News Watch

On the Hill

EEOC Update. The saga of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "religious harassment" regulations grinds on. On June 9, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) held a hearing at which various witnesses explained why the draft guidelines threaten to undermine religious freedom. The Senate later voted 94-0 for a non-binding resolution criticizing the guidelines. FRC continues to support a more strongly worded resolution in the House by Rep. Buck McKeon (R-Cal.), awaiting a vote. Meanwhile, Reps. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) and Charles Taylor (R-N.C.) will try to cut off funds to implement the new guidelines unless the notion of "religious harassment" is removed from them.

Hire Law? A homosexual political action group has gathered 71 signatures from U.S. Senators on a statement pledging that "sexual orientation is not a consideration in the hiring, promoting or terminating of an employee" in their offices. The list, which includes Bob Dole (R-Kan.), Connie Mack (R-Fla.), John McCain (R-Ariz.), Hank Brown (R-Colo.), Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), Kay Hutchison (R-Tex.) and Paul Coverdell (R-Ga.), is priceless propaganda for Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and others planning to introduce bills that would make it illegal for private firms to decline to hire homosexuals.

Around Town

Tax-Funded Bigotry. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Arts have sponsored an assault on psychologists and Christian ministries that aid people struggling with homosexuality. "One Nation Under God," a 90-minute documentary that PBS aired in June, takes interviews of Christians out of context and misrepresents the growing ex-gay movement. Meanwhile, PBS ignored Congressional criticism and re-aired the lurid homosexual soap opera miniseries "Tales of the City" during June ("Gay Pride Month").

Workfare Failure. A new study undercuts prospects for a key element of President Clinton's new welfare plan. The study, conducted by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corp., examined workfare programs in 10 states targeted at young mothers. It found that 82% of the 2,300 program participants were still on welfare 18 months after entering the program. Although 40% found paid work, many quit because of job dissatisfaction or work-family role strain. More than half became pregnant out of wedlock after beginning the program. Manpower's findings argue for shifting the focus of work programs away from mothers of preschoolers, the group Clinton would target with similar policies.

Billets & Bullets. Army Secretary Togo West cites "career opportunities" in a June memo to justify placing more women in such combat positions as artillery and special forces aircraft. The Army retracted the memo after it appeared in the press, but promises a new version in July. West was responding to former Defense Secretary Les Aspin's January mandate to justify "why billets are being opened or kept closed" to women. The West memo contradicts findings by the 1992 Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces. West also recommends mixed-gender basic training, which failed in the early 1980s.

Made for TV. A federal judge ordered the reinstatement of Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, an acknowledged lesbian and Army National Guard nurse, calling her dismissal "grounded solely in prejudice." The government is appealing the June 1 ruling. Cammermeyer, once married and the mother of four, left her post in 1992 under the Pentagon's old homosexual regulations, after telling a security investigator of her homosexuality. Meanwhile, homosexual advocates are promoting the case for political ends. A made-for-TV movie depicting her life will air this fall. The TriStar production will star Glenn Close. Barbra Steisand is producer.

Across the Nation

Safe at Home. A new study published in Planned Parenthood's academic journal *Family Planning Perspectives* shows that adolescent boys who have employed mothers initiate sexual activity at a younger age than boys whose mothers are at home full-time. The study builds on other evidence linking parental absence to various social problems among latch-key children (including learning deficits and drug abuse). The findings argue for tax policies that make it easier for families to survive on one income, and family-friendly workplace rules that encourage more after-school parental supervision of children.

RU Boycotting? FRC and other pro-life organizations gained national press with news of a coming boycott of products made by Roussel-Uclaf, the French company that developed the abortion pill RU-486. The company yielded in May to pressure from the Clinton Administration to give the drug's formula to the Population Council. U.S. trials and a domestic manufacturer are the goal. On July 7, FRC will join with the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) and other pro-family groups to announce the boycott list, including polyester products. For details, call NRLC at 202-626-8800.

Forbidden Apple. New York Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani decried "prejudice" against homosexuality in a speech for Gay Games 1994, an Olympics-style competition during a late-June celebration of "homosexuality, bisexuality and transgenderism." Giuliani also ensured that Yankee Stadium be made available for the Games' closing ceremonies. Congress also played its part, as the House Subcommittee on Select Education and Civil Rights staged a pro-homosexual hearing at New York University on "Employment Discrimination Against Lesbians and Gays." No pro-family groups were invited to testify.

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Court Watch

Knox-Out

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit handed children and decency a great victory in its rehearing of *Knox v. U.S.*, the child pornography case that has been closely followed by the pro-family movement.

