is where we discovered it.)

The women say they're particularly interested in making "outreach to youth" because, they say, it's true that "many women are battered in their first lesbian relationship."

They do not tell at what age the "first lesbian relationship" happens or when their "outreach" would occur. However, based upon what occurred at Fistgate and elsewhere, it is apparent that both would take place when the girls are in high school or earlier. This also indicates that many girls are in danger of being molested by older women, much as boys were molested by priests in the Catholic church scandal.

This interest in teenagers causes many to wonder whether the Network itself is a method for female batterers to become acquainted with a cadre of young girls with whom they can play sex games.

Clearly Seen at Fistgate

The instructors at Fistgate, gay and lesbian, were having fun "talking dirty" to teenagers. They enjoyed it very much.

These were employees, paid with tax dollars, from the state Department of Education. One was a "consultant" from the state Department of Health.

They opened by asking the children how they knew, as gay people, whether or not they've had sex. Was oral sex, "sex?" The Department of Public Health "consultant" said, "If that's not sex, then the number of times I've had sex has dramatically decreased, from a mountain to a valley, baby."

Eventually the answer presented itself, and it was determined that whenever an orifice was filled with genitalia, then sex had

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Did lesbians and extreme feminists put the Howard family through grotesque torture last year because the mother refused to leave her husband? This family was saved by Attys. Chester Darling, who volunteered his services, and Greg Hession, but not before tremendous damage was inflicted on these children in different foster homes. Most parents cannot afford to hire the likes of Darling and Hession. Most are forced to obey the extreme feminist, social workers who are employed by DSS and the courts.

Intrusive Questionnaire Covertly Given To 13-Year-Old Daughter by Pediatrician

By Ed Oliver

When Diane Neeley took her 13-year-old daughter Amanda for a check-up at Pediatric Health Care Associates in Peabody recently, she became angry when the nurse covertly gave the girl an intrusive questionnaire.

It was the first time they had gone to that doctor who was listed in the health care directory of their provider, SIGNA PPO.

"My daughter was sickened and felt horribly violated to being asked such questions," she says. The daughter told her, "These are not things that you ask people like me. I'm only 13 years old, for heaven's sake."

Neeley told the pediatrician how offended she was and that she did not appreciate the office giving anything to her daughter behind her back.

The doctor replied, according to Neeley, state law requires that all children are treated as if they are promiscuous and doctors have every right to offer sexual advice, birth control, etc. without parental permission.

Neeley says, "I am so sickened. My daughter is a sweet, innocent girl who believes in God and never even dreamed of the horrible things she was asked."

She said her daughter has attended a Christian school in New Hampshire since fifth grade.

The form asks for information about guns in the home, fighting in the home, friends' behavior, sex and drug activity, etc.

"This questionnaire is not only invasive, it is deliberately designed to undermine parental authority and decision-making, without the parents even being aware of it," says Nev Moore from the parents' rights group, Justice for Families.

"In addition," she says, "it is a sneaky device used to manipulate children to unwittingly disclose information about their homes and parents that can then be distorted and used to open the door for the state to enter our homes and lives and take control of them."

Not State Law

MassNews was interested in finding out what state law mandates an intrusive questionnaire to a young girl at the doctor's office without her parent's knowledge. We also wanted to know what the relevance of some of the questions was to a check-up, and whether DSS was behind this form in any way.

The pediatrician, Dr. Miriam Dunau, did not return repeated calls



Miriam Dunau, M.D., did not return calls asking for comment.

from MassNews seeking comment. MassNews even visited her office, but she would not come out to discuss the matter. The receptionist gave the reporter the name and contact number for Neal Stephany, the supervisor located at another office. Pediatric Health Care Associates has 6 offices in the area. Stephany would not return calls either. The head of nursing, Ann Costa, also did not return calls.

MassNews called the Mass. Board of Registration in Medicine, which regulates doctors, to find out if there is a requirement to interrogate children with an intrusive questionnaire.

Spokesperson Claudette Houle told MassNews the Board of Registration does not have any regulation associated with teen questionnaires.

According to Neeley, Dr. Dunau later called her and said it was inappropriate to send a reporter to "harass" her and turn the incident into a big circus.

Neeley answered that it was inappropriate for the doctor to give an intrusive questionnaire to her daughter behind her back.

According to Neeley, the doctor then told her she must have misunderstood about the form or else Dunau didn't explain it right during their argument that day. The questionnaire, she said, was a clinic form and not required by state law. She said the law does permit them to ask about and dispense contraceptives, and if she objects to the questions on the form, she has the right to go elsewhere.

"She changed her story," said Neeley, who is considering filing a complaint with the Board of Registration in Medicine. "All of a sudden there is no state law." She said she not only objects to the questions, but at the very top of the form they go behind her back.

Neeley says, "Now my eyes are open." She hopes other parents will also be on the lookout for snooping by their doctors.



Offices of Pediatric Health Care Associates, Peabody.

Pediatric Health Care Associates Teen Questionnaire

Sometimes it is easier to tell your doctor your problems in this way. Complete the form. Hand this paper directly to your doctor at the beginning of your appointment. All conversations are strictly confidential which means that your answers do not have to be discussed with your parents unless you indicate otherwise.

Please Check One:

- I would not like this information shared with my parents.
 I am willing to have this information shared with my parents.

Circle "yes" or "no" and fill in the blanks if needed.

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|-----|------|-----|
| 1. Do you ever worry about your health (physical or mental health)? | yes | no | | | |
| 2. Do you get depressed or upset easily? | yes | no | | | |
| 3. Have you ever thought about hurting yourself? | yes | no | | | |
| 4. Do you think something is wrong with your skin? | yes | no | | | |
| 5. Do you think something is wrong with your weight? | yes | no | | | |
| 6. Are you having any problems at school? | yes | no | | | |
| 7. Have you ever been hit, injured, or threatened by anyone? | yes | no | | | |
| 8. Have you been in any fights (pushing, hitting) in the last year? (how many) | 0 | 1 | 2-4 | 5-10 | 10+ |
| 9. Is there any conflict or fighting in your home? | yes | no | | | |
| 10. Have you been hit or injured by anyone at home in the last year? (how many times) | 0 | 1 | 2-4 | 5-10 | 10+ |
| 11. Have there been any important changes in your family? | yes | no | | | |
| 12. Have you ever used alcohol without your parents being aware of it? | yes | no | | | |
| 13. Do you smoke cigarettes? How many per day: _____ | yes | no | | | |
| 14. Do you have any questions about drinking, drugs, or smoking? | yes | no | | | |
| 15. Do any of your friends use drugs? | yes | no | | | |
| 16. Have you ever used marijuana, cocaine, acid, P.C.P., steroids, inhalants, heroin, ecstasy, or similar substances? (please circle) yes no Do you use any now? yes no How Often? _____ | | | | | |
| 17. Do you, or does anyone you know, drive after drinking or using drugs or have you ever ridden with a driver who has used drugs or alcohol? | yes | no | | | |
| 18. Have you ever had sex? | yes | no | | | |
| 19. Have you ever experienced any unwanted sexual contact? (For example, touch, fondling, or sexual intercourse that was against your will?) | yes | no | | | |
| 20. Do you have any questions about your sexual development, pregnancy, birth control, sexually transmitted disease, or AIDS? | yes | no | | | |
| 21. Is there a gun in your home? | yes | no | | | |
| 22. Do you, or does anyone you know, ever carry a weapon? | yes | no | | | |
| 23. Do you wear a seatbelt? | yes | no | | | |
| 24. Do you ride a ...? (please circle) Mini-bike/moped Motorcycle Snowmobile ATV Scooter | | | | | |
| 25. Do you wear a helmet during outdoor activities? | yes | no | | | |
| 26. Do you have a job? | yes | no | | | |
| 27. Do you have any other questions you would like to discuss with the doctor? | yes | no | | | |

If yes, please list _____

Horowitz Says Amherst Is an 'Il-Liberal College'

By Izzy Lyman

David Horowitz, the author of *Radical Son* and *Hating Whitey*, told a crowd of Amherst College students last month that the alma mater of Calvin Coolidge is an "il-liberal college," one that promotes only left-wing ideologies.

"Half the country is conservative, and you can't get a good education if they only tell you one side of the story," said Horowitz. "[You should] test yourself against other points of view."

He noted that out of 160 professors at Amherst, only one is a conservative. That lone figure is Dr. Hadley Arkes, a political science professor who has taught at the college since 1966. Arkes, whose articles often appear in *National Review* and who attended Horowitz's lecture, has testified

before the U.S. Congress on behalf of the "Born-Alive Infants Protection Act."

"How the Left Undermined America's Security" was the topic of Horowitz's talk, which was delivered at Amherst College's Johnson Chapel. He was in no hurry to discuss national security concerns, since he began his presentation decrying the lack of diverse viewpoints among the Amherst College faculty.

The former leftist, clad in a suit and leather sandals, told the attentive audience that a recruitment program to include more conservatives on the Amherst faculty should be created to correct the imbalance.

When Horowitz got to the gist of his talk, he said that the first time the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993 by

al-Qaeda terrorists, the response from the Clinton administration to that tragedy was indifferent. President Bill Clinton never even toured the bomb crater. "He [Clinton] is the most wretched human being who has occupied the White House," said Horowitz, a statement that drew loud applause.

The lecture was sponsored by Young America's Foundation and the Amherst College Republicans. Ted Hertzberg, an Amherst College sophomore and an outspoken conservative activist, served as the master of ceremonies. Before introducing Horowitz, Hertzberg ridiculed the politically-correct atmosphere of his school by noting that Amherst is "a little school in a little town."

Media Watch

Globe Wants Molestation of Boys to Continue

Persists in Laughing at Those Who Are Concerned

Despite what they have written about the molestation of boys by Catholic priests, the Boston Globe continues to show derision against those who are concerned.

In an article last month about a new book, the Globe wrote that the author of the book is "at the eye of a storm," inasmuch as she "argues that America is overly alarmed at children's sexual experiences."

The Globe started its story by quoting every "right-wing kook" - in its opinion - in the following lead paragraph:

"By the time Judith Levine's book arrived in stores last week, the reviews were already written: An 'evil tome,' said Robert Knight of Concerned Women for America. 'Trash,' wrote Minnesota state Representative Tim Pawlenty, who is demanding that the book's publisher, an employee of the University of Minnesota Press, be punished. Gary Bauer, president of American Values, called it 'debased.'"

The next paragraph of the Globe story reported that the book's "thesis" is that "children and teenagers can safely enjoy sex."

That's what the Globe - not a "right wing kook" - said is the message of the book - "children and teenagers can safely enjoy sex."

Surprised Some

The Globe story surprised some but not those who have been paying attention. It has been obvious from the beginning that this newspaper is not interested in protecting boys from molestation. It is interested only in attacking the Catholic church.

The Globe is not alone in pro-



The Globe gave a lot of attention in their "news" pages to a book which argues, according to the Globe, that "teenagers and children can safely enjoy sex." The Globe still believes that man/boy sex is not "molestation," despite its stories about the Catholic priests.

moting adult/child sex. Ever since the "North American Man/Boy Love Association" (NAMBLA) was pushed underground after the parents of Jeffrey Curley sued it for the murder in Newton of their 10-year-old son, the push for sex with children has moved to the academic world.

The American Psychological Association got into serious trouble three years ago when it published a study which indicated that pedophilia can have a positive influence on a child. They backed off when Congress condemned them by a vote of 355-0, but they haven't changed their beliefs. There are professors in many colleges who believe such sex is beneficial for children.

But the Globe says, not to worry. The manuscript for the book was "reviewed by a panel of five specialists before publica-

tion." Does that make a reader feel better or worse to discover that there are five unidentified persons in academia who believe this book is just fine?

Globe's Obvious Distortion

According to the Globe, the author of the book admires "the Dutch age-of-consent law, which allows teenagers between the ages of 12 and 16 to have sex as long as they and their parents do not feel it coercive." But that is not an accurate statement of Dutch law. Sex is permissible in Holland down to 12-years-of-age if the young person consents. The parent has no rights at all to interfere or stop the sex unless they find that it was coercive. It is strictly up to the child to decide.

The lowering of the age of consent has been a major political

goal among pedophiles, especially NAMBLA.

Globe Reporter Ellen Barry told about the brouhaha with the American Psychological Association three years ago. She said the study the APA reported was "dryly titled, 'A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples.'" Which means, one must suppose, that if you couch child abuse in "intellectual" language, this makes it all okay.

She quoted a spokesperson for the APA, "We were under heavy attack for six months. It will have a chilling effect on this kind of research." To which, most people would shout their approval, but not the Globe. It still believes that sex at an early age is good for children.

The Globe reported that author

Judith Levine was asked "whether she could conceive of a positive relationship between a priest and a youth. Although [Levine] said she does not condone relationships between children and authority figures, she said it was conceivable."

So there you are, Father Geoghan, you were only ahead of your time. With the help of the Boston Globe, we will get rid of this silly hang-up we have about adults "molesting" children. After all, what you did was harmful only because you were an "authority" figure.

The headline for the Globe article was *Storm greets book on sexual experience of children*. It appeared on Sunday, April 14, as the main story on page A6. The name of the book is *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children from Sex*.

Media Watch

Wheelock College Wants Kindergartners Taught that Homosexuality Is Positive

Future Teachers Told How to Handle Parents

Because her daughter is a lesbian, a professor at the U. of Southern Maine, Rita Kissen, told students at Wheelock College, Boston, recently that she wonders if her two-year-old grandson will feel comfortable in school.

According to the Globe, "She is determined to make sure the answer will be yes - by targeting teachers before they get to the classroom."

If conservatives were to say that there is a homosexual "agenda," they would be laughed at, but it couldn't be any plainer, many observers point out. This professor clearly says she is in Boston for the purpose of "targeting" teachers.

Conservatives agree that her

grandson should have a wonderful childhood. No one wants him mistreated. But they do wonder why people, such as her daughter, would put a child into an atmosphere where he is obviously going to feel different, no matter what we do. And to expect this child to fight everyone to protect her daughter's choice is a tremendous burden to place on any child.

Conservatives agree that almost everyone in Massachusetts believes that adult homosexuals should not be mistreated and should have the same protection of the law as everyone else. But they also believe that homosexuality is a foolish lifestyle that involves a high level of disease. After all, why do we have so many benefit parties for AIDS if it is not a deleterious lifestyle?

They also point out that this lifestyle has markedly higher numbers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Therefore, why are we promoting this to our children?

Positive Story

The Globe was very sympathetic to Prof. Kissen and had a lot of quotes from conservatives only for the purpose of telling the readers why those conservatives are wrong.

Kissen told the future teachers not to be concerned about "explosive topics," such as what parents think. The Globe story reported that Kissen was asked, "What if a primary teacher is discussing gay families and a parent comes and says you are teaching something immoral?" Prof. Kissen had the answer at her fingertips. Form alliances with administrators, other teachers, and supportive parents ahead of time.

In other words, the teachers are in charge of training these children, not the parents.

At Lesley's School of Education in Cambridge, the Assistant Dean said that they also try to get future teachers "to be more aware of their own biases and how they respond to those biases."

The Globe story ended with a positive story from a gay teacher in Acton, who is President of the local chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) which sponsors Fistgate every year.

The Globe wrote at the end of its story a closing summation, "He [Marc Lewis] could have used such training when he began teaching three years ago. Lewis said, 'The first time I heard a student use antigay language, it paralyzed me. I didn't know how to most effectively respond in a way that was not punitive, to teach 12-year-olds why that language was hurtful. If I didn't have the ability

to respond, what does that say for the vast majority of educators,' Lewis asked."

But, of course, that is not what Lewis or Prof. Kissen or the Globe are about. They are not about protecting children. They are about teaching an entire generation that homosexuality is an approved lifestyle for children and adults, and there are no negative aspects to it at all.

They are keeping alive the discredited theory of a "gay gene" even though there is no one who believes that anymore. Even the Boston Globe discarded that theory in a large story on Feb. 7, 1999.

The Boston Globe story ran on Sunday, March 31, as the headline story on the Education section on page B6. It was written by Sandy Coleman. The headline was, *Discussing sexual diversity a challenge to teachers*.

Schools Indifferent to Molesters of Boys

Even after learning about the serious injuries to boys by Catholic priests, the schools in Massachusetts are still not protecting the boys in their care.

Two recent examples are Lexington and Amherst. LEXINGTON. A custodian was accused last summer of soliciting a teenager who was assisting him. Then several small boys accused the man in September of exposing himself. But the schools did

nothing until many parents complained. The school officials considered the custodian's "rights" to be paramount. The custodian finally resigned on April 1, after it became apparent to him that the schools were becoming serious.

AMHERST. The principal of the high school was dismissed after irate parents discovered he had asked a male student to expose his nipple and then invited him to his house. The Amherst police found out in a

few days that the principal had, in fact, confessed to being attracted to 14- to 16-year-old boys in his former town in California and he had had sex with several boys. Again the schools did nothing until the parents discovered this. The high school has now started a "literature" course which will proselytize the homosexual lifestyle. The officials appear to have the same feelings toward the principal that Cardinal Law had toward Father Geoghan.

Public Statement from Lexington School Committee Officials Show No Concern for Boys

In September 2001, the Lexington Schools received charges that an employee of the school district had made inappropriate comments to two students. The district viewed the charges as serious and warranting an investigation.

The Superintendent has kept the School Committee advised of the status of this matter at all times, and the School Committee unanimously supports the actions and judgment of the Superintendent. The employee who is the subject of the charges has been placed on administrative leave.

Pursuant to the district's sexual harassment policy, the initial charges were referred to a team consisting of the building principal and the district's human resources director for investigation and a recommendation for appropriate action. The team interviewed witnesses and reviewed district records, and based on that investigation, made a finding and recommended a disposition to the

Superintendent. The Superintendent accepted those findings and recommendations.

Consistent with the findings and recommendation of the investigative team, the employee was permitted to return to work, and was notified by letter that should substantiated evidence of similar conduct come to the attention of the district, such conduct would be grounds for appropriate discipline, up to and including discharge.

Some of the parents of the children involved filed criminal charges with the Lexington Police Department. Both some of the parents and Lexington Public Schools, as a mandated reporter, filed reports of the charges with DSS (Department of Social Services). Both the Lexington Police Department and DSS have conducted independent investigations into these charges. At all times, Lexington Public Schools and its employees have cooperat-

ed with these investigations; the school district has no control over the timing or conduct of these investigations, or of any independent agency's findings, conclusions, or actions.

Subsequently, additional charges, of a similar nature to the September charges, were made concerning the school employee. After the additional charges were made, the employee was immediately placed, and remains, on administrative leave. The school department, and specifically the Superintendent, was fully prepared to conduct an investigation into these additional charges, and their bearing on the original charges, and to take appropriate action. However, the independent agencies requested that the school district hold its investigation in abeyance so that the investigations of the independent authorities would not be compromised. The Superintendent accordingly

deferred the district's internal investigation.

On March 1, 2002, the Middlesex District Attorney's office released the school department to resume its own investigation into these charges. The Superintendent has directed that the investigation resume, and the school department is working closely with its own legal counsel and the Middlesex District Attorney on these charges. The district will take appropriate action, based on the results of its continuing investigation.

The District Attorney for Middlesex County has advised the district that her investigation into these charges remains open. All personnel of Lexington Public Schools will cooperate fully in any investigation of these matters. At the same time, the Superintendent has directed that the district's internal investigation into these charges recommence.

The School Committee and the Superintendent place student safety as their single highest priority. The School Committee and the Superintendent recognize the serious nature of the charges that have been filed and our responsibility to protect children in our public schools. Concurrently, Lexington Public Schools has a moral and legal obligation to act solely on the basis of substantiated facts, and not accusations or innuendo. Until the various investigations into these matters are concluded, all parties involved in these charges are entitled to privacy.

With the support of the School Committee, the administration will vigorously protect the safety of the district's children. At the same time, it will conduct its investigation of these charges with sensitivity and a sense of fairness.

- For the Lexington School Comm.,
Scott Burson, Chair
March 8, 2002

Lexington Parents Reply with the Truth

We write in response to the School Committee's public statement of March 8, which was issued in reaction to the Boston Globe's article printed earlier that day.

In the statement, [School Committee Chair] Scott Burson asserts that the School Administration and the School Committee are dedicated to "vigorously protect(ing) the safety of the district's school children," and that they "place student safety as their single highest priority."

As parents who filed a grievance against the employee in question on September 7 and then had to somehow explain to their eleven year-old son why the person who spoke to him in sexually graphic language was returning to work without so much as a reprimand or a written notice to our family, we wish we could say that our painful personal experience at the hands of the School Administration proved that safety was indeed their "single highest priority." Sadly, our family learned first-hand that, in the Lexington Public Schools, an employee's job security apparently holds greater value than the safety of school children.

The School Committee's statement contains several other specific items which we feel we must address publicly:

1. Burson states that "some of the parents involved filed criminal charges with the Lexington Police Department." At no time have we or any of the other parents involved filed criminal charges with the Lexington Police Department. On October 16, acting alone, we brought the matter to the attention of the Middlesex

County District Attorney's office and the Lexington Police. We did so after a meeting with the Superintendent the day before in which we asked why the employee in question had been allowed to return to work without any disci-

plinary action. The response was that the employee had "suffered enough" (on ten days' paid leave), making it clear to us that the Lexington School Administration had no intention of acting meaningfully on this matter. We therefore felt we had no choice but to turn to the District Attorney and Police Department and ask their help in protecting our child and all Lexington Public School students.

2. Burson refers to "inappropriate comments" which were investigated in September "pursuant to the district's sexual harassment policy." The district's policy defines sexual harassment as including "verbal conduct of a sexual nature (which) creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment." The sexually graphic and dis-

turbing remarks directed at our son and his friend certainly constitute sexual harassment as defined by the Lexington Public Schools. Furthermore, the employee in question has directed astonishingly similar language at many of the fourteen children who have come forward since September! It is therefore indeed a dangerous distortion to dismiss these graphic remarks as being merely "inappropriate," as now both the Superintendent and Scott Burson have done.

3. Burson states that "the Superintendent has kept the School Committee advised of the status of this matter at all times." On September 26, I called [School Committee member] Tony Close to ask for his help one week after the employee had been allowed to

return to Fiske School. He asked if he could meet with us personally in our home. Two days later, Tony Close sat in my living room and asked me to tell him what exactly had happened to our son, and how our grievance had been handled by the School Department. It was clearly the first he had heard of this matter. I'm therefore confused by Scott Burson's statement, and I honestly don't know which is worse: a School Committee who was informed "at all times" and yet remained silent for six months, or a Superintendent who kept her

School Committee members in the dark about a public school employee who was directing sexually graphic remarks to young children.

Tony Close, by the way, said that the employee "should never work in any building in the Lexington Public Schools" and that he would call me in "a few days." He never called. Despite numerous letters, phone calls, and emails, not one member of the School Committee has ever called me or any of the aggrieved families to express their concern or offer assistance during this terribly difficult time.

Over the past six months, the parents involved have asked that, while the investigation might proceed in a fair and forthright manner, we parents not be treated as opponents, but rather as ordinary people, concerned for the safety of our own children and of all Lexington school children.

The response we have received is silence from the School Committee, and a letter from our Superintendent threatening that "without your commitment to make (your child) available as a witness in the event of an arbitration hearing, I have no alternative but to return (the employee) to active duty." Is our Superintendent acting in a spirit of "sensitivity and fairness," as Scott Burson asserts?

After six months of silence, we have to ask ourselves: would the citizens of Lexington have ever heard from our school leaders if the Boston Globe hadn't printed its article on Friday?

- Ann and George Kane



Although 250 parents crowded a special meeting in Lexington in October 2000 to learn what was being taught about homosexuality in their public schools, many left frustrated when their questions were not answered. Later, many wondered if this meeting was the cause of the firing of Superintendent Patricia Ruane, who was asked to leave in April 2001.

Amherst High School Begins Course on Gay Literature

Homosexual Principal Was Just Dismissed for Molesting Student

Amherst High School will be offering a course on gay and lesbian literature this trimester, according to an article by Pancho Gutstein in the Amherst Bulletin.

It will explore the "sexual identity" of homosexuals.

Apparently the school is unfazed by its most recent scandal, in which it was revealed in January that its principal was a homosexual who molested a student and has a past record of molesting children in California. His young, adopted son was removed from his home by DSS after the scandal broke.

Many reported that the school is in "chaos" as a result.

The Bulletin says that the new course does not need approval from the school committee, a process that can often take more than a year, because it is neither a requirement nor an elective. It is categorized as an "alternative learning project."

The newspaper reports that the course is the brainchild of Sara Just, who is gay. She has taught in the English department for the past four years and recently earned a master's degree from Goddard College.

It says that her graduate thesis focused on the development and implementation of a "socially just gay, lesbian and bisexual literature" course of study at the high school level. She is now putting her ideas into practice by piloting the course this

trimester.

"I wanted to focus on something that was really personal to me," Just told the Bulletin. "I also wanted to do something for the kids at our school. Many schools, including ours, now have policies protecting the rights of gay and lesbian kids. For me the next logical step is to make it clear that gay and lesbian people will be respected, celebrated and recognized in our curriculum."

Students Were Recruited

She recruited students for the course in a variety of ways. Throughout her thesis project she kept members of a school club, called "Students United By Diverse Sexualities," updated on her progress.

Georgia Fowler, a 17-year-old senior enrolled in the pilot, is excited about the course, according to the Bulletin. "It's really good for people in our school to know that there is a gay and lesbian literature course because it helps promote awareness and acceptance," said Fowler. She is creating a monologue about a woman recollecting her first lesbian experience as part of the course.

"I know a lot of seniors who were upset that they couldn't take this course and I know a lot of students in other grades who are excited to take the course the next time it is offered," Fowler said.

The Bulletin reported that if it is eventually approved by the school committee, Fowler expects the course will become as popular as two other courses she has taken with Just, African-American Literature and Women in Literature. Just said that last

year's enrollment in both those courses was among the highest in the English department.

When Just announced plans for a class last year, she received immediate interest from five students in SUDS. Just also spoke about the future course in her other classes and quickly gained five more students, who she says have all chosen to take the course in addition to their "regular" English classes.

The course was approved earlier this year by Jane Baer-Leighton, the head of the English department, and William Wehrli, administrator for the 11th and 12th grades. "I think it is an incredible project and I am excited about how well the pilot is going," said Baer-Leighton. She added that students are "whipping through the curriculum, just gobbling up the material and eager for more." The course is part of an effort to open up the department's curriculum to more voices than those traditionally given space, Baer-Leighton told the Bulletin.

In addition to the chair's support, the English department voted unanimously to award students English credit for the course. Typically, such alternative courses count as credit toward graduation but not toward the fulfillment of individual discipline requirements.

The course has 10 students: three boys and seven girls. The group, which includes sophomores, juniors and seniors, meets with Just the first class of the day, five times a week. Because it is an alternative course, Just does not get paid to teach it. Instead, she volunteers her time to lead the course.

Some of the department's funds did go to purchase books for the course. Just plans to

propose the course for inclusion in the English curriculum as an elective next November.

