

The JOURNAL A Summit Ministries Publication



For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

MONTH IN REVEIW

□ "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of law-lessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

"For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

-Romans 6:15-23

God created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go either wrong or right. Some people think they can imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of going wrong; I cannot. If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. A world of automata—of creatures that worked like machines—would hardly be worth creating. The happiness which God designs for His higher creatures is the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united to Him and to each other in an ecstacy of love and delight compared with which the most rapturous love between a man and a woman on this earth is mere milk and water. And for that they must be free.

"...If God thinks this state of war in the universe a price worth paying for free will—that is, for making a live world in which creatures can do real good or harm and something of real importance can happen, instead of a toy world which only moves when He pulls the strings—then we may take it, it is worth paying."

-C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

☐ "Man is now a horror to God and to himself and a creature ill-adapted to the universe not because God made him so but because he has made himself so by the abuse of his free will."

-C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

☐ "Without a soul man becomes nothing but a farm animal."
—Harold O.J. Brown, *Religion and Society Report*, March 2001

"Under the influence of the behaviorist psychologist B.F. Skinner, author of *Beyond Freedom and Dignity*, a different kind of reductionism—psychological or behaviorist determinism—was popularized, despite the fact that it seems 'self-referentially' false. Man should rid himself of the illusion that he is free and gracefully submit to guidance by wise scientists. This process of stripping man of the dignity and meaning with which the doctrine of creation in God's image endowed him had already been foreshadowed in negative assertions such as those of Jean-Paul Sartre; 'L'homme n'est qu'une passion inutile!' Man is nothing but a useless passion, and, in his play No Exit, 'Hell is other people.' Why should we entertain such debasing concepts of our human being? The answer is obvious: they relieve us of the responsibility we would have as rational creations answerable to a divine Maker."

-Harold O.J. Brown, *Religion and Society Report*, March 2001

☐ "The Supreme Court said it wouldn't hear a case involving display of the Ten Commandments—the kind of no-decision decision the justices almost always make without comment. This time was different, opening a window on their own dissension.

"Three justices, the court's most conservative, suggested the majority didn't need to gaze toward the heavens to understand the right stance on the commandments. A wall carving of Moses holding the tablets was in the courtroom.

"Then Justice John Paul Stevens weighed in, writing in rebuttal that such dissents on decisions to pass a case by 'are totally unnecessary'—and potentially misleading.

"Stevens, who voted with the otherwise silent majority this time, had written his own dissent in December when the court agreed to decide the disputed presidential case.

"The court on Tuesday decided not to rule on the constitu-

—UPCOMING EVENTS—

SUMMER PROGRAM 2001

If you are wanting to send your teen to Summit Ministries this summer, please act quickly. Call today (719-685-9103) to request a brochure and application. Following are the sessions that are left to occur. Sessions marked closed have waiting lists for attendance.

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tionality of a Ten Commandments display in front of the Elkhart, Ind., Municipal Building.

"The justices almost never release the vote when they agree or refuse to take a case. The action comes in an order of a few words. The affirmative votes of at least four justices are needed to get a case heard.

"The court's action this time let stand a lower court ruling that the marker violated the constitutional boundaries between church and state. A federal judge now will decide what to do with the granite monument, which has been in Elkhart since 1958.

"Chief Justice William Rehnquist, in a dissent joined by Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, argued the case should have been accepted.

"He wrote that Elkhart's display had a secular as well as a religious purpose.

"By displaying the monument outside the building housing local courts and prosecutors, the city sought to reflect the cultural, historical and legal significance of the commandments, Rehnquist wrote.

"Then he added: 'Indeed, a carving of Moses holding the Ten Commandments, surrounded by representations of other historical legal figures, adorns the frieze on the south wall of our courtroom.'

"The carving 'signals respect not for great proselytizers but for great lawgivers,' Rehnquist wrote.

"Stevens cried foul, writing that the silent majority in denials of petitions don't state members' reasoning.

"Furthermore, an unanswered dissent may leave out important material, he said. And that's what happened in this case, he said."