The case became notorious when the Justice Department (DOJ), under Attorney General Janet Reno, used it to narrow the scope of the federal anti-child-porn law under which the defendant had been convicted. The key words in the statute are "lascivious exhibition." From its enactment in 1984 until the arrival of the Clinton lawyers in 1993, all federal prosecutors and courts had agreed that this term includes all visual depictions of children calculated to appeal to pedophiles, regardless of whether the children are naked.

Under the Bush Administration, and under the standard interpretation of the statute, Steven Knox was convicted. When he appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court, the Justice Department—with Clinton and Reno now in charge—took the unusual step of asking for a successfully prosecuted federal case to be sent back down for further review. The statute, DOJ argued, must be reinterpreted: the words "lascivious exhibition" must be read as meaning that the child's genitals are visible, or at least discernible.

The Supreme Court sent the case back to the Third Circuit, with instructions to consider DOJ's new position. The Third Circuit did consider it—and resoundingly rejected it. DOJ's brief, said the court, "argues that the plain language of the statute requires the genitals or pubic area exhibited to be visible or discernible through the child's clothing. We hold that the federal child pornography statute, on its face, contains no nudity or discernibility requirement, that non-nude visual depictions, such as the ones contained in this [trial] record, can qualify as lascivious exhibitions, and that this construction does not render the statute unconstitutionally overbroad." Any questions?

Knox can now appeal to the Supreme Court again, but the odds are against the high court taking the case. It looks as though the Clinton-Reno attempt to rewrite federal child porn law has finally fizzled.

Policy Update

Abstinence-Minus

Lately, the Clinton Administration has been talking a lot about abstinence. Most recently, the rhetoric has centered around the promotion of the President's new welfare reform package, which would designate some $300 million for an anti-teenage pregnancy campaign that includes abstinence. At the same time, however, the Administration has eliminated all funding ($7 million) from the Title XX Adolescent Family Life program, the *only* source of federal funding for teen abstinence and adoption programs.

Why would the Administration seemingly contradict itself on its promotion of abstinence? Because it is not promoting abstinence, but something called *abstinence-plus*.

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala has clearly stated the Administration's stand on abstinence. She defended the removal of Title XX funds by stressing that abstinence-only messages are unacceptable. She wrote: "[A]bstinence education efforts will have to be part of [a] more comprehensive project that includes a broader range of health, education and social services for adolescents." In short, the Administration will only promote abstinence plus contraception.

But what is the legacy of abstinence-plus programs? The Alan Guttmacher Institute's (AGI) new report, "Sex and America's Teenagers," heralds the success of such programs by putting the best face on the numbers. But the raw data reveals the dire truth. After years of contraceptive promotion, the rates of nonmarital teen pregnancy and births, sexual activity, and many sexually transmitted diseases have all risen dramatically. These increases are corroborated by another study reported by AGI that shows that instruction in sexual biology and birth control methods is associated with earlier first intercourse among males.

While the Administration is intent on negating the abstinence-only message, more and more teenagers are embracing it. A great example: the "True Love Waits" campaign, which culminates in Washington, D.C. this July 29. Hundreds of thousands of cards signed by teenagers who have pledged to remain abstinent until marriage will be displayed on the Washington Mall. The campaign communicates a very clear message: "abstinence-plus" is really "abstinence-minus"—an ill-timed hit on a campaign that is gaining momentum.

Bulletin Board

We didn't ask...

The Family Research Council produced and placed the advertisement shown above in the June 27 issues of *USA Today* and *Roll Call*, "the newspaper of Capitol Hill." The ad includes a photograph of the American cemetery in Normandy, France, and reminds readers that our nation did not ask the religion of the brave soldiers who fought in World War II, nor should it do so in the tumultuous public policy and political struggles of today (*See related stories on page four*). Copies of the FRC ad are available on request (Item code: 94USAX).

• Gary Bauer on the Air

May 1994-Gary Bauer's daily radio commentary, *Washington Watch*, is carried on 75 stations across the nation, up from two dozen a month earlier. Due to the rapid growth of this feature and changing broadcast times, *Watch* cannot carry current listings. Please consult your local stations for program times in your area, or write or call us for a schedule.

• Gary Bauer in Print

July 1994-Focus on the Family features Bauer article on the International Year of the Family.

• Staff in Action

June 14-Senior Policy Adviser Chuck Donovan's op ed supporting welfare reform appears in *USA Today*.

June 17-Director of State and Local Affairs Larry Huff joins Delaware Family Policy Council for unveiling of first state "fatherhood initiative," with support from Democratic Gov. Thomas Carper and resolution approved by legislature.

June 26-Policy analyst Gracie Hsu's op ed on the abstinence movement appears in the San Diego Union-Tribune's Sunday "Insight" section.

June 27-Legal Director David Wagner's "Time to Roll Back No-Fault Divorce" appears in *Insight magazine*.

Copies of editorials by FRC staff members are available on request. Write or call us at 1-800-225-4008.