How homosexual thought police muzzled Rooney

By Joseph Farah

The suspension of commentator Andy Rooney by CBS should lay to rest any doubts about the enormous power the homosexual lobby wields with regard to network television.

In suspending Rooney, 71, for three months without pay, CBS News President David Burke showed that he placed more credibility in the report of a heretofore unknown homosexual activist reporter with an ax to grind than in a high-profile network veteran of 31 years.

Here's how even the liberal Rooney was muzzled for simply raising questions considered off-limits by gay activists and their obedient lap-dog friends in the executive suites of the three major networks:

In a December CBS special, THE YEAR WITH ANDY ROONEY, the commentator offended homosexual groups by suggesting the obviously true but taboo notion that AIDS and other diseases are spread largely through promiscuous gay sex.

"There was some recognition in 1989 of the fact that many of the ills which kill us are self-induced," he said. "Too much alcohol, too much food, drugs, homosexual unions, cigarettes. They're all known to lead quite often to premature death."

The comments prompted an uproar by groups such as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, or GLAAD, which was invited to meet at least twice with top CBS News executives to discuss their concerns. Rooney publicly apologized for the remarks, but apparently in so doing merely managed to further incense the gay thought police.

In hopelessly attempting to explain his views to a homosexual newspaper in Los Angeles, Rooney pledged to be "more careful" in his future comments. But he also wrote: "In regard to homosexuals, I think it's accurate to say you and I both know what we think, and to that extent, are prejudiced. We do not start over every time we're confronted with the subject. I further think that homosexuals are less likely to consider the possibility they may be wrong than I am.

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"AIDS is a largely preventable disease, and I expressed the opinion that there is a growing public resentment about being taxed to pay for the health care of people suffering from self-inflicted diseases," Rooney explained.

He wrote that he found homosexual sex "repugnant," and added: "Is it ethically or morally wrong and abnormal behavior? It seems so to me..."

While there is a good chance Rooney was merely representing the views of the overwhelming majority of Americans with such comments, his public stature and platform set him up as a prime target for the homosexual activists who desire to monitor and censor all such discussion on television. The word was out in the gay community: Get Rooney!

The same newspaper that received Rooney's letter, assigned a reporter to interview him. It was a telephone call the CBS commentator will no doubt regret taking for the rest of his life.

In the February 27 issue of the *Advocate,* Rooney is quoted as saying: "I've believed all along that most people are born with equal intelligence, but blacks have watered down their genes because the less intelligent ones are the ones that have the most children. They drop out of school early, do drugs and get pregnant."

But, while Rooney acknowledges making his controversial remarks about homosexuality, he adamantly denies making the statement deemed racist. Nevertheless, CBS News brass chose to believe the author of the hit piece—a New Yorker named, perhaps aptly, Chris Bull—despite the fact that no recording of the conversation was made and the paper had a vendetta against Rooney.

"He was not mean or vindictive, but I thought he expressed a lot of outdated ideas about AIDS and homosexuality," Bull told a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times.*

Rooney said the reporter completely misinterpreted and twisted remarks he made in a discussion of education.

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"He said that a lot of people don't know much about homosexuality, and I said there were a lot of problems with education, and not only schools but kids," recalled Rooney. "I said that one of our problems is that some of the least fit among us are proliferating. In big-city schools, you have kids dropping out of seventh grade, and then those kids having babies, making for a society of people that don't go through schools. In most cases, those are black kids. In West Virginia, it's white kids. It looks like a racial comment, but it's not."

It remains unclear exactly what Rooney is being suspended for—the homosexual remarks or the alleged racial comments. In typically courageous fashion, CBS released a vague statement and refused to elaborate. Dan Rather would call it stonewalling if such spineless ambiguity came forth from the White House or other adversarial quarters.

But what is striking about Burke's decision is its gutlessness and inconsistency.

It's gutless because if CBS officials really believe Rooney is a racist, they ought to fire him. If they don't believe he is a racist, they ought not punish him at all. The middle ground approach makes no sense at all, except to illustrate that Burke and CBS are merely caving in to the demands of a powerful and ruthless pressure group.

It's inconsistent because Mike Wallace, Rooney's colleague on 60 MINUTES, made a truly racist remark a few years ago, and was not suspended or even publicly rebuked. In 1982, Wallace was in California preparing a story on the plight of low-income people—including blacks and Hispanics—in dealing with complex sales contracts.

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"You bet your a-- they are hard to read...if you're reading them over the watermelon and tacos," he said in comments taped by a non-CBS camera crew and published in the *Los Angeles Times.*

Unlike Wallace, whose racist comments are on record, Rooney is guilty only of making remarks about homosexuality that have become unfashionable in elite media, academic and government circles due to the often heavy-handed tactics of the intolerant gay advocacy groups. Where are all those liberal, anti-censorship, free speech champions when they're really needed?

