



Grassroots American Values

A Firelands Area Conservative Action Group

<http://www.plan2succeed.org/grassroots>

WARNING: THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS GRAPHIC MATERIAL

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In This Issue:

Page 1: Thou Shalt Not Have a Say...

Page 2: Is the School Library Safe?, by Dr. R. Albert Mohler

Page 5: Write to your Local School Board

Page 6: Of Apes & Cowboys, by Pastors Bruce Ball and Steve Shepherd; Keep Age-inappropriate

Literature Away from Minors

Page 7: How you Can Help; Cool Blogs & Links

Page 8: Reporters & Writers Needed; Our Mission Statement; Our Goals

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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

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. **You have our permission to send it to your Conservative friends, either by snail mail or email.**

REMEMBER: 5.7% of your State Income Taxes fund all Ohio Public Libraries

Thou Shalt Not Have a Say in Your Children's Sex Ed!

"Is he married?"
Mom got sort of a funny look on her face. "No, Tiffany, he's not married. Well ... as a matter of fact, he's gay."
"What's that?" we asked at the same time.

play the piano, and make fancy desserts. He explained that gay men are just guys who fall in love with each other instead of with women. He said that women who fall in love with other women are called lesbians. He told us that some gay men *do* dress up like women and some *do* wear black leather. But that's all right, too.

The above excerpts are from a book recommended for grades 2-4, in the Children's Department of the Cleveland Public Library: "Uncle What-is-it is Coming to Visit," by Michael Willhoit (1). Your minor children do not live in Cleveland? Do not worry: they can log on the CLEVNET web site (2), place a hold on the book and get it! This book has very helpful information on homosexuality for minors –at least that is what our librarians think. You do not agree with it? You think *you* are the one who should guide your children's sex education? Sorry, but our State makes sure you do not have a say, because

5.7 % of your State Income Taxes are distributed to all Ohio Public Libraries!

(1) <http://www.ccn-usa.net/contents.php?typeid=6&id=160>
(2) <http://www.cpl.org/>

Is the School Library Safe?

Dr. R. Albert Mohler (<http://www.albertmohler.com/>)

A roiling controversy in Arkansas may serve to awaken many parents to the reality of what is found in many public school libraries — explicitly sexual material.

This controversy centers in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where Laurie Taylor, a mother of two young teenage girls, complained to the local board of education about three library books that contained explicit descriptions and depictions of sexual activity. Later, Taylor would form a group called *Parents Protecting the Minds of Children*, and her list of three troubling books would be expanded to dozens of others.

Predictably, national library associations and anti-censorship groups quickly jumped into the fray, charging Mrs. Taylor with launching a crusade to take the Arkansas public schools back to the dark ages.

In response to her concerns, the Fayetteville Board of Education first decided to move the three books in question into a special parents-only section of the school libraries. Nevertheless, the board later rescinded that decision and, by a one-vote margin, decided to return the books to the main collection where they would be accessible to students.

This particular controversy tells us a great deal about how much influence parents can wield over local school boards and the administration of the schools. In a nutshell, this case proves that, even in the heartland of America, parents are denied much influence at all.

I do not know Laurie Taylor, but a quick visit to her organization's web site should be enough to raise the temperature of any concerned parent. The three books of her immediate concern, *It's So Amazing*, *It's Perfectly Normal*, and *The Teenage Guy's Survival Guide*, contain hair-raising material. *It's So Amazing*, intended for children in kindergarten through the fourth grade, deals with a wide range of sexual issues. *It's Perfectly Normal*, designed for third through sixth graders, includes cartoon drawings of a couple having sex, of homosexual relationships, and of a boy masturbating. Those readers that require proof of this content can simply visit the group's web site.

The *Teenage Guy's Survival Guide* encourages the use of pornography as "natural and fine." Backward parents who think otherwise will find themselves isolated by the liberal elite and attacked by advocates for libraries and librarians, who seem to have no concern for what parents believe to be appropriate for their children.

The Little Rock newspaper, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, editorialized against Laurie Taylor's crusade. Referring to the excerpts from offensive books Mrs. Taylor and her group assembled, the paper responded: "They can be shocking. And often on the basis of those inflammatory excerpts, she's rallied support from others with concerns that mirror hers. In the name of protecting her kids from books she finds distasteful, she's unavoidably created obstacles for others who don't feel the way she does." The paper went on to accuse Mrs. Taylor of seeking to ban books and argued that her effort amounts to a form of unconstitutional censorship.

When Mrs. Taylor suggested that parents might decide to "opt out" their children from school libraries, the paper described her proposal as "a curious way to approach education, preventing your kids from using the school library."

