CLeaR-TV boycott of Johnson Wax, Pfizer continues

S.C. Johnson (Johnson Wax) and Pfizer continue to sponsor sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian bigotry on television. In March, Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLeaR-TV) called for a boycott of the products of the two companies because of their refusal to reduce the amount of filth they help sponsor. Since that time, neither Pfizer nor S.C. Johnson have given any indication they intend to change their advertising practice. The two companies are leading sponsors of sex, violence and profanity on television. CLeaR-TV has made repeated requests to the companies asking them to reduce their sponsorship, but the companies have ignored the requests.

CLeaR-TV is a coalition of approximately 1600 Christian leaders, including the heads of more than 70 denominations.

Individuals are urged to join the boycott, to encourage others to join the boycott, and to write or call the companies and let them know you are participating in the boycott. The addresses:

Chrm. William C. Steere, Jr., Pfizer, Inc., 235 E. 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, Phone 212-573-2323, Fax 212-573-5476. Pfizer personal care products: Barbasol shaving cream, Coty perfumes, Emeraude perfume, Shape'n Shadow eye kit, Stetson cologne, Visaclean lense cleaner. Pfizer health products: Ben-Gay rub, Bonine motion sickness medicine, Desitin skin products, Plax mouthwash, Unisom, Visine eye drops.

Chrm. Samuel C. Johnson, S.C. Johnson & Sons, Inc., 1525 Howe Street, Racine, WI 53403, Phone 414-631-2000, Fax 414-631-2133. S.C. Johnson personal care products: Agree shampoo, Curel skin lotion, Edge shaving cream, Enhance perfume, Halsa shampoo, Soft Sense lotion. S.C. Johnson household products: Bravo wax, Brite floor wax, Carnu polish, Clean & Clear wax, Duster Plus cleaner, Favor polish, Future floor coating, Glade room odorizer, Glo Coat floor coating, Glory rug cleaner, J-Wax, Johnson Wax, Klear floor coating, Off insect repellent, Pledge wax, Pride wax, Raid insecticide, Shout stain remover.

Mayor declares Friday the 13th 'Freddy Krueger Day'

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley honored the sixth and final installment of the "Nightmare on Elm Street" films by declaring Friday, September 13, "Freddy Krueger Day." The proclamation coincided with the opening of **Freddy's Dead: the Final Nightmare**.

But some people found the gesture embarrassing. Critics decried paying such respect to the fictional killer, a metal-clawed madman who leaves a bloody trail of young bodies.

The mayor should be promoting "someone good that children can look up to," said Cindy Wong, PTA district president for the Los Angeles basin.

Orange County, CA Register, 9/14/91

Homosexual protest disrupts church services

More than 75 militant homosexuals, angered by Christian views on homosexuality, AIDS and homosexual rights issues, descended on a major Orange County church during services in a raucous protest that ended in three arrests.

Three activists disrupted a service at Calvary Chapel in south Santa Ana by yelling "Stop crucifying queers!" They were pushed out of the sanctuary by ushers and arrested by police on suspicion of trespassing.

The incident lasted more than three hours and was witnessed by thousands of worshipers. Outside the church, police formed a line to separate protesters from churchgoers.

Inside, church ushers scuffled with the activists. "They fought us and we had to take them out forcibly," said one usher. Another usher said a protester bit his hand.

The protest was organized by the radical group Queer Nation, sometimes described as the "shock troops" of the homosexual rights movement. Most waged their protest in a theatrical picket line that featured men wearing dresses, fishnet stockings, and nuns' habits.

"God chose me to be queer," proclaimed one man's sign. Other slogans described sex acts. Two men kissed as churchgoers looked on. The activists say their tactics are intended to offend people.

L.A. Times, 9/9/91

Correction

In the October *Christians & Society Today*, the caption of an article stated: "PCUSA seeks repeal of Kentucky state sodomy law." It is James Andrews individually, the stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church USA, not the PCUSA itself, who has filed an amicus brief supporting the overturning of Kentucky's sodomy law. We apologize for the error.

Lotus company gives homosexual workers spousal special benefits

Lotus Development Corp., has begun allowing employees who have same-sex partners to sign contracts to qualify them for the same benefits offered to employees' spouses.

Some cities and non-profit organizations already provide benefits to employees' unmarried partners, whether homosexual or heterosexual, under domestic-partner agreements. But Lotus' research found no other major publicly traded company has a plan such as the one Lotus adopted after two years of talks with homosexuals, said Russ Campanello, vice president of human resources for the computer software maker.

Lotus said it would provide medical and dental benefits and bereavement leave to the partners and dependents of homosexual employees, but not unmarried heterosexual partners.

Lotus makes computer software. The address: Chrm. Jim Manzi, Lotus Development Corporation, 55 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02142, phone 617/577-8500.

Associated Press, 9/7/91

No-porn policy pays off, video store owner says

Andy Morack is on a roll. In January he opened his first video store, called Family Video, in Milton, Pennsylvania. He opened another in Lewisburg August 30 and is planning yet another for Northumberland, to open September 20.

Morack, formerly a power plant supervisor, stresses friendly service and a no-pornography policy at his stores.

"I like people," he said. "I believe in my heart you can have a video store without selling pornography. That is our difference. We don't handle pornography."

