

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

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Kempsville Presbyterian Church

The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor, Vernon Fix. FBA on the Web at <http://hrcc.exis.net>

CULTURE

"Some lawyers say fast food is dangerous. It can make you fat. I say some lawyers are dangerous. They can make you poor and take away your choices. But special privileges for favored industries, such as the bill the House recently passed to protect the fast-food industry, are the wrong cure... You might think it would be obvious that people are responsible for what they decide to do. And indeed, the law must hold at least some people responsible for their decisions—otherwise, how can fast-food or tobacco companies be blamed for selling their products? Why is a big corporation responsible for its decisions but an individual not responsible for his? Because lawyers can make big money by pretending not to see the obvious... The legal system should be reformed so people bear the consequences of their own bad choices. The best solution would be to make people who file baseless lawsuits pay the costs of defending against them. 'Loser pays,' that system is called, and that's the way it works in most of the civilized world. America's tort lawyers cleverly call loser-pays the 'the English Rule,' as if it's an odd British idea. It's not. It's the 'Rest-of-the-World Rule.' Only America suffers under the bizarre 'American Rule,' which allows lawyers to sue again and again, while forcing others to pay. Loser-pays would bring some justice to their victims." —John Stossel, from the Patriot Federalist.

Congress has the Gall

"So now Congress wants to hold an inquisition regarding the profits oil companies have the gall to make on their investments that provide a product America needs. I suggest we hold an inquisition regarding the justification for the ways Congress finds to waste the large portion of the profits stolen by the federal government from, not only large corporations, but from every working

American. When Congress justifies its theft and pandering then they can think about requiring investors and workers to justify their profits." —Portland, Maine, reader comment in the Patriot.

"Daniel Webster was right, 'God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to guard and defend it.'

FTAA Stalls at Summit of the Americas

President Bush and the leaders of 33 nations met for two days at the fourth Summit of the Americas in Argentina, but the conference ended on November 5 without any significant progress toward agreement on the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Plans for the FTAA, launched at the first Summit of the Americas in Miami in 1994, have repeatedly called for implementation of the program by the end of 2005, but that timetable has been repeatedly dashed. Patterned after the European Union, the FTAA would establish a hemispheric trading bloc that would include the countries of North and South America and the Caribbean. Following the EU example, the FTAA architects plan to expand the scope of the pact far beyond the advertised trade issues to include, ultimately, regional governance over virtually all economic, social, and political matters. And like the EU, the entity envisioned by the FTAA promoters would dissolve national borders and subject the member countries to a hemispheric mini-UN with real legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

Mexico and Canada (our NAFTA partners) and 27 other nations sided with the U.S. at the summit in desiring to continue negotiations toward finalizing the FTAA. However, a bloc of five countries - Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Uruguay, and Paraguay -led by left-wing presidents is barring the way. Venezuela's self avowed Marxist president Hugo Chavez, a close ally of Cuban dictator

Fidel Castro, said he wants to "bury the FTAA for good." But leaders of the other four nations are not unalterably opposed: they say they will await the outcome of the World Trade Organization meeting in Hong Kong in December, where they intend to challenge the U.S. on agricultural issues, including farm subsidies. President Bush has also indicated he is looking forward to using the WTO summit to reactivate the FTAA. From The New American 11/28/05

Bill Gates Teams Up With UNESCO

Nov. 30, 2005; by Phyllis Schlafly

President Bill Clinton made a speech on January 22, 1997 to a suburban Chicago audience so friendly that it interrupted him with applause 29 times. One line in his speech, however, was greeted with stony silence: "We can no longer hide behind our love of local control of the schools."

Clinton is gone from the White House, but the federalization laws of his Administration - Goals 2000, School-to-Work, and Workforce Investment - are still in place. President George W. Bush, who says the federal government has "a role to play in education," has merely substituted labels more comforting to Republicans: standards, tests, and accountability.

Now we find that the process is no longer just federalization; it's globalization. Who would have guessed that UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) would be positioning itself to design curriculum for American schools?

President Reagan withdrew the United States from UNESCO on December 31, 1984 because it was corrupt, anti-Western, and a vehicle for far-left propaganda. Unfortunately, President George W. Bush rejoined UNESCO in 2003.

UNESCO's efforts in the 1960s and 1970s to influence U.S. school curriculum were unsuccessful. But now UNESCO has found a sugar daddy.

On November 17, 2004 at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, UNESCO signed a 26-page "Cooperation Agreement" with Microsoft Corporation to develop a "master curriculum (Syllabus)" for teacher training in information technologies based on standards, guidelines, benchmarks, and assessment techniques. The Agreement states that the Syllabus will "form

the basis for deriving training content to be delivered to teachers," and "UNESCO will explore how to facilitate content development."

Bill Gates initialed every page in his own handwriting. You can read the Agreement at www.eagleforum.org/links but Microsoft has fixed it so you can't print it out.