'Sexual Identity' of Gays

The course traces gay, lesbian and bisexual history and sexual identity from the 1900s to the 1990s. Students read works by such authors as Willa Cather, James Baldwin and Rita Mae Brown. Those works are supplemented by critical essays, short stories and writing exercises crafted to encourage students to explore and express their own perspectives.

Recently the students finished work on James Baldwin's 1956 novel "Giovanni's Room." Set in Paris after World War II, the novel follows the movement of its protagonist, David, a young white expatriate, as he grapples with the truth of his sexual identity.

For a final assignment, students were asked to analyze the formation of a gay identity on the part of one of the characters using one of several sexual identity development models they had studied with Just.

Students could also opt to craft a creative writing piece that explores the moments in the life of someone coming to terms with sexual identity. Siena Kaplan, 17, a senior enrolled in the class, hopes to see the course approved as an English elective. "I'd recommend it to anyone," Kaplan told the Bulletin.

"Gay people are always learning about straight people and their feelings and relationships in school's literature, so I don't see any difference why straight people don't learn about gay people and their thoughts and feelings. It should go both ways."

Radical Feminism Destroying the Movement

Christina Hoff Sommers Speaks at UMass

By Izzy Lyman

"Radical feminism is destroying the movement," said Christina Hoff Sommers, a former Clark University philosophy professor who spoke at the Campus Center of UMass/Amherst last month.

"We need a women's movement that is grounded in common sense and sound scholarship," she said.

A leading opponent of hard-line feminism, Sommers said that fewer and fewer females identify themselves as feminists, because they have come to consider the women's movement as the domain of "man-hating and male-bashing" militants.

Speaking on "The Death of the Feminist Movement," Sommers criticized the lack of intellectual diversity that exists in the movement, since women who espouse a "far left" ideology are the ones driving the debate, especially in the women's studies programs of many college campuses. Sommers lamented that these programs appeal to students "eager to believe the worst about men" who "only hear conservative views caricatured."

Conservative and libertarian viewpoints are indeed nonexistent

among the core courses offered in the UMass women's studies department. During the 2002 spring semester, for example, the undergraduate course schedule includes such esoteric choices as "Agency, Resistance and Gender Violence in the Caribbean Development," "The Social Construction of Whiteness and Women" and "Gender Politics of the Muslim World in Mass Media."

Sommers, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., is the author of *Who Stole Feminism?* and *The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism is Harming Our Young Men*. A former liberal, Sommers has been an outspoken critic of left-wing advocacy organizations, like the Ms. Foundation and the American Association of University Women, for promoting sloppy research that blames male power and masculinity for society's ills.

Citing one such example, she explained that radical feminists claim that thirty percent of women who seek care in emergency rooms do so because they have been involved in a domestic violence altercation. Sommers said that statistics culled from the Department of Justice tell another story. Less than one percent of women visit emergency rooms because a boyfriend or husband has beaten them.

"How are women helped by

these bogus statistics?" she asked.

Sommers' quest to impose balance into a heated debate, the thesis of which seems to be "women are from Venus, and men are from hell," has earned her harsh rebukes from the feminist establishment. Gloria Steinem has derided her as "the Clarence Thomas of the feminist movement." And Patricia Ireland dubs dissidents like Sommers "the women who walked through the doors of opportunity that feminists kicked open." Sommers, however, remains upbeat.

Injecting a note of humor into her talk, which was hosted by the Republican Club, Sommers noted that schools, like the University of Massachusetts, provide a habitat for endangered species like Marxist economists and gender feminists. (Like the woman who insisted on being identified as the Lexington High School princess, instead of principal.)

"Some ideas are so ridiculous," said Sommers, quoting George Orwell, "only an intellectual could believe them."

Christopher Carozzi, a UMass student and the publisher of *The Minuteman*, deemed Sommers' presentation a success. "Women and men alike got to hear about the troubling problems in women's studies departments. Hopefully, (they) walked away with some solutions to the problems," he said. ☺

Herald Was Wrong that Blacks and Hispanics Are Narrowing Education Gap

Actual Numbers Are Depressing, Says Harvard Professor

A Boston Herald story last month that black and Hispanic students are "narrowing the achievement gap" in Massachusetts is "unfounded," says Stephan Thernstrom, Winthrop Professor of History at Harvard.

The paper had reported that the gap in math scores of white 8th-graders and those of their black and Hispanic classmates narrowed by 10 points between 1992 and 2000.

According to the article, the state ranked third in the nation in the progress it made on this front.

This is not true, says Prof. Thernstrom. "In fact, the raw numbers provided by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reveal that in these years, the gap between white and black students nationally narrowed by a trivial one point. In Massachusetts it actually widened by a point."

He reports that there was some progress by Hispanics in the state. "They did narrow the gap from 37 to 30 points, but that was a pretty small step in the direction of equal achievement."

Prof. Thernstrom says the actual numbers are depressing. "The depressing truth," he says, "is that, on the most recent NAEP 8th-grade exam, in 2000, 51% of the state's Hispanic pupils and 57% of its African Americans score at the dismal 'Below Basic' category. That is well behind Texas, North Carolina, Indiana, and Virginia, all of which spend a good deal less per pupil than the Commonwealth does."

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Pawlick Challenges ACLU at Panel Discussion

Why Did ACLU Violate Rights of Voters in Massachusetts?

By Ed Oliver

The publisher of Massachusetts News, Ed Pawlick, brought his conservative point of view to a panel discussion about free speech and censorship sponsored by the Walpole library last month.

As fate would have it, the conservative Pawlick was seated next to the liberal Susan Flannery, a board member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the ACLU. Others on the panel were Keith Fiels, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Tom Glynn, Editor of the Walpole Times.

ACLU

Before the program began, Pawlick queried why a political organization such as the ACLU was invited. Flannery denied that the ACLU is a political organization.

An audience member, Greg Sabine from Brockton, reacted to Flannery's denial by standing up to read a list of the ACLU's political positions. Sabine, a schoolteacher at Thayer Academy in Braintree, pointed out that the ACLU is in favor of:

- Forcing school children to undergo sex education.
- Giving children total access to porn on the Internet.
- Keeping partial birth abortions legal.
- Legalizing child pornography.
- Legalizing drugs.
- Legalizing prostitution.
- Providing abortion on demand.
- Suing Christians who express their faith in public.

The ACLU opposes:

- Laws requiring minors to get parental consent for abortion.
- Reporting infectious diseases like HIV.
- Education vouchers and home schooling.
- Teaching the benefits of sexual abstinence in public schools.
- Establishment of government ethics committees.



Publisher Ed Pawlick pointed out to Susan Flannery how the ACLU is primarily a political organization, which uses its interest in "civil rights" as a cover for its political agenda.

- Installing filtering software in libraries to protect children from Internet pornography.
- Legalizing voluntary school prayer.
- Allowing religious displays on public property.

Flannery glared at the man, but did not respond.

The panel discussed several topics. Below are some areas where Pawlick contributed commentary.

Book Banning In Schools

During the program, moderator Michael Iwanowicz raised the topic of book banning. He mentioned a recent story coming out of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where a book with a homosexual theme titled *The Drowning of Stephan Jones* was taken off the shelves of the public schools after a parent complained.

"Who makes that sort of decision, that a particular book that's been in use in a particular school system, ought not to be there?"

Keith Fiels answered that where public libraries are concerned, Massachusetts law says it is the local public library board of trustees who decides. With schools, it is less clear. He said a parent has a "certain amount of control" over what their child reads in class. Regarding school libraries, when books are challenged, they generally are not removed.

Susan Flannery said there was a Supreme Court case in the late 70's or early 80's from New York where the court said that material should not be taken out of the school library just because someone did not approve of the content.

Regarding the situation where students are required to read a certain book for a particular class, Flannery said there was a Massachusetts case during the same time period in Buckland, Mass., where a high school senior English class was reading *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. A parent challenged the use of the book. Ultimately, she said, the teacher's choice was supported and the book remained in the curriculum.

Flannery defended Massachusetts teachers, saying they generally have made good reading choices for their pupils. Parents who complain, she said, have been offered alternative books for their children to read.

'Outragous' Example

Ed Pawlick said in all his experience in legal publishing from 1972 until he sold his company about five years ago, there was one case that was "so egregious, so outrageous, it destroyed all the values of our democracy." The case was in Massachusetts in 1978 called "Right to Read Committee of Chelsea, et al v. School Committee of the City of Chelsea."

Pawlick said that in the Chelsea case, parents complained about a book that was in the school library. One poem, authored

by a fifteen-year-old girl, was an obscenity-laced piece titled "Male and Female under 18." The school committee took the book out of the library.

According to Pawlick, some people, primarily employees of the school district, brought a suit. Judge Tauro, who is now chief justice of the U.S. District Court, held that, the school committee had a right to decide if they were going to have a library at all. They also had a right to decide which books should be in the library. But if somebody snuck a book in there without their seeing it, they couldn't remove the book.

"Now this is obviously absurd," said Pawlick. "School libraries remove books every year. Who is to say whether they are removing a book for this purpose or that purpose or what purpose? Does that mean every time we have a decision in a school library, a federal judge is going to go in and decide what books are going to be removed that year?"

Pawlick said that is the only case he has kept with him and has had in his possession for the last 25 years.

"To me that is the erosion of democracy in America when a federal court takes over that type of thing and tells the people what type of books they have to have in their library.

"If some school wants to have that in its library, that's fine. But if some other school wants to take it out of its library, who are we to sit and say that Walpole or Medfield should keep that book in its library. It's absolutely, totally absurd." He said the case wasn't appealed, so it is still the law and people still cite it.

Everyone Censors

Pawlick said everyone censors, so the question revolves around where to draw the line.

"Everybody practices censorship," said Pawlick, who pointed out that all would agree we wouldn't buy books for libraries containing child pornography or books written by the Ku Klux Klan.

"These people have to make decisions all the time about what books they are going to buy. The books they are going to buy are going to be books people want to read and see, and I don't think books by the KKK will sell very well in Massachusetts. It would be a waste of resources."

Flannery disagreed, saying there are reasons people might want to read books by the KKK. She also said child pornography is illegal, but with the television cameras rolling, did not say whether she believes such material should be legal.

Pawlick told Flannery if she had her way, the library would have to cover several square miles. "They have to be selective, and in their selection there is going to be some form of what they think is important. That's inevitable."

Pawlick said it is a subjective decision. "It's not a question of whether or not we

cancel, it is of where do we place the line on censorship?"

Readers Affect Decision

Fiels offered that requests from the community influence selection policies to some degree.

Regarding how books are selected for review at his newspaper, Tom Glynn said there are two standards: books that are beneficial and books that are of interest to people. He said he uses the second standard because it is not a book reviewer's or editor's role to decide what books are good for people. They look instead at books people are interested in and talk about them.

Glynn said he writes most of the headlines, and sometimes "censors" a headline he doesn't like that was written by one of his editors.

The moderator asked Pawlick if he agreed that different ways of writing a headline could color a story, especially if a person only reads the headline.

Pawlick said MassNews points out all the time how the Boston Globe writes misleading headlines.

Conservatives Are Censored

Pawlick said there is one thing that really bothers him, which hadn't been mentioned yet. That is how conservatives are censored all the time in Massachusetts. "We have no voice at all," he said.

He cited Harvey Silverglate, a well-known liberal and criminal defense lawyer in Boston and a well-respected member of the ACLU, who wrote about censorship in our colleges. By utilizing politically correct speech codes on campus, students and faculty who threaten prevailing norms are forced to undergo Cambodian style thought reform. "In a surreptitious about face, universities have become the enemy to a free society and it is time to hold these institutions to account," wrote Silverglate.

"That's not a flaming right-wing kook," said Pawlick.

Stung by the accusation from one of her own that the left practices censorship, Flannery attempted damage control by shifting to a legal argument, saying the First Amendment prohibits the government from practicing censorship, not a newspaper, an individual or a teacher from using good judgment.

ACLU Violated Voters Rights in Mass. Last Fall

While on the subject of the ACLU and censorship, Pawlick said members of the ACLU, who are rabid promoters of the gay agenda, held nightly meetings in Boston to teach homosexual "blockers" how to harass and intimidate voters at malls who wanted to exercise their constitutional right to sign the Protection of Marriage petition.

Pawlick pointed out how even though Cheryl Jacques and Barney Frank are his representatives, and they do not necessarily represent his point of view, he would never go around and try to stop them from getting signatures for their nominations.

"I would never even think about it. And how the ACLU can go around and try to stop citizens of Massachusetts from getting signatures on their petitions, making them afraid of going to shopping malls so that they had to hire paid signature gatherers, is a disgrace."

To show Flannery, Pawlick pulled out a copy of the MassNews containing photos of the "blockers" interfering with signature gatherers.

"How you can say that the ACLU is not a political organization or is not against free speech? Just look at these pictures."

Flannery denied any knowledge of the tactics. "I'm not aware of it and I'm not prepared to debate you on that particular issue," she said.

Pawlick then pulled out a hard cover book titled *The Politics of the American Civil*

continued on page 28



Atty. Pawlick saved this case from the U.S. District Court in Boston for 24 years as the most outrageous violation of the freedom of the citizens that he has ever seen. It was about the librarians at the school library in Chelsea convincing Judge Tauro that they and he should run the school library, not the School Committee. The case was celebrated as a wonderful victory for librarians during a special session at the Walpole Library last month.

DSS Social Workers Must Be Accountable

DSS Covers Up Its Own Child Abuse

By Ed Oliver

The legislature was told last month by many people that DSS covers up its own child abuse and that social workers must be punished when they do so.

Nobody from DSS showed up at the hearing to testify before the the Criminal Justice Committee.

Nev Moore, Executive Director of the parents rights group, Justice for Families, told the committee there is "one segment of the population that has carte blanche to abuse children, and they are confident under a cloak of protection that is impenetrable. That is the Department of Social Services and their contracted foster parents and residential."

Moore said the bill, H4896, seeks accountability from DSS.

According to Moore, DSS "screens out" and ignores reports of child abuse that take place in the agency's own foster homes and roughly 300 contracted residential facilities. She said children who are taken from their parents and placed into DSS facilities are often subject to brutal restraint techniques as evidenced by bruises, rug burns, and hand-marks on their arms and necks.

"Obviously if the parents did this, they'd be in jail," said Moore. "My feeling is that DSS employees should refer abuse complaints about their own foster homes and institutions to the state police as an independent and external source of investigation."

Moore said she envisions the formation of a specialized task force that would investigate the abuse and death of children in DSS care.

Support from Visiting Nurses

She submitted as evidence a thick report compiled by her non-profit organization, as well as a letter in support of the bill written by an official from the Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod.

In the letter, Ann-Marie Peckham, Director of Operations-West, wrote:

"It has been my unfortunate experience to witness the "screening out" of some significant 51a's that staff and I have filed - full well knowing that the complaints were valid, and witnessed by multiple reliable and credible healthcare workers. Some of the complaints were also supported by concrete and irrefutable medical documentation - i.e. lab work.

"Why should a child in a DSS foster home have less constitutional rights than a child in his or her own family home??? The foster child, and especially one who has been placed under the guardianship of the foster parent, is denied the right of access to due process of a legal nature and an objective investigation overseen by our law enforcement agency."

Rep. David Linsky spoke up during the hearing to say that even if DSS ignores a 51A filed against one of the department's people, a person can go directly to law enforcement. But Rep. Linsky obviously was not listening to the testimony, because several people already told the committee that law enforcement simply refers the abuse charge back to DSS who ignore the complaint.

Moore testified that a state police official once looked for a regulation on the matter and could not find one. He told her that the practice of referring an abuse complaint against a DSS foster home or facility back to DSS must have just "evolved."

Parents Testify

One parent who testified, Heidi Palanza, said she called the police more than once to report DSS facilities that physically harmed her young daughter. Her daughter suffered a head injury and restraints and finger marks from a man's vice-like grip that bruised her daughter's arm. The abuse reports from those incidents were screened out by DSS and not acted upon by police.

Among those who testified was an upset Springfield father, who said that his daughter was gang raped in DSS custody, and they did



Nev Moore (center) testifying that abuse of children must not be ignored when it happens in foster homes and residential.

nothing. "I want to say to you, and you can listen to me or you can throw what I have to say out the door, because everybody else has. For every one of us that are here, there's at least ten thousand silent people out there in the community, and there is a revolution brewing!"

Rep. Tobin Annoyed at Parents

The committee chairman, Rep. Stephen Tobin, was visibly annoyed at the father's emotional testimony and lectured him. "Bear in mind that I understand that there are an awful lot of issues and baggage that you bring into this hearing room. You should understand that we don't want to sit here and be your psychologist. If you feel better venting, trust me, you are not helping your cause."

The Springfield man answered that he only wanted DSS to be held accountable.

Rep. Tobin was absent during most of the testimony in support of the bill and had even scheduled the DSS bill to be heard at the end of the day after all other bills were heard and the room was virtually empty.

Committeewoman Rep. Anne Paulsen spoke up to say she had already heard a lot of testimony about problems with DSS on another committee, and they should be very careful about giving criminal liability to a DSS employee who screens out a 51A report. She said she does not think the problems at DSS can be solved with legislation.

Paulsen said almost all social workers at DSS are "very well intentioned, work very, very hard. They also have a large number of cases they are dealing with." She said she is certainly willing to talk to the DSS Commissioner about problems she has heard about on the Health and Human Services Committee, but does not think legislation is the answer.

Tobin leaped on that statement and added that most of the problems seem to be with policy and procedure, and the only reason this bill is before the committee is because it is asking for criminal penalties. Tobin told Paulsen she could take the lead on this issue for the committee with her Human Services experience.

Tobin Interested in TV Lights

In contrast to his lack of interest in child abuse committed by DSS employees, Tobin displayed a deep concern and interest in Senator Marian Walsh's child abuse bill, S 2266. He put her on at the beginning of the hearing when all the television cameras and reporters were present because of the interest in the Catholic priest pedophile scandal. He even said they would go to executive session later to move on it because it was so urgent.

Walsh's bill seeks to criminalize any employer who remains silent if he knows or should know about an employee who sexually abuses, assaults, kidnaps or stalks a child. The law would also apply to supervisors of volunteers, such as a librarian or a manager at a non-profit, according to Walsh.

Although interest in the law is fueled by the priest scandal, DSS and its contractors

may end up having the law applied to them also, if certain provisions are not gutted from the bill.

Walsh's bill includes in the definition of employer, "...The Commonwealth, its political subdivisions, authorities, boards departments and commissions thereof, and shall include any person acting in the interest of an employer, directly or indirectly."

MassNews asked Sen. Walsh if her proposed law would indeed apply to DSS, which is sacrosanct.

"Every setting," answered Walsh.

A drawback to Walsh's bill, however, could be where it targets an employer who "should know" about the abusive activities of an employee. Already, feminists from Jane Doe Inc., eager to expand the war on domestic violence, were testifying approvingly about the proposed law and how organizations such as theirs can help employers "predict" employees' future violence.

It is the use by social workers of such "predictions" of possible future abuse, say family advocates, that has led to the wholesale destruction of children and families by state agencies. By employing a checklist of arbitrary and judgmental "risk factors,"

extremist, feminist social workers at DSS justify snatching children from their parents to allegedly prevent abuse. They use similar psychobabble, say critics, to brand all men as batterers, in order to separate them from their children in divorce and custody battles.

The state ignores, however, say DSS critics such as Nev Moore, the extreme trauma a child endures when he is snatched from his parents' arms at gunpoint and placed in a succession of abusive DSS approved foster homes or DSS facilities that drug and beat the child.

Mental Health Worker In Favor

Christopher Garrison, director of the "Massachusetts Commission on Human Rights," a group that works to clean up the field of mental health from human rights abuses, also testified in favor of Nev Moore's bill.

Garrison said he operates an abuse hotline and gets many complaints and affidavits from parents about DSS. "It seems like in many cases the treatment given by DSS is more abusive to the children being taken care of than any kind of treatment they would receive in their homes." Garrison submitted an affidavit from a Fitchburg parent who witnessed two young boys at a DSS contracted residential center slammed facedown to the floor, screaming, with adults on their backs twisting their arms.

The name of the facility was Hillcrest Educational Center, of Lenox, MA.

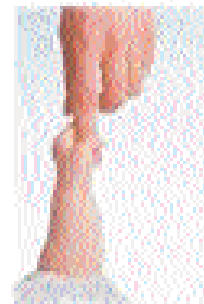
According to Garrison's report about one boy, "While on the ground, the parent witnessed the Hillcrest employee on top of this boy about 9-years-old yelling, 'So you don't like grilled cheese, so you don't like grilled cheese.' The boy was crying out that he couldn't breathe which is not dissimilar to the way hundreds of deaths through restraints to children have occurred throughout the U.S."

A DSS worker also witnessed the assault, according to the affidavit, but the incident was not reported to the police.

According to Garrison, per a Dept. of Education review, Hillcrest performed 7,700 incidents of restraints from September 1999 to October 2000 - an average of 592 per month. And that is only one DSS facility. ☹

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EDITORIAL

Will Atty. Gen. Tom Reilly Become the Cardinal Law of Mass. Schools?

When MassNews burst onto the scene three years ago, it was because we had just distributed a 28-page pamphlet to 15,000 schools and churches titled, **An Intelligent Discussion About Homosexuality, Will Massachusetts Listen?**

We were concerned about what was being taught in the schools about homosexuality.

The article received top billing on every Boston television news show on Thursday, January 21, 1999 even though we had sent nothing to the press. They were like lemmings as they all jumped on the story at the same time.

Chet Curtis said on Channel 5 that we had created a "firestorm of controversy across the state," and Channel 7 said it was their "Top Story."

Their immediate reaction was one of confusion. They wanted to believe they had found a terrible "hater" right here in Massachusetts who had just ridden in from Wyoming. That would be a *big* and exciting story. But they knew better because I was well known in the state as an excellent lawyer with no hate for anyone.

So they settled with the epithet that we were "anti-gay," which is actually libelous because it is an inaccurate statement that implies that we have a dislike of people who are homosexuals.

The Boston Globe's article the following morning was cautiously inflammatory with the headline, **Gays say Sherborn lawyer sent 'hate mail.'** But the Globe set the tone thereafter for all the media as they settled on calling us "anti-gay."

It's Tom Reilly's Problem Now

Whether we will protect our children is now in the lap of Atty. Gen. Tom Reilly.

The Boston Globe did a remarkable 180-degree turn this year as it revealed the terrible impact of sexual molesters on innocent children. But it has done so despite its core beliefs. It wishes to limit the discussion only to the Catholic church.

The serious problem with molesters was first brought to Reilly's attention two years ago when Fistgate erupted – only because Brian Camenker and Scott Whiteman taped the scandal. They tried to get Reilly's attention at the time but were unsuccessful. The Globe bottled-up the truth about Fistgate.

But MassNews and Jeanine Graf alerted the entire state to what happened to innocent children there. Even the teachers at that scandal said publicly afterward that we caused serious problems for their movement across the *entire* country.

But the Globe is not going to keep the genie in the bottle any longer after the unprecedented coverage they have given to the terrible molestation of boys. And after what is bubbling-up around the state.

► **Amherst** – Amherst High School was "outed" this January when it was reported that its principal was a homosexual who had just molested a student and had a past record of molesting children in California. The officials at that extreme liberal school were attempting a cover-up of their problem. The principal's young, adopted son was removed from the home in Amherst by the DSS after the scandal broke.

Despite all that, the high school does not appear to have learned. It is now offering a new course on gay and lesbian literature. Although it is billed as a "literature" course, it's clear that this will be just another indoctrination course with stories written by homosexuals about their wonderful life experiences and how they cope with the "homophobes" in their lives. The teacher is a lesbian who wants to "make it clear that gay and lesbian people will be respected, celebrated and recognized in our curriculum."

One 17-year-old girl told the local paper that she is creating a monologue for the course about a woman recollecting her first lesbian experience. Any parent will wonder, after what occurred at Fistgate, exactly what is included in a "first lesbian experience" at the English department of this high school.

► **Lexington** – Parents in Lexington are upset to discover there was a cover-up about a janitor at Fiske Elementary School. He was exposing himself to boys and watching them in the bathroom.

And this school also attempted a cover-up.

After the matter was first raised in September by two boys, the employee was placed on leave and then reinstated. The Superintendent, Joanne Benton, decided there was insufficient evidence of harassment, writing in a letter, "at worse, it rises to the level of inappropriate remarks ..."

But after at least nine more boys reported harassment, the Superintendent was still investigating six months later until state law enforcement stepped in. The janitor finally resigned last month after he realized the schools were becoming serious.

The last Superintendent was fired in April 2001 without any reason being given. Over 250 parents had crowded into a special school committee meeting a few months after Fistgate to discover what the schools were teaching about homosexuality.

The parents became further alarmed after their children brought home bulletins announcing that the Lexington Schools were co-sponsoring a pro-homosexual seminar called "Respecting Differences" which clearly violated the U.S. Constitution because it was sponsored by the Unitarian Church.

After that, Superintendent Pat Ruane announced at a School Committee meeting that the schools would "expand the notion of what diversity is all about" by training teachers to handle questions and issues about gay families.

One parent asked Ruane what a teacher would do if a child declared to his classmates that only a mother and father can be a family. What if he said his parents told him it was so? Would the child be told he is wrong, thereby undermining parental teaching? "That is not a thing we could

ignore," the parent was told. "The teacher would tell the child there are all types of families."

Ruane was abruptly fired a few months later in a move that stunned Lexington residents.

The School Committee said at the time in a press release: "The School Committee wishes to assure the entire school community that this action was not taken as a result of any illegal or unethical conduct on the part of Dr. Ruane." But they never did tell why she was fired. The present Superintendent, Joanne Benton, who was Director of Elementary Education, was immediately named Interim Superintendent.

► **Newton** – The citizens in Newton are finally getting the message that they should be worried about their schools, according to a front page story in the Globe in February.

It was reported that much of the concern is about not having enough money. But then the Globe wrote, "Other reasons for the unrest are the recent public debates between [Superintendent Jeffrey] Young and conservative parents ... a handful of parents have pulled their children out of Newton schools, disturbed at what they call premature – and open – discussions of sexuality."

If those parents are going to the great effort of removing their children from the schools, think how many other parents must also be concerned.

Two weeks earlier, the Globe had run an opinion piece from one parent, Sam Washburn, who moved his family with three children out of town to the Andover schools. Washburn wrote, "The attitude of the people in the Newton schools is arrogant and intolerant, and their social agenda is hurting the academic quality." His advice to Newton residents, parents, real estate agents and business owners. "Wake up and do something. The word is getting out."

And it is MassNews that has helped in "getting out" the word.

Everyone knows about the indoctrination of children at the Newton schools, largely because of the courage of one outraged parent, Brian Camenker, who became active in 1994.

Washburn thought that a more "moderate" approach than Camenker's to the problem might be in order. But he was immediately castigated by columnist Eileen McNamara the day before his first meeting was scheduled. As a result mostly homosexual activists showed. Washburn finally packed his family and left in disgust for Andover. Camenker is still in Newton, attempting to alert the city and the state to what is happening.