Morack said he had been warned that adult-movie sales account for as much as 40% of a video store's business and that a no-porn policy would spell failure. "This is our third store in nine months," he said. "Evidently somebody was wrong somewhere."

Sunbury, PA Daily Item, 9/15/91

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Hollywood abandons religion, censors religious characters from TV, movies

By James Breig
Syndicated Columnist
Reprinted from Our Sunday Visitor

I've got a baffler that even Robert Stack can't solve. Every week on NBC's UNSOLVED MYSTERIES, Stack probes unusual circumstances, odd phenomena and bizarre twists. The series also seeks—often with great success—lost loves, fugitive felons and kidnapped children.

But I think I know a missing person not even UNSOLVED MYSTERIES can find: the seriously religious person who is influential in Hollywood. I recently went in search of him or her and came up empty after talking with several producers and writers. I had them all scratching their heads when I asked, "Can you name someone who is a power in movies or television and who also practices his or her faith?"

I put the question to John Prizer, a writer and producer of such TV specials as GUYANA TRAGEDY: THE STORY OF JIM JONES. An active Episcopalian, he replied: "I can't think offhand of anybody in the last 20 years who is active in church affairs."

Prizer pondered some more and called up with names from the past: Loretta Young, the Catholic actress, and George Seaton, the Episcopal; director. But he gave up on a contemporary name and added:

"It's worth a really good article because the lack of religious commitment on the part of people in Hollywood is quite astonishing. I can't think of a director or actor or writer under 45 who goes to church or synagogue."

What bothers Prizer and others, including media critic Michael Medved, is not that Hollywood's movers and shakers are not pray-ers and believers. The problem is that their lack of religious faith is translated into their work.

The result is that movies and TV shows either portray religion as missing in human life or ridicule it as a remnant of the past, something only for old folks or even a harmful element in modern society.

What brought about my search for the missing Hollywood believer was a speech by Medved, who is seen on PBS's SNEAK PREVIEWS In 1989, he spoke at a college about Hollywood's approach to religion. Based on his experience as a critic, he detected both a "hostility to our Judeo-Christian heritage" in many films and "a deep-seated anti-religious bias" among filmmakers.

I can't think of anybody [in Hollywood] in the last 20 years who is active in church affairs.
–Writer-Producer John Prizer

In later remarks to *Our Sunday Visitor*, Medved said that the bias is "so obvious you'd have to be blind not to see" it. Despite what he finds to be "a big audience out there interested in films that are positive about religion," such movies do not get made. One explanation, he believes, is that the people who make the movies are themselves non-religious or even anti-religious.

With Medved's charges in my ears, I began my search for the religious people he must have missed. I called Ron Austin, a writer and producer of such shows as MISSION; IMPOSSIBLE, CHARLIE'S ANGELS and MATLOCK. A Catholic, Austin termed Medved's analysis "pretty accurate. The people I know, although many are genuinely decent, are very alienated from religion—even hostile to it."

It can't be that bad, I said to myself, as I dialed John Furia, Jr. A Catholic who is past president of the Writers Guild, Furia has written and produced everything from **KUNG FU** to such TV movies as Hemingway's THE SUN ALSO RISES. Surely, he would know Hollywood powerhouses who are religious. Wrong!

Religion, he said, "is definitely not taken seriously in Hollywood. The actors don't know religious people or aren't religious themselves, so their portrayals lack any sense of reality. Religion is generally an absent subject.

"I can't think offhand of a picture or TV show that has dealt seriously with religion or people with religious beliefs. Spirituality is often misunderstood, and a vocation— clerical or lay—is incomprehensible to the people" behind the scenes in Hollywood, he added.

Religion is definitely not taken seriously in Hollywood. The actors don't know religious people.
–Producer John Furia, Jr.

There are a couple of reasons why my search for influential believers in Hollywood is so difficult, say the people who work in the media. "Ethics and morality have very little to do with the film business or what gets on TV," said Bill O'Donnell bluntly. A former art director and designer for CBS, he now works outside Hollywood.

"I don't know people who say, 'I won't do that.' They compromise. Hollywood absorbs everybody. If you take a stand, you're seen as not cooperating, and your stand doesn't even get through."

It also does not get through because Hollywood has undergone a generational change that is reflected in other influential segments of society, say the writers and producers I spoke with.

"There's a kind of generation gap," Prizer explained. "Before **Easy Rider**, you had a sprinkling of practicing Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Jews, whatever. Hollywood was never a place where the devout went to work, but there used to be an adequate sprinkling."

Among Catholics alone, that "sprinkling" included such famous directors as John Ford, Frank Capra and Alfred Hitchcock, and such standout performers as Bing Crosby, Loretta Young and Pat O'Brien.

"If you go back to the origins of Hollywood," explained Austin, "there was always a cynical materialism. But you had (director) Leo McCarey, **Going My Way**, Cecil B. DeMille's Bible spectacles, Hitchcock and Ford—arguably the best filmmaker in America.

"Then the '60s came. Religion was lumped in as an oppressive institution that had to be overthrown. Anything traditional was trashed. **Easy Rider** is as good a symbol as any."

That 1969 movie, which one guide to films describes as being about "hippies, rednecks, prostitutes and drugs," not only indicated that movie content was changing; it also uncovered the youth market. And that market is not necessarily interested in religion.