One might think that the newspaper would be more concerned with the use of a school library as an environment for indoctrinating children into the sexual revolution. The Little Rock paper suggested that the school district should simply "flag each student's record with parental restrictions on what books their own kids can check out." In other words, parents could decide that they could prevent their children from checking out a specific list of books. Of course, nothing would prevent the children from gaining access to the books while in the library. Undoubtedly, some persons would assume that this is all about sex education in general. But the books Laurie Taylor and her team have listed are, in the main, not about biology and the "birds and the bees." To the contrary, the books she lists are among some of the most explicit and pornographic to be found anywhere in literature.

Many parents are simply unaware that the category of literature now known as "young adult fiction" is filled with some of the most graphic sexuality to be found in contemporary literature. Many of the titles normalize homosexuality and describe homosexual acts while others cover issues ranging from incest to sexual abuse and matters of heterosexual technique. Some would undoubtedly be surprised to learn that this controversy is localized in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Nevertheless, as reporter George Archibald of *The Washington Times* explains, Fayetteville, the home of the University of Arkansas, is marked by "the self-consciously liberal instincts of a college town" but is "surrounded by a conservative, church-going county in the heart of the Bible Belt."

Bobby C. New, the superintendent of Fayetteville's public schools went so far as to describe the parents' effort to identify sexually explicit books as "almost a cancer that grows within the total body of our school district." Even as he pledged to work with the parents on the issue, he insisted that librarians must make the final decisions. "I will defend our librarians to the bitter end," he said. "They are professional, trained, serious [teachers] who totally, totally have a process of reviewing everything that is ordered, to include reviewing critics, national critics that have been identified by the American Library Association as being credible" [sic].

Therein lies the problem. The American Library Association is hardly a disinterested party to this controversy. As a matter of fact, the ALA takes predictably liberal positions on almost every issue, especially when it comes to matters of pornography and censorship. The ALA steadfastly opposes the use of any internet filters, arguing that such mechanisms represent an unconstitutional form of censorship. The ALA and its associated groups have opposed laws that would protect children from access to sexually explicit material and pornography.

In a June 24, 2005 editorial, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* celebrated the fact that the National Coalition Against Censorship had written a letter to Superintendent New, urging him to resist the efforts of Laurie Taylor and other concerned parents. According to the paper, the NCAC's letter was "so unspeakably reasonable that it should be required reading." With arrogant condescension, the paper continued: "But that would probably bring another objection from the would-be censors, who keep finding more reading material they want kept from impressionable kids. The coalition's arguments against hiding books from the kids make so much sense they would probably scare the aginners [*i.e.*, people against something] as much as any of those books do."

The paper argued that parents should not be making decisions about which books should be available in public school libraries. "The coalition says the decision about what books belong in a school library is the proper job for librarians and teachers who work with kids. And who should not be making such judgments? Individual parents. That's right, the parents shouldn't be making these decisions. Hold your outrage, mom and dad. Listen to the coalition: 'Parents may be equipped to make reading choices for their own children, but, no matter how well-intentioned, they simply are not equipped to make decisions that address the needs of the entire district's student body.'"

In other words, the paper told the parents to back off and go back home where they belong. According to the editors, "We trust the teachers, teachers' aides, librarians, principals, and even school boards and superintendents to do what's right by all the kids."

That kind of condescension — not to mention liberal arrogance — and the decision by the Fayetteville school board suggests why so many parents are withdrawing their children from the public schools and choosing other options.

While the newspaper's editors are waxing poetic against the dangers of censorship and celebrating the NCAC's open letter to superintendent New, perhaps they should actually make a visit to the NCAC Web site. There they would find a white paper entitled "Identifying What Is Harmful or Inappropriate for Minors." That paper, written by Marjorie Hines, director of the NCAC's "Free Expression Policy Project," claims: "Experts in human sexuality agree that there is no body of scientific evidence establishing that minors are harmed by reading or viewing pornography."

Later, the same paper asserts: "Correlations do not establish causation, but they can be suggestive. Studies have found, for example, an inverse correlation between youthful exposure to pornography and sex offending among adolescents and adults. That is, sex offenders generally have less, not more, exposure to pornography as youths. One possible inference is that sex offending is causally related not to youthful exposure to sexually explicit material but to its opposite: youthful repression, conflict, and guilt."

Let's see the editors of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* cite that passage in an editorial. The NCAC has published a paper suggesting the "possible inference" that shielding adolescent males from explicit pornography can actually lead to "sex offending."