Does Tom Reilly have any curiosity about how deep the molestation vein runs in Amherst, Lexington, Newton and other schools of the Commonwealth? He better have or he will surely become the Cardinal Law of the Massachusetts schools.

Atty. General Reilly: Child Molesters Are Everywhere

The child molesters are not just in the Catholic Church as Atty. Gen. Reilly appears to believe.

The American Psychiatric Association says that child molesters "develop complicated techniques for gaining access to children. They may select a job, hobby or volunteer work that brings them into contact with children."

The psychiatrists do not say that molesters look only in the Catholic church for victims. They will go *anywhere* there are children to molest.

After seeing what happened in the church, how can any reasonable person doubt that they are also in the schools?

Not All Homosexuals Are Molesters

It is clear that most homosexuals do not molest children. They have integrity just like anyone else. But the evidence is clear that homosexuals *as a group* are more likely to molest children.

Who Is a Homosexual?

One of the main problems in our attempt to stop the physical and mental abuse of children, is that we have accepted some erroneous thinking.

Was Fr. Geoghan a homosexual? Are homosexuals more liable to be predators and molesters?

It is commonly accepted by everyone that *only* 30% of pedophiles are homosexuals. This means that 70% of the pedophiles are heterosexuals who are after females. But when you realize that homosexuals are only 3% of the population, this means that homosexuals are ten times more likely to molest. In addition, whereas a heterosexual will molest a small number of females, the homosexual will usually have multiple contacts with other males, many times running into the hundreds. Therefore, the number of boys who are molested by homosexuals is high because of those factors.

The other problem is that the activists will deny that a man who molests boys is a homosexual. However, all the sordid tales about priests show they are attracted to *boys*, not to girls. By definition, that makes them homosexuals.

In addition, don't forget the infamous North American Man/Boy Love Association which was composed *only* of homosexuals. It has been driven underground because of its responsibility in and the lawsuit against it as a result of the terrible murder of ten-year-old Jeffrey Curley in Newton in 1997.

But don't think that any of those molesters look like demons or monsters. They are loved like Father Geoghan and the former principal at Amherst High School. They are well educated and include many college professors. They sincerely believe they are helping young boys to mature and learn about love. When you hear many of our professional organizations discussing these matters today, you are unknowingly hearing from underground members of NAMBLA. ☹

Massachusetts News

Established in 1998

A newspaper for inquisitive liberals, moderates, conservatives and libertarians who

live or work in
Massachusetts

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Massachusetts News

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Established in 1998 www.massnews.com

Who We Are

Publisher: J. Edward Pawlick

The founder/publisher is J. Edward Pawlick, an attorney who started and owned Lawyers Weekly Publications until he sold that company in 1998. When he sold the company in 1998, it was publishing 8 newspapers across the country and reaching 30% of the lawyers in the country. It employed 40 lawyer-editors, 20 lay editors, 45 advertising salespeople and others. When the national edition was started, it was featured in full-length feature stories in the Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.

A successful lawyer in Pennsylvania Dutch Country at York, Pawlick was also an Assistant Professor at Penn State, an elected member of the autonomous, 10,000 pupil school district (and chairman of the committee in charge of teachers and curriculum), and solicitor for the Sheriff of York County.

Editor Emeritus: Paul Moreno

Paul Moreno is Assistant Professor of History at Hillsdale College. He helped launch Massachusetts News in 1998 as editor. Moreno is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the State University of New York at Albany and a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Maryland.

Layout Artist/Webmaster: Kelly Levan

Kelly Levan has a B.A. in English from Western New Mexico University. She was editor-in-chief of the university newspaper, The Mustang, which, under her direction, challenged the administrative powers at WNMU and received statewide attention when school officials attempted to repeal one of its issues.

Editorial Assistant: Jennifer Payer

Jennifer Payer is currently working toward her B.A. in Political Science at Boston College. She is the mother of one child and resides in Needham. She volunteers in her community with various youth organizations and has participated in several political campaigns.

Web & Graphic Assistant: Elizabeth Zavala

Elizabeth Zavala has a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with a minor in International Business from Bentley College. She is currently studying Graphic Design at New Horizons Computer Learning Center.

Correspondent: J. Curtis Lovelace

Curtis Lovelace comes from the six-weekly newspaper group of Nashoba Publications in Ayer, where he was Managing Editor. He has a Doctor of Ministry from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton and was a Presbyterian minister for fifteen years, most recently at Grace Presbyterian Church, Braintree, from 1983-1991. He is a native of Providence.

Correspondent: Edward G. Oliver

Edward Oliver is a freelance reporter who resides in Ashburnham. His articles have appeared in the Western Journalism Center's popular Internet news site, WorldNetDaily, and its print edition, *Dispatches*. His May, 1998, WorldNetDaily story on China and the Panama Canal was used by the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff, Admiral Thomas Moorer, in preparing his June, 1998, Senate testimony on the canal and in subsequent Senate debate with the U.S. Ambassador to Panama.

Correspondent: Amy Contrada

Amy Contrada is a wife and mother of two who received her B.A. in history from Tufts University summa cum laude. She is a violinist and violinmaker who studied as a violin performance major at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music for two years and received a diploma in violin making from the North Bennet Street School, Boston. She has an M.A.T. in social studies from Brown University. She was a history teacher at Newton South High School in 1978-79.

****FPO****

Please scan cartoon
for this position.



Reformer of the Month

We never hear about the courageous reformers in Massachusetts who stand against the entrenched establishment and demand change. That's because the establishment media do not want us to know about them. Whereas, our difficulty at Massachusetts News is the multitude of people from whom to pick. We could write a book.

Helping Young Mothers

By John Fahey

Pro-abortion activists say pro-lifers fail to pay attention to any of the people who are involved after a child is born.

They often state that those who defend life in the womb don't do anything for the mother or child during those critical years after the birth has taken place.

But the abortion advocates cannot say that about Marilyn Birnie. She has taken it upon herself to offer help and life training skills to those young women who have contemplated abortion. She is the founder of a Crisis Pregnancy Center and has located homes for homeless, pregnant young women for almost two decades.

In 1984, Birnie and her family were living in Hull, Massachusetts, when she contacted the Pregnancy Help Office of the Archdiocese of Boston to see if she could assist any young girl who was thinking of terminating her pregnancy.

The Archdiocese indicated that there was a girl who did need assistance and Birnie invited her to move in with her and her family. Eventually, in addition to her own two daughters, several more girls arrived. "We were providing a place where these girls could stay because there was no other place for them to go," she says. "And I realized that there were other young women who just needed a place to live and someone to listen to and care about them. A lot of these girls were frightened."

This precipitated the idea of a home where girls could stay while learning life skills as well as a G.E.D. program and an academic program that allows the girls to graduate from their own high schools. Also, they may stay up to one year after their baby is born.

Began in Hull

Birnie began in Hull, which had three homes from the mid 80's to 1999. In addition, she established a crisis pregnancy center and another Friends of the Unborn home in Quincy in 1990 that provided for ten girls. Their program teaches these young women the skills necessary to raise a child and also those important in helping to secure a job. "We have classes in parenting, nutrition, birthing, computer, chastity, budgeting as well as in Bible study."

She says that Bible study "is a class that is part of the program, and all residents attend." Because of this, she will not take government funds. "By not taking state or federal funding, we can be totally free and autonomous in choosing what we can teach. We are a Christian pro-life organization. Therefore, Bible study is as much a part of our lives as some of the other classes we have, such as violence prevention and Al-Anon."

Friends of the Unborn practice what they preach. As



No one can say that Marilyn Birnie (right) is not concerned about the babies and young mothers who continue their pregnancies.

Birnie says, "Every day the staff starts with a prayer so as to be guided by the Lord."

Her faith has sustained her and she believes her faith has allowed the Crisis Pregnancy Center to meet expenses, although sometimes barely. "Since we don't rely on government funding, we rely on God's Divine Providence through private donations both in money and in items. This keeps us going. It is often tight, but we get through the month. We can always use prayers for support."

Faith plays an important part of her everyday life. Her husband, Charles, is a missionary (as is Marilyn) and he established the Light of Christ Ministries which has been responsible for the establishment of a home for homeless, pregnant women in Africa, two hours north of Nairobi. It was she and Charles who went to the Bishop of Embu and asked for land to build a home for these women. The Bishop gave them four acres and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd got permission to staff the facility.

How does she keep this successful ministry going? And how does she let people know what's happening at the Crisis Pregnancy Center? "We have a newsletter and this is sent out bi-monthly. We also have some very good people serving on the board of our Crisis Pregnancy Center. For example, Fr. William McCarthy, who also started Father Bill's Place, a shelter on the South Shore. But it is faith that keeps us going. It kept me going these last 18 years and with the help of the Lord, will keep us going many more."

Anyone interested in finding out more about Friends of the Unborn may call 617-786-7903 or write to Friends of the Unborn, P.O. Box 692246, Quincy, MA 02246

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some of these letters are written about articles that are just appearing in this print edition but many have already seen them on our Internet site at www.massnews.com. About 10,000 persons read our site every day.

Potpourri

You're Unfair to Globe

I guess I should not be surprised when I see the top story on the MassNews website for Thursday, April 18, take a simple reporting of a controversial book and turn it into the Boston Globe's supposed support of pedophilia. I am in no way a supporter of the liberal Globe, but I fail to understand how reporting on a new book and garnering derisive opinions is somehow ridiculing the anti-pedophile populous. Because they quote Gary Bauer? The Globe may be guilty of much liberal leanings, but Pawlick is way off the mark on this one. Once again, MassNews' heavy handed agenda goes off the deep end.

- Mike Marra
Taunton

Editor's Comment: If someone wrote a book that the Jews benefited from the holocaust, would you be surprised if the Globe gave it a respectful story? How about if psychologists discover that women need a beating by a man every day? How about if someone advocates killing all Christians?

Obviously, we must accept new ideas; but in our busy lives, some are beyond the pale. In view of all that we have learned about the abuse of boys in the last few months, this book is definitely in that category. The Globe's attitude merely reinforces what we have been saying: that they are not against the molestation of boys. They are only against the Catholic church.

Marriage Laws Do Discriminate

I was surprised that your article, "Gay Marriage Could Strike Quickly," dated July 2001, and related links on the massnews.com website, lambasted the people, not just homosexuals, who are working to legalize homosexual relationships because you believe they do not provide adequately theorized arguments in support of their position. Nothing on your site provides any such arguments for your position.

As I learned at Yale Law School, reasonable people disagree. Resolution of differences of opinion is best reached with meaningful dialogue and a hard look at arguments on both sides.

I read your article carefully, honestly looking for good arguments. Legal change must involve deep and searching inquiry into all sides of the issue, and I hoped I would find more provocative and convincing arguments on your side of the fence. Maybe I'm missing something. It seems, honestly, that your position is based on deeply-held moral and perhaps religious beliefs, which are to be respected, of course. If it is, though, why not come right out and say it?

- Ike Kruschek
Boston

Editor's Comment: I was surprised to read what you learned at Yale Law School because only extreme liberalism has been taught there for many years. Conservative thought was not allowed even in the '50s when I attended. I was lucky. I ran out of money and had to return to night school at George Washington. You have read one of our articles from last July and you expect me to fill you in on all we've written since then? I would love to debate you but it has to be more substantive than what appears in your letter.

Globe Article Points Out Flaws in Domestic Violence Court

In a recent feature story profiling the Dorchester Domestic Violence Court, one of three courts of its kind in the nation, the Boston Globe reporter, Cara Feinberg, helped to expose some serious flaws in the Court's operation that should outrage the

taxpaying readership of newspapers throughout this Commonwealth.

According to Lois Kanter, clinical director of Northeastern's program, after three years of operation, "There are no official statistics or studies to assess the project's effects." Kanter seems to be saying that there are no measurable results to date.

Another flaw manifests itself in the definition of domestic violence or the lack thereof. It is naively alluded to in the story by Margaret Drew, the supervising attorney for student advocates. Drew said, "...the reason that she [the victim] is here is because someone else has been controlling her life..."

Allow me to apologize for my insensitivity, but when was "control" adopted into the definition of domestic violence? And, if "control" is a form of DV, shouldn't at least an equal amount of women stand before the Dorchester Court on a daily basis, handcuffed, shackled and wearing yesterday's clothing?

In the end, the best interests of the Commonwealth should be determined with respect to the viability of the Dorchester program. I would submit to your readership and our community that if this Court cannot show measurable results in a timely fashion, and if it simultaneously functions with prejudice in the performance of its duties, then it should be shut down without haste.

- Mike Franco

State Co-Chair, The Fatherhood Coalition
Editor's Note: We have reported several times that "feminist theory," which is forced upon fathers all across the state, holds that every man is a batterer because he is seeking "control." That is why Harry Stewart went to jail for six months even though he had never touched his wife. When ordered by a private company to sign a statement that he had battered his wife, he refused and the judge sent him to jail for six months. We explain that theory again in this issue in our four-part series about violence among lesbians.

Gun Owners Disgusted With A.G.

I am a gun owner in MA. I have a legal license to carry firearms. I am totally disgusted with the Attorney General of this state. He thinks he can write his own laws. What ever happened to the people having a say, or does the Attorney General not give a damn? What does he have against the legal gun owners of this state? Perhaps he has a lot of stock in the crime world and wants to make sure they keep the upper hand?

- Barry Blanchard
Attleboro

Gun Owners Persecuted

I read today in the story by Curt Lovelace, "Catholic League Calls Reilly The New Joe McCarthy," that Reilly is taking some heat from Catholics over his call for sweeping influence in the way the church recruits, trains, and monitors priests. Further, the Catholic League was quoted saying, "Reilly should be introduced to the First Amendment."

I wonder if they are aware of the persecution that Reilly has inflicted upon lawful gun owners in Massachusetts. I wonder if they understand that it has meant the loss of over a million licensed gun owners in Massachusetts.

If Reilly can ignore the Second Amendment, why can't he ignore the First Amendment? Oh, that's right, guns are not politically correct. The Second Amendment means nothing anymore and can be cast aside at will.

I wonder if religious citizens will soon become like pro-gun citizens; an endangered species?

- P. A. Koski
Woods Hole

Democrats are Undemocratic

Here are two examples of how undemocratic the Democratic Party is in Massachusetts.

Number one: stripping the voting rights of delegates based on who they supported

in previous elections. Even worse, they count only elections from specific years that are beneficial to the old-boy network. Is this Massachusetts or Mexico?

Number two: ignoring the will of the people by stripping all useful measures out of the State Clean Elections Bill and talking of stopping the state Income Tax Roll Back. What happened to Democrats who supported the will of the people? It is no wonder why so many Democrats supported Nader.

- Anthony J Errichetti
Woburn

Attleboro Cubs Deserve Praise

My wife, Janet, and I are Scout Leaders of two Cub Packs. Last fall, the mother of one of my wife's den brought a craft project for them. They created Angel Ornaments to be given to families of the 9/11 victims as part of the national Angel Project. The boys made small angel figures in the form of blue and gold Cub Scouts, then sent them off to the project organizers. This was coordinated by Mrs. Susan Howard, who helped direct the project and Mrs. Pasciutto, the Den co-leader.

Some weeks ago we learned that the angels have been selected to represent Massachusetts and will be displayed at the Pentagon for the next year. After that, they will then be sent on to the National Achieves. They represent the only group selected from our State and are the only selection representing Scouting nation wide. Since the angels were not signed, only we know that it was from Den 2, Pack 12.

You may think that this would merit some recognition, but calls to the assignment desks of the Globe, Herald, and all three network affiliate news were ignored. The Attleboro Sun-Chronicle came to photograph the boys but never ran the piece. We had thought that at least a local paper would want to recognize the boys' achievement.

The only person who has done anything is Rep. Betty Poirier. Her efforts alone prompted a Resolution in the House of Representatives to commend the Den and she attended our recent Blue & Gold Dinner. Our state Senator and Congressman both choose to ignore the contributions of Scouting to America. It is saddening to see that a political agenda by a minority is more important than giving credit to nine small boys. I am proud of my wife, her co-leaders, and these boys for what they did to show support for those who suffered such loss. They deserve commendation.

- Bernie Cross
North Attleboro

Campaign Finance Reform Bill Violates Rights of Young

As if young people do not have enough restrictions placed against them, the new bill, H.R. 2356, the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill, specifically prohibits minors from contributing to political parties or candidates.

In the case of Shays-Meehan, "It was just poor bill-writing," according to ballot access expert Richard Winger.

Shays-Meehan would have been better if it had limited under-age students to contributions of \$100, rather than making even \$1 illegal. Under the current proposal, Shays-Meehan makes it illegal for any person under-age-18 to give a political party even \$1. And if there are political party youth clubs, too bad.

This is an example of too much legislation, too little time. The politicians don't even know what they are voting for these days.

Just another reason I'll be voting Libertarian in November.

- Aaron Biterman
Endicott College Student Govt. Assoc.
Beverly

National Guard and Reserve Deserve Better Pension

The Reserve and National Guard wear the same uniforms, are held to the same standards and perform similar duties as Active Duty military personnel, many while balancing civilian careers at the same time.

However, unlike Active Duty retirees, who receive retirement pay immediately after retiring, Reserve and National Guard retirees have to wait until age 60 before they receive their first retirement check. Congress will be considering passage of H.R. 3831, legislation that aims to rectify this situation by reducing from age 60 to 55 the age at which a reserve component member may receive retirement pay. This legislation is the right thing to do for part-time citizen soldiers who are being relied upon more than ever to protect our country and its interests during peacetime and war.

As an Air Force Reservist who has been called to active duty, I can attest to the fact that Reserve and National Guard personnel are working as hard and are sacrificing as much as their active duty counterparts. Every day I meet citizen soldiers who, when ordered to active duty, have dutifully put their civilian careers, college schedules and other civilian endeavors on hold to support our nation's just cause of eradicating terrorism. Many of those called to active duty have also had to endure a loss of income. Many more have had to live far away from their families for extended periods of time. Whether in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Pakistan, or providing security for the Olympics in Utah, part-time citizen soldiers have been there when called upon.

- Shane Robitaille
South Hadley

Who Weeps for UMass?

This year, Massachusetts ranks dead last in funding for higher education. We were the only New England state to cut funding for the public universities. Because of this, students in the Commonwealth may no longer be able to afford a high quality education.

Fees went up \$500 in February. Next year they will increase at least another \$1200. For this, we receive fewer faculty and resources. Whole departments are being decimated; the Amherst math department is losing 100 of its 150 instructors. Because of this, calculus classes in the fall will have up to 500 students each, opposed to an average of 20 in previous years.

I am a student at the Amherst campus. I graduated from Apponequet Regional High School in 2000. I am enrolled at UMass because it is what I can afford. I do not accept federal loans, and am not eligible for federal grants. I currently split my tuition with my parent's 50/50, work part time during the school year and full time during the vacations, and keep only \$100 a month for myself. Everything else I earn goes to pay for my education. Now I will be paying that extra \$100 a month to the university, in exchange for fewer faculty members, and worse service.

The university administration makes poor decisions. Hiring a new assistant football coach at a full professor's salary during a budget crisis was a poor decision. Cutting child care and safety staffs before administrative salaries, that's a poor decision. But I should not be made to pay for their stupidity. The legislature should remove the buffoons and increase the funding, and finally take some responsibility for the University system.

- Jason Fossella
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Questioning Mitt's Flip-Flop

If Mitt Romney had clearly been an anti-abortionist from the beginning, then pro-lifers would have no doubt about who to elect. Flip-flopping has not just been in the Republican camp either. Comrade Ted Kennedy, Brian Joyce and Slick Willie are prime examples. I sure know one thing though, over 1 million dead, unborn babies in Massachusetts won't be voting for candidate Romney.

- Robert Mayo
Lowell

Abortion Related to Breast Cancer

As a family physician, I spend a great deal of time on women's health. I would like to inform you about an essentially

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

unreported risk for breast cancer; Induced Abortion. A close correlation has been demonstrated in a large number of scientific studies. Women are not informed about this risk. I believe legislation should be proposed that would require informed consent before a woman obtains an abortion.

Animal studies have revealed the biology of the abortion/breast cancer link. The breast in early pregnancy grows rapidly with undifferentiated cells. These cells are prone to cancer unless differentiation takes place in the third trimester. In fact, carrying a baby to term protects women from breast cancer. Stopping a first trimester pregnancy suddenly leaves these cells vulnerable.

My wife has developed breast cancer at age 31 and she has no family history. She had an abortion at age 20. She underwent mastectomy this week. Her other risk factors include early menarche, use of birth control pills and delaying first childbirth until age 28. Her goal is to inform women everywhere about these risk factors. Especially since the medical community does not recognize all of them.

Breast cancer rates are increasing. According to the American Cancer Society, in 1962 there were 63,000 cases of breast cancer. In 1992 there were 180,000. There may be many reasons for this increase, but I believe there must be some effect from the 1.5 million abortions that have occurred annually since 1973.

The bulk of the medical studies have shown anywhere from 1.3 to 4.0 times the risk of cancer in women who have had an abortion. Some studies have shown more severe risk when a woman obtains the abortion later in pregnancy, such as the 11-17 week range. Some studies show that the younger the woman, the more risk.

I believe that eventually, the link between breast cancer and abortion will be accepted. It may be a while. It took decades for the link between tobacco and cancer to be accepted. The first study linking tobacco and cancer was published in 1928; the Surgeon General's warning did not appear until 1966.

- Thomas Messe, M.D.
Groton, CT

Boston Drops Frivolous Gun Suit

Recently, the City of Boston dropped its civil suit against gun manufacturers.

The suit claimed that gun makers negligently ignored signs that some area gun stores repeatedly made illegal sales, placing firearms in the hands of violent criminals.

The suit was a frivolous attempt to legislate through litigation. It was a colossal waste of taxpayer money to the order of \$500 million dollars. It flies in the face of common sense to hold a manufacturer liable for damages as a result of criminal misuse of a firearm.

Federal and State law prohibits the sale or transfer of a firearm to certain prohibited persons. Making the gun industry responsible for the failure of law enforcement to uphold and prosecute these laws is ridiculous.

Both sides are claiming victory. The City claims manufacturers are making efforts to increase the safety of their firearms. Manufacturers maintain that they have always been dedicated to safety and prevention of criminal miss-use of firearms.

I wonder. What if the City had contacted the manufacturers and invited them to discuss the concerns of city officials? The city could have saved \$500 thousand dollars that could have been used for better purposes such as education and human services. Instead, they pursued a flawed, reckless, expensive and frivolous lawsuit against manufacturers of a non-defective product.

I applaud the City of Boston for dropping this lawsuit as well as condemn them for ever pursuing it in the first place.

- William Dutton
Pembroke

Catholics Revitalizing their Church

Catholic League Right On

Regarding the Joe McCarthy/Tom Reilly

comparison by the Catholic League, their comments are right on point.

Where was all this indignation when a Massachusetts Congressman, Gerry Studds, was consorting with a fifteen year old page, plying him with alcohol and making him have sex with him against the page's will? Are we to believe this was the only time Mr. Studds did this sort of thing with an underage person? He was fortunate the age of consent in Washington, DC is fourteen and not sixteen as it is here in Massachusetts. But the booze for the boy was illegal.

Studds also showed his contempt for the Congress by turning his back to the House at the time of his Censure.

One other thing, was not Mr. Studds a teacher at a private school prior to running for Congress? Why had he left the teaching profession?

The overwhelming majority of priests are ashamed and embarrassed by the actions of the homosexual and pedophile priests. There is a difference. The majority of priests who have been accused of improprieties have not been pedophiles. They have been flat out homosexual statutory rapists, plain and simple.

James Porter was unusual in that he was both. He forced himself on young girls (pre-pubescent) and teen boys. John Geoghan is pure pedophile. The rest are rapists.

Let's keep our eye on the ball. Maybe this thought should be directed to Tom Reilly.

- Moe Lauzier, Talk Host
WRKO, Boston

Catholic Church Should Take a Lesson from Boy Scouts

The current problem the Roman Catholic Church is having with pedophilic and ped-erast priests may, and should, cause some critics to rethink their views on the much-maligned Boy Scouts and their similar problem with homosexual scoutmasters.

The Church is reeling from disclosures of child sexual abuse from scores of priests across the nation. Two bishops have resigned, criminal charges have been brought against many priests, and millions have been spent defending, settling, and paying off civil lawsuits brought by the young victims and their families. While there have been a few reported instances of girls or women involved in these sexual cases, the overwhelming majority of the victims are boys.

The Boston Archdiocese has gone so far as to question the rule for celibacy among the priesthood, positing that it skews the priest selection process toward those who would not normally get married, and thus includes an abnormally high proportion of homosexuals. On ABC's "This Week" program, the question was squarely asked if the Church needs to question the role of homosexuality among the priesthood in this scandal.

When men sexually molest boys, common sense tells us that homosexuality is usually involved, since it is only homosexual men who are attracted to the same sex. Heterosexual men, by definition, are not sexually attracted to boys or other men; those who consider themselves bi-sexual can, of course, pose a risk to young boys. Some critics posit that the situation of the celibate all-male priesthood is analogous to normally heterosexual men in prison who engage in homosexual relations because there are no women present, and who return to heterosexual relations upon their release. In this view, the altarboys are used as sex objects by priests only because no women are available. If priests were married, then there would be far less sexual temptation. To these critics, the Church needs an infusion of women priests and altar girls, plus a non-celibate priesthood which would thus include a lower proportion of homosexuals in the selection pool, to ameliorate the problem of sexual abuse of young boys. Other critics believe the problem simply lies with those homosexual priests who have not controlled their

actions arising from their sexual attraction to the same sex.

The Boy Scouts have a very similar problem. They have been largely spared the widespread scandal and criminal proceedings arising from sexual abuse of their charges, because of their policy excluding open homosexuals from leadership positions within the organization, where they would come into contact with boys. The Scouts have been sued for child sexual abuse committed by scoutmasters, and have dismissed thousands of Scout leaders for non-compliance with their guidelines for prevention of sexual abuse. In a widely-reported case in California, wherein a young Scout sued the organization for sexual abuse at the hands of a scoutmaster, the court held that the Boy Scouts had to be aware of the risk of sexual abuse by gay scoutmasters in overnight and extended camping trips.

It is clear that not all homosexuals are pedophiles, but it is also clear that the overwhelming majority of those men who sexually abuse boys are homosexuals. Gay activists point out that, in absolute numbers, heterosexuals commit more child molestations than homosexuals, but considering the fact that heterosexual males outnumber homosexuals by a factor of roughly 36 to 1,

enforcer should be employed by Catholic Charities is nothing short of scandalous. The solution is simple even though litigation by this agent of death is certain to follow. Fire him, now.

- Thomas P. Dougherty
South Berwick, Maine

Mass. Catholics Gone Mad

I think the world has gone mad. It is incredibly beyond belief that Catholic Charities feels that it must operate as a company. As a company, personnel practices make it necessary to employ as a lead counselor one who volunteers on weekends with the leading abortion organization in the whole world, Planned Parenthood! In the name of God, get rid of that human absciss and take whatever that holy amputation brings. Were I a Catholic living in Massachusetts and viewing the machinations of that situation, as well as those of Cardinal Law by example of the Kennedy annulment and the manner in which he handled pedophile priests, I would truly believe that Lewis Carroll was writing a sequel to 'Alice In Wonderland,' particularly another Mad Hatters tea party.

