

Grassroots American Values

A Firelands Area Conservative Action Group

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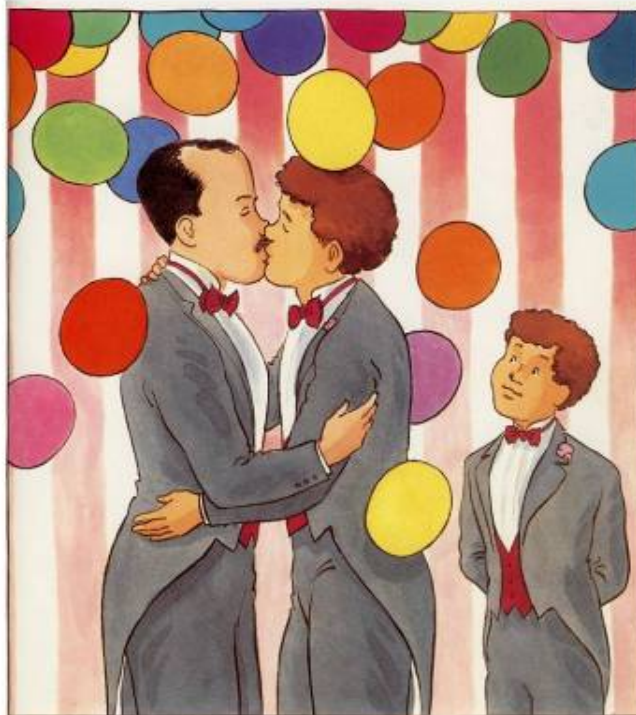
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DISCLAIMER: This is not a Politically Correct organization. We do not exist to make people feel comfortable. So, feel free to feel uncomfortable!

About this Newsletter

Welcome to the first installment of the monthly Grassroots American Values Newsletter. National news often distracts us from local events. This Newsletter is intended for Conservatives in the Firelands area that want to be informed and involved. We hope that as you follow our subsequent issues, you will show how you can help.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK IN THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENTS AT OHIO LIBRARIES



After that, Reverend Powell said they were married. And suddenly hundreds of balloons fell down all over the place!

This picture can be found in the pages of the children's book *Daddy's Wedding*. This book is intended for children ages 3 to 7. See the article *What Your Kids are Reading at Public (and School) Libraries* –page 2 of this issue.

What your Kids are Reading at Public (and School) Libraries

"Heather acted like it was perfectly normal that she loved another woman, and I'd felt all proud of myself for treating it that way, too. [...] I didn't think there was anything wrong with a woman loving another woman, or a man loving another man." *Kissing Kate*, by Lauren Myracle

"When the picnic was almost over, Daddy and Frank took me to the garden swing to talk. Daddy said, 'Nick, we want to invite you to a special occasion next month. We're going to get married.'" *Daddy's Wedding*, by Michael Willhoit

These are excerpts from the pages of two books. The first is the story of two teen-age girls (both 16 years old), who discover they are lesbians. In the second (this issue's cover), a 10 year-old is invited by his father to be the best man in his wedding with another man. Both books can be found in the Children's and the Young Adult departments of our Public Libraries –that are full of books with these themes. There are also other issues, like suicide, drugs, sex, AIDS and all possible politically correct subjects you can imagine. When I tell people about them, the reaction is always of shock and disbelief, so here is a link if you want to do your own research: <http://www.cpl.org/>.

One way to slow the advancing of an extreme left-leaning agenda is to cut funding. It may seem drastic, but taxpayers lost the control they had when Libraries were locally funded. They are primarily funded by State income taxes, receiving 5.6% of every dollar sent to Columbus. There are also levies that frequently pass for two reasons: Libraries present the issue on several occasions and do not widely advertise that it is on the ballot.

The second is to find a State Legislator who might be interested in what was accomplished in Oklahoma. Representative Sally Kern (R- Oklahoma City) was contacted by parents horrified with the homosexual literature available in children's departments of libraries. She introduced a bill that passed last May on an 81-3 vote. HR 1039 instructs "*Oklahoma libraries to confine homosexually themed books and other age-inappropriate material to areas exclusively for adult access and distribution.*"

The Ohio House of Representatives approved Governor Taft's cuts for Libraries, and it is going to be voted on the 1st week of June by the Senate Finance Committee (http://www.senate.state.oh.us/committees/com_finance.html). If you are as concerned as I, and want to take back control of your Library, let your representatives know: write, call, E-mail, fax them!

