

EMPIRE STATE FAMILY NEWS WATCH



A Publication of Marriage and Family Savers Institute - - - - - School of Public Policy -

FEBRUARY 2009

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REV. BILL BANUCHI

How I wish it was not so, but it is. Elections have consequences. As Penny's mom used to say, "You made your bed, now you lie in it." And so it will be with this generation clamoring for change. When asked about the decline of modern culture Alexander Solzhenitsyn replied, "Man has forgotten God, that is why this has happened." That's the bottom line. Unless, and until we turn back to the God revered by our founding fathers, we will continue *down* this road. But there is a God in the heavenlies who cares, and there is always a faithful remnant who have read the back of the book, who are determined to be in that victory parade. And I, for one, am determined to join them. I pray you too will continue to fight for our culture, because I know that,

*"... a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.
21In his name the nations will put their hope. -Matt. 12:20*

Let's continue to pray like it all depends on God, and work like it all depends on us until we see either victory in this life or His face in glory. Either way, we win!

NY SCHOOL DISTRICT REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE BIBLE CLUB

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. — Alliance Defense Fund attorneys filed a lawsuit in federal court after Lindenhurst Union Free School District officials repeatedly refused to grant official recognition to a student-run Bible club. "Christian student groups shouldn't be discriminated against for their beliefs," said ADF Senior Legal Counsel David Cortman. "The First Amendment and federal law both prohibit such actions on the basis of religion, and this has been established by years of court precedent." For more than four months, Lindenhurst High School officials have repeatedly refused to grant recognition to the club because of its religious nature. A number of other non-curriculum-related, student-led clubs--including the Gay-Straight Alliance, Key Club, and Chess Club--have received recognition and are entitled to certain benefits and privileges. The district is not permitting members of the Bible club to use classrooms to meet on the same basis as other clubs.

NY FAMILY "GRILLED" IN RELIGIOUS SINCERITY TEST

Ron and Rita Palma of Bayport, New York, have been fighting for the right to opt their children out of the vaccines that public schools require children have before attending school. Parents are allowed to opt out of the medical requirement if they cite objections on religious grounds. The Palmas did so, citing their Catholic faith as a reason, but they were met with resistance from the Bayport-Blue Point Union Free School District. Rita Palma explains. "I handed in my letter, handed in my application, and they called me in and insisted that I come in for a face-to-face interview. Palma says she and her husband were grilled for two hours by the school's attorney, David Cohen. She refers to the session as a "sincerity interview." Rita says the attorney concluded that her beliefs were not "sincere" enough and decided to deny her vaccine waiver. She is now taking her fight to the New York State Capitol.

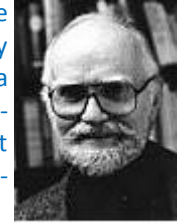
PRO-LIFE PASTOR PREPARES FOR SENTENCING

An Oakland, California, pastor could face jail time for expressing his pro-life views. Pastor Walter Hoyer ran into trouble with an abortion clinic while doing an informational picket. Dennis Howard, leader of [The Movement for a Better America](#), believes Hoyer is innocent. "His approach was simply to carry a sign that said 'Jesus Loves You. Can



Hoye

We Help?' and offering those who wanted it some information about alternatives to abortion," Howard explains. A complaint was filed and Hoye was found guilty in spite of proof to the contrary. "There was a video taken of him doing this, and it shows that he was not harassing anybody," Howard points out. "In fact, he was being harassed by escorts from the abortion clinic." Pastor Hoye faces up to two years in jail and a \$4,000 fine. Howard is calling Christians into action. "We feel that pro-life organizations around the country ought to take up this man's cause and pray and fast between now and February 19," he concludes. That is when Hoye is due to be sentenced.



Howard

CHRISTIAN RADIO - TARGET OF 'FAIRNESS DOCTRINE'?



An official with the National Religious Broadcasters says if liberals are successful in bringing back the so-called "Fairness Doctrine," conservative commentators like Rush Limbaugh won't be the primary target of censorship. Recently former President Bill Clinton joined the list of Democrats who are openly calling for the reinstatement of the so-called Fairness Doctrine. While high-profile conservative commentators like Limbaugh and Sean Hannity have often been mentioned as "targets," Craig Parshall, Senior V.P. of the National Religious Broadcasters, believes Christian radio is going to be the major target. He contends. "It's going to be Christian broadcasters who are not afraid to address sexual orientation issues from a bibliocentric view, who aren't afraid to challenge the status quo on issues like abortion; or Christian broadcasters who aren't afraid to be able to compare the truth of the gospel with the false world religions around there. And all of this is very, very politically incorrect speech." - *OneNewsNow.com*



Parshall

TRANSGENDER JANITOR SHOCKS ELEM. SCHOOL PARENTS

At the beginning of the 2008-09 school year, parents at the Clara Barton Elementary School in Oxford, Massachusetts, received a letter from the principal and superintendent, informing them that one of the school custodians had "changed his gender role" and is now a woman. The school officials then informed parents that if their children, whose ages range from five-to-ten years old, ask school employees any questions concerning the custodian, they believe that "the best thing to tell them is that our custodian used to be a man. She has changed her gender and is now a woman." Brian Camenker with [MassResistance](#) is appalled. "Whether parents like that idea or not, [the school] decided that they were going to introduce this to kids if there were any questions. That's extremely outrageous," he contends. "The whole idea that someone like this should be in the public schools, of course, is beyond belief." Camenker believes parents are also fearful of liberals in the community and finds it troubling there is a climate of fear against speaking out. He adds that on the reverse side of the letter, school officials listed radical homosexual websites in order for parents to get more information on "transgender issues." - *OneNewsNow.com*



Camenker



CUTTING THE HOLE OUT OF MY JEANS

The "stimulus" package the feds are about to execute reminds me of the story of the little boy who came home crying because he had fallen and torn a large hole on the kneecap area of his brand new jeans. He pleaded with his mother, "Please Mom, cut the hole out of my jeans so it won't be there any more." Needless to say, cutting out the hole just creates a bigger hole, but alas, at least "we'll be doing something!" For people who claim at least a minimal level of intelligence, this is a pretty dumb move. All one has to do is to look at the facts, look at our history, and project out into the future to see that by every measure this is a loser. But then again, that presumes the ability to defer immediate gratification for a long-term good, which the present administration and Congress doesn't seem to have the common sense to do. Goodbye prosperity; hello poverty. God help us, and God help the next generation. -*Rev. Bill Banuchi*