- Paul Deneau
Sarasota, FL

New Email for Letters

We have established a new mailbox for letters to the Editor at <letterstoeditor@massnews.com>.

Please remember the shorter the better. Any letter over 300 words may be edited by us. Please include your name, address and phone number so that we may confirm them. We will not publish street address, email address or phone number. If the Editor comments about a letter, the reader may respond with at least as many words as were used by the Editor. We would like to stimulate a sincere dialogue.

as established by the authoritative 1993 Battelle Institute study, the relative incidence of pedophilia among homosexuals becomes far greater than for heterosexuals. As reported in the Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy 18, no 1 (1992) in an article entitled "The Proportions of Heterosexual and Homosexual Pedophiles among Sex Offenders against Children" by Freund and Watson, child sexual molestation is more than three times more common among homosexuals than heterosexuals.

Thus, the Boy Scouts use a type of sexual-orientation profiling to prevent harm to their young charges, and to lessen the risk of legal liability. They have been sued all the way to the US Supreme Court for this stand, been excoriated in the press, and have suffered a huge drop in public support and fundraising. But they have maintained a standard of conduct and of example, and avoided the problem of extensive child sexual abuse. Perhaps the Catholic Church will have to take a similar stand for their priesthood.

- Carl Pearlston
Torrance, CA

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities Advocates Abortions

I was appalled to learn that Catholic Charities is employing a person affiliated with Planned Parenthood.

In the past, I have specifically chosen to donate money to Catholic Charities based on my belief that not one dime would be spent aiding and abetting the tragedy of abortion. Now I discover that Catholic Charities is financing, through salary, an abortion advocate.

I will no longer be sending my hard earned money to Catholic Charities. I will also be sending them a letter informing them of my decision. Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

- Jim LaBrosse
Hope Valley, RI

Fire the Enforcer

The idea that a Planned Parenthood

Church Will Survive Terrible Leadership

I am a Catholic from Minnesota. I love the Church and believe it will survive the terrible leadership and corruption of today, just as it survived corruption in the Middle Ages.

Having said that and after reading your article on Howard M. Brown being the head of counseling at Catholic Charities, I really hope some Church leaders go to jail for allowing the pedophilia to continue in the Boston diocese for all these years. It seems that the people in charge of the diocese no longer believe in what the Church has taught and don't care about the damage done to the Church.

Allowing Geoghan to stay in the priesthood and have access to children without telling the authorities is criminal. While many say the problem is a celibate priesthood, what your story illuminates is systemic corruption and apostasy to the faith on the part of the laity of the official Church institutions. The unconcerned souls you quoted in the article are able to marry. They are lay people, but they have had their consciences turned black.

The Church is suffering a crucifixion at the hands of her own. All I can do is offer up to God the pain this causes me.

- Robert J. Hanten
Golden Valley, MN

Fire Fitzgerald

As an attorney, I was shocked to read that Catholic Charities employs, as its director of social services, a pro-choice activist, Mr. Fitzgerald, who is also employed by Planned Parenthood. The United States Constitution, as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Boy Scouts cases, empowers organizations to refuse to associate with, hire or employ persons whose manifest views are in conflict with the organization's. Catholic Charities can constitutionally fire Mr. Fitzgerald summarily, today, and should do so. I am appalled that my past contributions, howsoever meager, were paying the salary of a pro-abortionist, a

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"deathscort" of Planned Parenthood. Once Mr. Fitzgerald and others of his ilk are fired, I will be happy to contribute again.

- William M. Connolly
Newton

Catholic Charities Worker Unqualified

What is most appalling about your article regarding Howard Brown, the social worker for Catholic Charities who helped procure abortions for desperate women, is the statement made by Catholic Charities spokesperson, Maureen March. March said Brown is 'extremely qualified for the job' and 'Catholic Charities does not grill people about things they do on their own time.'

It seems obvious that Mr. Brown is not qualified in the least, never mind the extreme.

- Kristen Killough
Bedford, NH

Stop Donating to Catholic Charities

About 8 years ago, I took my first bus trip to the March for Life in Washington. At that time, I heard that Catholic Charities, not just in Boston, used Planned Parenthood as a resource on a regular basis. Since then I've often heard complaints about Catholic Charities, letters written and ignored, girls told to go to Planned Parenthood and in some cases actually taken, at least here in Central NY. This seems to be a pervasive problem in the whole organization. We stopped giving to CC years ago. Catholic organizations that promote agendas contrary to the official line of the Church should not be operating under that name. It is fraudulent to use the word Catholic and collect money from unsuspecting donors, who think that they are supporting the work of the Church.

- Arline Saiki
Edmeston, NY

Holy Cross Disappoints

Vagina Monologues 'Attack on Sanity'

I am simply appalled to read of the 'Vagina Monologues' presented at Holy Cross this February 13. At a time when I would think the society would be examining how to restore sanity to this world and strengthen the family so as to again instill values, the attack on sanity continues. Society and the future have a stake in what happens to the family; promulgating the gay and lesbian lifestyle is a blind end without fruit.

- James A. Scheidler, M.D.
Indianapolis, IN

Disappointed By Holy Cross

I am a Holy Cross alumnus and I am disappointed by the direction the school has taken. I am neither an old timer nor a prig. These days it's assumed that if one is put off by cavalier mealtime talk about copulation, or moral approbation of sodomy, to name two examples, one must be a prude or a geezer.

Rest assured I am neither.

I graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1994. The faculty was by then actively inculcating the student body with the nihilistic stupidity of moral and ideological relativism in the classroom. In addition to being offensive, it was, of course, a great waste of my time to attend classes where moral idiocy reigned.

I am an orthodox Catholic. The fashionable complaints of feminism and liberal interpretations of ecumenism are just two fads that have infested the chaplain's office at HC. I have written scorching letters to the president of HC, Fr. McFarland, asserting that a nominally Catholic school that fails to impart the joys and truths of Catholic Christianity to her students is an unmitigated failure.

He defended his position on the grounds that the Church is not at war with the world and must change with the times. I shot back in a follow-up letter that the problem with his view is that the world is very much at war with Christianity, as it always has been.

- Wm. J. DiSciullo, Jr.
Austin, TX

Responses to Charalambous Letter

Offended by His Bigotry

As a Roman Catholic I take extreme offense to the bigotry of Mr. Charalambous (Fr. Geoghan is Dilemma for Boston Globe) who hypothesizes that the discipline of our clergy is the cause of homosexual pedophilia.

Celibacy or vowed chastity is not more the cause of sexual perversion than DUI laws are the cause of accidents.

The real reason why homosexual pedophiles or homosexuals in general are found in Catholic institutions is the same reason they are found in fire stations, police forces, the military, or any predominately male institution. They are attracted to men. Very few straight men know nearly enough about the disorder to identify and weed out such individuals.

As a religious Catholic, I can assure you that neither the monastic life nor ordination imparts any magical knowledge on how to deal with psycho-sexual problems. If one expects the Catholic Church to have expertise in every scientific field beyond even that of those who are experts in it; and on that basis denounce the institution as a cause of evils for not solving the problem in advance; one can hardly be called an objective critic. I do not say this to defend any of those responsible in the current scandals, indeed I find them reprehensible all the more because they ought to have been men of God. But I do give them this benefit of the doubt as men perhaps more naive about human sexual aberrations than those out in the secular society. They didn't have even the faintest idea of how grave the problem ever was until it was too late.

The solution to the problem lies not with abolishing the celibate discipline, but by weeding out all who have no earnest desire and determined effort to practice it. And for that a no-tolerance attitude would be beneficial to all.

- Alexis Bugnolo
Mansfield

Questioning His Theory

Is Mr. Charalambous a psychologist? According to his way of thinking, by analogy, ALL single and celibate people must, due to the "thwarting of their normal and natural sexual urges that leads to its trans-mogrification into perversion" be perverted. At which stage of human development is this true? Is it puberty? What scientific evidence does Mr. Charalambous have to issue this blanket condemnation of all those who are not a couple? Wouldn't prostitution then be the only real solution to save society from all these perverts? What kind of thinking is that?

- Arline Saiki
Edmeston, NY

Catholic Church Practices Hypocritical

As I watch the allegations of sexual abuse unfolding within the archdiocese of Boston, I find myself questioning the very fabric of my own upbringing. For years I have noted there are not many young families participating at mass. With regularity, I listen to a castigating homily that attributes lack of attendance by my generation to the active youth athletic programs. They speak of parents who prefer sitting on the sidelines, rather than a pew.

Recently, however, my pondering has not been limited to the subject of sexual abuse. I wonder about a church that condemns abortion, while prohibiting the use of modern contraceptive methods. I wonder about a church that condemns the consensual acts of homosexuals, while failing to protect those too young to consent. I wonder about a church that refuses to allow priests to marry, when Peter, the first Pope enjoyed the benefits of the sacrament of marriage. I wonder about a church that refuses to allow the role of women to

evolve, while the consecration of the Eucharist is done by hands that have violated the bodies of the most innocent. I wonder about a church that suspends a nun from her religious duties because through the act of baptism she acted outside of her accepted role. I wonder about a woman stripped of her position in the church for bringing a child to God, while known sex offenders are sheltered by their cleric's collars.

With little understanding of how cultural norms influence religious values, post September 11th I have heard many say that Muslim women are oppressed because they are veiled by chador or hijab. I wonder about my own role in the Catholic church, and as a woman find myself struggling with the facade of equality that has been created for me. As a humanist, not a feminist, I wonder exactly what is it about a woman's hands that makes her unfit to perform the sacrament of baptism or consecrate the Eucharist.

Recognizing that some may be innocent of allegations, I feel saddened that these events will change the interactions between well meaning priests and youth. In my mind I try but can not comprehend the thought process of the individuals charged with making decisions that moved predatory pedophilic priests from parish to parish. I am sorry that the actions of many honorable priests are being clouded by the poor judgment of others.

While considering the aforementioned, I marvel. Father, do you really believe that a generation of practicing Catholics has been lost to Little League Baseball games and Youth Hockey?

- Stephanie J. Wilkie
Tewksbury

Editor's Comment: You must decide whether you are a Catholic or a humanist. It is impossible to be both. The founding principle of humanism is, according to the Humanist Manifesto, "A value system which emphasizes the personal worth of each individual but that does not include a belief in God." That conflict will surely cause your "questioning."

NAMBLA Infiltrated the Catholic Church?

Until NAMBLA was included in the discussions, we could have expected that the Church would of course prevent any further opportunity for breach of trust. Our experience with Fistgate, the Curley family etc. is reason to question the possibility that NAMBLA may have infiltrated into organized religion in the USA, or elsewhere.

Considering that we have yet to unearth the front of political perversion re Gay/Lesbian immunities, we can expect increasing subjection to that which is historically objectionable.

Yet we dare not call it what it is.

- M. Goduti
Arlington

In Defense of Celibacy

Following recent scandals, there have been many calls for the Catholic Church to reconsider celibacy for the priesthood. These calls are mischievous. Priests devote long hours to their work, without the day-to-day concerns of family life, and serve a wider community. Additionally, priests can transfer at short notice to another location, perhaps hundreds or thousands of miles away, without uprooting a family.

Most people do not see same-sex pedophilia for what it is, a very nasty subject of the wider homosexual agenda. It is merely a question of age, 21, 18, 16. See the trend? We are facing serious moral and public health issues. Homosexuals tend to be promiscuous, and this is reflected in the much higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, among homosexuals. Homosexuals have made considerable inroads in infiltrating the Catholic Church. These problems must be addressed.

Demanding the resignation of Cardinal Law is not the answer. It is Cardinal Law's mess, and he should clean it up. It would be most unfair to give it to another man to

solve. The Cardinal must listen and act on serious concerns brought to his attention. Abortion, the ultimate child abuse, has been put on the back burner. One Catholic fraternal organization, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which has been honoring pro-abortion politicians for years, suspended me for protesting. Another, the Knights of Columbus fired me for my Pro-Life work.

Have the media considered what their responsibility is here? For years family values have been rubbished, and the homosexual lifestyle promoted, so media cries of shock and horror sound hollow to me. Reporters should make their notes as accessible as they wish Church records to be. They might make interesting reading, don't you think?

- John O'Gorman
Dorchester

Cloning

Cloning Still Kills

The cloning of a human being by Advanced Cell Technology of Worcester was a watershed event which gave the company and its officers media recognition the world over.

In reality, this was an act of hubris, the likes of which this planet has not witnessed since the 1930's in Germany. Unfortunately, a compliant press has been ballyhooing the same litany of cures which ACT claims their research might, may, could bring to the afflicted.

Amy Contrada's fine articles on this research gave us a thorough look at the ramifications of ACT's activity and should convince anyone that Massachusetts News is must reading if one is properly to assess where our two US Senators would lead us.

Amy's expectations for the Senators' positions were borne out in my two phone calls to their Washington offices. While the treatment I received from John Kerry's office was at least civil, Ted Kennedy's assistant tried the boilerplate response and was totally unable to discuss any of the intricacies of the stem cell/cloning issue. In fact, she became curt and very defensive when any of the scripted answers were questioned.

ACT has applied for over 60 patents, and they are anxious to start cashing in on them before the public realizes that embryonic stem cells have yet to produce the results which have already been accomplished with adult stem cells. The masses of people in this country have still not grasped the significance of what has taken place. Essentially, a group of inflated egos attired in white coats, together with an assembly of spin-masters, have caught the media's fancy.

The hype they have generated features the promise of cures for the dreaded Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, as well as diabetes and a host of other debilitating maladies. Never, however, is there any mention of the negative outcomes which will inevitably occur as was the case in producing that famous clone, Dolly.

The public is asked to ignore the fact that this one sheep resulted from 277 attempts to clone, and the grotesque creations which may have also resulted are never mentioned. And they have predictably taken a cue from Justice Blackman by de-humanizing the new subjects for this experimentation. ACT and their peers are also running now from the word reproductive, favoring the label therapeutic. A rose, however, is still a rose, and a human embryo is still a human embryo, no matter how you try to label it.

Killing can never be considered therapeutic. There is a complete set of DNA in an embryo, 46 chromosomes and a unique human identity which could continue on for over 75 years with almost unlimited potential. Instead, this human is being created to be destroyed, allegedly to benefit all of mankind. This act violates the most basic moral principles on which civilized society is based. Nuremberg was thought to have settled this and cast it in stone after WWII.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our calls for opening the spigots for funding adult stem research have fallen on deaf ears, and we have witnessed a war declared on the human embryo.

Unfortunately, Senators Kerry and Kennedy, who didn't have the courage a decade ago to vote to oppose Saddam Hussein's aggression, are unwilling to stand up to a cell of bio-terrorists working from a base right here in our own state.

- Ray Neary
Medfield

Letter to Gov. and Others About 'Therapeutic Cloning'

I think a ban on human cloning is not enough, even though cloning is unlikely to be a real threat to nature and human freedom. Researchers may soon be able to artificially create embryos that are not clones (duplicates of one person's DNA), but are not natural embryos created by a mother and father, either. The ban on human cloning would allow researchers to create an embryo using DNA from two women, for example. I don't know how far away this possibility is, but that doesn't mean we have to wait for it to happen before banning it.

We need a ban on all reproduction that is not the natural joining of one man and one woman, not just a ban on human cloning. Notice how calling for this also highlights the one man and one woman phrase and reminds people of the unique potentialities and responsibilities of heterosexual couples and what the meaning and purpose of marriage is. Marriage is a license to have sexual intercourse, to possibly create human life. It is a commitment to the people of the state as well as to the sexual partner and the possible children to stay together because of the life long responsibility that comes from being a parent. Without a marriage license, possibly creating a baby is fornication, a crime in this state.

Please ask the candidates for governor, who all say they support the right of two women to marry, if they also believe that two women have a right to create offspring together, if and when the technology becomes available. Please link these issues, people should realize what is at stake here. Our natural reproductive rights and basic human dignity are threatened when government and technology become parents creating babies for select, qualified people to raise.

- John Howard
Arlington

Children Are Important

Shared Parenting Makes Sense

I am glad that there is interest in shared parenting. To me, it makes sense in a way that taking a child from their father does not. Many states do indeed have shared parenting, but it is a joke. It is only on paper, mom still has the say and it is not a real shared parenting plan. I feel it must be made clear that it is equal in every way. That is all that makes sense. I feel, for a father to lose his children in a court room is a crime. A crime he did nothing to be punished for. It is heart breaking to not be able to even talk to your children on the phone without permission from their mother. And the courts seem to always take the women's side of a story. I guess they don't believe women lie. I am a woman and I have watched my son's heart break as well as that of his two small sons. They now know they have to ask mom for everything, never mind asking dad, he has no say. What a lesson for these little boys. Especially for little boys who need their father more as they get older. I think children need both parents and soon will learn on their own who the destructive one is. They must be exposed to both parents, not just one and whoever tries to put the other down should be punished for it. Too many lawyers and judges probably think shared parenting would put them out of work. I doubt it. There will always be people who can't play fair. They should be punished by losing time with their children.

- Carol Vargo
Corry, PA

Shared Parenting Success

I'm a former Newton resident, brought up in Newton and fortunate to come from a nice family with fond memories of my childhood and family. But I'm glad I don't live in Massachusetts. Though I miss the fine people and personalities of the state as well as a love for the Red Sox, Pats, Bruins and Celtics, I wouldn't want to dwell upon the dangers of losing my 50% custody of my two beautiful daughters to an unfair, uncaring domestic court system that can't seem to gauge the importance and value of children having both parents equally involved in their lives.

Massachusetts has been a leader in many areas of judicial law but in this one area of family court services, Massachusetts sets itself back to the days of the Salem witch hunting trials where men, like the women accused of witchcraft and sorcery, are unjustly stamped as a secondary parent or less, non-existing factor in the upbringing of a child. Without fathers having equal parental rights or their children given the right to equal access to their father's love, Massachusetts is a place that any caring divorced father would want to stay away from.

Unfortunately, many good fathers can't just up and move away from their jobs or maintaining the overburdening child support yoke hanging around their neck from court orders. My children are shared equally between myself and an equally caring and loving mother. Our girls live in both residences within close proximity of their schools and have been afforded a minimum of change in their lives beyond mom & dad having separate residences. The girls have been kept in the same general neighborhood, schools, churches, soft-ball, soccer and basketball recreation leagues that have layered their lives with a sense of the community and continuity in maintaining long-time school mates, playmates and teammates while growing up happy, well adjusted and loved. Both girls are high performing students, leaders in athletics and with a good grouping of friends any parent would be happy to have associated with their children. Even with all the knowledgeable people and great institutions of learning located in Massachusetts, as a father, I most likely wouldn't be afforded equal parental rights in Massachusetts. What a shame so many children are denied their fathers care and love.

- John D. Quigley
Vista, CA

Restraining Orders Are Ineffective

The restraining orders issued in 2001 are now totaled. There are more protective orders than ever.

Yet another woman is gunned down in the street last week. How can this be? Restraining orders are a useless item of politically correct "feel-good" legislation.

No piece of paper like a restraining order has ever stopped a knife, gun, baseball bat or whatever the weapon of choice happens to be. The order primarily inflames the situation and irritates the recipient. As it is inflammatory, it should be used for its real value, as a fire-starter.

Why are they so ignored? Primarily because everybody knows the judges give them out like bubble-gum pieces to any woman who wants a divorce and knows how to lie. The only documents issued by the state more frequently are parking tickets. Yes, occasionally the judge gives an order to a person who really needs some protection.

Is it any wonder every cop ignores the 55,000 orders issued everywhere in the state? The liberals of Massachusetts have created a way for women to cry "Wolf" and caused the person with a real need to be ignored. RO's are just flies on horse manure. They are contaminated and they stink.

Now my ex-wife got one, and I have never threatened her, struck her, or used

any sort of physical violence. All it does is irritate and slander me. And for that I have fought it in every court possible. She has now spent well over \$100,000 trying to make it stick. Few women are senior managers at a large company like EMC and can afford this. But she is determined to invoke this RO for improper and unlegislated purposes. With the support of the cowardly judges in Probate and Family court who can't say no, she is able to do so.

The answer is simple. If you want people to take restraining orders seriously, quit issuing them like parking tickets. Then a RO issued will have a real meaning and not just be a favored divorce tool used by a bitter ex-wife to get the furniture and child custody.

- Bill Wright, Markham, VA
(formerly of Harvard, MA
and a life beneficiary of a Mass. RO.)

DSS Trauma

I'm not a regular reader, but I have recently had the chance to see some of your news about DSS, specifically the gruesome, fun-house treatment of the Moore and Howard families. I'm sure that I am not alone in thinking that this surely can't have happened, yet I do believe it and I am outraged. I can't understand how things like this can happen and not make even a blip on the radar screens of the mainstream newspapers.

When I was a child, my family took in foster children. It was mostly short-term, but sometimes lasted a year or longer. Even after my parents divorced, my mother continued to take in children, and was friendly with many social workers. She turned our house into a two-family to make ends meet, and when she had to take two jobs, she stopped taking children in. When our tenant was late with several rent payments, she began to feel spite toward my mother for her continual requests for the money.

My younger brother, who was nine, and uneasy after the divorce, would often climb into my mom's bed in the middle of the night. My sister and I teased him for this and ridiculed him in front of the tenant. She made a call to DSS about a grown boy sleeping in his mother's bed. DSS workers came to our house and to my mom's wrath, insisted on questioning each of us kids privately. Although there was nothing to find, they filed a 51A on my mother, and it sat there for over a year.

I can't even remember now what exactly a 51A is. I understood it was something bad about a parent. Just a little thing, nothing like DSS kidnapping children, but I remember the blot on my mom's name, and her wrath and indignation which colored her view of the agency she had served so willingly and helpfully for so many years. What an ugly entity DSS is.

Please continue to educate the untold, and I for one, would be glad to find out how I can add my voice to the small but growing outcry.

- Amy Shea
Haverhill

Questionnaire from Pediatricians

Pediatricians Defend Their Questionnaire

Your article "Intrusive Questionnaire Covertly Given to 13 Year Old Daughter by Pediatrician" inaccurately portrays the purpose of our "teen questionnaire," parental involvement with the questionnaire and the facts surrounding the visit with one of our patients. This is not a covert questionnaire.

The medical, psychological, and ethical dangers to today's adolescents can be frightening. An increasingly sexualized, drug oriented and violent society exposes adolescents to risks at an early age. There is an urgent need to reduce the incidence of adolescent suicide, substance abuse, and unintended pregnancy. Pediatric Health Care Associates treats children from all socioeconomic, religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Our experience over

three decades with thousands of adolescents has taught us that thirteen- years-old is the best age to formally begin the delicate process of addressing the issues of personal safety, sexuality and drugs. We must build independent confidential relationships with our adolescent patients. This is consistent with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society for Adolescent Medicine and HEDIS, the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set which monitors quality of care for managed care organizations. The teen questionnaire is not mandated by state law nor do we present it as mandatory. It is just good medical care.

Massachusetts law does, however, speak to the matter of confidentiality rights of teens. The transition to a confidential and independent relationship between a doctor and a young teenage patient is difficult and delicate and must respect the rights of the parent and the child. Failure to provide confidentiality may prevent the adolescent from seeking treatment and counseling for sexual abuse, sexually transmitted disease, depression, suicidal ideation, drug abuse and pregnancy. The teenager can request that our questionnaire be kept confidential but the confidentiality rules are very clear: 1. If the child is in serious danger the agreement is set aside so help can be provided. 2. We work continually in every case to encourage teens to include parents in solving their problems which might include further visits with their pediatrician or counseling.

In the case you have inaccurately reported, the child at no time was spoken to without her mother present. The notion that we have covertly given out questionnaires to thousands of teenagers over many years is erroneous.

- Stephen D. Kanarek, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Peabody

Editor's Comment: It is clear from Dr. Kanarek's letter that *he* is in charge of the children and not the parents. He expects us to be happy upon learning that he works to "encourage" the children to also work with their parents in solving their problems. Regardless of what he says, he is a *mandatory* reporter to the DSS and must report to them all gossip about the family that in his judgment is required under the law.

Mother Defending Questionnaire

I am first and foremost writing to your paper as a loving, responsible mother of two. I truly hope you print this as a rebuttal to your "Intrusive Questionnaire" article. My children are patients of Pediatric Healthcare Assoc. and have also been seen numerous times by Dr. Miriam Dunau. In my opinion, she is a caring and knowledgeable doctor. I guess not all doctors are for every patient. Whether it is the way they handle certain situations or the care they are given, I have always been given wonderful care by their practice and by Dr. Dunau. For you to do what you have unjustly done to her with this whole article is appalling to me and many others I have talked with. You are allowed to slander someone with one account from one parent. That is horrible. I'm in disbelief.

As far as this questionnaire you speak of, I applaud it. If a teen is not comfortable talking to the parent regarding certain issues, I think talking to their doctor is a great way for a parent to stay on top of their child's behavior and safety. The doctor, by law, is privileged to doctor/patient confidentiality unless it is something life threatening. I believe that is what's wrong with our kids today. Parents feel it is intrusive to ensure our children are making the correct choices. Maybe if more parents are willing to keep their kids on the right track no matter how they are directed, and directed by a professional? What could be better? I believe this certain parent needs to stop using the old clique 'not my kid' or 'my child would never do this or that' and open her eyes to the world around her. Unfortunately there are unfavorable things out there and maybe Dr. Dunau can help

Barbara Anderson

Make State's Candidates Take 'The Pledge'

The "Taxpayer Protection Pledge" Began in NH

It is as native as autumn leafpeeping, "Live Free or Die," apple pie, and Emily of "Our Town" asking the Stage Manager if any human beings ever realize life as they live it.

For decades, every politician in the Granite State was required to take "the pledge," so New Hampshire's per capita tax burden is in the bottom 25 percent of the nation.

Massachusetts ranks fourth. We'd probably be No. 1 if Bill Weld hadn't taken the "no new taxes" pledge himself when he ran for governor in 1990, in the middle of the last state fiscal crisis.

Beacon Hill Democrats had increased taxes in 1989, again in 1990, and were on their way to raising them in 1991 when they ran into Weld's pledge. Had he weakened under pressure, they would not have cooperated with his first budget, which cut spending and created a tighter base on which to build the state's economic recovery.

Instead, they would have had to raise taxes every year to maintain the wasteful '80s level of spending.

Instead of a decade of economic growth, with giant state surpluses and a variety of tax cuts, Massachusetts would have had 10 years of kissing productive citizens goodbye.

The downside of this prosperity is that despite 40-plus tax cuts, surging state revenues created giant surpluses that encouraged billion-dollar-a-year increases in state spending.

When the economy began to slow, legislators started looking at new taxes to maintain the accustomed annual spending hikes. The only protection taxpayers had was the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, taken by Governors Paul Cellucci and Jane Swift as they followed in Weld's footsteps.