Chairman: Senator John Carey (R) - Senate Building, Room #127, First Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215 - sd17@mailr.sen.state.oh.us - PH: 614/466-8156, fax: 614/7527188

Vice-Chairman: Senator David Goodman (R) - Senate Building, Room #125, First Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215 dgoodman@mailr.sen.state.oh.us - PH: 614/466-8064, fax: 614/4667662

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- Senator Ron Amstutz (R) - Senate Building, Rm. 140, First Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

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- Senator Tom Niehaus (R) - Senate Building, Room #038, Ground Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215 -
sd14@mailr.sen.state.oh.us - PH: 614/466-8082, fax: 614/4667662
- Senator Joy Padgett (R) - Senate Building, Room #035, Ground Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
sd14@mailr.sen.state.oh.us - PH: 614/466-8076, fax: 614/9951665

To learn more about Ohio Public Libraries, check Anderson's Online Docs:
<http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com>. Click on "Revised Code," then on "Title XXXIII
Education – Libraries," and open "Chapter 3375 Libraries."

Special Rights for Special People (or Dude, Where Are *my* Rights?)

You might have heard of the American Library Association (ALA), but have you heard of their *Bill of Rights* ⁽¹⁾? Paragraph V says that: *A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.* So, children have free access to books that picture homosexuality as a normal way of life (and are intended by the editors for children and adolescents).

Last year I E-mailed my concern with homosexual books to several Ohio Public Libraries, and the answers were dismissive or non-existent. For instance, the Director of the Lima Library (<http://www.youseemore.com/lima/>) was "perplexed" because they "did not own copies of some of the books" I mentioned. At that time (03/24/04) they did not have a copy of "King and King" ⁽²⁾, but were considering acquiring it due to "the controversy that has erupted about it nationally." Today (05/27/05) there is one available in their Juvenile Section. Their "Policies for the Selection of Book and Other Library Materials" includes "*the statement of the American Library Association entitled: The Freedom to Read* ⁽³⁾ and *Library Bill of Rights* ⁽¹⁾" and serves the purpose of "*information, education, inspiration and enjoyment for persons of all ages.*"

The Head of Planning and Research of the Cleveland Public Library (CPL) wrote that "*Ohio libraries [are] the envy of the nation.*" I submitted to him that books like "King and King" are hardly to be envied! He referred me to the Youth Services Manager of the CPL, who explained their policies include the ALA's "Free Access to Libraries for Minors" ⁽⁴⁾. According to her "*Libraries or library boards who restrict the access of minors to materials and services because of actual or suspected parental objections should bear in mind that they do not serve in loco parentis.*" She considered my complaint and after "a review of the professional literature and a discussion with our selectors," concluded "that the items meet the Library's selection criteria."

Then why do Libraries have *Children's Department*? Isn't this contrary to the concept "*equal access to all library resources*"?

All the answers I got had one common denominator: the belief that Libraries are autonomous. Is that so? To the extent that they are funded at the expense of our pocket books, we *do* have the right to say and control Ohio Libraries. So, we should have a say on what is within reach of children and adolescents since we pay for the buildings, the employees and everything inside them!

I often read that we are to tolerate homosexuality. We **are** tolerant: homosexuals are not arrested or lynched for being gay. There is a wide gulf between tolerance and acceptance. By making these kinds of books available to children, libraries are superseding their authority and infringing on the parents authority: they are deciding for us what is acceptable and not for our children! Books like the one mentioned are propaganda against traditional families and do not teach children tolerance –they learn that at home. It is not the State's duty to teach our children –and it does not take a village to raise a child!

No matter what the defenders of the homosexual lifestyle say, children are better off with a father and mother. Until proven contrary (and as a taxpayer who, forcibly, subsidizes libraries), I urge you to press our Libraries to relocate these disturbing books out of reach of children.

(1) <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>

(2) This children's book (by Linda De Haan and Stern Nijland) is the story of a prince who marries another prince –and they live happily ever after!

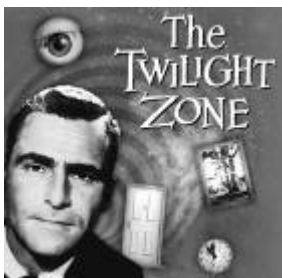
(3) The ALA idea of “freedom”:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/frstatement/freedomreadstatement.htm>; and their advice to Librarians on how to duck complaints and requests:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/iftoolkits/ifmanual/fifthedition/publiclibraries.htm>.

(4)

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=interpretations&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=8639>



Twilight Zone

On October 27, 2004 I donated the DVD “Celsius 41.11” to the Sandusky Library ⁽¹⁾. It was made available to patrons only five months later, in April, 2005. But soon after Michael Moore’s “Fahrenheit 9/11” was released in video (10/05/04), they had several copies on its shelves...

On November 6, 2004 my donation was still not available. I contacted the Library by E-mail. It was forwarded to the Head of Technical Services who did no respond. I forgot the matter,

thinking it was taken care of –besides, the Election was over and the original intent of the donation lost.