-The Colorado Springs Gazette, May 30, 2001, p. A3

□ "A recent study by Lance T. Izumi and K. Gwyne Coburn titled 'Facing the Classroom Challenge: Teacher Quality and Teacher Training in California School of Education,' published by the San Francisco-based Pacific Research Institute, gives us some insight into education philosophy.

"At San Francisco State University, 'About Teaching Mathematics,' a text written by Marilyn Burns says, 'There is no place for requiring students to practice tedious calculations that are more efficiently and accurately done by using calculators.' Instruction 'should not aim toward an answer-oriented curriculum,' but toward one that values a 'reasoning process.' A September 2000 Brookings Institution study, using data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, found that fourthgraders who used calculators every day had lower math scores than students who didn't.

"Another text used at San Francisco State University, 'New Designs for Teaching and Learning,' by Dennis Adams and Mary Hamm says: 'Content knowledge is not seen to be as important as possessing teaching skills and knowledge about the students being taught. ...Successful teachers understand the outside context of community, personal abilities and feelings, while they establish an inside context or environment conducive to learning.'

"That means, what the heck if teachers haven't mastered ninth-and $10^{\rm th}$ -grade math, writing and English such as that found

in the California Basic Education Skill Test (www.cbest.nesinc.com). Harvey Daniels' and Marilyn Bizar's text 'Methods That Matter,' takes subject knowledge a step farther, saying, 'Students can no longer be viewed as cognitive living rooms into which the furniture of knowledge is moved in and arranged by teachers, and teachers cannot invariably act as subject-matter experts.'

"What if parents want basic skills for their children? Ed Labinowicz, in 'The Piaget Primer,' says that parental support of school reforms that stress basic skills are simply satisfying 'parental ego needs' that 'they can flaunt before their neighbors' that 'have little to do with children's best interests.'

"Translation: Parents who want basic skills and traditional values for their children are seen as education obstructionists.

"President Bush, the Congress and state legislators handing over more money to the education establishment will do nothing to end America's education rot. More money will simply spread it. As to teacher training, what's needed is for teachers to have degress in the subject they teach and maybe a class or two in pedagogy. For this, schools of education are surely not needed."

–Walter E. Williams, *The Colorado Springs Gazette*, May 30, 2001, p. M7

☐ "Environmental activists from churches in 39 states yesterday closed a three-day meeting here to discuss ways to promote ecological policies back home.

"The gathering of 350 Protestant and Orthodox church workers at the 'Environmental Justice' conference also held a rally on Capitol Hill Tuesday and visited 200 congressional offices, organizers said.

"They carried talking points opposing the Bush administration's energy policy and the revision of some environmental regulations.

"'We hope to bring a moral voice to environmental issues,' said the Rev. Richard Killmer, director of the eco-justice unit of the National Council of Churches, which sponsored the conference.

"The group issued an open letter calling for energy conservation and 'climate justice,' which refers to how industrial nations unfairly cause climate change that affects everyone. The letter was signed by 39 Protestant, Jewish and Orthodox religious leaders and was sent to the White House.

"'This is the first energy debate in a generation,' the letter

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From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

The continuing war on Western culture is surely illuminated by the homosexual-led war against the Boy Scouts. One never hears of the Girl Scouts primarily because the Girl Scouts have already made peace with the homosexual agenda and welcomes lesbian leaders in their midst.

So far the Boy Scouts are on the griddle by our left leaning, pro-homosexual press and anyone standing in the way is knocked down.

So be it! We plan to take our stand with the Boy Scouts of America.

Following is an interesting article by Rev. Louis P. Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition that highlights the present situation, and as you read it pray for the present leadership of the Boy Scouts of America.

"Redbook magazine's April issue carried a story entitled, 'Should You Let Your Son Join the Boy Scouts?' The article described the turmoil within one family over whether or not to allow their son Martin to join this fine organization. Martin's parents, Susie Collins and Joe Thompson agonized over this decision because the Boy Scouts 'discriminates' against homosexuals.

"Nine-year-old Martin was eventually convinced that he should not join the Scouts because they "discriminated," and his parents then began a crusade to have Georgetown East Elementary School in Annapolis, Maryland cut its ties with the Scouts.