Many politicians don't understand economic arguments or care about working people, for whom tax hikes are a pay cut. But they do understand that another politician who has taken the "no new taxes" pledge has to keep it or risk losing his next election. Once a governor signs this promise, his budget adversaries understand that they will need a two-thirds vote to override his veto of the new taxes that would be an easy way out the next time revenues slow.

In good economic times, they know that somewhere down the road they will again cross paths with fiscal austerity.

So because there was some pledge-related restraint, what could be a major fiscal crisis again this year is only a manageable spending crisis. It can be dealt with by using rainy day funds, a delay in the accelerated pension funding, lottery changes, court reform, attention to departmental audits, and an across-the-board assault on the waste, inefficiency, and patronage that inevitably result from the need to spend surplus revenues before taxpayers make a case for a tax cut.

If legislators choose instead to override Swift's veto of new taxes, the necessary shake-out won't happen and more new taxes will be necessary next year and every year thereafter.

When Massachusetts eventually faces a real fiscal downturn, or the Medicaid crisis that is looming in our aging-boomer future, it will not have the tax capacity to get us through it. Better to tighten up a little now than a lot later, it seems to me.

The Taxpayer Protection Pledge has been called a gimmick by people who want to raise taxes if responsible fiscal management turns out to be too much of a challenge. But if "the pledge" was good enough for three of our recent governors, eight governors in other states, and 1,200 legislators, it should be good enough for this year's candidates. So far, Libertarians Carla Howell and Rich Aucoin and Republican lieutenant governor candidate, Jim Rappaport, have recently signed; GOP lieutenant governor candidate, Kerry Murphy Healey, signed as a candidate for state representative in 2000.

The state pledge is very simple: "I pledge to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that I will oppose and veto any and all efforts to increase taxes." Legislators direct this promise to the taxpayers in their districts. As they and gubernatorial candidates sign, their names will be found on www.cltg.org.

The federal pledge began in 1986. President Bush, 213 US House members, and 37 US Senators have promised not to increase income tax rates. A list of their names and more information on "the pledge" can be found on the Americans for Tax Reform web site: www.ATR.org.

Barbara Anderson is executive director of Citizens for Limited Taxation, Post Office Box 408, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960, (508) 384-0100.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

this parent by reinforcing the right path. Maybe if more parents were given such a questionnaire, we would not have been faced with unfortunate teen doings. Instead she slanders a good doctor's name. I think she needs to put her efforts into something worthwhile and open her small eyes to the big world out there. This woman was in the exam room with this child from start to finish. If that is the case, how could anything have been done covertly? I think this whole article and the behavior of this parent is appalling.

- Mara Bergson
Middleton

Editor's Comment: If Ms. Bergson wishes to entrust her child to an authority figure such as a medical doctor without question, that is her right. But it is not the right of a doctor to require that all parents do so or be labeled as a troublemaker. No competent medical doctor regards himself as omniscient even about medical issues, much less personal ones such as these.

Big Brother is Watching

Dr. Miriam Dunau's questionnaire is documentary proof that we are living in an Orwellian Age, Big Brother is Watching You! That doctor is a mandatory reporter. She is asking children to turn in their parents, which is what Adolph Hitler required of the German youth in the '30s and '40s.

Attitude adjustment must take place in these so-called medical practitioners. The attitude adjustment must be swift and effective. As a society, we must reject their fascistic mentality. It is sociopathic. It is unacceptable. It is intolerable. It is dangerous to society as some of us used to know it.

- Barbara C. Johnson, Attorney at Law
Andover

DSS Social Workers Still

Troubling

DSS Story Heartbreaking

The story about the mother losing her son to DSS breaks my heart. As a new mother myself, I can only imagine the pain she is going through. My own mother lost me to adoption because she was a single mother in the 1960s. Healthy white infants, and infants in general, go for much higher prices these days and I am not at all surprised that DSS is looking for infants to place. The government funds adoption and adopters and natural mothers and fathers receive little support and money. The United States is becoming more and more a place in which people must fear for their lives and their families. I wonder how long we will continue to put up with this police state.

- Tricia Shore
Van Nuys, California

Parental Alienation Syndrome Ignored by Courts

You might want to investigate Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), the work of Dr. Richard Gardner, and others on the subject. This is a form of abuse just as harmful to the normal development of a child as physical abuse. It is quite common in family courts across our nation, but most of the time remains ignored because it can be used by a vengeful parent to run up the costs of litigation. Sadly, the divorce industry, including judges, attorneys and mental health experts, not only ignore but encourage it in many cases to put money in their pockets.

- Terrance L. Stevens
Bartow, Florida

Barbara Anderson In Hospital

Barbara Anderson's fall in her home on Tuesday, April 16 was reported by Chip Ford in daily bulletins.

Wednesday

Yesterday Barbara was taken to the hospital after a serious adverse reaction to a recently prescribed new medication. I found her semi-conscious on the floor of her home in the morning and called for an ambulance. After a series of tests, her doctors determined she had fractured her skull. They transferred her to an excellent Boston hospital by medivac, where the surgeons immediately performed cranial surgery to reduce the brain swelling. Barbara is in intensive care and her condition is very serious.

Please bear with us during this ordeal. Please do not call for further information; I will keep you updated of her condition as we know more. Your prayers are welcomed.

Thursday

Barbara's medical situation has stabilized. Though this is not much, it is positive news. Her doctor says she's a fighter (as if we needed to hear that from him!), but the outcome is still "minute to minute." Test results are at least moving in the right direction, though slowly, almost imperceptively.

Thanks to those who've sent along their messages of support and faith. And thanks for not calling us for more information at this time of hectic concern.

I'll keep you posted through these updates if there are any changes.

Barbara Is Back

This euphoric message was sent on Tuesday, April 23.

Dear friends,

I just got a call from Lance [her son] at the hospital, and Barbara is back among

us!

She is fully conscious, aware, and communicating. She's already asked that I bring in the book she'd been reading when I go in, and asked Lance to get her a Red Sprite to drink!

Lance called it "100 percent" and the hospital staff is stunned and thrilled at the suddenness of her recovery; she's the talk of the ICU ward. She's got a way to go to reach full recovery, but the worst is behind her now; she survived that critical first few days.

She remembers nothing about last Monday, but asked Lance to call me and let me know she's back.

I wanted you all to know what I know, but I'm outta here on my way in to the hospital. I'll write more later.

Thank you one and all for the prayers and positive thoughts: they have worked a miracle!

I'm back from the hospital, and I'm euphoric. Lance was right, she's 100 percent! Miracles do happen.

What a stunning turn-around. She came to and hasn't missed a beat - except for what happened to her on Tuesday: she has no recollection, but it may come back to her eventually.

Anyway, she asked me to pass on to you her first thoughts. When she came to, her dubious doctors asked her a few simple questions to ascertain her lucidity.

She told me, "They asked what year it was, and I told them it was 2002. Then they asked, 'Who is the vice-president of the United States?' I told them Dick Cheney, of course. Why didn't they ask me something more difficult, like what's my name?"

Oh yeah, Barbara's back!

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OPINION

Not Neutral about 'Gender Neutral' Bible

Mass. Pastors See It as Extreme

By Julia B. Hans

Many in the Mass. religious community believe the new "gender-neutral" Bible from the International Bible Society is extreme.

The pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Pepperell, Montel Wilder, questions its legitimacy.

"It is extremely deceptive to call this gender inclusive book a 'version' of the Bible," he says. "To be a 'version' means that it was carefully translated by scholarship and diligence to give to its readers an accurate rendering of the original manuscripts. There is nothing accurate whatsoever when an individual or group changes the fundamental meaning of words to make it fit what they want it to say."

The Pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Fitchburg for 22 years, Rev. Richard Olson, says that his congregation will stick with the New Revised Standard Version. "We are all for accepting change and inclusive language, but eliminating all masculine images in the Scripture goes too far," he says.

Associate Pastor at Bethlehem Bible Church in West Boylston, Rev. Terry Letourneau, uses words like "compromise," "distorting" and "bogus" when he talks about Today's New International Version, which is due out in April. He says that this new translation "...will throw a whole generation of people into the sea of disbelief. It's obvious that God knew what he wanted to communicate when he gave us His word in the original languages. What's next? 'Our Father/Mother who art in heaven?'"

Letourneau points out that in coming out with this new translation, Zondervan broke a promise made five years earlier. "They promised they wouldn't do this and they went ahead and did it anyway. I see it this way. What can bring Zondervan/IBS the greatest revenue at the expense of redemptive truth?" When it comes to textual accuracy, Letourneau doesn't mince words: "The TNIV is not sufficiently accurate. It blatantly mistranslates Greek words, thereby distorting the meaning of the text of the Word of God."

Is This Necessary?

The controversy caught my eye when I saw a recent AP headline: "International Bible Society releases gender-neutral Bible."

Immediately, I envisioned a panel of Bible scholars performing a vast search-and-replace command on every masculine pronoun in the Bible. All 72,435 uses of the word "he" and "him" would be replaced by the pronoun "it." John 3:16 would now read: "For God so loved the world, that it gave its only begotten child, that whosoever believeth in it should not perish but have everlasting life." I'm thankful my visions of the TNIV were incorrect.

The new translation is not gender-neutral but is gender-accurate, says the International Bible Society. According to it, "More than 70 percent of the changes made in the TNIV are not gender-related." They add that the changes do not impact key doctrinal issues, like referring to God or Jesus with the neutral pronoun "it."

But critics aren't buying the gender-accurate label. According to conservative weekly *World Magazine*, some authorities call the translation "dishonest and grossly unfair,"

while others say the new version is filled with mistranslations and bad grammar.

Here's an example of what the IBS means by "gender neutral." Where the NIV reads, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God," the TNIV reads, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." The switch, IBS argues, hinges on the word "son." Supposedly, we are all too stupid to recognize an inclusive noun when we see it. More than likely we are too bristly in this politically correct climate to use such a sexist word. Textual scholars say that the translation from the Greek is simply wrong.

What bothers me about this Bible version is not only that the translators cater to special interest groups, or that they, to borrow a phrase from Jay Severin, worship at the altar of political correctness. What bothers me is that there's a need to produce this type of Bible at all. Why must a "new" and "modern" version of the Bible crop up every year? Why do we constantly need a "new translation" in "today's" English? Is yesterday's English so bad?

Special Edition for New Englanders?

Evidently the IBS thinks so. They describe their mission as continually providing the Scripture in "shirtsleeve English." So what happens when shirtsleeve English devolves into animalistic jargon, the kind of speech, say, portrayed in *A Clockwork Orange*? Will the IBS come through for us then?

But why stop at shirtsleeve English? Why not give us a hip-hop version of the Bible, or a translation for southerners where "y'all's" and

"y'uns" replace "thee's" and "thou's?" And while they're at it, how about a version for us New Englanders – with all the "r's" dropped.

Few admit it, but the real problem is that when it comes to Bible translations, "modern" too often means watered down and "today's English" usually means dumbed-down paraphrase. What's even worse about the TNIV is that the translators have the gall to imbed commentary into their translation. So not only are we too stupid to read the English, we are also too stupid to interpret the meaning of words.

Feminists should note that of the thirteen-member panel of translators, only one was a woman.

While reading the TNIV, I thought about William Tyndale, the man behind the King James Version of the Bible. Tyndale was the first to translate the Bible from the Greek into English. His goal was to give "every ploughboy in England" a chance to read the Scripture for himself. It cost him his life.

Today, Tyndale's work is deemed antiquated and too difficult – beyond the grasp of your average ploughperson. And so we're given the "new and improved" PC-TNIV in its stead.

What a commentary that is. After five centuries of progress, we can no longer cope with what the Elizabethans considered common English. And Bible societies now care more about image and bottom lines than they do about scriptural or literary integrity.

Julia Hans is a national award-winning freelance writer whose works have appeared in more than 25 Massachusetts papers. Her book on ancient Eastern customs in the Bible was published in 2000. She lives in Townsend, Mass.

Media Watch

Those Who Disagree with Globe Are 'Anti-Semitic'

A New Low in Bullying Tactics

The Boston Globe labeled the selectmen of Hamilton as "anti-Semitic" in its lead story on the front page of City and Region last month, with a big picture and headline, **Debate of hate**.

They announced that the Anti-Defamation League had requested that the selectmen sign their "No Place for Hate" campaign. The Globe breathlessly reported that 54 communities in the state had already done so and there was a "not-so-subtle undercurrent of anti-Semitism" in Hamilton.

Nowhere in the Globe story, not once, was it reported that the main project of the ADL these days is to promote the homosexual agenda in the state's schools. The Globe believes that the molestation of children at Fistgate was a wonderful experience. It equates "sexual orientation" with the civil rights of "race" and "religion."

But Brian Camenker, a leader in the battle against the molestation of children in our schools and an Orthodox Jew, disagrees. He sides with the selectmen.

"The ADL is an organization that has clearly outlived its usefulness," Camenker tells MassNews.

"A real problem is that over the years, the ADL has attracted a large number of hard-boiled political radicals and wide-eyed secular Jewish liberals. They believe they are on a grand progressive crusade, and the rest of us 'just don't get it.'"

"The ADL has become a shameful embarrassment to Jews across the country. Much of America actually thinks the ADL represents Jews and Jewish values! Their high-profile activities are seen as very offensive and destructive (which in fact they are) by mainstream America. And if that's not confronted now, I don't like what I see down the road."



The Globe implied that the town of Hamilton was full of hate because it didn't immediately sign a pledge card from a religious organization.

Rabbi Says ADL Is Jews' 'Own Worst Enemy'

Rabbi Daniel Lapin of Toward Tradition goes further than Camenker.

He says that the head of the ADL, Abe Foxman, is the Jews' "Own Worst Enemy." He told UPI that Foxman's "tireless efforts" to convince American Jews that they are beset by "a phantom of anti-Semitism," when their own experience suggests otherwise, "have helped to confirm many in the belief that being a Jew has to do mainly with being oppressed and hated."

Rabbi Lapin points out that the ADL "gets paid [by contributors] according to how much anti-Semitism it finds." It is running low on anti-Semitism nowadays and is seeking to keep its revenue base flowing by protecting homosexuals from "hate."

The Jewish columnist for the New York Times, William Safire, called for Foxman's resignation after it was disclosed that he had lobbied Bill Clinton for the pardon of Marc Rich, who had donated large sums to the group.

Although everyone agrees with Foxman that we must end anti-Semitism, most are not convinced that homosexuality is in the same category and should be bundled with anti-Semitism.

Would It Be Allowed by Knights of Columbus?

Others are wondering if the campaign were run by the Knights of Columbus or the Christian Coalition whether the Globe would favor it in the schools. They say it certainly flies against the separation of church and state.

The following lead paragraphs in the Globe story were very misleading:

"Eighth-grader Hanna Hoy thought she was doing a pretty good thing when she asked the Board of Selectmen to sign a pledge against hatred, already approved in 54 Massachusetts communities.

"Was I surprised when they rejected it? Yeah, definitely," said Hoy, a poised, articulate 13-year-old. "I mean, who wouldn't want their town to be a more accepting place?"

"Other people in this community of horse farms and dignified prosperity are wondering the same thing. The rejection has ignited a debate about the role of government, the definition of leadership, and what some people are calling a not-so-subtle undercurrent of anti-Semitism.

"The Hamilton selectmen are the first municipal leaders in the state to turn down the feel-good program designed by the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish organization that battles anti-Semitism."

But anyone who bothers to read further down in the long story discovers that it was not just a pledge against hatred that the selectmen were asked to sign.

The Globe readers had been deceived yet again. Further down, if he got that far, the reader found that the "the program also makes some demands." The ADL was coming to town with its "resources" and with a "speaker list." It had plans for a "peace quilt" and a "parade."

So it wasn't just a "pledge against hatred," as the Globe tried to make its readers believe when it launched this attack against the town.

Globe Asked Out-of-Towners

The Globe apparently had trouble finding local people to comment so it went all the way down to Duxbury, where the paid town manager suggested that the Hamilton selectmen should resign.

"Rocco Longo, the Duxbury town manager who helped bring the No Place for Hate program into his town in 1999, said he doesn't think Hamilton's selectmen should be afraid to take a stand," wrote the Globe.

"Good leadership provides direction for the city," Longo said. "This program has kept these issues constantly in our vision If [Hamilton's selectmen] don't want to provide that, maybe they should think about stepping down."

One resident was tricked into believing that the program would actually protect his son.

"Hamilton psychologist and activist, George Beilin, said he's not ready to call for anybody to step down. But he takes the matter personally. His son was the target of an anti-Semitic slur a few years ago and he's angry at the board's position.

"He wonders how Alexander Hamilton, the great Conservative statesman for whom the town is named, would respond to the dispute. 'Hamilton was an illegitimate immigrant born in the West Indies,' Beilin said. 'I think this whole thing would make him roll over in his grave.'"

But others wonder if this father really believes that anyone is going to stop children from picking on each other because they are too short or too tall, too skinny or too fat, or whatever.

This is particularly true when no one has been able to stop the adults at the Boston Globe from bullying anyone who doesn't agree with their extremely liberal ideas. A schoolyard bully looks pretty tame compared to them.

1

'Circus' at Statehouse

Marriage Amendment Provokes 'Circus' at Statehouse Hearing of Committee

Small Number of Legislators Berate Supporters of Marriage

By Ed Oliver

Hundreds of opponents of the Protection of Marriage Amendment packed a hearing on Beacon Hill last month, overwhelming the Public Service Committee with tales of woe should the measure become part of the state Constitution.

In contrast, only a handful of leaders from the Pro-Marriage movement made an appearance to testify, because they are confident in the backing of a majority of Massachusetts voters.

"Where are all these proponents? Out of 120,000, I've seen only five so far," taunted Rep. David Torrissi (Lawrence, N. Andover) from his perch on the committee.

Afterward, Sarah McVay Pawlick, President of Mass. Citizens for Marriage, called the display a "media 'circus.'" She told MassNews:

"Today's public hearing was, as we expected, merely a media 'circus' – an attempt by the opponents to see who could pack the most bodies into the bleachers at Gardner Auditorium.

"This was done even though everyone agrees that 60%-81% of the citizens favor the Amendment. Therefore, what was the point of today's exercise? No matter how many bodies they pack, they are still in the minority.

"Where was the 'majority' today? They were working – to support their families. They have already testified to the Legislature by their 120,000 signatures.

"And we agree with them. Just allow the Constitutional process to move forward and let the people vote as 120,000 citizens petitioned last fall.

"It was shameful that a small number of Legislators berated the

supporters of marriage as 'hateful' and 'unenlightened' in a sideshow act where they played to a gallery of liberal, anti-marriage activists.

"We look forward to Sen. Birmingham taking control and moving this process out of the circus tent and into the Halls of the Constitutional Convention."

Tom Reilly Sets Tone

Attorney General Tom Reilly spearheaded the assault against the Amendment at the start of the day, followed by the usual gaggle of state legislators who oppose protecting traditional marriage.

Reilly set the tone when he told the committee that the Marriage Amendment "is aimed at our most vulnerable citizens – children and dependents of same-sex couples." The Attorney General also stated that this measure, "rather than strengthening the bonds of marriage, tears at the fabric of our community and divides us."

Sen. Steven Baddour (D-Haverhill, Newburyport, etc.) built on that characterization to say that the Marriage Amendment is a "mean spirited, underhanded, intolerant approach to classify one segment of our community as second class citizens."

Sen. Cheryl Jacques (D-Needham, N. Attleboro, etc.) informed the committee that "This is the next chapter in civil rights we are writing. We have the chance to get this chapter right." She also said that leaving it just to the voters is the easy way out.

Rep. Frank Smizik (D-Brookline) called the Amendment "a discriminatory attempt to legalize bigotry."

Rep. Michael Festa (D-Melrose, Stoneham) called it "vicious, reactionary," and "an attempt to take away basic human rights."

Rep. Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge) said "this is a great leap backward, it is seen as hate legislation to some."

And so it went. One after the other, about fifteen state legislators, out of 200, hyperventilated at the podium in opposition. They were cheered largely by homosexual activists, who gathered from near



Sarah McVay Pawlick, President of Mass. Citizens for Marriage, said, "Today's public hearing was, as we expected, merely a media 'circus' – an attempt by the opponents to see who could pack the most bodies into the bleachers at Gardner Auditorium."

and far.

From later testimony, it seemed that fringe benefits for live-in lovers of homosexuals and/or straight people – whoever moved in – were the main concern, rather than the right to marry. Even Rep. Paul Demakis (D-Lowell, etc.), said that the Amendment's "language is too broad," as written.

The co-chair of the committee, Sen. Harriette Chandler, also wondered aloud why the Amendment did not just stop with the definition of marriage, why did it have to go and deny marital benefits?

Supporters Said to Follow the Constitution

Sarah McVay Pawlick introduced herself as the founding president of Massachusetts Citizens Alliance and Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage, but said she was testifying in a different role, that of a mother, grandmother and homemaker.

Pawlick said our country has gone through a revolutionary change since she graduated from Wellesley College in 1957. It has saddened her greatly to see what has happened to our families since then.

Pawlick said she speaks for thousands of wives across the state who share her values. The care and nurturing of our families is of primary importance to us, she said.

"Sixty percent of the citizens support the amendment. Both supporters and opponents agree on the sixty-percent number. Eighty one percent of Massachusetts residents believe that children need a married mother and father" according to a recent telephone poll of 600 citizens by Wirthlin Worldwide for the Massachusetts Family Institute.

Pawlick said it is not always possible for a child to be raised with a mother and a father, but it is the ideal we strive for.

"Anyone can find research to prove anything they wish, but as women, our hearts and souls tell us

this matter is not to be solved by studies and reports, but by a lifetime of experience.

"We are passionate and determined in our desire to pass on the tradition of marriage as it has always been to our children and to our grandchildren."

Chester Darling Wants Voters to Decide

Next to speak was Attorney Chester Darling, president of Citizens for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights, and one of the spokespersons for Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage.

Darling urged the committee to push the process forward and let the people in the Commonwealth have their say on this issue.

"It's not a gay rights issue. The institution of marriage is under attack from any number of sources. Whether it's the National Organization of Women or other organized groups in the Commonwealth."

Darling said preserving the institution of marriage is not to deny children benefits. He said there are a number of living arrangements, and children are not without insurance. "How many of those children we heard about this morning are on Medicaid?"

"All of these children are being cared for. There are no children in the Commonwealth who are not being cared for.

"We are trying to preserve the unique relationship people have that is enshrined in case law and common law, and of course religion.

"A biological male and female nurturing a child is a basic building block of our society and should not be disturbed," said Darling.

He told how the vast majority of signature gatherers were volunteers, but there had to be some paid petitioners because the opposition trained "blockers," who were sent out to interfere with the signature gathering process. These caused the

volunteers to be afraid about going to shopping malls. Despite the illegal interference with voting rights, 120,000 signatures were gathered, he said, and the process should be allowed to continue.

Others Speak for Marriage

Next up for the pro-marriage side was Evelyn Reilly, who said she was speaking as a mother, grandmother, and on behalf of the Mass. Family Institute.

Reilly said marriage has been a unique institution between a man and a woman, with rare exceptions, since the beginning of recorded history.

"Mothers and fathers parent differently, and both types of parenting are needed for the proper development of children.

"The speakers opposing this amendment speak as though we are seeking radical change. We are not seeking radical change, they are. Anyone who is seeking to fundamentally alter the most basic institution of our society has the burden of proof beyond any question to prove that what they are asking will not only do no harm to society, but be beneficial. They have not given that."

Reilly said we cannot debate such fundamental questions in a single day. If the process moves forward through the legislature, there will be an additional two-and-a-half years to debate all the social science on both sides.

Joseph R. Nolan, retired Supreme Court justice, also testified in favor of the Marriage Amendment. Although he would like to speak at length about the legal issues surrounding the matter, Nolan said that this is not the time or place for that. All that should be done now is to move forward the Constitutional process, he said.

He said that because marriage has been fundamentally one man and one woman since the beginning



Attorney Chester Darling, President of Citizens for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights: "It's not a gay rights issue."

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'Circus' at Statehouse

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Marriage Amendment Provokes 'Circus' at Statehouse

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of history, that alone is enough reason for not changing it. It is like the multiplication tables, it doesn't change, he said. "Let the voters decide. I'm sure that would appeal to the most liberal among you. You want the voters to always consider things. Let the voters decide."

Fraudulent 'Horse' Issue Is Answered

A red herring that committee members Torrissi and Demakis kept raising was the fraudulent issue from "Save Our Horses" which has received tremendous media attention despite its obvious fraud.

But Tom Rooney from Shrewsbury, who spoke in favor of the Marriage Amendment, addressed the signature controversy when he told the committee about his own experience gathering signatures. "I stood in front of the Price Chopper supermarket in Shrewsbury and obtained over two hundred signatures. The following day, I attended mass at St. Mary's Church in Shrewsbury and obtained hundreds of signatures. The following day, I went to Clinton and picked up some of the signatures that were certified by the Clinton town clerk. I then drove to Berlin, and picked up some signatures that were certified by the clerk in the town of Berlin."

Rooney said he wrote to the Globe about his honest effort gather-



Evelyn Reilly, speaking as a mother, grandmother, and on behalf of the Mass Family Institute, said, "Mothers and fathers parent differently, and both types of parenting are needed for the proper development of children."

ing signatures, but they did not publish his letter, so he e-mails the letter to them every day.

Marriage Amendment opponent Arlene Isaacson, co-chair of the Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, went on at length about alleged fraud and deception in the signature gathering effort by pro-marriage petitioners. She said there

were hundreds of victims of bait and switch tactics, and said she even has affidavits from signature gatherers who were trained in these tactics.

MassNews asked Isaacson if we could see the affidavits to which she was referring. She said, "I'll be right back," and never came back.

Another red herring repeatedly



Joseph R. Nolan, retired Supreme Court justice, also testified in favor of the marriage amendment.

raised by the tag team of Torrissi and Demakis was the February resignation of Executive Director Bryan Rudnick from MCM after the signature campaign was successfully concluded. Reports at the time said Rudnick resigned in order to prepare to go to law school.

The two committee members wondered aloud why Rudnick suddenly left and implied it may have

been related to the allegations of fraudulently obtained marriage petition signatures although they did not reveal how the two could possibly be connected.

Pawlick pointed out that almost two years in the first job after college was a long time and to expect 3 more years after that was too much.

Public Service Committee Opposes Marriage Amendment

Many Statements By Majority Are Clearly False

Sarah McVay Pawlick released the following statement concerning the majority report.

Protection of Marriage Amendment Will **Not** Stop Benefits for Unmarried Adults or Children

The Majority Report says the Marriage Amendment will make it illegal for "thousands of Massachusetts citizens to receive health insurance, bereavement leave, medical leave, hospital visitation, survivor benefits, and other basic legal protections that families and children need."

That blanket statement is simply not true. The concern that is expressed therein is mainly a misunderstanding of the following language in the Amendment.