On April 5, 2005 I wrote the Library, asking why my donation status still read “Being Catalogued.” No answer. Five days later I wrote again. On April 13 I received a vague explanation from the Head of Technical Services ⁽¹⁾, blaming the CLEVNET ⁽²⁾: all Libraries “*must rely on Cleveland Public Library to create database records for every item that is to be added to the catalog.*” On April 14 I forwarded this E-mail to the Cleveland Library asking for an explanation ⁽³⁾.

The CPL’s Head of Technical Services explained on April 18 that “*A brief record was entered into the shared CLEVNET database by the Sandusky Library in early December. The brief records enable member libraries to circulate items to the public while awaiting full cataloging. The Sandusky Library was able to do this any time after December 7.*” On April 26 the Sandusky Library’s Director wrote the following in an E-mail, about adding items: “the first to enter the item, [incurs] a fee of \$17.00 to CLEVNET, for needing original cataloging.” That same day, in a phone conversation with the CPL’s Head of Technical Services, I found out that there is no extra charge for adding items.

On May 17 (at my requested) I met the Director and Assistant Director of the Sandusky Library ⁽¹⁾ to discuss the problem. Incredibly, they never heard of Rush Limbaugh or Dr. Laura Schlesinger. They were not sure if Bill Clinton’s “My Life” is a politically left leaning book. They had no idea of what the terms “Blue State” and “Red State” meant. The Director did not know what “The Passion of Christ” was –and I couldn’t help myself but asking if she had heard of *Mel Gibson*... According to them, last year the Sandusky Library had a shortage of personnel that delayed the cataloging of my donation –for five months! The shortage, nevertheless, did not affect the speedy cataloging of Michael Moore’s hit piece. They both professed no interest in politics, but are registered Democrats!

Here I was in the presence of two educated women –the Director and Assistant Director of Sandusky Library—who feigned political obliviousness to all these current issues. I suddenly became dizzy and disoriented... I realized I was in the “Twilight Zone”!

(1) <http://www.sandusky.lib.oh.us/>

(2) CLEVNET Consortium: <http://www.cpl.org/clevnet.asp>.

(3) In the meantime, the Sandusky Library’s Head of Technical Services sent me (by mistake) the most amusing E-mail, addressed to the Director, listing several excuses for the problem and asking which to use:

“And the fun continues. How do you want me to respond to this woman? I do feel that we are justified in saying that Fahrenheit 9/11 was one of the top grossing movies from 2004, and that most frequently high demand items, or highly publicized items usually have database records more quickly because of the demand from the public. This not only is true for movies but for books, CD’s books on tape, etc. Also I can say that Sandusky Library does not decide what records are cataloged first or quicker. The demand Cleveland Public Library receives from other libraries for the records and/or the public is a guiding factor.

I can also say that the only request we had for the DVD she donated was her, and that only one other library in a system of 31 has the DVD, so that does demonstrate a very low demand item.

I just feel that the more that we respond to her the more the fire is fanned. I will respond to her in whatever way you want me to, but please give me some guidance in how you would like me to proceed."

I never requested the DVD, because I had already seen it. "The Passion of Christ" was one of the top grossing movies in 2004, in 3rd place, with a *Total Gross* of \$370,274,604. In 17th place was "Fahrenheit 9/11," with \$119,194,771 (<http://www.boxofficemojo.com/yearly/chart/?yr=2004&p=.htm>). As of today, from the 15 "Celsius 41.11" the CLEVNET has catalogued, all were out!



Economics 101

Walter E. Williams

Economic ignorance allows us to fall easy prey to political charlatans and demagogues, so how about a little Economics 101?

How many times have we heard "free tuition," "free health care," and free you-name-it? If a particular good or service is truly free, we can have as much of it as we want without the sacrifice of other goods or services. Take a "free" library; is it really free? The answer is no. Had the library not been built, that \$50 million could have purchased something else. That something else sacrificed is the cost of the library. While users of the library might pay a zero price, zero price and free are not one and the same. So when politicians talk about providing something free, ask them to identify the beneficent Santa Claus or tooth fairy.

It's popular to condemn greed, but it's greed that gets wonderful things done. When I say greed, I don't mean stealing, fraud, misrepresentation or other forms of dishonesty. I mean people trying to get as much as they can for themselves. We don't give second thought to the many wonderful things others do for us. Detroit assembly-line workers get up at the crack of dawn to produce the car that you enjoy. Farm workers toil in the blazing sun gathering grapes for our wine. Snowplow drivers brave blizzards just so we can have access to our roads. Do you think these people make these personal sacrifices because they care about us? My bet is that they don't give a hoot. Instead, they along with their bosses do these wonderful things for us because they want more for themselves.

