decision or whether the Student Senate was right. The issue is whether they should have the right to make the decision. It is the obligation of the Student Senate to exercise its authority to approve or deny requests by student organizations for formal charter. The decision of the Student Senate puts SMU in the company of the great American Methodist-related universities that SMU considers its peers—Emory, Duke, American, Boston, Syracuse, and Southwestern at Georgetown—all of which have chartered Gay and Lesbian Student Organizations that are funded by student senates.

"You would be pleased at the thorough, tough debate that went on among the students. SMU is preparing some of the nation's brightest college and graduate students for lives of leadership in a world so different from the present that we cannot even envision it. What we can foresee is competing demands for painful decisions on complex topics: medical ethics, the environment, human rights, technology, a global economy. It would be a disservice to students not to oblige them to face a difficult decision in the "living laboratory" of student governance. Society will expect courage, wisdom, and responsibility from them the day they graduate. SMU expects it today."

Some United Methodist leaders have discussed the possibility of withholding local church financial support to the schools which fund homosexual campus organizations.

Producers get program banned in U.S.

Beginning July 28, the Arts & Entertainment Network began a five-part series on Hollywood that looks at the movie industry as just that: a huge industry fueled by piles of money and filled with powerful people with powerful egos.

NAKED HOLLYWOOD also has become victim to that power. When shown in England this spring (it was made by the BBC), it was a six-part series. The sixth will not be shown in the United States.

The five parts are The Star, The Studio, The Agent, The Writer and The Director. Part six was to be The Producers.

Two of the producers profiled, Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer, did not like the way they were portrayed and convinced Paramount, the studio where they worked until recently, not to grant worldwide rights to the clips from their movies. Those films included **Beverly Hills Cop**, **Top Gun**, **Flashdance** and **Days of Thunder**. Thus, the section dealing with Simpson and Bruckheimer were not allowed to be shown in the U.S.

"One thing that I'm really shocked about is the behavior of Paramount Pictures, who have engaged in what is in effect an act of blatant censorship," said series producer Nicolas Kent. "I think they should be ashamed of themselves."

No "anti-censorship" group, such as the ACLU or People for the American Way, protested the banning of the The Producers.

Memphis Commercial Appeal, 7/17/91

Advertisers in porn magazines targeted

With this issue the AFA *Journal* begins a monthly report identifying some of the advertisers in *Playboy* and *Penthouse* magazines with hopes that cards and letters to these companies will lead to the end of their financial support for the pornography industry.

The following companies advertised in the September 1991 issue of *Playboy*:

Chrm. Paul Fireman, **Reebok International Ltd.**, 100 Technology Center Drive, Stoughton, MA 02072, Phone 617-341-5000, TOLL FREE: 1-800-843-4444, Reebok athletic and casual footwear and apparel.

Chrm. Lawrence R. Pugh, **V.F. Corporation**, P.O. Box 1022, Reading, PA 19603, Phone 215-378-1151, Jantzen clothing, Lee jeans, Wrangler boots, Wrangler clothes.

Chrm. Alfred M. Zeien, **The Gillette Company**, Prudential Tower Bldg., Boston, MA 02199, Phone 617-421-7000, Dry Idea deodorant, Foamy shaving cream, Gillette products, Good News razor, Paper Mate pens, Right Guard antiperspirant, Silkience, Soft & Dri antiperspirant, White Rain shampoo.

Among **Penthouse** advertisers in September were:

Pres. Sam Kusmoto, **Minolta Corporation**, 101 Williams Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446, Phone 201-825-4000, Minolta cameras, office machines, Talker camera.

Pres. Setsujiro Onami, **Pioneer Electronics (USA) Inc.**, 2265 E. 220th Street, Long Beach, CA 90801, Phone 213-835-6177, Pioneer stereo equipment.

Chrm. Toshio Kashio, **Casio, Inc.**, P.O. Box 7000, Dover, NJ 07801, Phone 201-361-5400, Casio electronics.

AFA urges readers to write these companies and ask that they stop advertising in pornographic magazines which are strongly linked to sex crimes against women and children.

Pornography blamed for rape epidemic

Pornography depicting the rape, murder and torture of women has contributed to a nationwide epidemic of these crimes, the Senate Judiciary Committee was told.

Witnesses from law enforcement, victim-protection groups and feminist organizations testified in favor of a bill allowing victims to sue for civil damages if they can prove pornography provoked the crime.

"If we are to protect women and children from sexual predators, we must recognize that sex crimes do not occur in a cultural vacuum," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, Kentucky Republican, who also testified in support of his bill.

Violent pornography has been linked to Ted Bundy's murder spree and other heinous crimes, the senator said. He also told the committee of Steven Pennell, a Delaware serial killer who owned a videotape titled "The Taming of Rebecca," which contained mutilation scenes that resembled those suffered by his victims.

"It is time to hold accountable those who are getting rich off of veritable how-to manuals and films for rapists and child abusers," Mr. McConnell said.

Oklahoma County District Attorney Robert Macy of Oklahoma City said: In Oklahoma County in 1984, we started a five-year crackdown on pornography and sex-oriented businesses. Five years later, we had experienced a 24.4% reduction in reported rapes. The evidence speaks for itself."