*Any other relationship shall not be recognized as a marriage or its legal equivalent, nor shall it receive the benefits or incidents **exclusive** to marriage from the Commonwealth, its agencies, departments, authorities, commissions, offices, officials and political subdivisions. [emphasis added]*

No Effect on Private Companies

The above paragraph explicitly refers only to benefits given by the Commonwealth or its agencies, etc. By its very terms, it has no relation at all to the private sector. It would not affect any corporation or other private entity that wishes to give benefits to anyone it chooses. A corporation could continue to provide any benefits it wishes.

Children Continue to Receive Benefits

As for the State and its agencies, etc., all children of married and single employees would be unaffected in their receipt of benefits. All children would continue to receive health and other benefits the same as they do now.

Unmarried Adults

As for unmarried adults, the Amendment would change nothing. It would provide benefits only for married persons as has always been true

– and is still true today. It will not change what has been true ever since the founding of the state. If we do decide to change that in the future, however, the Amendment would not prohibit us from doing so. (The initial costs for implementing the Domestic Partner bill that has been passed in the state Senate have been estimated at \$15 million just for the first year.)

The key word to all of this is "exclusive." If the State gives benefits to someone who is not a spouse, then obviously that benefit is not "exclusive to marriage." When unmarried adults or children receive benefits from the State, those benefits are non-exclusive. The State may distribute these types of benefits to anyone it sees fit.

Thus, the Amendment will not deny *anyone* their access to current health care services, insurance coverage, financial aid or any other social or material assistance. Countless State programs extend these types of benefits to unmarried adults and children every day. They are not exclusively marital. Those who claim that the Amendment will threaten these types of benefits ignore the Amendment's plain language.

The exclusive benefits that the State does provide are seen to flow directly from the fact that marriage has always been understood as a union between a man and a woman. Only a man and a woman, uniting in marriage, can, for example, 1) obtain a marriage license; 2) be identified as legally married; 3) qualify as a legal spouse, husband or wife; and 4) enjoy the law's protection of marital sexual relations.

We cannot go through every individual problem here. That debate will occur many times during the next two-years before the people decide in 2004. The SJC said in 1992, "[T]he purpose of art. 48 is to allow the people 'to enact laws directly without being thwarted by an unresponsive Legislature...'"

The people indicated last fall they wish to decide this question about the core structure of our society. Over 60% of them favor the Amendment. The SJC says it is their right. How can we deny them?

Full Text of Committee Report

Full text of the Majority Report is as follows:

It is the opinion of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Service to oppose this initiative petition.

The supporters of House 4840 claim that they intend to harm no one, only to protect marriage. In reality, this measure will make it illegal – in fact, unconstitutional – for thousands of Massachusetts citizens to receive health insurance, bereavement leave, medical leave, hospital visitation, survivor benefits, and other basic legal protections that families and children need. Because this amendment is inconsistent with the principles on which our Constitution is based, a majority of the members of the Joint Committee on Public Service agree that this initiative should not pass and we urge you to vote no.

This amendment included language that would deny present and potential benefits and protections to thousands of citizens. The prohibition would apply under any circumstances, no matter how compelling the needs for those protections, or how detrimental the consequence to the families and children who lack them. The amendment would make it unconstitutional for some of our citizens to leave work to care for a sick child or to have the right to visit that sick child or a loved one in the hospital, to make medical decisions for them if they are incapacitated, or to include them in their health insurance.

The amendment would make it illegal for some police officers or rescue workers killed in the line of duty to leave survivor benefits to a longtime partner – or even for the survivor to have the unquestioned right to make funeral arrangements. These problems would be as insurmountable for senior citizens as for younger people. This would be constitutionally required and permanent.

A constitutional amendment that bars a segment of society from enjoying the rights and privileges afforded to others is discrimination. Discrimination sanctioned under law is wrong and unacceptable. In addition, it raised issues under the United States Constitution.

The effects of this amendment would be far reaching. It would be bad for business and bad for labor. Massachusetts would not only allow discrimination, but require it, forbidding employers from granting key benefits to their employees, hampering employers' efforts to recruit and retain workers by offering fair, competitive benefits, and making it unconstitutional to bargain collectively for important employee rights and benefits. Furthermore, concerns about the manner in which signatures were gathered for this ballot initiative call into question the fairness and legitimacy of the process itself.

Ours is a distinguished history and we believe that the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Mass. should be a document of which all our citizens can be proud. We urge you to vote no on House 4840.

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'Circus' at Statehouse

Palmer & Dodge Lawyers Responsible for Slander of Marriage Amendment

continued from page 1

are you doing this to us? Have you no sense of decency or honesty?"

Why Was It Done?

Many are speculating about the reason for this slander. The supporters of the Marriage Amendment used to believe this would all go away eventually. The horse people would either prove that some of the signature gatherers had deceived people or they wouldn't. But it's become obvious that their only purpose has been to get large amounts of publicity in order to damage the Marriage petition.

After the marriage people understood the motive, they thought that Susan Wagner, the woman from Queens on Long Island who is behind the Horse petition, was cooperating with their opponents. But the latest information shows that it was two Boston lawyers who have been masterminding this slander.

Lawyers Are Arkuss and Ticknor

The two lawyers are Neil P. Arkuss and George Ticknor, both of Concord. Atty. Arkuss is the lead plaintiff in the suit filed by the horse people against Sec. of State William Galvin in order to force him to approve the horse measure, even though it did not receive the necessary number of signatures in last fall's petition drive.

Although the lawyers have been careful not to directly make any slanderous remarks against MCM, the innuendos have been huge.

These innuendos showed their ugly side this month when the New York Times printed the following headline over a prominent story in its national edition on Sunday, April 7, **Drive to Ban Gay Marriage Is Accused of Duping Signers.** This headline explicitly placed the blame on MCM.

The headline writer at the Times in New York was not tricked about the real message from Atty. Arkuss. He could see that the message was aimed directly at those behind the Marriage Amendment. Even though the writer of the story was careful not to go beyond suggestions and innuendos, the headline person gave away their true intent.

New York Times Was Not the First

The New York Times article was not the first to mislead the voters. Many newspaper articles have insinuated how Atty. Arkuss and his associates were cheated by



All slander against the supporters of the Marriage Amendment originates from the horse people at the "Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts" in Concord. The attack is led by the lawyer-husbands of two resident artists. They, plus two of the staff, four resident artists and other family members comprise the original 13-signers of the horse petition.

those at MCM. He knows all about the smears that have occurred in the media. The material given to the court in his lawsuit last week included the text of a Channel 7 story which appeared on January 21.

The story made it clear that the "bad guys" were the people at MCM. It included a 7-second soundbite from a spokesman for MCM. But this was used only to portray him as the culprit. (See sidebar for Channel 7 segment.)

Timing Was for Media

The timing of Atty. Arkuss was solely for a media smear against MCM. It has become obvious to anyone that Arkuss does not have a valid complaint, or else he is trying to keep us in suspense. After almost five months have passed, he still has told us about only 13 people – out of over 100,000 who signed the Marriage petition – who say they were duped into signing.

Arkuss is not a stupid person. He is not a hick. He is a lawyer from an august Boston law firm. He knew he didn't have any case – unless he could possibly find a judge like Allan van Gestel who was laughed at across the country for violating the U.S. Constitution when he ruled against the whistle blowing parents at Fistgate. Arkuss also knew that if he tried to "rig" the judge in this case, he would begin a real scandal, although the power of those big law firms in Boston is not to be underestimated.

He kept the matter simmering for many months with little teasers

to the press that he had found some new information. And he kept dribbling out letters to signers of the Marriage Amendment advising them of the "fraud" which had taken place against them. He sent the letters across the state in an attempt to demoralize the signers. But he didn't understand that he was just stirring them

arrived in over 19,000 mailboxes just a week before the Marriage hearing. Arkuss had previously sent letters to 6,000 signers on February 21 and 2,438 on March 15.

In addition, he placed the story in the New York Times for April 7, three days before the hearing.



The center no longer recognizes mothers and fathers and teaches children to refer to parents as "adult partners."

up, not demoralizing them.

When it became clear that a legislative hearing would be held on the Marriage Amendment on April 10, he let loose on March 23 a barrage of 19,613 letters to signers of the petition. (Keep in mind that the hearing date was not announced, at least not to the public, until about March 23. The opponents had been trying to stop any hearing at all from taking place.) This meant the letters

Slanders Were Heard

And his machinations did have results, but not as much as he expected. About 15 state legislators, out of 200, attacked the Amendment in a media "circus" at the State House. Committee members Rep. David Torrissi (D-Lawrence, N. Andover) and Rep. Paul Demakis (D-Boston) kept raising the Horse petition.

The co-chair of the Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Arlene Isaacson, went on at length about alleged fraud and deception in the signature gathering effort. She said there were hundreds of victims of bait and switch tactics. She said she even had affidavits from signature gatherers who were trained in these tactics.

When MassNews asked Isaacson if we could see the affidavits to which she was referring, she nervously said, "I'll be right back," and never returned.

Reps. Torrissi and Demakis

also raised the resignation of Executive Director Bryan Rudnick from MCM in February after the signature campaign was successfully concluded. Reports at the time said Rudnick resigned in order to prepare to go to law school.

The two committee members wondered aloud why Rudnick "suddenly" left and implied it may have been related to the allegations of fraudulently obtained Marriage petition signatures although they did not reveal how the two could possibly be connected.

Sarah McVay Pawlick pointed out to the legislators that almost two years in the first job after college was a long time and to expect two additional years after that from Rudnick was too much.

Many have also wondered how Arkuss managed to get a computer database of the signers which had obviously been manipulated at great expense by someone who planned to use it a lot. Who would have given it to him except the opposition?

Horse Petition Was Foolish

The horse petition was foolish, in any event. If those who signed to "save" the horses had known the facts about the initiative, many of them would not have approved it.

The originator of the proposal is Susan Wagner of Equine Advocates on Long Island, which is within walking distance of Aqueduct Racetrack. She says she worked in the racing industry for 14 years until she formed this organization in 1996. Many wonder whether she still works there and is receiving money from the racing industry in order to keep them from getting the bad publicity which has gone to the greyhound racetracks.

Where else would she be getting all this money?

Wagner says on her website that "over 100,000 American horses are being slaughtered here and in Canada annually." She has "rescued" only a few dozen of those half-million horses in the past six years and takes enormous credit for it.

The law she would have us pass would have done little to correct the problem. It would have prohibited the slaughter of horses only if they were destined for human consumption. It would *not* have stopped the slaughter for dog food or other purposes. *All 100,000 horses could still be slaughtered every year.*

In addition, it would have put innocent people in the grasp of a poorly written law. It included people who "give away," "offer to give away," or "transport" horses where the person knows "or should know" that the animal was going to be slaughtered for human consumption.

If a horse is going to a slaughter house in Canada, how would anyone know the purpose of the meat?

The penalty is one year in jail for each horse. ☹

Susan Wagner's website is at www.equineadvocates.com.

Dirty Tricks Originate in Concord

All of the 13 original signers of the horse petition are residents of Concord. They include the following:

- ▶ Atty. Arkuss, his wife, Nancy, who is a Resident Artist at the Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts, and apparently their son, Brett, all of the same address.
- ▶ Atty. Ticknor, his apparent wife, Susan C. Getsinger-Ticknor, who is a Resident Artist at the Center, his apparent son, H. Malcolm and her apparent son, Alex, all of the same address.
- ▶ Marijane Raymond, Resident Educator at the Center.
- ▶ Maxine Payne, Resident Artist and Staff at the Center.
- ▶ Corrine Kinsman, an active artist at the Center's "Concord Players" and "Concord Youth Theatre."
- ▶ Priscilla Parrott, Resident Artist at the Center, member of First Parish Unitarian Church.
- ▶ Suzanne Winsby, Resident Artist and Staff member at the Center, member of Unitarian Church.
- ▶ Allison Aley, member of Social Action Council at Unitarian Church.

'Circus' at Statehouse

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Media Watch

Globe Enjoys Beacon Hill 'Circus' about Marriage

What Will Reporter Stephanie Ebbert Do for Next Paycheck?

The Boston Globe forced "reporter" Stephanie Ebbert to write another propaganda piece last month about the Marriage Amendment – this time on the "circus" held at the State House.

In her report about the 7-hour session where many people spoke, Stephanie wrote almost exclusively about the Catholic Church in her 637-word piece, with the following headline, **Three priests oppose ban on gay marriage**.

The lead paragraph in the story had 181 words about three priests – out of over 900 priests in the state – who broke with the church.

There were only 82 neutral words in the entire story. These were about the ongoing process in the legislature. There was nothing about what was said by those who favor the Amendment, except for one lawyer for the church who didn't even speak and C.J. Doyle of the Catholic Action League. The Globe story reported these Catholic views only for the purpose of knocking them down by quoting the three dissenting priests. Stephanie wrote, "The priests who opposed the measure disagreed," and she used a quote from them to sum it up.

It was all an obvious, blatant attempt to paint the whole hearing as a religious and Catholic event. It was also an obvious attempt to make the Amendment into a gay and lesbian issue even though many speakers pointed out that homosexuals will be only a small percent of those affected. Even the headline screamed "gay marriage."

Although everyone defends the rights of Stephanie and the Boston Globe to have an opinion on this subject, they also feel the matter should be reported fairly and honestly.

Stephanie's Distortions

These are the sections of Stephanie's story in order.

181 words – Three priests oppose the Amendment.

82 words – Brief summary of legislative process.

113 words – A lesbian cried while testifying, Cheryl Jacques announced that her partner had given birth to twins, and "gay and lesbian activists" jeered Atty. Chester Darling.

173 words – Statements from the Catholic Action League and a lawyer from the Catholic church (who did not even testify and was obviously sought out by Stephanie to increase the religious/Catholic angle).

34 words – A response to the above from

Three priests oppose ban on gay marriage

By Stephanie Ebbert

Leaders of the Catholic Church in Massachusetts are urging legislators to amend the state Constitution to ban gay marriage, supporting a ballot initiative that gay rights groups believe could eliminate health benefits now offered to same-sex partners.

But, breaking with the church hierarchy, three priests took a stand yesterday against the gay marriage ban, citing Catholic teaching on social justice and calling the amendment discriminatory in children born to gay parents.

"Especially in light of the present crisis of abuse, we want to make sure that all children are protected and receive equal rights," the Rev. Walter F. Coerin, pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Newton, said in a statement read by parishioner Nancy Todd. "This amendment would certainly deprive some children of their rights simply because their parents were not legally married."

"This does nothing, nothing to protect family life," said the Rev. Richard Lawson, pastor of St. Cecilia parish in Boston. "It only weakens it."

The Rev. Thomas J. Carroll, director of the St. Vincent Urban Center in the South End, also spoke against the ban.

The amendment is part of the Legislature's 17-member Joint Committee on Public Service and the Judiciary.

The Globe reported only about Catholics at the hearing, because they thought this would discredit the Marriage Amendment.

one of the three dissenting priests.

54 words – A notation that Atty. Chester Darling refused to go into any detail on the question, including what benefits would be protected or denied under the measure. Stephanie chose not to reveal that former Supreme Court justice Joseph Nolan also testified. Both lawyers said they are anxious and eager to discuss and debate the issues, but this cannot be done in sound-bites at a "circus" or within the few weeks remaining before the deadline. This will be discussed in great detail during the 2-plus years that remain before the voters decide in November 2004 – if the Boston Globe will cooperate.

Stephanie Is 'Attack Person' On Amendment

Stephanie surfaced last November as the "attack person" against the Amendment.

The Globe had ignored the matter for as long as it could because it hoped it would die if it got no publicity. But when it became clear that the Amendment was getting more than enough signatures to get on the ballot, the Globe responded with a negative story on Nov. 21 – written by Stephanie.

The headline on that story was, **Battle over gay marriage petition gets ugly**.

We felt a little sorry for Stephanie when she wrote this: "The fiercest battle over gay rights in Massachusetts in more than a decade is being fought face to face at neighborhood supermarkets, shopping malls and T stops, often in a less than civil manner."

That's precisely our message. Doesn't she understand that?

But it got worse when she quoted one of the opponents as saying, "We're trying to stop it from getting on the ballot because we're afraid voters will approve it."

Exactly!!!

Thank you, Stephanie, for revealing why those blockers were following our petition gatherers all over the state. She even wrote that "gay rights activists tailed the group, trying to dissuade the public [i.e. voters] from signing."

MassNews had published many pictures of harassers across the state who thrust their faces into those of voters who were trying to exercise their legal rights. But the Globe ignored those stories because they were happy in the thought that the illegal activities of their allies were being successful and that the petition was going down to defeat.

It was only after it became obvious that the petition drive was successful that the Globe acknowledged it last November – in this ugly manner.

Stephanie quoted the chairwoman of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Arline Isaacson, "Leading up to the vote it's so ugly and it frequently degenerates into antigay rhetoric, antigay violence, and people are really worried about that."

But it was Isaacson and her friends who made it ugly and confrontational. And the supporters of the Amendment were genuinely concerned about their safety. Therefore, professional signature gatherers had to be hired.

Despite the confrontations, those in favor of the Amendment showed extreme restraint in the face of the harassment by their opponents. It led many to believe that Isaacson was hoping that there would be violence as a result of her aggressive behavior – which she and the Globe would promptly label as "antigay violence."

More Fraud in January

After the Amendment was certified by the Secretary of State at the beginning of January, Stephanie was sent out again to write a negative story on January 9.

This time she picked the fraudulent horse story which had already been reported in much of the media. She found nothing new to write but, nevertheless, the story was placed prominently on the front page of the "City and Region" section. It was embarrassing for any newspaper person to see the Globe groveling

in this manner. The headline was, **Accusations swirl on petition tactics**.

Stephanie wrote in her first paragraph that "horse defenders thought it was a sure bet" that they would obtain enough signatures.

In her second paragraph, she revealed her bias two times in the following phrase, "A far more controversial proposal to ban gay marriage ..."

In the first instance, the Protection of Marriage amendment is not "far more controversial." It obviously has great support from the voters. It got many thousands more signatures than the horse petition. Who told her it doesn't have support? This was obviously her own prejudice.

In the second instance, the amendment is not a "proposal to ban gay marriage." It is a proposal to keep the definition of marriage, as it has always been, between one-man-and-one-woman. There are many groups other than gays who want to change that definition. And the Boston Globe knows it.

Stephanie quoted the unhappy horse consultant, Susan Wagner, "We believe that because of everything we know about the horse slaughter issue, from numerous polls all over the country, ours was the one that everyone wanted to sign. The idea that we didn't qualify or didn't have enough signatures is ridiculous. We believe that thousands of our signatures ended up on the other petition."

The best that Stephanie could come up with to validate that silly statement was to present the following complaint from one person. But even if everything that person said was true, there was no evidence of fraud. Even if there was an attempt to deceive, which is not shown, the attempt was not successful. The person was not tricked. At the worst, if it did happen as she says, it would be seen only as a "hard-sell." Here's what Stephanie wrote:

"Darby Daoust, a Lee voter, said she had to be alert when a Ballot Access worker at Berkshire Community College got her to sign the horse petition, then asked if she would sign another."

"He told her simply, 'it's about the benefits of marriage,' Daoust recounted, and folded the page to hide the language explaining its features, which would define marriage as a heterosexual couple, and reserve its benefits for heterosexual, married couples."

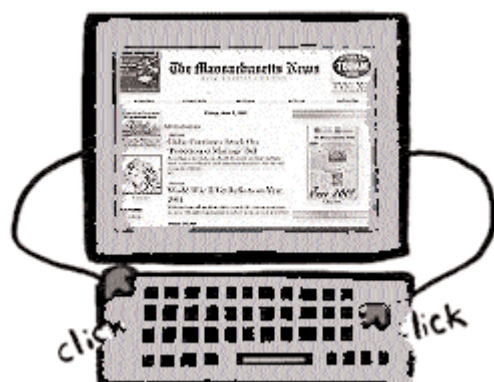
"He said it's so everybody can have benefits if they're married," she recalled. "I work for an attorney that practices family law. I'm thinking, oh, really?"

"Daoust protested and refused to sign, but remained angry at the tactics."

What Daoust alleged was not even close to what Susan Wagner and Stephanie were saying happened across the state. Daoust signed the horse petition as she wished and then refused to sign the marriage petition.

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'Circus' at Statehouse

NY Times Joins Attack on Marriage Amendment

Fraudulent Horse Charges Publicized Three Days Before Hearing; Story Has Nothing New

The New York Times made a last-minute attack against the Mass. Marriage Amendment in a large story on a Sunday last month – only three days before a legislative hearing about the measure.

The president of the Mass. Citizens for Marriage (MCM) termed the story, which ran on page 18 of the national edition, a “desperate, last-minute attempt to scuttle the hearing” scheduled for Wednesday, April 10. She requested an investigation by the Secretary of State.

“We’ve known for years that the Times, which also owns the Boston Globe, is against the marriage amendment,” said Sarah McVay Pawlick.

“That is obviously their right. But it is not their right to play ‘dirty.’ Everyone knows zealots, who wait until the last week before an election to make untrue charges. They hope that the other side will not be able to respond in time.

“Although we’ve all heard the horse charges since last November, it’s strange that the Times would be writing a major story about it only three days before the hearing. If they believe their prestige would put the Amendment on the defensive, they are wrong because everyone is able to see the truth in this matter.”

Absolutely Nothing New

Pawlick pointed out that there was absolutely nothing new in the story. The Times reported only three people who have complained about being tricked.

“These people in the Times story are 3 of the 5 voters who were plaintiffs in the lawsuit which was filed



The New York Times publicized in its national edition the slanderous smear of the Marriage Amendment by Save Our Horses, without checking the credibility of the organization. This very old story was published only a few days before the hearing on Beacon Hill. The lawsuit by the horse people was dismissed by a Boston judge only a few days later.

against the Secretary of State about ten days ago. Despite all the hoopla, we’ve still only been told about five people who are said to have complained.”

The Times started its story this way, “Outside a Stop & Shop in this suburb south of Boston a few months ago ...” But everyone knows that the signing of petitions

ended last fall, not “a few months ago.”

“The Times is embarrassed,” said Pawlick, “because it is rehashing a worn-out, discredited story and wants to hide the fact that its timing is very suspicious.

“When the reporter, Pam Belluck, called our office last Thursday,” Pawlick continued, “she

indicated that the story would be ready on Friday. But they held it for a few days, which shows it was not

a timely news story. Their only intent was to run it sometime before Wednesday, in order to send ‘smoke’ across the hearing room.”

Even at this late date, the horse people were quoted in the story as saying that “hundreds” of people were tricked, but only five were identified. They claimed that the organizer “believes” they will find the 2,574 additional signatures they need.

Even if True

Even if everything they say is true, how would this indict the Protection of Marriage Amendment? asks Pawlick. Nothing in the story indicates that the horse people are accusing them of anything. Only the signature-gatherers are criticized. They say they’re not angry at the marriage people. The same signature gatherers worked for both groups, plus they also worked for Carla Howell’s income tax campaign.

Yet the Times headline was, “Drive to Ban Gay Marriage Is Accused of Duping Signers.” The headline certainly indicates that the mindset of the Times is solely to attack the Amendment.

The headline also continued the falsehood that the Amendment will primarily impact gays, which is not close to being true, said Pawlick.

A California lawyer who brought the suit against the Secretary of State was cited as saying that the signature gatherers have said they were coached to use the horse petition to snag “marriage” signatures. But only one signature gatherer was cited after that claim and the Times said only that he said, “he and others were given clipboards with horse cover sheets, but more marriage petitions than horse petitions underneath.”

Pam Belluck was unavailable for comment when this story was written.

Media Watch

Terrible Reporting on ‘Committee Report’ about Marriage

Why You Never Rely on Them for News

The Boston Globe said in its story on the Marriage Amendment that it was a 15-0 vote against it, but that’s not accurate because two members abstained. It’s obvious to everyone except the Globe, which does not want you to know, that those two members do not agree with the Report.

The Globe didn’t even know that the lawsuit by Save Our Horses was thrown out by Judge Thomas E. Connolly yesterday. That’s pretty embarrassing for our premier newspaper.

They said that the President of

Mass. Citizens for Marriage, Sarah McVay Pawlick, said the Amendment would not outlaw domestic partner benefits. But that’s the Globe’s reporting, not hers. That phrase is a loaded question, because domestic partner benefits can have many different meanings. This is not a sound bite issue as the Globe would like to make it. And it was not accurate to link that statement to Pawlick. Because they are the “newspaper of record,” someone will someday quote that inaccurate statement to her as gospel.

The story took a tailspin right away with the headline, Same-sex marriage ban dealt a setback. In the first place, this is not about gays, it is about marriage. The gays are only one small part of the

people who will be affected by the Amendment. But the Globe believes they can hurt the Amendment by writing like that.

And the Amendment was not dealt a “setback.” No one expected this Committee to approve it. That’s why Sen. Birmingham sent it to them in the first place. And the Report had so many inaccuracies and falsehoods that it will actually benefit the supporters of the Amendment. Many believe the members will regret having signed it.

The Globe called the Committee a “key” State House panel. But what’s “key” about it? It’s just another Committee on the Hill. It’s “key” only when you like what they said, as the Globe does.

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'Circus' at Statehouse

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Spotlight Team Report

Offices of 'Save Our Horses' Is a Mailbox

NY Times & Boston Globe Are Scooped

The MassNews "Spotlight Team" has uncovered the location of the "offices" of "Save Our Horses."

"We had thought that the New York Times and its subsidiary, the Boston Globe, had put their top people on this story," says Publisher J. Edward Pawlick, "but obviously they didn't."

When the Times announced it would be printing a story about the horses in its national edition, only three days before the hearing at the State House on April 10, there was initial concern, Pawlick says.

"It was magnificent timing by the Times in an attempt to influence the legislature in our state. We couldn't guess what their stunning news would be," Pawlick says.

But the story turned out to be a complete dud, only a rehash of previous stories from last November.

"If they had spent more time on their story," says Pawlick, "they would have discovered that this was a New York job being run out of a mailbox on Route 9 in Framingham. The mailbox was as close as possible to the Framingham exit of the MassPike and a quick trip back to New York.

"If they had investigated, the Times wouldn't have been 'suckered' with this fraudulent story. The horse people apparently had no one at all on the ground in Massachusetts. No wonder they didn't get the signatures they wanted."

Pawlick says it appears that no one from the Times/Globe left their offices to investigate while writing the NY Times story.

Offices in Framingham

The horse "offices" are located in a Framingham franchise for "Mail Boxes Etc." They are in mailbox 284, also known as "Unit 284." It is on Route 9 with an address of 1257 Worcester Rd.

The "unit" turned out to be a small mailbox, just about large enough to hold a few dozen standard-size envelopes and some leaflets from Stop & Shop.

"They thought they could hire a few professional signature gatherers and just sit at home in New York and ignore it," says Pawlick. "That is not the way you run a ballot campaign if you plan to win."

The Times/Globe conglomerate was one of the last newspapers in the state to report the horse story last fall. They waited until many other papers had already done so. The Boston Globe went first for them with a wrap-up on Jan. 9, which reported nothing new. The Times ran the story in its national edition on Sunday, April 7. It also reported absolutely nothing new.

