compatibility with the AHA. In an AHA statement prepared in 1956 by a special Committee on "Intergroup Relations of the American Humanist Association," AU was listed as an "organization devoted to kindred causes." The statement reads:

> Our humanist convictions should lead us into active participation in specialized organizations devoted to kindred causes. Without neglecting their primary loyalty, humanists and humanist groups should relate to and strengthen such organizations as, for example, the American Civil Liberties Union...the Planned Parenthood Federation...and **Americans United for Separation of Church and State.** (Emphasis ours)[7]

In the March/April, 1981 issue of *Free Mind,* the newsletter of the AHA, an article entitled "Announcing Humanist Advocates, AHA" announced the establishment of the Division of Humanist Advocacy. Again, the AHA encouraged their people to become involved in outside organizations, and that humanists are:

> ...often aligned with other special groups like the American Civil Liberties Union, **Americans United,** National Organization for Women...where they express the Humanist view to other activities. (Emphasis ours)

In the March/April 1974 issue of *The Humanist,* Edd Doerr wrote:

> ...humanists work with other people in such organizations as **Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the** American Civil Liberties Union, to mention but two. (Emphasis ours)

The May/June, 1971 issue of *The Humanist* (on the Humanist and Ethical News page) states:

> Since the Association (AHA) is not interested in, nor financially capable of, duplicating the activities of the ACLU, the **Americans United...and other humanistically oriented organizations,** it will concentrate on cases that directly affect the rights of the nontheist. (Emphasis ours)

Another example, was found in the May/June 1974 issue of *The Humanist,* again written by Ed Doerr. The article, entitled "Compulsory Pregnancy," states:

> The RCAR (Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights) is mobilizing religious groups in defense of freedom of choice on abortion, while other organizations, such as the National Abortion Rights Action League, Planned Parenthood, the National Organization for Women, the ACLU, and **Americans United for Separation of Church and State** are working on the problem from other angles. (Emphasis ours)

The American Humanist Association has consistently acknowledged AU as a "humanistically oriented" organization and has encouraged humanist support and involvement in AU. But has Americans United acknowledged and encouraged humanist involvement in their organization? The answer is a resounding YES. In the December 1990 issue of AU's *Church and State,* AU Executive Director Robert Maddox (a Southern Baptist minister) wrote;

> **I also found new friends at a Humanist meeting in Washington recently.** More than 40 people, young and old, gathered to hear me discuss current issues of church and state. **Following a lively discussion, several came forward identifying themselves as long-time AU supporters. Others said they intend to join up with us, and I welcomed them to the ranks.** Though we view life from different perspectives I found ready acceptance, warmth and common cause in our mutual commitment to intellectual and religious freedom. (Emphases ours)

In another article in the November 1979 issue of *Church and State,* entitled "R. G. Puckett Installed as AU Executive," the new AU Executive Director "hailed the great diversity of Americans United supporters—Baptists,Methodists, Presbyterians, Adventists, Jews, Catholics, **humanists,** etc." (Emphasis ours)

In a November 1980 fundraising letter, AU's Executive Director R. G. Puckett (also a Southern Baptist) wrote:

> The one thing on which **Humanists** are in the most solid agreement is the vital importance of maintaining a strict separation between church and state.
>
> You can help preserve and **expand** church-state separation by supporting Americans United, the one national organization dedicated solely to defending this great **humanistic principle.** (Emphases ours)

The above mentioned AU fundraising letter, signed by AU's Executive Director R. G. Puckett, was obviously targeted toward humanists, but where would AU get a humanist mailing list? In a 1984 letter to the editor appearing in *Free Mind,* the official newsletter of the AHA, there appeared an open letter to AU. The purpose of the letter was to complain that not all AU supporters believed in prayer. The letter stated:

> Given the intimate connection between Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the AHA—the fact that you share mailing lists and often members—I was shocked to find in your recent appeal the statement, "I believe in prayer and I'm sure that you do."[8]

The obvious conclusion should be: AU not only acknowledges the humanist involvement in their organization, but also welcomes and encourages it.

To Americans United, "religious liberty" can only flourish in a secular state, while the American Humanist Association realizes that humanism can only flourish in a secular society, free from the influence of Christianity. Recent decades have shown the humanists to be right.

The wall of separation which mandates "religious neutrality," is actually government mandated silence in respect to God. Now we have learned such a silence creates a vacuum, and where there is a vacuum, something will rush in to fill the void. In the absence of God, man becomes the center, the focus and measure of all things. This is the essence of humanism. In the absence of God, man becomes supreme. The vacuum and void created by the "wall of separation," has been systematically filled by the principles of humanism.

The philosophical compatibility between AU and the AHA should cause great concern for every Christian. Furthermore if it's truth that sets us free, then it's also the lie that enslaves us. When religious liberty is twisted to the point that it's used to justify our national rejection of God in the name of "religious neutrality," and the suppression of truth in the name of religious freedom, it's time to reconsider what religious liberty is really all about. Is it possible for our American form of freedom to be sustained apart from God and the teachings of scripture? Will the blessings of God remain where God is no longer allowed? It's time we, as a nation, give serious consideration to the words of the Psalmist, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalm 33:12)

References

1. *The Humanist*, March/April 1973 issue, p. 36.
2. Robert W. Lawson was listed as a signer of the Humanist Manifesto II in the Nov/Dec 1980issue of *Free Mind*, p. 10.
3. *Free Mind*, July/August 1990 issue, p. 6. (*Free Mind* is the monthly newsletter of the AHA.)
4. An additional list of Humanist Manifesto II signers appeared in the July/August 1974 issue of *The Humanist*, p. 48.
5. *Free Mind*, Jan/Feb 1990 issue, p. 5.
6. *Free Mind*, Sept/Oct 1989 issue, center insert entitled "Humanist Voices Speak Out."
7. *The Humanist*, 1963 issue number one, pp. 24-26.
8. *Free Mind*, March/April 1984, p. 11.