"The *Redbook* story then briefly recounts the loss of support that the Scouts has experienced because of its ban on homosexual leaders or members. However, an online survey of 661 *Redbook* readers indicated that 56% agreed with the Boy Scouts ban on homosexuals; 41% disagreed; and 22% said they would prevent their child from joining the Scouts because of its policy banning homosexuals.

"Although reader response was small, this *Redbook* survey is encouraging in many ways because it shows that more than half of those surveyed believe the Boy Scouts is correct to ban homosexuals, and only 22% would keep their boy from joining the Scouts because of the ban.

"The bad news is that homosexual activists are still attempting to punish the Boy Scouts by lobbying to have them defunded by local communities or agencies, and getting them kicked out of public facilities because of their ban.

"Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) is doing something about this attack against the Scouts by homosexual activists. He is offering an amendment to S. 1, the Senate version of H.R. 1, the education bill passed by the House last week. An identical Boy Scout amendment to H.R. 1 was passed by a voice vote in the House. The Helms amendment will deny federal funds to any government agency that denies the Scouts the right to use public facilities for meetings on an equal basis with other groups.

"With a new power shift in the Senate, it will be interesting to see if Senate Democrats are tools of NAMBLA or if they will defend the Boy Scouts.

"Homosexuals want to deny the Scouts the right to meet in public buildings because homosexual activists are denied open access to young boys. The Helms amendment deserves our support! Concerned citizens must express their support for the Helms amendment by signing a petition that will go to their U.S. Senators. The petition is available at: www.conservativepetitions.com/ petition.html?name=helms boy scouts.

"The national leadership of the Boy Scouts is determined to protect boys from bad role models and from North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) same-sex child molesters. A quick search of Nexis (an online database) shows why the Scouts want to keep homosexuals from its ranks. Men with same-sex attractions who are closeted in the Scouts frequently act out their sexual desires by molesting boys. Here are just a few recent examples:

- · In April, a Canadian Scout leader was charged with sexual touching and sexual exploitation for molesting two boys under his care. This homosexual offered alcohol, X-rated videos, and condoms to the boys.
- In February, John Levendosky, a former assistant Boy Scout leader in Pennsylvania was charged with endangering the welfare of children and charged with assault for tying two boys to a tree and cutting them. Police found pornographic bondage magazines and sadomasochistic paraphernalia in his home.
- · In January, William Elliott, a New York Scout leader was charged on 20 counts of molesting four boys.
- · In April, Keith Crumpton, a Mississippi Scout leader faced five counts of fondling a minor and traveling across state lines to have sex with a boy. He molested three young boys.
- In April, an Annapolis Scout leader was arrested for sexually abusing a 13-year-old Scout under his supervision. Homosexual Matthew Showalter faces 20 years in prison if convicted.

"The list goes on, but the point should be clear: Men with a "sexual orientation" toward other males—little boys, teenagers, or men—are quite likely to act out their sexual desires when given the chance. These cases demonstrate that there are already NAMBLA homosexuals hiding out in the Boy Scouts of America organization. We should not open the doors to more of them. The ones who are caught are doing immense emotional and physical damage to boys. The Scouts leadership is correct to prohibit openly practicing homosexuals from becoming leaders or members.

"Instead of punishing the Scouts for "discriminating" against homosexuals, communities and groups like the United Way should applaud the Boy Scouts leadership for its efforts to protect boys from child molesters.

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said. 'We have a moral obligation to choose the safest, cleanest and most sustainable sources of energy to protect and preserve God's creation.'

"Proposals in the letter and the talking points for Capitol Hill match the agenda of the top environmental groups. They urge signing of the Kyoto Protocol on pollution, spending on alternative energy, and rejection of nuclear power and oil drilling in natural parks and refuges.

"The talking points also urge caps on energy costs in California, funding for mass transportation, curbs on sport utility vehicles, and vigilance on 'price gouging' by the oil industry.

"During yesterday's closing sessions on the campus of Catholic University, word that Sen. James M. Jeffords of Vermont might leave the Republican Party drew nearly unanimous cheers.

"The sentiments, which reflect the NCC's affinity for the Democratic Party, contrasted with the praise evangelical Hispanic clergy gave President Bush on Tuesday at a meeting here on faith-based welfare initiatives.