At least one of the paper's columnists, Mike Masterson, had the courage to defend Laurie Taylor. Noting the hatred directed at Mrs. Taylor, Masterson observed, "Her offense? Being a concerned local parent who politely took to the stage to plead for a community with divergent views to unite to mastermind an enlightened plan where each parent's desires for his or her own child's development could be met."

Masterson also informed his readers that it was Laurie Taylor who had asked the Fayetteville school district why Christmas had been left off of the 2004 elementary public school calendar, while Kwanzaa, Ramadan, and Hanukkah were listed. According to Masterson, Mrs. Taylor had even offered to pay for the reprinting of new calendars which would have listed Christmas Day. As he reported, the district's reply was, "No sale."

Many Americans would undoubtedly be shocked to observe that Fayetteville, at least as represented by a majority of its school board and a large number of its politically active citizens,

is turning itself into something of a Berkeley in the Ozarks. This controversy should alert parents to look closely at the materials available in their own local school libraries. If you still question what is at stake, simply visit the Parents Protecting the Minds of Children web site. So much for trusting "professionals" to make these decisions for our children.

Dr. R. Albert Mohler is president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

↗ American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org/>

↗ Parents Protecting the Minds of Children (<http://www.myppmc.com/>)

Get your copy of the recent arrivals at the Sandusky Library (titles were purchased at our suggestion to the library):

- *Ronald Reagan, the great communicator* (B Reagan) [book]

- *Salute to Reagan* (973.927 Sa) [DVD]

- *Michael Moore hates America* (791.4302 Mi) [DVD]

Write to your Local School Board

Below is a suggested letter you can send to your local School Board, asking them to stop teachers and librarians from exposing your children to age-inappropriate literature. (Keep in mind that the Huron School Board has governance over the Huron Public Library.)

Dear [School Board member name here]:

I recently became aware that sexually graphic, harmful, and obscene books and materials can be found in children's sections of Ohio Public Libraries and Public Schools. Since Libraries are funded by 5.7% of Ohio Income taxes, and Schools are funded by local Property Levies, we are all stakeholders.

*There is language in the Ohio Revised Code that permits the dissemination of harmful and obscene materials to minors in Ohio Public Libraries and Schools. I ask that you refer to **§2907.31. Disseminating matter harmful to juveniles, section (C) (1)**. The text of this section is as follows:*

It is an affirmative defense to a charge under this section, involving material or a performance that is obscene or harmful to juveniles, that the material or performance was furnished or presented for a bona fide medical, scientific, educational, governmental, judicial, or other proper purpose, by a physician, psychologist, sociologist, scientist, teacher, librarian, clergyman, prosecutor, judge, or other proper person.

It seems public libraries and schools do not require explicit permission from legal guardians to disseminate harmful and obscene materials. Since our libraries and schools no longer seem to be able to discern "educational" and "scientific" materials from prurient materials, I ask that you return control of dissemination of these materials to the parents of minor children. Also, please, take time to look into the American Library Association influence over librarians and teachers.

*Sincerely,
[Your name here]*

Ohio School District: <http://www.osba-ohio.org/schools.htm>
State Board of Education: <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/board/>

Of Apes and Cowboys

Pastor Bruce Ball (www.rh-cc.com) and Pastor Steve Shepherd

People in America are going ape. Ape over what? The new King Kong movie? No. They are going ape over two homosexual cowboys in the new movie, "Brokeback Mountain." It's about two cowboys in the early 60's who are homosexual. *(I do not use the term 'gay' because when a person is in open rebellion to God, it is impossible to be gay and happy about anything!)*

The same Hollywood who told Mel Gibson to go fly a kite over his "Passion of the Christ" is raving about this new movie. The homosexual world loves it. And some people are just plain curious about it.

What is our world coming to? Our world is mixed up, messed up, sinful, sin-filled and for the most part, in open and hateful rebellion to God. We have not done what He said to do, and we have done what he said not to do. Even the Pope is calling for a New World Order in his Christmas Day message to 'his followers'.

A football coach's son commits suicide, and then the father says he is glad his son accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, and is now resting with God, and 100% of the media leaves out the part about Jesus and just reports about the son being with God. See, many religions believe in 'a' god. Many believe we all worship the same god.

But the world gets furious when we even mention the name of Jesus, our Christ. One day is as a thousand to the Lord, but no matter whose calendar we look at, the days are dwindling. What's the world coming to? It's coming to judgment. And it may be sooner than we think.

Do you know what your children are reading? Ask us for a list of the shocking literature available in Ohio Libraries: grassroots@buckeye-express.com

Keep Age-inappropriate Literature Away from Minors

On the next *National Library Legislative Day*, May 2006, let your Congressmen and Senators know how concerned you are with what Public Libraries are making available for minors.