Even though the allegations first surfaced last November, there has been almost no evidence at all to support the claim.

"We thought they might be coming up with something new and startling. After all, this is the National Edition of the New York Times. They were writing a major story that was sent all across the entire country."

Nothing New in Times Story

The Times reported in its story that the horse people are 2,574 signatures short. Then the paper wrote that "hundreds" of people have "mailed the cards back claiming they were hoodwinked." But it said the organizer "believes" that "the total will exceed the 2,574-signature shortfall."

However, after almost five months of searching, the Times/Globe have reported the names of only five people who say they were tricked.

Some are now wondering whether the horse offices in Framingham would even



This is "Unit 284, 1257 Worcester Rd.," the home of "Save Our Horses" in Massachusetts.

hold such a large number of postcards from complainants.

Some observers believe it is because both the Times and the Globe are opponents of the Marriage Amendment that they wrote their stories and the Times included the smear headline which said, **Drive to Ban Gay Marriage Is Accused of Duping Signers.**

"That headline was a reckless, libelous attack against the many thousands of good people who are working very hard on this campaign," says Pawlick.

Times' Excuse Is Not Believable

The Times will attempt to say it was not they who accused anyone of "duping signers." They were only quoting the horse people. But the problem for the Times is that in the story they wrote, the horse people did not specifically accuse anyone of "duping" except for some signature-gatherers. It was only in New York where a Times editor read the story and wrote this headline that it was made absolutely clear what the story was only implying.

Many wonder why the Times/Globe does not question who is providing all the money to perpetuate this horse hoax.

Perhaps if one of their Spotlight Teams had tracked down the Framingham offices of the horse people, they would have known they were being duped. But, of course, they didn't really care about the truth; their only purpose was to smear the Amendment in any way possible.

MN



The only offices for 'Save Our Horses' in Mass. are inside one small mailbox in this franchise of Mailboxes Etc., located on Route 9, only a short distance from the Mass. Turnpike exit at Framingham.



The horse "office" is one of the mailboxes shown on this wall.

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7

'Circus' at Statehouse

Suit By 'Horse' Campaign Shows Desperation

A Ruse by Opponents of Marriage Amendment?

By Ed Oliver

In an act of desperation, a group called "Save Our Horses" asked a Boston judge last month to immediately force the Secretary of State to certify their failed ballot petition, claiming they failed to get the required number of voter signatures due to fraud.

Suffolk Superior Court Judge Thomas E. Connolly said he would take the matter under advisement.

Judge Connolly did not appear impressed and pointed out that it was the horse people who hired the signature gatherers. "Assuming fraud took place," he said, "it would be by employees of the company. It is the fraud of the people you hired, not fraud by the Commonwealth."

Although they have been making these claims of fraud since last November and even mailed 28,000 questionnaires to the over 100,000 signers of the marriage amendment to see if any of them were "tricked" into signing, they had affidavits only from the six plaintiffs in the lawsuit and five additional replies from the 28,000-person mailing.

At least one representative from the radical homosexual legal group, GLAD, was present at the hearing, lending credence to the claim that the horse issue is manufactured by opponents of the marriage amendment in order to smear it.

One of the plaintiffs, Anita Constantine-Gay, denied that she is a lesbian. She told MassNews, "My signature was stolen. I agreed to sign a petition to save horses. Instead, I was tricked into signing one, which was hurtful to decent people. That is the source of my outrage." She said she "flipped out" after she learned through a gay activist web site that her name was on the marriage petition. She said she learned about the website through the Boston Globe.

The horse people presented nothing new at the hearing to bolster their claim that thousands of people intending to sign their petition were defrauded.

California Lawyer Argues for Horses

Arguing for the horse group, Attorneys Lowell Finley, from California, and Dan Small said that paid signature gatherers tricked people into signing the protection of marriage petition, although they really intended to sign the horse petition. These tactics caused the horse petition to fall short by 2574 signatures, they said. They said that the gatherers

were paid more for signatures to the marriage petition, but they did not elaborate on the reason. (See sidebar)

They said that the wrong message would be sent to the voters if the fraud succeeds. They also said that there is still time for the legislature to consider the horse petition if the court forces the issue.

The attorneys produced an affidavit given to them yesterday by State Sen. Diane Wilkerson. She wrote in the affidavit that there is still time for the legislature to act on the horse petition if the court orders the Secretary of the

Connolly, who said that is only one legislator's opinion. I'd like to have the senate president or speaker agree with that statement."

The attorneys said their evidence consists of affidavits from:

- ▶ "Victims" of signature fraud.
- ▶ Voter witnesses to "fraud."
- ▶ A paid signature gatherer who says he was trained on how to obtain signatures fraudulently, although he didn't do so.
- ▶ A direct mail expert, who said the one thousand alleged responses to 28,000 questionnaires sent out by the horse group looking for

they were tricked:

- Christine Bogoian, Worcester
- Marie Coe, Pittsfield
- Anita Constantine-Gay, Hingham
- Bethany Hughes, Andover
- Richard Leeman, Braintree
- Celine Sullivan, Wareham

Two of their stories do not make sense.

Bogoian said: "A young black man asked me to sign an initiative petition against horse slaughter. I said yes and signed what I thought was the horse slaughter petition. While I was walking away, the man asked if I want to sign a petition against same sex marriages."

Weitzel and Peter Sacks said that the defendant, Secretary William Galvin, is obviously concerned by the allegations of fraud but is bound by constitutional restrictions. He must enforce the basic rule – with no room for compromise – that the initiative petition must bear 57,100 certified signatures, they said.

He said that the horse people are relying on "statistical analysis" as evidence of fraud. A projection based on the number of responses to a questionnaire mailed out by the horse people is unreliable evidence, they said.

Each signature on the successful marriage petition is certified and represents the will of the voters, said the defense. Each signature on the marriage petition allegedly obtained through fraud would have to be withdrawn on an individual basis, necessitating evidence in the form of sworn courtroom testimony from each of the alleged 2574 victims.

The Secretary feels the evidence is not competent or sufficient, and there is a lot of hearsay based on statements from the "Save Our Horses" director. The one thousand alleged responses are not signed, and there is no assurance they are from actual voters. Solid evidence is required.

The time factor is also critical, said the defense. The plaintiffs waited until the last minute to force this matter, even though they have been making allegations since November. The legislature should not have to jump through hoops, but should give any ballot question meaningful consideration over a reasonable period of time. Two weeks is not sufficient.

After the hearing, Assistant Attorney General Peter Sacks told MassNews, "We do not feel that plaintiffs met their burden to show that enough people were defrauded. Plaintiffs have offered some reason to believe that some people were defrauded. To prove that anyone has been defrauded, we would need to see actual evidence."

Sacks said actual evidence would have to come on an individual basis in courtroom testimony.

Horse petition Attorney Lowell Finley told MassNews, "We're pleased how the argument went. The judge is obviously giving the matter careful consideration. We're hopeful for a positive outcome."

Commenting on the claims of fraud by the horse people, Evelyn Reilly, director of public policy for the Mass. Family Institute, told MassNews, "This is an attempt to throw mud on the Protection of Marriage Amendment by those who are seeking to undermine the traditional family. I think Asst. Atty. General Weitzel did a great job of pointing out the weakness of their case."

Horse Lawyer Proves that Illegal Blockers Hurt Marriage Amendment

An affidavit by the horse people confirmed that illegal blockers from the ACLU and other opposition groups hurt the marriage amendment and made it necessary for them to pay more for each signature obtained.

Attorney Lowell Finley, the California lawyer who represents "Save Our Horses," presented his own Affidavit that he interviewed another signature-gatherer, Robert Wilkinson, by telephone on April 7, 2002. He did not bother to get an Affidavit from Wilkinson himself.

(Wilkinson's company obtained signatures last fall for bilingual education and for Carla Howell's income tax, according to Finley. Apparently Carla Howell used both signature-gathering companies.)

According to the sworn statement from Finley, "[An employee of Mass. Citizens for Marriage] told Mr. Wilkinson that he wanted to contract with Mr. Wilkinson's company to collect additional signatures on the Marriage Amendment petition, Petition E.

"Mr. Wilkinson declined. He had been spending time on the street supervising the collection of signatures on other petitions, and knew from what he saw and heard there that the Marriage Amendment was controversial. He saw that many anti-Petition E activists were stationed at the shopping malls where most of the signature gathering was going on, and heard them urging voters not to sign Petition E.

"He knew from his experience with past sig-

nature drives that controversy makes it harder to collect signatures and therefore makes a controversial petition a bad business venture..." [emphasis added]

One of the claims used by the horse people to advance the idea that they were the victims of fraud, is that signature gatherers were paid more for the marriage petition, and this provided an incentive for those signature gatherers to trick people into signing one petition over the other.

What is rarely mentioned in the mainstream media is the organized campaign by homosexual activists and other amendment opponents to immediately dispatch "blockers" to cities around the state. Blockers were trained at a union hall in Boston on weekday evenings, and would harass and intimidate grassroots volunteers who were collecting signatures for the marriage amendment in front of stores and inside shopping malls.

The inevitable result of the illegal harassment of voters was a reluctance to ask citizens to volunteer to collect signatures because of concern about their safety, necessitating paid signature gatherers. Professional signature gatherers recoiled at the extra work required to gather signatures, due to the presence of the activists who would literally get in their face. The price per signature was driven up because of the confrontation and intimidation tactics by extreme activists.

This is conclusively proven by Atty. Finley's own affidavit. But it was not noticed by anyone during yesterday's hearing.

Desperate for Affidavits

The horse people were so desperate for Affidavits that they even submitted one to the court from a Framingham woman, Janet Drake, who said she was *not* tricked.

This woman first surfaced with her allegations last year in an article in Bay Windows, the homosexual newspaper.

Her Affidavit in court said, "I said I did not want to sign that petition, I wanted to sign the horse petition. Finally, the man gave me the horse petition, with the letter 'A' in the lower right, and I signed it."

Commonwealth to certify it.

But the judge was not impressed with it either. He pointed that Wilkerson's affidavit only said it is "possible" that the legislature has enough time to act on the petition should he force the certification.

"Possible is a wide range," said

victims, represents a much larger number of people who were victims.

Affidavits Failed to Make Sense

The following six people, who happen to represent every corner of the state, filed affidavits to say

But if she had already been tricked into signing the marriage petition, why did they ask her to sign it when she was walking away?

The same question needs to be asked of Leeman, who said: "A man in his 40's or 50's asked me to sign an initiative petition about horse slaughter. I said yes, and signed what I thought was the horse slaughter petition. The petition was on a clipboard the man was holding. I saw only one clipboard. After I signed, the man asked me to sign a petition about marriage. I told him no and walked away."

Secretary Is Concerned but Not Convinced

Arguing for the other side, Assistant Atty. General Richard

'Circus' at Statehouse

8

Mass. Citizens for Marriage Request Investigation of Horse Complaint

No Evidence of Wrongdoing after Five Months of Media Circus

The President of Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage, Sarah McVay Pawlick, wrote a stinging rebuttal last month to Sec. of State Galvin about Susan Wagner of "Save Our Horses."

She encouraged Galvin to begin an immediate investigation into Wagner's charge that unfair practices were used during last fall's signature-gathering.

"It is common knowledge in any political campaign that false charges and smears are always hurled, by those who are prone to do so, during the final week before the election," she wrote. "They hope that the candidate will not be able to respond in time.

"Inasmuch as this is exactly one week before our 'election,' which begins next Wednesday, April 10, with a Legislative hearing about our Protection of Marriage Amendment, the recent actions by 'Save Our Horses' fit the pattern exactly.

"It appears that our opponents – of which 'Save Our Horses' is now most prominent – hope to hurl baseless charges in order to create smokescreens at the Wednesday hearing.

"We ask that you conduct an investigation to examine the evidence which 'Save Our Horses' asserts in support of their lawsuit which was just filed against you.

"We request that you begin this investigation immediately and complete it as quickly as possible.

"As you know, the statements made to the media by 'Save Our Horses' have never contained either

names or facts.

"Over the past five months since last November, they have complained repeatedly that a substantial number of people signed our petition while thinking they were signing the horse petition. We have waited vainly for over five months for any proof of those charges. But none has been forthcoming.

"Nevertheless, now that a suit has been filed against you – still without any proof of the charges – we must request that your office undertake an immediate and thorough investigation of this matter."

The NY Times, which is the owner of the Boston Globe, took up the cause of those against marriage in an article a few days later which extolled the merits of "Save Our Horses." But this was not surprising to any observers, in that the Times has always editorialized in favor of homosexual marriage. The fact that the Times had waited all these months to support the attack against the Amendment, only a few days before the hearings would be held, indicated the exquisite timing of the opponents – to lessen the time for MCM to rebut any false accusations which surfaced at this late date.

Started in November

MCM wrote that they had always suspected that some opponents were signing the Petition so that they could complain later.

"We always suspected that some opponents were signing our Petition in order to later claim that they had been 'tricked,'" said the letter, "but we had no idea how many. Even if there are now approximately 200 people who say they were confused, as we read in the press, that is much less than 1% of the 76,607 signatures that you certified. It does not begin to touch the thousands of additional signatures they need to get on the ballot. They must have other reasons for all this noise.

"This campaign to damage our voting process began last year on November 15 when the Boston Globe chose to print a letter from Jane Detwiler, Natick, in which she said she signed our petition at her school for a volunteer 'without understanding the full meaning' of the Amendment. She did not claim she was deceived in any way. But this was the beginning of the dirty tricks.

"The following day, Attorney General Reilly issued a press release that his office had received "several" complaints (which means 'more than two but not many,' according to Webster) and found that 'some' voters 'may' have 'signed a petition they did not support.'

"Based upon this, Attorney General Reilly advised voters to 'carefully read' anything they are asked to sign. Everyone agreed with that advice. But the horse people have continued to use that Press Release as though he had found something wrong. He did not even hint to that effect. No action was taken by the Attorney General and the matter is not being investigated.

"Now, after five months of 'investigation' by the horse people, only five people were named as complainants in the lawsuit filed against you. The organization now claims they have several hundred names but they refuse to reveal them.

"In spite of their efforts to recruit 'victims' of this alleged trick, 'Save Our Horses' has produced no more than five names which would support its charge of a conspiracy to trick petition signers.

"Their plan is to make a big 'scandal' of this on the day before the hearing next week.

Please Investigate Carefully

The letter requested Secretary Galvin to make a thorough investigation.

"We sincerely believe that any deliberate effort to manipulate our election process should be prosecuted fully," said the letter.

"We support punishing those

who deceive the public, whether it is by some form of trickery in collecting signatures or by making unsubstantiated and false charges to the media.

"But the time for speculation concerning this deceptive practice has long since passed.

If 'Save Our Horses' has proof of any fraudulent practice, they should present it to you immediately. We do not understand why this was not done during the critical period of certification of the petitions by your office.

"Most of the signatures on our petitions were gathered by unpaid volunteers outside churches and shopping malls across Massachusetts.

"At the time this charge first surfaced, we contacted the contractor and asked if such practices were being used by him. The contractor denied using any of the deceptive techniques described by the horse group to the media. We also dispatched members of our staff to various locations to observe the contractor's employees. Our employees saw no evidence of any of the deceptive practices described by the horse group to reporters.

"Mr. Secretary, we ask that you carefully examine the charges and the documentation, which we assume, will be made public, at some point in the future, by 'Save Our Horses.'"

Please Check These

Mrs. Pawlick requested an examination of the following:

► "The relationship between those who have complained about this alleged deception and organizations such as the National Organization for Women (NOW), American Civil Liberties Union, the Campaign for Equality, Citizens for Participation in Political Action, the Freedom to Marry Coalition and Foundation, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Norwood-Walpole Citizens for All Families, Partners Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Couples, Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry and the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force or any other organizations opposed to the Protection of Marriage Amendment.

Walpole Citizens for All Families, Partners Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Couples, Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry, the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force and other organizations opposed to the Protection of Marriage Amendment.

► "The results of the mailing to signers of the Protection of Marriage Petition by 'Save Our Horses' asking signers if they (1) intended to sign the Horse Petition, (2) did not intend to sign the Protection of Marriage petition and did not know why their name appears there or (3) intended to sign both the Horse and Protection of Marriage petitions.

► "The scope, cost and information about who funded the recent 'Save Our Horses' mailing to our signers and the relationship between the funding of this extensive mailing and the National Organization for Women (NOW), American Civil Liberties Union, the Campaign for Equality, Citizens for Participation in Political Action, the Freedom to Marry Coalition and Foundation, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Norwood-Walpole Citizens for All Families, Partners Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Couples, Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry and the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force or any other organizations opposed to the Protection of Marriage Amendment.

"It is estimated by experts that the recent mailing to our supporters by 'Save Our Horses' cost approximately \$1.31 apiece, unless they are in collusion with those who opposed the Amendment. The very fact that a computer was used to manipulate the list of signers so that not more than one letter was sent to a household (even though more than one had signed the Petition) indicates that they undoubtedly worked with someone who provided them with the mailing list." ☹

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Mass. Women Are Violent, Say Lesbians

Massachusetts Adult Women Are Violent, Say Mass. Lesbians

continued from page 1
occurred.

The Department of Public Health "consultant," Michael Gaucher, had the following exchange with one student, who appeared to be about 16-years-old:

Michael Gaucher: "What offices are we talking about?"

Student: [hesitation] Michael Gaucher: "Don't be shy, honey; you can do it."

Student: "Your mouth."

Michael Gaucher: "Okay."

Student: "Your ass."

Michael Gaucher: "There you go."

Student: "Your pussy. That kind of place."

More of that type of "fun talk" can be found in our archives under "Students Given Graphic Instruction in Homosexual Sex" or in the free tapes of *Fistgate* that are available.

Fear at Gay Retreats

The "Network for Battered Lesbians" provides an unusual

glimpse into a world which is strange to most people. See <www.thenetworklared.org>.

The Network says that the threat of violence among lesbians is so strong that many hesitate to go to gay meetings. One of them explained the fear they feel.

"I recently attended a queer progressive activists retreat and

organizing school. I was impressed by honest comments people made about not feeling safe at the retreat or other queer organizations."

She says she was "frustrated that issues of safety surrounding domestic violence were not addressed." ☹

Domestic Violence Is a Political Issue, Lesbians Say

The lesbians at the Network for Battered Lesbians are extreme liberals. They see everything, including violence among themselves, as a political issue.

It is accurate to say that they dislike men intensely, and they also dislike those women who like men.

They say that they are a "political organization seeking systemic change."

"The Network views domestic violence as integrally related to systemic oppression in our society, and believes that in order to end domestic violence, we must end oppression in all of its forms."

They continue, "We believe that battering reflects (and perpetuates) a larger violent culture, which condones and rewards interpersonal, institutional, and imperialist abuses of power. Lesbian battering is thus connected to all other forms of violence, oppression, and abuse, and our work against lesbian battering is necessarily linked to work against racism, sexism, homophobia, militarism, child abuse, and other forms of injustice. We seek to create a culture in which domination, exploitation, and coercion are not normative, and all our work reflects this vision."

Approved 'National People's Campaign'

They approved the demonstration in Philadelphia in April 1997 by the "National People's Campaign" against Pres. Clinton and others who were, they say, conducting a "bipartisan attack on America's poor, elder, working-class, disabled, immigrant, HIV-positive, lesbian, gay, bi, trans and young people."

The Network sees domestic violence in terms of feminist theory, i.e., as an outgrowth of "power." When straight fathers, such as Ken Newell and Harry Stewart, are sentenced by judges to go to batterer school even though they have never battered anyone, they are sent there because of this feminist theory. It is what they face when they arrive there.

Feminist Theory Explained

The Network explains the feminist theory this way, according to one essay on the site from a Smith College girl who interned there.

"Though it is difficult to define oppression, it is a term that is widely used by progressive activists to describe what we are trying to eradicate. It is generally seen as a system set up so that a privileged minority of the population defines their experience as the norm, stigmatizes others based on that definition, and uses that stigmatization as a justification for their control of resources and exploitation of others.

"Its manifestations include hate crimes, harassment, being denied access to education, being considered inferior or pathological by medical or social science authorities, not having legal protection from discrimination, sexual assault, being denied access to public buildings that do not have ramps or elevators, and an economic system in which a small percentage of the population controls most of the wealth.

"The effect of social oppression is that wealth and influential decision-making is



An adult lesbian group worked with over 1000 teenagers at a Gay/Straight Day in Copley Square last year. The youth were encouraged to be sexually active. They were led in cheers using sexual language and ridiculing adults who would attempt to limit sexual activity.

controlled by a small number of privileged people who use their position to hurt or stigmatize people who attempt to challenge their agenda or do not conform to their norms.

"Battering is a pattern of behavior in which one person tries to control the thoughts, beliefs, and actions of someone close to him or her through insults, threats, physical abuse, sexual abuse or coercion, and economic abuse such as hiding money, stealing money, or undermining joint financial decisions.

"It is the constant threat to a person's sanity and sense of self-worth that comes from being repeatedly told by a lover that she or he can't do anything right, that there will be serious consequences for doing things that his or her partner doesn't approve of, being prevented from having relationships with other people or choosing not to have relationships with other people to avoid angry outbursts, ridiculous accusations, and physical abuse.

"Domestic violence is a manifestation of the power inequity and social control that is the core of what many of us as progressive activists are struggling against.

"Batterers do many of the same things that oppressive people in power do by creating a situation within a relationship in which one person exists to fill the needs and desires of the other and is insulted, threatened, or physically hurt for trying to assert independence. Batterers also use charm and expression of love or affection to control their partners, often reserving the most tender and vulnerable words or romantic gestures for moments when they sense that

their partners are thinking of leaving.

"Most women and queer men being battered say their relationships weren't "all bad," that there were times when their partner was very warm and affectionate, which makes the relationship more confusing and therefore harder to leave.

"Despite these similarities, I have found very few progressive organizations or forums in which these connections are discussed. Is this because so much of the battered women's movement has become service-oriented and the crisis intervention work many of us do is not often seen as political?"

"Is it because we only think of domestic violence affecting heterosexual women and therefore connect it only to sexism? Is it because people who abuse their partners, straight and queer, are found in every walk of life and have a very high stake in our minimization and denial of interpersonal abuse? Is it because, as an oppressed group, we are hesitant to identify an "enemy within" and feel some false sense of security by only viewing those outside what we consider to be our communities as dangerous?"

"Whatever the reason, our lack of active concern makes our communities unsafe for many formerly battered queers and ignores important connections between abuse of power in our relationships and abuse of power in our society.

"Outside a few grassroots organizations specifically set up to address same-sex battering from a political perspective, connections between interpersonal and societal abuse of power are rarely if ever discussed. Many organizations started addressing bat-

tering because, though originally set up to address bashing and homophobic harassment, they received many calls from queer men and women being battered by their partners.

"Still, discussions of what this means for how we define our political struggles and who we see as threats to our safety are few and far between. In many ways, seeing some members of our communities as dangerous or threatening will change our perspectives, but because of racism, classism, sexism, biphobia, trans oppression, fat oppression, ageism, anti-semitism, and ableism, many of our organizations are already unsafe for or inaccessible to some queer people.

"To meaningfully address same-sex battering, we need to consider how safety and accessibility affect survivors. For many people who have been battered, being in the presence of the person who abused them is dangerous. This is because many batterers continue to stalk, threaten, and even assault their ex-partners after the relationship is ended or because seeing the batterer can be a reminder of how traumatic the relationship was.

"In either case, if someone's batterer is attending a meeting or event, it is unlikely that s/he will be able to attend safely or comfortably. [Sic] Yet organizations that focus on a variety of other safety and accessibility issues do not include policies that would make it easier for survivors to participate.

"Meaningfully confronting the minimization and denial in which battering thrives can involve everything from simple changes in how an organization functions to broad anti-abuse policies. Giving each member an option not to have his or her address and phone number given to others in an organization, for example, makes it a safer place for survivors who do not want their batterers to find them.

"Talking about domestic violence in youth and coming out groups may prevent the escalation of abuse because people will be more familiar with its dynamics and recognize it sooner in relationships. Organizations can take a public or internal stance against battering and work with activists organizing against domestic violence to develop meaningful ways of confronting abusive behavior or holding individual batterers accountable for their actions.

"As it stands now, most training the Network does about same sex domestic violence is requested by battered women's programs and other health care providers rather than progressive activists. Though services to individual survivors are an important part of working to end battering, so is recognition of interpersonal abuse as a societal problem. Working to meaningfully connect battering and societal abuse of power is a key part of working toward its end."

A free copy of the *Fistgate* tape, which Judge Allan van Gestel attempted to ban in Boston, is available from tapes@massnews.com or write to Massachusetts News, PO Box 812844, Wellesley, MA 02482. No telephone orders please.

Mass. Women Are Violent, Say Lesbians

2

No. 2 of a Four Part Series

How 'Butches' Dominate Lesbians in Mass.

Often by the Use of Violence

The world of lesbians is divided into two parts. One is the "butches." These are women who look and act like men. However, there is no one who believes that all women with that body type enjoy having sex with other women.

The other type of lesbians are "femmes," who look like all other women. But for some reason, they are attracted to other women for sex. These are the ones who will go from men to women and back again, and are classified as bi-sexual.

In 1997, the Network for Battered Lesbians began to welcome these "bisexual women" into their organization.

The Network wrote when it welcomed the bisexuals, "One thing we've done to be more inclusive of bi-women is refer to 'woman to woman battering' rather than 'lesbian battering,' in recognition that not all women who have intimate relationships with or are battered by women are lesbians."

'Femme' Writes About Her Many 'Butches'

Sad Story of One Woman's Experiences

"Sometimes I think I learn too well.

"One of my girlfriends taught me that I could save her from her alcohol and drug addiction. That if I loved her enough and took care of her well enough she could stop using. She instructed me on how to cope with her all-night binges. She schooled me in how to do what she said when she was high or drunk.

"I was a good student. I learned how to be calm when she drove with one hand on the wheel and a joint or beer in the other. I learned how to not sleep for days so I could stay up and talk to her for hours on end; for if I went to sleep she would wake me with unwanted kisses. I learned how to blame the drugs for her running down the street screaming at me – alternating between calling me names I had not even imagined and pledging her love to me.

"Another girlfriend taught me that I did not deserve my dreams; for I could never sing the way I want to, or be responsible enough to get the job I wanted, or have the right kind of friends. After all, she taught me I could not even come to a good decision about where to go for dinner. She also taught me that I don't make good choices and I don't know how to take care of myself.

"So I learned how to let her make decisions about where we would live and what job I could take. I learned how to enjoy the kind of sex she wanted. I learned how to say what she would listen to; for she taught me that there was so much she would not, could not, did not want to hear.

"My last girlfriend taught me how I am responsible for decisions she made. She taught me how to sit quietly and be calm when she screamed and kicked things around

the room. She taught me how to wait. Wait for hours while she talked on the phone, got ready to go out, sat around. Whenever I was ready to start my day, she preached her lessons of patience till several hours later, she was ready and our day could begin.

"I learned how to be patient. I learned to be grateful that she was only kicking at clothes and not my face. I learned that it was better not to get in an argument than to confront her and find that it was all my fault to begin with.