"The NCC's environmental office, formed in 1983, has held the justice conferences every two years since 1997.

"The Rev. Robert Edgar, NCC general secretary, said that conserving and sustaining energy for the poor is 'one spoke' in the council's 10-year focus on fighting poverty.

"'God is calling us to be stewards of this fragile planet Earth and to whisper to our congregations that, "The ice is melting," Mr. Edgar, a former seminary president and Democratic lawmaker from Pennsylvania, said in a midday sermon.

"Using the Luke text in which Jesus told fishermen in 'shallow water' to go into deep water, Mr. Edgar cited predictions that global warming could melt ice caps and raise the sea to disastrous levels.

"'Minds are frozen about the environmental degradation,' he said, reminding activists that they are a minority for this cause. 'None of us is too young or too old to get involved.'

"In a session yesterday, activists described how churches have done 'energy audits,' cleaned up pollution, added ecology to Sunday school and urged clergy to give 'green sermons.'

"They also emphasized using Bible references in advocacy because many churchgoers associate environmentalism with New Age beliefs.

"'There was some worry about that in the beginning,' said Elizabeth Sedin, who started up a committee on the 'stewardship of creation' for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia."

-Larry Witham, The Washington Times, May 24, 2001, p. A4

□ "Public school districts cannot refuse to let Bible groups use classrooms to teach children after hours because of fears of mixing church and state, the Supreme Court ruled Monday. The 6-3 decision could open school facilities to religious organizations nationwide.

"With Justice Clarence Thomas and the conservative justices taking the lead, the court said the school district in Milford, N.Y., violated the free-speech rights of the Good News Club when it excluded it while allowing such groups as the Boy Scouts to use school premises.

"The club, which is part of an evangelical group with affili-

ates across the nation, has been involved in numerous lawsuits over access to school grounds. Its supporters say the ruling is a victory for religious free speech. Critics say it will confuse youngsters about the differences between public school and Sunday school.

"'The Good News Club seeks nothing more than to be treated neutrally and given access to speak about the same topics as are other groups,' Justice Clarence Thomas wrote. The club focuses on morals and its deeply religious nature is essentially inconsequential, he said.

"The ruling continues a recent line of decisions that require government to offer benefits to secular and religious groups on the same basis.

"Dissenting justices insisted school districts should be able to exclude groups that proselytize for religion or offer, as Justice David Souter called it, 'an evangelical service of worship calling children to commit themselves in an act of Christian conversion'

"Justices John Paul Stevens and Ruth Bader Ginsburg also dissented. Justice Stephen Breyer voted with the majority but did not fully adopt its reasoning.

"'I think this will have a tremendous impact,' said Thomas Marcelle, who represented the Good News Club. 'There are courts that have said schools don't have to allow in groups that pray.'

"The Rev. Stephen Fournier, who runs the club in Milford, said, 'The most important thing to me is the teaching of the gospel of Christ.'

"Benjamin Ferrara, who represents the Milford district in Upstate New York, said officials were considering how the ruling affects religious groups as well as political ones. They are concerned they might have to allow, for example, a neo-Nazi group, he said."

-USA Today, June 12, 2001, p. 1

□ "On July 9 to 20, New York City will host the United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The purpose of this conference is to demonize the private ownership of guns and get governments to confiscate all privately owned guns.

"Don't be misled by the terms 'small arms.' U.N. documents define small arms as weapons 'designed for personal use' (such as your Browning pistol, your Ruger rifle, or your Winchester shotgun), while light weapons are for use by several persons as a crew.

"Don't think this U.N. conference is just a talk fest. It is scheduled to produce a legally binding treaty to require governments to mark, number, register, record, license, confiscate and destroy all guns except those in the hands of the military and the police.

"Indeed, the first day of the conference is to be called 'Small Arms Destruction Day.' The conference's Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) is calling on all governments, with the assistance of the U.N.'s NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) and 'civil society' (a fancy name for the NGOs working in tandem), to organize public events to promote the destruction of small arms and light weapons on that day.

"The decision on NGO participation, adopted by the PrepCom without a vote, is in line with the growing U.N. practice of expanding the influence of 'relevant' NGOs while bypassing sovereign member states. 'Relevant' means only those NGOs that promote the U.N. agenda.