Woman responds to 'Penthouse' appeal, tells how man used 'Penthouse' to abuse her at age 12

*Editor's Note: A **Penthouse** victim wrote the following letter to **Penthouse** magazine publisher Bob Guccione after receiving a solicitation letter from the porn publication.*

July 22, 1991

Mr. Bob Guccione
Penthouse Book & Video Society
P. O. Box 941
Hicksville, NY 11802-9773

Dear Mr. Guccione:

I read your letter of invitation to join your Book & Video Club with much interest and concern. Sir, I have a story to tell you.

At age 12, in southern California, I was working for a man named Bud. I got the job through my brother, who at the time had a paper route delivering the L.A. Examiner. It was my job to sweep up the floor and clean up the paper shavings and dust after the guys got their papers packed and left on their routes.

I did just fine, was a hard worker and did a good job. My boss was very liberal with his compliments and encouragement. He often hugged me and kissed me on the cheek and/or forehead. One day he asked me to stay on and just watch the place while he stepped out for a few minutes. "If you get bored, there are some magazines in the back you can look at," he told me. Since I had permission and I got bored waiting up to 45 minutes for him to get back, I picked up those magazines.

These magazines were *Penthouse, Playboy* and others I can't recall the names. Being only twelve, of course, I was enticed. After about three weeks of such "planned" conditioned enticement he put his arm around my shoulder, pulled me close to his side, and asked if I wanted to earn some extra money. Eager to please and seeking his approval, I said, "Sure!" He told me he had to get the okay from his boss and he would get back to me.

After he supposedly got the okay, he took me into the back room and showed me a desk, a ledger, a money box and how he wanted me to enter into the ledger. I asked what it was that I was supposed to do. He said I was to take the money, put it in the money box, put the date, time and amount received into the ledger and then give the customers what they wanted. I asked where I would find it, and he said, "They will let you know." Being a trusting and naive child, I trusted his word.

Before the first customer came in I had begged him to stick around and show me how I was supposed to handle the money and ledger work and then be sure I did what the customer wanted in the proper way. I wanted to be sure I got approval and not criticism. So he said he would. When the first customer came in, he said, "But, she's only a kid, Bud!" Bud said, "Take it or leave it. You didn't specify age." The customer turned and walked out. I thought I had done something wrong so I dissolved in tears. Bud put his arms around me, soothing me till I stopped sobbing. Then he kissed me, saying, "That guy doesn't know what he walked out on." He kissed me several more times—as I look back now he methodically progressed me to the point of submission to his desires by doing things I'd seen in those magazines. I was so indoctrinated by your magazine pictures and stories that I thought this was the way adults acted. I wanted to be treated like an adult, so I went along with the whole thing.

Needless to say I lost my virginity that day. I am and have been so deeply affected by those pictures and graphic stories and the resulting outcome that most boys I dated were able to have their way with me. I needed male approval and this seemed to be what they wanted so I cooperated.

Now as for today, and your offer. I have struggled with my problem with porn so much, that I cannot watch most TV and few movies of today because there is so much porn or near porn, gutter language and innuendo that I cannot enjoy either one. There is so much blatant disregard for the sanctity of the marriage vows and the way things are portrayed one would think ALL women, ALL men and ALL teens behave in this manner. There is so much disrespect for parents, teachers, police, bosses, pastors, portrayed on TV and movies that I refuse to watch them.

I believe *Penthouse* has had its part in this breakdown within our society. I know what happens within me when I happen upon any porn materials and your Book & Video Club would be devastating to me and I believe detrimental to everyone I know.

So, thank you for your offer, but because of the harm you've already perpetrated on me in my early years, I must refuse your offer. Because I am sure your publications and productions are so graphic and explicit that I would be harming myself in ways I can not now imagine, so no thank you!

By the way, I suspect I know how and where you got my address and I congratulate you on your ingenuity in trying to win over more people to your way of thinking. But this is one person you have harmed in the past and I will not allow you to do me more harm today.

(Name Withheld by AFA)

Porn Awareness Week set

Pornography Awareness Week 1991 will be observed October 27 through November 3. PAW is an annual event that serves to raise public awareness of the problem of pornography in local communities across the country. Now is the time to begin planning for this event in local churches and communities.

Many groups will be participating in the White Ribbon Campaign Against Pornography (WRAP). WRAP has proven to be a very successful way of bringing entire communities together to oppose pornography and obscenity. The white ribbon is used as a symbol of purity.

Although many victories have been won in the battle against pornography, many people continue to be victims through rape, incest and child molestation. Many men are victims of pornography through addiction.

American Family Association strongly urges participation in WRAP 1991. For a complete WRAP packet of "how to" information, including how to get local government officials and pastors involved, how to get a proclamation from your mayor or governor, etc., send $6 to Morality in Media (MIM), 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 or call MIM at 212/870-3222.