"And when I am asked what the definition of abuse is, I think of unwanted kisses, carefully thought-out comments and patience. I think of how my heartbeat quickens when I walk down the street and can hear my ex-girlfriend's voice telling me I've been a bad girl. I think of how I have to change my clothes several times before I go out and can almost see my other ex-girlfriend's face reflected in the mirror, shaking her head at what I have on. I think of how yet another ex-girlfriend taught me that I am somehow responsible for every bad thing that happens in her day.

"The most important lesson I learned was the definition of abuse. How though bruises fade, the lessons they serve to punctuate take much longer to go away.

"I have also learned that I now have so many lessons to unlearn."

Another Lesbian Complains About Her 'Butch'

You will find this story difficult to follow and understand, like much of this lifestyle, but it gives a good glimpse. We have reprinted it exactly as it appears on the Network's Internet site.

"Depression is repressed rage", some wise sistah once told me.

"So what is constant and consistent anger?"

I'd been alone for a long time. I know it feels like it's better to be with someone than to be alone. But what if you are still lonely, even in a

relationship?

The bed feels empty with or without her.

Which is worst? What's the difference?

"I've beat down men twice my size."

"No one fucks with me." "She's only 5'1". Her punches don't hurt anyway."

I pretended for a long time that everything was fine. Then "the pretending" ended. And I believed. Swore up and down, that everything was OK. I just needed to make the adjustments. "Yes, dear the sky is green. Of course dear, the grass is blue."

"My baby just has lots of issues."

"She's been through so much. And I'm the only one in the world who understands her."

"That's what a good butch does. You take care of your woman."

I covered up, made excuses for, apologized profusely. Made up mantras of hope, prayed to some dead white man for forgiveness. Soon I turned on myself. I turned the rage inward. I twisted my insides until they are turned outside for everyone else to see ... but me.

Like the night she made me spend with the straight couple she had the menage-trois with while I was out of town. I even shook the man's hand because "real men don't care about fidelity."

Like the night I made the whole cast of my show wait for two hours after opening night until she arrived... drunk. I snapped at them, "Nothing is wrong!" while I carried her to the car.

Like the fact I moved from another city to be with her. Organized and planned it together for two months. To be told, with my bags still in hand. "I don't want to live with you. I never told you to move here. It's not my responsibility to take care of you."

"I'll just try harder."

"We can work it out."

"I know things will get better. I love her so much."

She's a curled up ball, fetal posi-

tion baby. Baptized in beer, stinking of rum, cigarettes, vomit Brain decoding cocaine Her mind flip flops, double somersaults bed spins and slowly she lands, I listen to her gasp for air, choke on her own breath then wail into the pillow.

It is 6:00am. And I been up with her for hours. I've wrestled away the car keys, threaten drug dealers listen to her mourn her ex-lovers.

Was all of this worth it, to hear you say "I love you" for the first time?

"Well, if you weren't so intense...", her best friend told me as we stood in the hospital lobby. My wife laid in a hospital bed. A suicide attempt for the record books. Iubropen. 20 of them lanced with Merlot and the herbal tonic for her eczema. An hour before, she had punched me. Hard enough that I gasped for air, went down on one knee.

"It's over. I've had it!", and all her pleading for another chance would not appease me. Finally, I was taking a stand. She followed me around the house, insisting that she would never do it again. I was going to bed and leaving for a trip to New York in the morning. I would of probably of changed my mind, I always did.

"I can't get up ...because of the pills in my stomach" The next morning, I find the postcard with her mother and her therapist's number, written neatly and placed on the night stand. In the 2 years we been together she had never given me her mother's number before.

I did not go to New York. I fought with homophobic doctors. Wiped her slate clean and declared myself her domestic partner. I spent the next week delivering fast food to her bedside. I did not eat. I did not sleep. I pretended everything was fine. And I believed, this, like everything else, was all my fault.

"I have to be strong. For her."

"My baby needs help."

"We'll make it through this together."

"She says it will be better this time."

One month later, she's hauling her belongings with a police escort

out of the six room apartment we called home. She was to stay 100 yards away from me. State mandated, I had this invisible football field of protection. They had not believed me at first. I had to fight to prove I was worthy.

A victim. In fear of my life. I wore a dress, expose some cleavage, wet my lips. I had not been a woman in a long time. I had never been "their" kind of woman before.

Our first summer together, I told her I wanted to go on hormones. She said, "I have no intention of dating a man. I'll leave you if you transition." We broke up the following July. By that August, I had shaved my head.

Her lawyer asked me why I hadn't documented anything.

"LIKE I WAS GONNA CALL 911. Ask some racist-wife-beating-homophobe into my house?"

Her lawyer asked me why I hadn't documented anything.

"You have no bruises, you have no scars," said the cop at the precinct.

"What do you mean Battering. It sounds like you had a fight."

"C'mon, you're busting my balls."

Her lawyer asked me why I hadn't documented anything.

"Women don't batter. Only men do", said the well-meaning community.

"Well, if all this was happening, why didn't you say anything sooner?"

"You're afraid of her? C'mon, she's just a little thing."

"Well if it was that bad why didn't you leave her?"

How do you document something when you don't know it's happening? All you know is that the sky is green and the grass is blue... remember? And that you love your woman.

It's only when you believe that everything she has done for the last two years, that every word, every gesture, every kiss was produced in order to assert power to gain control over you

"YOU'RE NOT A REAL BUTCH"

Then, you can document it. ☹

How to be an Ally to Butches and Femmes

The following article is also from the website of the Network for Battered Lesbians, a Massachusetts organization.

Here are some opportunities for those who want to be allies to butches:

- 1) Don't project sexuality onto butches. Meaning, don't retaliate against us for not returning your mad crushes. In situations where we haven't lead you on, don't accuse us of breaking your hearts.
- 2) Don't expect us to change your oil or fix your plumbing.
- 3) Resist cart-blanche hating of masculinity. Believe in a masculinity that includes resisting oppression, assist in creating it.
- 4) Don't buy into the myth of the scarcity of butches. It's a set up for us.
- 5) Don't assume we're abusive or that we want to own women.
- 6) Understand our risk for transphobic and homophobic hate crime.
- 7) Don't freak out when I come in the women's bathroom. Guess what, in most places it's illegal for me to relieve myself anywhere else.

- 8) Don't avoid me because you think hanging out with me will implicate you as queer.

- 9) Don't assume I'm not feminist, tricked by the patriarchy, or am interested in disrespecting women.

- 10) Don't assume I'm trying to pass.

Here are some opportunities for those who want to be allies to femmes:

- 1) Look for us. See us. We are smiling at you in bathrooms, at parties, on the street, and in grocery stores.

- 2) Read things written by femmes, especially *Femme: feminists, lesbians, and bad girls*. Read them because you care about femmes, because you are interested in gender theory, and because we will blow your mind. Don't just read them because you want to fuck us, or want to impress some femme in particular who you are trying to snag.

- 3) Listen to us. Don't invite us to tell you about ourselves and then accuse us of taking up too much space when we take you seriously. Our history has been obscured and withheld from all of us. It takes time to find

it and tell it to each other.

- 4) Assume our painful experiences in queer spaces are real. Assume that we are not too sensitive or making things up.

- 5) Don't try to convince us that our identities are a result of internalized sexism. And whatever you do, don't ever equate being femme with being in a "traditional" role. That is unless you grew up in the tradition of femmes using their foxy, strong, brilliant selves to excite, protect, and care-for their queer partners.

- 6) Don't assume I'm trying to pass.

- 7) Challenge femme-hating, even when you don't think any of us are around. Some of us are in hiding. Besides, ragging on femmes is boring, predictable, and misogynist.

- 8) Don't treat us like pets, meaning don't expect our gratitude for being included. We should not have to be grateful when we are invited to a party that we've been crashing all along. (Actually a party that we've been instrumental in planning.)

- 9) Resist mocking femininity. Claim it, reivent it, celebrate it.

3

Mass. Women Are Violent, Say Lesbians

No. 3 of a Four Part Series

Lesbians Are Just As Dangerous as Men

Who Is Batterer? Tough to Know!

It's tough to identify the batterer in domestic violence among women. When you have a man involved in domestic violence, it's easy, — you always blame the man.

But, cautions the Network for Battered Lesbians, this does not apply when two women are involved. Therefore, they warn the programs which protect battered women to screen their clients very carefully.

"We would suggest to programs who are reluctant to screen that they view the issue in the context of safety. Screening is not about identifying battered women and screening them in, but identifying batterers and screening them out — and battered women's programs do that all the time.

"It's just that when working with straight women with male batterers, the process is much simpler. By only giving out shelter and support group locations to women and being wary of men who call the hotline or show up at the office, support groups, etc., batterers are effectively screened out — men are an easily identifiable group to be cautious around.

Screening out female batterers is not as simple, because they are not easy to distinguish as a group. They look like us, they act like us (at least on the surface), and there's no clear way to automatically tell who they are."

Lesbians Are Just as Dangerous as Men

The Network says that lesbians are just as dangerous as men.

What's the Role of Sadomasochism?

In addition to the domestic violence that is found among lesbians, there is sadomasochism. This unusual practice makes it a game to be violent to each other. It is often confused with domestic violence, says the Network.

"Simply defined, s/m is a particular kind of sexual activity that takes place in a determined time and place, or "scene," with the limits and roles of each partner clearly defined.

"Any violence, coercion, or domination in s/m takes place in the context of the consensual scene. Both of the partners agree on a safeword, so that if someone changes her mind about her limits or wants to stop the action part way through for any reason, she can.

"The argument that s/m is battering because one person uses physical force against another leaves out what we know about the importance of the context of violence in battering. Battering is a pattern of violent and coercive behaviors that one woman uses to maintain power and control over her partner. Battering does not take place in a limited, predefined setting; it affects the entire relationship. Battering is not consensual; no one asks to be abused."

Many Lesbian Batterers Blame Their Problems on S/M

The writer from the Network complained that many lesbians blame s/m for the battering, but it has nothing to do with battering, she says.

"When the lines between s/m and abuse are blurred, it draws attention away from battering and makes it harder for women to

come forward about abuse. If an s/m dyke is being battered, she might not call the local battered women's shelter, even if it is queer friendly, out of fear that they will think that her s/m is the problem, not the abuse.

"Or maybe she'll be unable to recognize the abuse because of the unclear messages around abuse and s/m. 'I must have asked for it,' she might think, 'after all, don't I like getting hit?' Or she might deny the abuse altogether, thinking that if she likes getting beaten in sex, what feels like battering in her relationship cannot actually be abuse, and she must just be crazy.

"This reminds me of the stories I've heard from women whose first relationships were with abusive women. They didn't feel they could complain because they thought their relationship was 'just how lesbians are.' No one should ever have to feel like battering is 'just how it is' in any kind of relationship, s/m, lesbian, bi, or straight.

"The confusion about s/m and abuse affects our thinking about battering even when s/m is not part of the relationship. When I was first looking at the reasons I had stayed so long in a relationship that made me feel so bad about myself, I developed a theory that I'd wanted s/m but hadn't known it at the time, so I settled for an abusive power dynamic instead. In other words, I asked for it.

"It took a lot of time and the wise words of several pro-s/m friends for me to realize that being interested in the kind of sex where I could explore power in a limited fantasy space did not mean I wanted to be in constant fear, intimidated into being someone

unrecognizable as me. (I still have a hard time believing this, believing that I didn't somehow want it.) No one needs extra reasons to blame herself or deny the abuse.

"Historically, the debate over s/m and battering has been part of the resistance to admitting that battering goes on in all kinds of relationships, that any woman can be an abuser, and that our communities are not as safe as we'd imagined them to be. As we all know by now, these are hard things to ask ourselves and our communities to face. But there is no way to make them any easier and still do the work we have to do to create safety.

"No scapegoat is going to protect us from the reality of battering. S/m got as much attention as it did because it was associated with violence against women. But the s/m debate has never served the struggle against woman battering, which is a struggle against violent nonconsensual abuse.

"I have said it throughout this article, but I will say it again: S/m is not battering, any more than lesbianism or bisexuality is battering. When a woman uses s/m to batter, the problem is abuse. Battering is something bigger and something different than s/m. We need to send this message, and we need to send it clearly. Our communities are still caught up in confusion, shame, and denial. We owe it to ourselves to be as clear as we can."

The writer was an intern at the Network and a student at Smith College, where she was writing a Women's Studies thesis on lesbian battering.

"The implication is that lesbian/bisexual women batterers are not so bad, that they're safe to be around, that they may even be indistinguishable from their battered partners. Again, this is a dangerous message to put out, because lesbians/bisexual women

who batter do everything that heterosexual male batterers do, from subtle manipulation to murder, and are equally unsafe."

They Explain Why Men Can't Win in Court

These statements from the Network reveal why the taxpayers

of Massachusetts fund nineteen centers across the state to house battered women and give them free legal assistance, while there is no help at all for men who are falsely accused or who are battered themselves.

These centers are a part of the Legal Assistance Corporation

which is run by our Supreme Court (SJC) and is popularly known as "poverty lawyers." The organizations which receive this money from the SJC are as numerous as sand on the beach. Possibly, the Network is one. It is impossible to trace all the recipients of the SJC's largesse. ☹



This building in Greenfield houses a feminist group, NELCWT, which receives \$1.6 million/year in federal and state money from the SJC's slush fund to help battered women. This is one of 19 such centers across the state but there is nothing to help men who have been accused falsely or who have been battered themselves.



Much of the time that Atty. Chester Darling spent in court representing Ken Newell was waiting on hard benches for many hours, frequently for an entire day. The clock in this picture shows 3:45 although Darling and Newell showed up at 9 a.m. as required. Many observers wonder if this is done on purpose by the feminist/lesbians who control the family courts.

Mass. Women Are Violent, Say Lesbians

4

No. 4 of a Four Part Series

Lesbians & 'Feminist Theory' Destroy Children of Straight Fathers and Mothers in Mass.

Many children of straight fathers are being treated irrationally by DSS . . . by the judges in the Mass. courts . . . and by the poverty lawyers who are paid by taxpayers to help those who have no money.

We've told about the suffering of some of those children as we related the stories of Ken Newell, Harry Stewart, David Luisi, Edward McLarnon, Bill Leisk and many other fathers whose families have fallen into the clutches of lesbians and extreme feminists.

We're also told about the straight mothers who have been told they will lose their children if they don't leave their husbands. They refused and their children were taken from their families as the DSS social workers promised. This included the children of Nev Moore and Heidi Howard.

Just what is this theory and how is it being used against families in Mass.?

Batterers Programs Started by Feminists in '70s

Batterers Intervention programs, such as Common Purpose, are still being used to change the psyche of straight fathers – many fathers say it is much like the Communist methods that were used in Cambodia. They were started in the 1970s and are based on a feminist model.

They claim that our society places its highest value on male control and power. Because of that, this power structure automatically makes men into batterers. This claim is made despite the fact that the Department of Justice reports that similar numbers of men and women admit to violence toward their spouses.

Proponents of the feminist theory contend that batterers are usually not violent in other relationships in their lives, but they are violent with the women with whom they are expected to share power – their wives.

In order to stop the domestic violence, the men must be re-educated away from their current understanding of “men, women and power.” Further, since this patriarchal understanding is ingrained into the minds of men, then any man is guilty and could confess to being a part of the patriarchy. The program's insistence on confession, even from the non-violent, comes directly from the theories upon which the

Fathers Not “Essential” for Children?

APA Publishes Article with Feminist ‘Political Agenda’

The American Psychological Association printed an article in its journal in the summer of 2000 which said that fathers are not “essential” for children.

Fathers may even be detrimental, according to the article, because of the male tendency to consume “resources in terms of gambling, purchasing alcohol, cigarettes, or other nonessential commodities,” which “increase women's workload and stress.”

The authors admitted they have a strong political agenda saying, “We acknowledge that our reading of the scientific literature supports our political agenda.”

Their “agenda” is to create a socialist state, such as exists in Sweden. They also said that their concern is with the “backlash” against “the gay rights and feminist movements.”

They oppose any attempts to reintroduce the father into the American culture through the use of marriage because it is, “an attempt to reassert the cultural hegemony traditional values, such as heterocentrism, Judeo-Christian marriage, and male power and privilege.”

The article was the lead story in the *American Psychologist*, which is the only publication sent to every member of the organization and which is used routinely to espouse the viewpoint of the APA leadership.

It appeared immediately after the APA apologized for an earlier article in another magazine which stated that the sexual molestation of children could be beneficial to children in many cases.

“Blueprint for Change”

The authors of the APA article even gave their “Blueprint for Social Change” which

includes “large-scale government supports.” Here's how they said it:

“Our final recommendation relates to an overall governmental family policy. The United States cultural ideology of rugged individualism continues to assume that individual families can and should balance the stress of work and family without the benefits of large-scale government supports. The United States remains one of the few industrialized countries without a comprehensive family policy that provides paid parental leave, governmentally financed day care, and economic subsidies for all families with children. Without these benefits, the responsibility for child care continues to fall largely on women.”

They then said we should emulate Sweden. However, they failed to note that Sweden is having serious social problems as well as large debt burdens. Until 1970, that country had little public debt but by the early 1990s, their per capita debt was one of the largest in the world and nearly three times that of the United States. In 1990, the interest paid on public debt exceeded expenditures on family and child welfare, health costs, and old age pensions. In Norway, where the money from oil has provided revenues, the Chief Justice of its Supreme Court has told how the crime rate has quadrupled since 1960, with the doubling of divorce and youth suicide, large problems with alcoholism, and sharply rising rates of mental and eating disorders, particularly among women, etc.

Not New Among Feminists

The arguments in the article are not new to feminists. Their goal has always been to advocate socialism, which means that everyone, both men and women, would go to

work with the children being taken care of by the government.

They were very blunt in the 1970's and the President of the New York chapter of NOW told the *New York Times*, “Any real change in the status of women would be a fundamental assault on marriage and the family.” Betty Friedan was a little more circumspect, “Whether we will finally have to challenge the institutions, the concepts of marriage and the nuclear family – I don't know. I just don't know.”

What is new according to some observers is the obvious penetration of the APA by the feminist/lesbian thinkers.

Psychologist Is Startled

One psychologist, Dr. Wade Horn, President of the “National Fatherhood Initiative,” was startled by the article.

“Just when I thought it was safe to admit I am a psychologist, the American Psychological Association goes and does something nutty yet again,” he wrote, continuing:

“Over the past six years they [the authors] have studied the fathering experience of 200 – yes, a whole 200! – men. Now there's a representative sample for you....

“So there you have it. Dads don't matter. In fact, they are downright dangerous. And the only thing marriage does is promote domestic violence against women. Why? Because those two psychologists say so, that's why. After all, they have studied 200 fathers!”

Horn says that the authors missed “two decades of research attesting to the impact of father absence on the well-being of children, including increased risk for school failure, emotional and behavioral problems, juvenile crime, and teenage pregnancy.”



Chester Darling is a veteran trial attorney who has seen everything. But when his client, Ken Newell, was arrested 27 times on false charges of violence from his former wife without any intervention from a judge, it became very discouraging. Darling represents Newell free-of-charge as a test case to see if things are really as bad in the courts as he was told. He reports that they are. The feminist/lesbian legal aid lawyers who are supported by tax dollars refuse to represent any man. The women all get free legal assistance from 19 legal aid centers across the state.

hierarchical relationships between men and women, the very existence of which constitutes abuse towards women.

It is interesting to see that the Network claims that this same model about “control” and “power” applies to both men and

women and we must all be “re-educated” according to their beliefs. ☹

The Propaganda of Matthew Shepard

Liberals go for Jugular, Globe Continues the Lie

It wasn't until the lies about Matthew Shepard surfaced, in an attempt to crush anyone who was not a liberal, that we acquired any interest in homosexuality. Before that, we were as unconcerned as anyone even though we conservatives were being challenged, "big time."

The lies finally got our attention when the New Bedford Standard Times published a story in October 1998 about, **The long, sorry history of Christian bigotry continues unabated.**

This aroused our curiosity.

It caused our publisher to research the story of Matthew Shepard. Was the Standard Times accurate in its denunciation of Christian leaders in America?

After only a few days of research, it was readily apparent that what the New Bedford paper wrote was a tissue of lies. What had happened to Shepard was a grotesque tragedy, but grotesque tragedies happen in this world, every day to many people. Why was this one so unique?

This lie refuses to die because the Boston Globe and its parent, the New York Times, work very hard to keep it alive.

It reappeared again in the Living Arts section of the Globe recently. The front page was almost totally about "folk hero" and "hate crime victim," Matthew Shepard.

In the next-to-last paragraph of the very long story, the author of an empathetic book about Shepard is quoted, "I still don't feel I understand what happened that night. I don't think anybody does. I don't think [the killers] can really explain to themselves what they did with any absolute certainty."

And in the last paragraph, a man who produced a play and a drama which will appear on Channel 2 was quoted: "[The author] agrees [with the above quote], but believes that appropriating and simplifying tragedy is a necessity. 'Anything that becomes devoured by the mass culture in which we live suffers from the process,' he says. 'At the same time, it encouraged dialogue on a national level. And that is more important.'"

In other words, "Sure it's propaganda and not reality. But the lie serves my purpose."

The Truth

The truth about Matthew Shepard is that he went to a bar and left with two psychopaths who were out to rob him. After they robbed and murdered him, leaving him tied to a fence, they returned to town and attacked two straight men, hitting one of them with a pistol and opening a wound in his head which required 22 stitches to close.

They stopped only when one of the others hit one of them with a stick, giving him a hair-line skull fracture.

Although the killing occurred on the 6th of October, it was not immediately reported by the Boston Globe or its owner, the New York Times.

Meanwhile, on October 8th, an organization known as "People for the American Way" (a brainstorm of Norman Lear who became rich from the "Archie Bunker" and "The Jeffersons" TV shows) published a ten-page attack against the major Christian organizations which had started an upbeat campaign about many homosexuals who had been successful in changing their lifestyles.

This campaign, which was called "Truth in Love," was characterized as "hate" by the Lear organization. It wrote the following headline for its report, **Religious Right's 'Lying About Love' Campaign.** This report from Lear was immediately given by them to the major media and all of Lear's allies on October 8.

As a result, on October 10th, both the Boston Globe and the New York Times suddenly "discovered" this obscure tragedy from Wyoming.

They reported, as Lear recommended, that the incident was caused by the advertisement which ran across the country earlier in the year which said, **We're standing for the truth that homosexuals can change.**

This simple statement by the Christian groups, which was buttressed by the truth that many homosexuals have changed their lives, was said to be "hateful" speech that had brought about a climate which caused those two killers in Wyoming to kill Matthew Shepard. It was because of the "Truth in Love" campaign that Matthew Shepard was murdered.

This was obviously a spin that was preposterous but the mainstream media repeated it over and over and continue to do so until this day.

A few weeks after the murder on October 6, the NY Times reported under the headline, **Men Held in Beating Lived on the Fringes,** that the two men had had serious problems with the law and with mayhem long before Matthew Shepherd came along. Their entanglement with him was nothing new to their disordered lives.

On the other side, there are many stories of innocent boys who have been grotesquely murdered by homosexuals. We have one right here in Newton. Why isn't the Boston Globe concerned about preventing the gruesome story about little Jeffrey Curley (right in the Globe's own backyard) from happen-



The Globe continues to popularize Matthew Shepard as a hero because he was robbed and murdered after being picked-up in a bar in Wyoming. The Globe ignored the story for four days until People for the American Way showed them how it could be made into a propaganda piece.

ing again?

Prosecutors say the killers were sexually obsessed with young Jeffrey. They lured him from his neighborhood with the promise of a new bike. When he resisted, they smothered him with a gasoline-soaked rag. The two men molested and murdered the boy before stuffing his body into a concrete-filled container and dumping it in a Maine river.

The story of Matthew Shepard is very sad but why is it more tragic than what happened to 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley?

Hate from 'People for American Way'

The report from P.A.W. started with the statement, "Anti-gay hatred is a staple of Religious Right organizations and figures."

Then the President of P.A.W.'s foundation was quoted, "If this campaign is about

truth or love, then George Orwell must be its honorary chairman."

As proof, it quoted a mayoral candidate in Springdale, Arkansas, who said, "Homosexuals are perverts ... I will do everything I can do to keep them out of Springdale." Even in Arkansas, he was not elected.

It also cited a "Christian" radio talk-show host in Costa Mesa, California, as saying, "Lesbian love, sodomy are viewed by God as being detestable and abominable. Civil magistrates are to put people to death who practice these things."

It would be nice to hear from *anyone* in their right mind who thinks that *any* Christian believes that garbage!!

Is it any wonder that the people at P.A.W. see hate everywhere when they are so obsessed with it themselves?

Pawlick Challenges ACLU at Panel Discussion

continued from page 6
Liberties Union, and asked Flannery if she is familiar with it.

"No."
"Well I'll tell you one reason you're not aware of it. Because none of the thirty-four libraries in the Minuteman Library Network have it. I used to live in Weston. I don't know the name of the library network down here. There are thirty-four libraries up there from Cambridge to Medfield to Medway, and not one of them carries this book about the ACLU, because it's derogatory about the ACLU. I'm not surprised. That is censorship."

Marriage

The panel was silent on the marriage issue. When asked for comment, Ed Pawlick said the Marriage Amendment is one issue that the press has not presented carefully. He said feminists at NOW and at the Globe, who believe marriage is deleterious to



Panelists Ed Pawlick, Susan Flannery, Moderator Michael Iwanowicz, Tom Glynn and Keith Fiels at the "Walpole Reads" program in the town library.

women, are the real opponents to the Amendment.

"Gays will be one of the very smallest groups of people affected by that Amendment, and yet, gays are pushed out in front by every

newspaper in the state. People who will be most affected by it are heterosexuals who want to have all the benefits of marriage but none of the responsibilities. It's not an anti-gay measure at all."

Hate

On the subject of racist and anti-Semitic leafletting by "hate groups" in several Massachusetts towns, Pawlick offered a possibility that is never considered by the mainstream press.

Pawlick said the problem is that the leafletting is done surreptitiously, so nobody knows who is doing it. "They are finding in many parts of the country that such leafletting is often done by the minority group themselves. So we have no idea if it is really happening in Massachusetts or if someone is pretending it is happening."

Pawlick said rabbis say that the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has little to do because there is little anti-Semitism out there, so they have taken up homosexuality as a cause. Therefore, the ADL, a religious organization, is going into the schools in Massachusetts - against all our principles sepa-

rating church and state - preaching that homosexuality is because of a gay gene. They state we have to accommodate kids who are vulnerable and who think they are homosexual, and send them off with homosexual activists.

"Why is a religious organization going into our schools and promoting this idea? They just went into Hamilton. The Boston Globe had a big story about 'hate' in Hamilton because the selectmen didn't sign the pledge card they wanted. This is atrocious. The Boston Globe just went right along with it and said Hamilton is full of hate."

The panel discussion, titled "Censorship and Free Speech: What is their role in America's public life today?" was sponsored by the Walpole library as one of a series of events marking the end of the "Walpole Reads" program, which started last January. ☺