"The 18-page Draft Program of Action to be presented to the July conference sets forth the rationale plus the mechanisms for eliminating the 'wide availability' of guns. It's obvious that the United States is the target because we are the only country with a Second Amendment, and other democracies such as England, Canada and Australia have either banned or severely restricted private gun ownership.

"The Draft Program wraps its gun-confiscated message in typical U.N. semantics, but makes little attempt to conceal the mailed fist in the velvet glove. It states: 'In order to promote peace, security, stability and sustainable development in the world, we commit ourselves to addressing this problem in a comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, efficient and urgent manner.'

"Indeed, the plan is comprehensive and integrated. According to the Draft Program, 'Preventing and reducing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons consists of two sets of measures: the national control of manufacture and the proper marking of small arms and light weapons, coupled with accurate, sustained record-keeping and exchanges of information.'

"Government 'marking' and recordkeeping is 'an integral part' of the process. It's clear that the U.N. is demanding that governments build a national electronic database of all guns and their owners, and then facilitate 'an information exchange' (i.e., share the database with the U.N.).

"Through the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the U.N. promises to 'develop an international mechanism that will facilitate the exchange of information on all aspects' of guns, i.e., a global gun registry.

"To wipe out private gun ownership, the U.N. demands that all governments enforce 'adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the legal manufacture and possession of small arms and light weapons.' And the U.N. demands that governments criminally prosecute all those who don't comply.

"The U.N. plans to develop 'model national legislation' so Congress will pass laws that conform to the treaty's requirements. The U.N. plans to guide Congress by publishing 'best practices for legislation and procedures.

"All unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons are to be confiscated and expeditiously destroyed." The government is to assure that 'no retransfer of small arms and light weapons takes place without prior authorization' by the government because the U.N. disapproves of the possession of guns by civilians who are 'not part of responsible military and police forces.'

"The U.N. also has a plan to propagandize Americans to accept this global ban on private gun ownership. The Draft Program calls for 'seminars, conferences, consultations and workshops conducted by the United Nations' for the purpose of 'promoting the action plan.'

"As part of its 'awareness-training' to induce Americans to

accept the new ban-the-guns policy, the U.N. wants government to pledge to destroy guns in 'public destruction events.'

"When the United Nations bounced us from the Human Rights Commission, while giving seats to Sudan, Libya, China and Cuba, that was just an insult. But it's deadly serious business when the U.N. tries to take away our guns."

–Phyllis Schlafly, *The Washington Times*, May 26, 2001 p. A14

□ "Dr. Robert L. Spitzer is a professor of psychiatry at Columbia University. In 1973, he persuaded the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality from its official diagnostic manual of mental disorders. At the time, Dr. Spitzer was hailed by many as a scientific Moses, leading homosexuals out of their closeted captivity.

"Last Wednesday, Dr. Spitzer spoke again to the APA at its meeting in New Orleans. This time he had a different message: 'Contrary to conventional wisdom, some highly motivated individuals, using a variety of change efforts, can make substantial change in multiple indicators of sexual orientation.' In other words, according to Dr. Spitzer, once homosexual does not necessarily mean always homosexual.

"Dr. Spitzer interviewed 200 men and women who said they had experienced a significant transition from homosexual to heterosexual attraction, and had sustained this shift for five years. 'Like most psychiatrists,' Dr. Spitzer says, 'I thought homosexual behavior could only be resisted, and that no one could really change their sexual orientation. I now believe that to be false. Some people can and do change.'

"When Dr. Spitzer offered his views to the APA 28 years ago, he was presented as an unassailable expert. Now, after studying the matter further, he says his views have changed. Is he still an expert? Of course not, because he now confronts the only force greater than science, theology or public opinion: political correctness.

"Dr. Spitzer must now be silenced or discredited by those for whom 'gay rights' is a holy grail. Other 'experts who toe the party line are being produced to undermine his conclusions. Because many of those studied testify to a religious and/or 'reparative therapy' model leading them to a different orientation and behavior pattern than before, their conclusions are immediately rejected because they supposedly lack scientific credibility. Never mind that various scientists, some homosexuals themselves, have been trying to force the 'gay gene' theory on us with flawed models and a good deal of political, not scientific propaganda behind their conclusions. They remain credible in some minds because of their objective, which is total acceptance of homosexual practice as normal, even good.

