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IN TODAY'S REPORT

1. Adding "Sexual Orientation" to Federal Hate Crimes Law - A Status Report
2. What Stephen Breyer Doesn't Know About The Constitution
3. Christian "Insensitivity" At Dartmouth

ADDING "SEXUAL ORIENTATION" TO FEDERAL HATE CRIMES LAW - A STATUS REPORT

As readers of this report know, September 15, 2005 was a black day for the pro-family movement. For the first time, the House of Representatives voted in favor of making homosexuals a protected class for civil-rights purposes.

The measure (an amendment to a popular bill to increase penalties for pedophiles) would make those who attack homosexuals (motivated by an aversion to their lifestyle) subject to federal prosecution and a harsher penalty than would be the case for victims who didn't qualify for protected status.

Currently, the federal hate-crimes law covers race, ethnicity and religion. If the disastrous amendment is enacted into law, those whose sole distinguishing characteristic is sexual behavior would be added to the mix.

Everyone's rights, including their personal safety, should be respected. But there's no logical basis for singling out homosexuals for extra protection. Of over 1.4 million violent crimes committed in America in 2003, 1,239 were attributed to sexual-orientation. Homosexuals are far more likely to suffer at the hands of other homosexuals, than from gay-bashers.

In Scandinavia and Canada, ministers have been prosecuted for preaching the Bible's perspective on "men who lie with other men." Adding homosexuality to federal hate crimes law could take us down the same road.

The Senate has passed similar measures before. (Family activists always relied on the House to save the day.) Our sources disclose that a Senate version is poised to pass the Judiciary Committee. Approval by the Senate seems a virtual certainty - unless there is a an outcry now.

If a bill with expanded hate-crimes language lands on his desk, what will the president do? Given that after 4 1/2 years in office, Mr. Bush has yet to exercise the veto, your guess is as good as mine.

We must leave nothing to chance here.

Contact your Senators and tell them that individuals are born black, Hispanic and Jewish - but they are not born homosexual. Express your opposition to homosexuals being included in federal hate crimes law. For Christian conservatives, this is a make or break issue.

WHAT STEPHEN BREYER DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION

What Associate Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer doesn't understand about the Constitution would fill a book - or, more accurately, an entire library shelf.

One of the most liberal justices, Breyer has a soon to be released book, titled: "Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution." In it, he argues that the theory of original intent is a poor guide to interpreting the Constitution. Who cares what the Founders intended? Breyer rhetorically asks. They lived in an age

before television, supersonic planes and the Internet. Poor relics on a bygone era, they couldn't conceivably have predicted the problems of modern society. This, of course, neglects one tiny detail -Article V, which sets forth the process for amending the Constitution.

Of course the Founding Fathers understood that times change and their great work would, from time to time, need to be revised. They set forth a very precise process for doing so.

An amendment is "proposed" by a two-thirds vote of each House. The amendment must then be ratified by three-fourths of the states, assuring that the people - and not politicians or judges - always have the final say on the direction of the nation. (Amendments may also be proposed by a Constitutional Convention, called by application of three-fourths of the states, a device which has yet to be employed.)

Since 1791, the Constitution has been amended 27 times, the last in 1992. What the Founders did not intend - and what they would have been appalled by - is justices who, in effect, amend the Constitution from the bench - by interpreting the document in such a way as to force their views on the people.

That isn't democracy, but judicial dictatorship. If he was honest, Breyer would have called his book: "Sleep On...We'll Tell You What To Do: A Handbook for Deconstructing the Constitution."

CHRISTIAN "INSENSITIVITY" AT DARTMOUTH

Noah Riner, student body president of Dartmouth College, committed a crime against political correctness. In a speech to incoming freshmen about the importance of character development, Riner offered Jesus as a role model. Then he went an inexcusable step further (for collegiate liberalism), noting that Jesus "gave his life for our sins."

The next day, the vice president for student life resigned in protest, calling Riner's testimony "reprehensible and an abuse of power." In a letter to the student

newspaper, the head of the college's Jewish student group called Riner's speech "disrespectful" and "the complete antithesis of what Dartmouth espouses..."

By the way, Dartmouth was founded in 1769 by the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock, a Congregational minister who undoubtedly shared Riner's devotion to Jesus. And Daniel Webster, her most famous alumnus, surely is applauding Riner from Heaven.

Once again, it must be asked: In a nation founded by Christians - over 90% of whose citizens are self-professed Christians - why is Christianity not considered a topic for polite conversation? If Riner had recommended Marx or touted Scientology, rest assured his comments would have passed unnoticed. Any objections thereto would have elicited calls for the defense of academic freedom. What is reprehensible and disrespectful is this attempt to censor a young man of faith. I am proud of Mr. Riner and commend him for having the courage to speak the Truth in one of the most pagan of settings - an Ivy League college campus.

THE WAR ON FAITH AND THE VALUES VOTER IN 2006, MARCH 27-28, 2006

As we noted, our Fall conference has been rescheduled to March 27-28, 2006. The War on Faith and the Values Voter in 2006 is still being held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, and we still expect it to be groundbreaking in every way. We'll have more details for you next week, and in the weeks that follow - or visit the Vision America website, www.visionamerica.us.

TEXAS VOTERS

"Texas Senate passed a constitutional marriage amendment May 21, making it the fifth state this year to send such an amendment to voters."

"The amendment, which would protect the traditional definition of marriage by banning both "gay marriage" and civil unions, will go to voters Nov. 8."(quoted from bpnews.net)

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Dr. Rick Scarborough is the president of [Vision America](#) and chairman for the [Judeo-Christian Council](#).