But witnesses representing national booksellers, the pornography industry and librarians characterized the bill as censorship and complained it may force them to pull established literature and videotapes from their shelves.

Judith Krug of the American Library Association warned that booksellers fearing liability would stop selling books with strong sexual content such as Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent*.

Page Mellish of Feminists Fighting Pornography, however, quoted several studies establishing a link between some types of pornography and violent crime.

Michigan State Police found pornography was used or imitated during or just before 41% of all sexual assaults, she said. A study by the North Carolina State Police found that 75% of the state's convicted sex offenders had hardcore pornography in their homes or cars.

Mr. McConnell noted that the number of rapes in the United States last year exceeded 100,000 for the first time. Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden Jr., Delaware Democrat, admitted that the nation is being swept by an "epidemic of sexual crimes against women" but did not offer enthusiastic support for Mr. McConell's bill.

The bill would allow crime victims to bring civil charges against producers, distributors and retailers of child pornography that falls under the Supreme Court's definition of obscenity.

Washington Times, 7/24/91

News flash for the media: Religion vital to Americans

By Paul Prather
Reprinted with permission of
Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader
April 13, 1991

To my one-track mind, the news media's biggest failing is our abysmal treatment of religion.

Last week The Associated Press carried the results of a Princeton Survey Research Associates poll.

Asked what mattered most in their lives, four in 10 Americans—40 percent—said they valued their relationship with God above all else. That was the No. 1 answer.

By comparison, only 29 percent cited good health; 21 percent said a happy marriage.

A paltry five percent said a job they enjoyed was most important, while two percent said the money they made counted most.

If the poll's results surprised some people, they shouldn't have.

"The people who are shocked are those who believe this country is more secular than it really is," the article quoted William McKinney, a Hartford Seminary professor and an expert on baby boomers, as saying. "We're in some ways an incurably religious culture."

Judging by the content of TV newscasts and daily newspapers though, among the shocked must be the great body of journalists in this country—if they took time to read the story.

If you watch TV news every day, you probably think no one in this country goes to church.

If you read newspapers, you get the impression that religion has about the same influence on Americans' lives as cholera. Which is to say it's not very common anymore, but if you do catch it, it's painful, foul-smelling and dangerous.

Recently I got a call from a nice fellow I know and like who heads a continuing education program for journalists at a large metropolitan university. Back when I was a business reporter, I attended a two-week seminar there.

He wanted to know, for his alumni newsletter, if the rumor was true: I had forsaken the business beat to become a religion writer.

True, I said.

Why? he asked gently, his tone implying that I must have committed some unpardonable evil, for which I had been exiled to the Siberia of the newsroom.

If you read newspapers, you get the impression that religion has about the same influence on Americans' lives as cholera....if you do catch it, it's painful, foul-smelling and dangerous.

On the contrary, I assured him. When the religion slot opened up, I leapt at the opportunity.

Why? he asked again.

Because, I said, I wanted to write stories that subscribers might actually read.

A few days later, I got my copy of the newsletter. "Business reporter gets religion," the snippet about me began good-naturedly. It said that Paul Prather had, indeed, become a religion writer, but assured other alumni that the move was "at his own request." So they would know I hadn't been demoted.

Demoted?

Consider my mail.

When I was a business writer I covered four of Kentucky's largest industries, companies where thousands of people spend eight or more hours a day. I wrote about subjects that affected their health, jobs and checkbooks.

In a good month, I received one or two notes from readers responding to my stories.

As a religion writer, I have seen my mail increase tenfold. And most of the letters are not from folks who think they've deciphered God's dateline for Armageddon in the lyrics of a Randy Travis song.

Stacked by my computer keyboard as I write this column is my last batch of unanswered mail. There's a note from a medical school professor, a letter from a Danville physician, another from the president of a prominent small college, one from a bookstore owner, another from a TV commentator, several more from lucid, articulate folks whose occupations I don't know.

The specifics vary, but most of these men and women have written to say, in effect, thank you and the Herald-Leader for acknowledging the importance of religion and its related values and for writing about them fairly and accurately.

The responses I get come from across the spectrum, from liberals, conservatives, old, young, Catholics, Jews, evangelicals and Presbyterians.

My point is this: We media types need to wake up.

For two decades, the percentage of people who subscribe to newspapers has been dropping like a skydiver with a faulty ripcord.

Part of the reason people don't make time to read newspapers is that we don't write well about the subjects that people think are vital.

And faith in God is something that 100 million Americans think is most vital.

That point has been emphasized not only by the Princeton survey but also by such accomplished journalists as Bill Moyers and Garry Wills.

At this newspaper—which is comparatively progressive in the amount of space it gives religion—we have one religion reporter. Me.

We have six full-time business writers and two business editors, a daily business section and a weekly business tabloid.

But the Princeton poll indicates that there are eight times more people who are primarily interested in religion than are primarily interested in business.

Don't get me wrong. I respect business coverage, and I read it. I enjoyed being a business reporter, and I liked the people I worked with. I'm not knocking any other news beats, whether business or politics or education.

But religion, as Wills pointed out in his landmark book, *Under God*, is a central influence on everything in our society: family life, charitable works, government, morality, sex, economics.

The least the American media can do is lift religion from its exile in the gray back-pages. After all, that's something the rest of the country did centuries ago.