"The essence of real science is the ability to alter conclusions when new facts are observed. But political correctness is about holding a view in spite of the facts. Political correctness demands that new 'facts' be created in order to serve the ideological and social ends of certain groups. That's why in science, religion and politics, new models have replaced old models because the old ones lead to conclusions and destinations to which the PC crowd does not wish to return."

-Cal Thomas, The Washington Times, May 13, 2001, p. B1

Astronomer Bob Berman, who writes a regular column for Astronomy, is (so far as I know) the originator of the felicitous term 'Bubbleland.' This remarkable region is the domain of the imaginary worlds of the mathematical cosmologies invented by our modern astrophysicists and cosmogonists. Berman calls it the realm beyond the present reach of science.

"Most of these learned scholars believe the universe began in a singularity known as the Big Bang, when our cosmic continuum of space, matter, and time suddenly came into existence. But where did that come from? According to Berman, it must have come from Bubbleland. 'Nobody has the foggiest idea what happened the Tuesday before the Big Bang. Who can say whether there was a previous collapsing universe or an incipient quantum fluctuation. That whole domain is part of Bubbleland.'

"Berman notes certain speculations about 'other dimensions' and various other esoteric mathematical concepts. 'In truth we have no clue. We should say we have no clue. But since there is no official category for what happens to singularities, we'll just say they enter Bubbleland and everyone will understand.'

"Even I can understand that, but I do have considerable trouble with eleven space dimensions, quantum fluctuations of nothing into something, multiple universes, and such like.

"The Big Bang itself somehow gets away with going against the laws of causality, probability, conservation, entropy and even common sense. Although I had a minor in mathematics at the graduate level, I get lost in trying to follow the esoteric mathematics of relativity and quantum theory. However, there are a number of very competent scientists in these fields who do understand these subjects and who reject the Big Bang. Among those are Fred Hoyle and several others of comparable stature. "And then there is Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, Britain's greatest living astrophysicist, and the Big Bang theory's greatest adversary... Together with two other respected astrophysicists, Hoyle systematically reviews the evidence for the Big Bang theory, and gives it a good kicking."

"The author of the above quote, Robert Matthews, is referring to a recent book by Hoyle et al. *A Different Approach to Cosmology*. Summarizing their arguments for the Big Bang in a physics journal, these writers say: 'We do not think science should be done that way...We think this approach does not merit the high esteem that cosmologists commonly accord it.'

"Compelling as their arguments against the Big Bang may be however, they will probably be ignored by most astronomers. As Matthews says: 'I don't expect the vast majority of astronomers to pay the slightest attention to Hoyle and his colleagues: frankly, there are too many careers riding on the Big Bang being right.' Perhaps the Big Bang itself really resides in Bubbleland!"

-Henry Morris, Back to Genesis, June 2001

☐ "A large part of the blame for California's electricity crisis is due to green bigots who have conducted a scorched-earth policy against anyone trying to build power-generating plants there.

"A new cult of pagan nature worship has sprung up, in which the slightest inconvenience to any toad or bug is enough to call a halt to even the most urgent human needs. A new mythology has been created, in which wildlife can only survive in their original habitats. Spotted owls supposedly can live only in 'old growth' forests, though there must have been a time when the old growth trees were new growth trees. Surely they have not been there since the dawn of time or even throughout the whole history of spotted owls.

"When you see birds nesting in metropolitan skyscrapers, you have to acknowledge that wild creatures do have some adaptability—unless you think these are 'old growth' skyscrapers. Species could not have survived the evolutionary changes of the Earth if they didn't have some adaptability. But now, everything is to be frozen where it is by the green bigots—and at unlimited costs to others.

"Nature worship is fine for those who want it. I have nothing against faith-based organizations. But a theocracy imposing its will on others is something else, even when it is a theocracy of nature-worshippers."

–Thomas Sowell, *The Washington Times*, May 27, 2001, p. Bl

☐ "In February 1999, Paul Weyrich rocked the conservative world by declaring that the culture way was over and 'family values' had lost.