- Ohio House of Representatives: <http://www.house.state.oh.us/index.html>
- Ohio Senate: <http://www.senate.state.oh.us/index.html>

In the eyes of the ALA to limit children's access would be "*age discrimination*" (1) and this seems to be our librarians' creed. Minors can check out **any** book from any Public Library collection. When they get a card, parents are given a disclaimer that explains they are responsible for what their children borrow. (How many of us read our credit card small print?) Schools have flashing lights, speed limit signs, special cross walks and crossing guards. The reason is simple: children do not exercise good judgment. Yet, when they get to a Library they are exposed to base and vulgar literature!

Yes, parents should be aware of what their children watch. But since each individual pays his cable and computer bills, it does not concern others. In the case of Ohio Public Libraries, we all have a say, since they receive **5.7% of our State Income Taxes**. The minimum Libraries could do –*if* they would like to help parents— is to offer a card that will limit the kind of books minors can check out and keep age-inappropriate materials restricted to their Adult departments.

Let your Library know your opinion by sending them a letter, E-mail or fax to:

➤ **Sandusky Public Library, 114 W. Adams St., Sandusky OH, 44870**
Phone: 419- 625-3834, Fax: 419-625-4574 E-mail: comments@sandusky.lib.oh.us

➤ **Huron Public Library, 333 Williams St., Huron OH 44839**
Phone: 419-433-50009, Fax: 419-433-7228 E-mail: huron@oplin.org

To address the Board members check their names in the following links:
<http://www.sandusky.lib.oh.us/public/aboutthelibrary.asp> (Sandusky) and
<http://www.huron.lib.oh.us/Library%20Events/About.htm> (Huron).

If you are not from Sandusky or Huron, find your Library here:
<http://www.publiclibraries.com/ohio.htm>

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

In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families, a traveling photo exhibit will be featured in the library of Firelands College from **February 13–24**, organized by Family Diversity Projects (<http://www.lovemakesafamily.org>). It is a “breadth of diversity and family configurations” that includes “lesbian and gay-parented families.” Intended “for audiences of all ages - from early childhood to adults,” it “challenges stereotypes and helps dismantle prejudice.” Let Firelands know your thoughts on this “Brainwashing 101” exhibition:

Lesley Ruszkowski Assistant Director, Office of College Relations, One University Drive
Huron, Ohio 44839 Phone: 419.433.5560 ext. 20613, E-mail: lesleyr@bqnet.bgsu.edu

How You Can Help

- Visit your local Library and learn what they have available to children and teens.
- Ask your Librarian about their policies.
- Make your position known to your Library.
- Write, call, fax, and email your local Library with suggestions of family friendly books for children and teens.
- If your Librarian does not act upon your concerns, contact the Library Board of Directors.
- Write, call, fax, and email your Congressman.
- Support Grassroots American Values in our efforts.

Cool Blogs & Links

- <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/v-lite/story/5346053p-4839795c.html> A “**safe** place” for teens to explore their homosexuality?!
- <http://www.classkc.org/whatcanyoudo.php> What can you do?
- <http://www.utahcoalition.org/Effects.htm> Pornography Effects on Adults and Children

- <http://www.lc.org/hotissues/hotindex.htm> Liberty Council *Hot Issues*
- <http://www.defendthefamily.com/> This group defends traditional family
- <http://winslo.state.oh.us/publib/stats.html> Learn how much your Library spends
- <http://www.christian-underground.com/blog/read/index.php?aid =774> Deserved apology!
- http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=47961 You go, Morgan!
- <http://onemilliondads.com> One Million Dads that make a difference
- <http://www.globalwarming.org/treatytalks.htm> The truth about the Kyoto Treaty
- <http://www.newsmax.com/archives/ic/2005/8/24/122804.shtml?et=y> Stephanopoulos urged foreign assassination in 1997!
- <http://www.iic-offp.org/documents/IIC%20Final%20Report%2027Oct2005.pdf> The real UN
- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/01/20050120-1.html> US lights fire

Reporters & Writers Needed

We need your help. If you are interested in volunteering to attend and report on City, Township, County, School Board, and/or any other public meetings, we would like to hear from you. We are not looking for professional writers or journalists, but like-minded Conservatives who would like to contribute to our newsletter. We are 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 interested, please respond to grassroots@buckeye-express.com.

Our Mission Statement

Grassroots American Values exists to promote and defend the right to life, marriage, traditional family values, small government within the Constitutional boundaries of the Founders, personal responsibility, and American sovereignty.

Our Mission Statement, while lofty in scope, is intended 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, solicit your opinions, and invite your assistance in pursuit of the above-mentioned principals in our hometowns.

Our Goals

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

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