If anyone should be suspended at CBS, it's Burke, not Rooney.

How to organize a picket for the nationwide 'Picket For David Day' April 27

AFA is urging individuals, churches and groups to organize an April 27 picket of stores which sell porn magazines and/or videos. (If more convenient, another date can be selected.)

During the past few years, thousands of stores have stopped selling pornography as a result of picketing by local citizens. It does not require a great number to picket effectively. In fact, sometimes two or three people in a well-planned picket can get pornography removed.

Remember that picketing says that your community doesn't want pornography, and it lets others know that there are those in your community who stand opposed to pornography, which causes sexual abuse of women and children.

In listing the following steps to an effective picket it is assumed that personal visits, letters, telephone calls, or other applicable means have already been employed with no results. AFA urges that the store first be approached and asked to stop selling porn. We have found that it helps if the store manager is given a copy of *Executive Summary: Images of Children, Crime and Violence in Playboy, Penthouse and Hustler* and *Pornography: A Report.* The publications are available at $2 each, $1.50 for two-nine copies, $1 for 10-49 copies and 50¢ for 50 or more copies.

An effective picket requires the following responsibilities (Some may be combined.):

A **picket chairperson** will coordinate other committees or individuals in organizing the picket. He or she may also function as the media spokesperson.

A **media spokesperson** should be the only person to speak with the media concerning the picket. He or she will need to be familiar with the basic anti-pornography arguments and cliches.

The **sign committee** should be responsible for making and transporting appropriate signs to the picket site.

We suggest that the picket be from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. In preparing for the picket we suggest that the following amount of time be allowed. Signs—1 week; Permit—2 weeks; Promotion—3 weeks.

Some cities require a permit for a picket. The proper local authorities and officials need to be contacted concerning a parade/demonstration permit. Proper procedures should be followed and the required forms submitted as required by each municipality. To inquire about the procedures, contact the police department or city clerk's office. For locations outside city limits, contact the sheriff's office or the county clerk's office.

Picketing is the exercise of two constitutional rights: freedom of speech and peaceable assembly. Denial of a permit without a definitive reason should be in writing and carefully considered before accepting. If you feel you have been unjustly denied your right to exercise these privileges, please contact the AFA legal department for information in appealing the decision.

In picketing, the following rules should be observed: Picketers must remain on public property at all times. Never impede or block automobile or pedestrian traffic. Refer the media to the media spokesperson. Use only approved signs. Customers should not be debated or engaged in conversation. If the manager or his representative should ask you to leave, do so immediately! Picketers should then wait in the parking area or across the street while the chairperson calls the police to enforce your right to picket. Resume picketing only when the police arrive.

Should you encounter other picketers supporting the business, picket in a peaceful manner if possible, otherwise leave and let the picket chairperson call the police to supervise. It is highly unlikely that two opposing groups would be given permits to demonstrate at the same location at the same time—thus if you have a permit, they will probably not. Always conduct yourself in a Christ-like manner, remembering your testimony in the community.

AFA recommends that no literature be passed out during the picket. Should picketers insist, AFA has a brochure entitled "Pornography: Problems and Solutions" which is excellent to be given to the public. These are available at $5 per hundred from AFA. Avoid material that promotes other causes, local organizations, etc., so that the focus will remain centered on the immediate issue.

Wording of signs should be brief and general in nature. Never use defamatory wording concerning an individual. Avoid using religious and Scripture quotes, as the media tends to misuse these to convey fanaticism, etc. Lettering should be large, clear, and neat to enhance reading from a distance. Examples: Stop Porn Now, Porn Hurts, Save Our Children-Stop Porn, Porn Destroys, Porn and Crime Go Hand in Hand, Porn Causes Rape, Porn Hurts Our Community, Porn is Not Wanted Here, Protect Our Children, and, of course, Boycott (store name). One sign per picketer is ideal.

About four days before the picket, the local media should be contacted and alerted to the picket, and to the fact that your picket is part of a nationwide "Picket For David Day" being sponsored by American Family Association.

Should you desire more information concerning picketing, order *A Guide To What One Person Can Do About Pornography* from AFA.

We urge you, your church or Sunday School class or group to participate in "Picket For David Day." Please return the form below. This will help us know the number of stores and groups participating in the nationwide picket of stores selling pornography.

Send AFA Responses

Please send AFA copies of replies you receive from advertisers or other companies. Also send news clippings on family issues. Your help is deeply appreciated.

( ) Yes, we plan to participate in the "Picket For David Day."

Contact Person _____

Phone _____

Group _____

Address _____

City _____ *State/Zip* _____

Store(s) you will be picketing _____

_____

_____

Return to PICKET, AFA, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803