"'I no longer believe that there is a moral majority,' said Mr. Weyrich, a veteran conservative activist who first suggested the name 'Moral Majority' for the Rev. Jerry Falwell's organization. 'I do not believe that a majority of Americans actually share our values.'

"The causes of this defeat were not political, Mr. Weyrich explained, but 'a cultural collapse of historical proportions.' Simply put, the 1960s counterculture had triumped.

"'If there really were a moral majority out there, Bill Clinton would have been driven out of office months ago,' Mr. Weyrich wrote in his now famous letter in the wake of Mr. Clinton's Senate acquital. He added that 'what Americans would have found absolutely intolerable only a few years ago, a majority now not only tolerates but celebrates.'

"The truth of Mr. Weyrich's declaration was reinforced by a recent Census Bureau report showing the continued decline of the traditional family.

"Married couples with children, who comprised 43 percent of Amercan households in 1950, accounted for only 24 percent of American households in 2000. The number of 'unmarried partner' households, meanwhile, increased by 72 percent in the past decade alone.

"That report came just days after the Census Bureau reported that 33 percent of all births in 2000 were to unmarried womenan all-time high.

"For decades, conservatives pointed to the thousands of refugees who fled communist regimes, proudly proclaiming that these desperate people had 'voted with their feet' in rejecting Marxism-Leninism. Today, apparently, million of Americans have 'voted with their feet' in abandoning the traditional family.

"There is no indication that this trend will be reversed. Indeed, today's young Americans seem especially indifferent to traditional notions of marriage and morality.

"Fact: In 1960, the median age at first marriage for U.S.

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women was 20. Today, it's 25. For men, the median age at first marriage has gone from 22 in 1960 to 27 today. Yet researchers report that the average young American today first has sexual intercourse at age 17 or 18. Judging from these statistics, then most young people in this country will be 'sexually active' (what the Rev. Falwell might call 'fornicating') for eight to 10 years before marrying. If that is true, what future can there be for the politics of 'family values'?

"Some might say that these young people are just 'sowing their wild oats,' and that they will eventually settle down into 'Ozzie and Harriet' lifestyles. Don't bet on it.

"Between 1960 and 1995, the percentage of American women aged 30-34 who had never married increased by 175 percent; in the same time frame, the percentage in the 'never married' category more than doubled for women 35-39.

"Like so may other trends, this one is most pronounced among the young. Women in their early 20s are emphatic in their rejection of marriage: Just 27 percent of women aged 20-24 were married in 1995, compared to 69.5 percent in 1960.

"The trends for men are simlar, with the 'never married' category growing by 136 percent among men 30-34 between 1960 and 1995; whereas 45.8 percent of men 20-24 were married in 1960, only 16.7 percent of men in the same age group were married in 1995.

If young Americans are less likely to marry than Americans of a generation ago, they are also less likely to become parents.

"Overall, U.S. fertility rates have declined by 43.6 percent

since 1960 and --like the marriage trends--the decline is most pronounced among the young. The birth rate for women aged 20-24 decreased 56.5 percent between 1960 and 2000, according to the Census Bureau. For all the outcry over America's 'teen pregnancy crisis,' the teen birth rate is now 34.7 percent lower than it was in the final year of the Eisenhower administration.

"As with the decline of marriage, some will try to dismiss the sagging U.S. birth rate by saying that young people are merely delaying parenthood--eventually, perhaps with the aid of fertility treatments, all these young women will become mothers. Again, don't bet on it.

"In fact, the birth rate for U.S. women aged 40-44 has declined by 55.5 percent since 1960. There were just 6.9 births per 1,000 women 40-44 in 2000, according to the Census Bureau. Meanwhile, the proportion of American women aged 40-44 who were childless grew by 90 percent between 1976 and 1998.

"In declaring that there was no longer a 'moral majority,' Paul Weyrich was only admitting what has become increasingly obvious. With marriage and parenthood in decline, with more couples cohabitating and more children cohabitating and more children born out of wedlock, the future of 'family values' looks dim indeed."

-Robert S. McCain, The Washington Times, June 1, 2001, p. A17