People in the education and political establishments pretend they're not motivated by such "callous" motives as greed and profits. These people "care" about us, but from which areas of our lives do we derive the greatest pleasures and have the fewest complaints, and from which areas do we have the greatest headaches and complaints? We tend to have a high satisfaction level with goods and services like computers, cell phones, movies, clothing and supermarkets. These are areas where the motivations are greed and profits. Our greatest dissatisfaction is in areas of caring and no profit motive such as public education, postal services and politics. Give me greed and profits, and you can keep the caring.

How about the idea that if it saves just one life it's worth it? That's some of the stated justification for government mandates for childproof medicine bottles, gun locks, bike helmets and all sorts of warning labels. No doubt there's a benefit to these government mandates, but if we only look at benefits, we'll do darn near anything because there's always a benefit to any action.

For example, why not have a congressionally mandated 5 miles per hour highway speed limit? According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, there were 43,220 highway fatalities in 2003, with an estimated cost of \$230 billion. A 5 mph speed limit would have spared our nation this loss of life and billions of dollars. You say, "Williams, that's preposterous!" You're right. Most people would agree that a 5 mph speed limit is stupid, impractical and insane. That's one way of putting it, but what they really mean is: The benefit of saving 43,220 highway deaths and the \$230 billion that would result from mandating a 5 mph speed limit isn't worth all the inconvenience, delays and misery.

Admittedly, the 5 mph speed limit is an extreme example, a *reductio ad absurdum*. Nonetheless, it illustrates the principle that our actions shouldn't be guided by benefits only; we should also ask about costs. Again, when politicians come to us pretending they're Santa Clauses or tooth fairies delivering benefits only, we should ask what's the cost, who's going to pay and why.

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How you can help

- Support Grassroots American Values in our fight to bring control of Libraries back to their counties and to inform people.
- Be sure to vote against levies. Libraries try to pass issues several times. These are not widely advertised, so pay attention.
- Explain to your friends that, although you support Libraries, they have to operate like all of us do, i.e., cutting expenses, lowering costs, making intelligent decisions. They do not need luxurious palaces to exist –and don't forget: the Internet will soon make them obsolete!
- Call, phone, pay a visit to your Librarian and let him know your position.
- Write, call, fax and E-mail your local Library (and the CLEVNET) with suggestions of good Conservative books. Among the issues they consider when making book/movie purchases are patrons' suggestions.
- Check out Conservative videos/books (and read/watch them!) as frequently as you can: that will send a message to the Library that –unlikely what they believe— these items are of interest to patrons.

Cool Blogs and Links

The *blogsphere* is an endless source of information –no wonder newspapers' subscriptions are dropping! We selected a few links that you might consider checking periodically –some you might even save.

- <http://capwiz.com/townhall/megavote/> Learn how your Representatives in DC are voting.
- <http://thepoint.typepad.com/> A Frenchman who does not hate America!.
- <http://thepoint.typepad.com/> Who said pretty women have no brain?
- <http://www.nationalreview.com/thecorner/corner.asp> National Review's own blog.
- <http://www.drudgereport.com/> Drudge always gets it before everybody else.
- <http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/> One of the most famous; even Rush relies on them.
- <http://democracyiniraq.blogspot.com/> Iraq from an Iraqi's eyes.

- http://www.fflibraries.org/Basic_Docs/biehle.htm More trash from Public Libraries.
- <http://www.cnsnews.com/> CNS News is one of my favorites.
- <http://www.cwfa.org/> For concerned women, *Concerned Women for America!*
- <http://www.eagleforum.org/> Have we thanked Phyllis Schlafly enough?
- <http://www.family.org/> Pro-family; a great link from Dr. Dobson.

Reporters and Writers Needed

We need your help. If you are interested in volunteering to attend and report on City, Township, County Commission meetings, School Board, and/or any other public meetings, we would like to hear from you. We are not looking for professional writers or journalist, but like-minded conservatives who would like to contribute to our newsletter. We are also looking for volunteers to write 500 word editorial comments on local governmental activities. Writers can use a pen name if they do not want their real names disclosed. If are interested, please respond to grassroots@buckeye-express.com.

Our Mission Statement

Grassroots American Values exists to promote and defend the right to life, marriage and traditional family values, small government within Constitutional Boundaries of the Founders, personal responsibility, and American Sovereignty. Our Mission Statement, while lofty in goals, was written to provide guidance for our group's local activities. National news coverage too often focuses our attention on National events. We too often ignore the actions of our local politicians and career bureaucrats. We formed this organization, to inform you, and solicit your opinions and assistance, with the pursuit of these very principals in our hometowns. We look forward to your comments and participation.

Our Goals

- Recruit and enlist members and contributors
- Seek out and enlist like-minded volunteer committeeman, reporters, and contributors
- Monitor and report local governmental activities to the membership
- Find consensus among members and contributors
- Formulate action plans
- Organize activities and lobbying activities

These are ambitious goals with a broad agenda; however, with your help we believe they are attainable. We welcome your comments and suggestions: grassroots@buckeye-express.com.