Following the signing of the Agreement, UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura explained it in a speech. One of its goals, he said, is "fostering web-based communities of practice including content development and worldwide curricula reflecting UNESCO values." No doubt that is agreeable to Bill Gates because the Agreement states that "Microsoft supports the objectives of UNESCO as stipulated in UNESCO's Constitution."

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has helped to finance the National Governors Association plan in Idaho to train students to work in the global economy. Idaho is one of six states selected by the National Governors Association for pilot projects.

The National Governors Report of December 2004 (when Virginia Governor Mark Warner was chairman) makes clear that the purpose is to use the public schools to build a planned economy. The report speaks approvingly of "using schools to feed workers into selected corporations," "identifying their state's key industries and needs for skilled workers in order to define a common agenda between their workforce and economic development programs," "the integration of education, economic development, and workforce development policies," "seamless connections between the components of the [education] system and with the skill demands of the workplace," and "connecting workforce development to economic needs."

It's hard to see any difference between the 2004 National Governors Association plan and the earlier plans floated when Bill Clinton was President. The plan uses a lot of mumbo-jumbo to change America from free enterprise to a planned economy, and to turn public school students into a compliant workforce for multinational corporations.

Six public hearings on the proposals were held in Idaho in October, and 500 people showed up at the Boise hearing. The reaction was overwhelmingly negative from both parents and teachers.

The Idaho Board of Education announced this month that after receiving "hundreds of comments," it has made "modifications to Idaho's plan to redesign high schools and middle schools," but those changes are minimal. The original plan would have required all 6th-grade students to select their learning plan for a specific career pathway and choose "career focused electives" to enter the workforce.

Under the revised plan, students will have to do this only by the 8th grade. But how

many 8th graders do you know who can (or should) map out their career pathway and narrow their education options to meet that single goal?

And what about the colossal conceit of the politicians and businessmen who think they can predict the jobs that 8th graders can or will want to fill in their future years? Planned economies are always a failure, and students should be educated to reach their potential whatever it is.

Eagle Forum; www.eagleforum.org; PO Box 618 ; Alton, IL 62002

Comment: Here is a good primer on what is happening in the world as applies to our schools. Find out what is going on in your child's school. Ed.

THE ARMED CITIZEN

At first, nothing seemed unusual about the man inquiring about a DVD player at a Bucks County, Pa., pawnshop and check-cashing business. But 10 minutes after he left, he returned with two accomplices, one whom pointed a gun at the store owner. When a female employee sought refuge behind a steel door, the gun-toting man fired several shots at her. Out-numbered, the store owner drew his gun and fired, striking two of the intruders, including the man who was armed. One suspect lay injured on the floor until paramedics arrived, while his accomplices fled only to be apprehended by police. "Certainly this should send a message to anyone who wants to carry out a crime in Bucks County that you can't go around terrorizing people. You may find yourself on the other end." said District Attorney Diane Gibbons. (*Bucks County Courier Times*, Levittown, PA, 08/26/05)

Target Denies "Christmas"

AFA asks for boycott because of Target's anti-Christmas stance

Would you join us in a boycott of Target, and forward this to friends and family asking them to do the same? Yes, there are other companies which refuse to use Christmas. **But if Target gets the message and their sales go down—every other national retailer will also get the message!** Then we can expect some big changes in their promotion and advertising next year.

Target doesn't want to offend a small minority who oppose Christmas. But they don't mind offending Christians who celebrate the birth of Christ,

the Reason for the season.

Expect Target To Try To Confuse You. When you call Target, they will no doubt try to confuse you. You may be told their employees are free to greet people with a "Merry Christmas." You may be told that they support the Salvation Army. You may be told many things in order to confuse you.

Therefore, ask this one simple basic question and don't allow them to confuse you. "Do you use the term 'Christmas' in your in-store promotions developed by Target (not products you have for sale) and do you include the term 'Christmas' in your retail advertising?"

Target refuses to use "Christmas" in their in-store promotions or in their retail advertising. If you are told they do, you are being misled.

Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman, American Family Association

LOWES Restores Christmas

The president of a Mississippi-based pro-family group says he's pleased that Lowe's home improvement stores have stopped selling "holiday trees" and have changed to offering "Christmas trees."

QUOTES FROM THE FEDERALIST

"Congress can no more repeal the law of supply and demand than physicists can repeal the law of gravity. If you restrict the profits you can make for something, you'll get less of that something. If you restrict prices, you'll get less conservation." —Jerry Taylor

"Terrorists are also winning the psychological warfare, partly because the jihadists are unified behind a goal and we often are not. They want territory and they want to kill 'infidels.' American leftists want 'peace,' without realizing that peace is a byproduct of defeating evil. The left also wants to use the war for partisan political gain and will seek to deprive President Bush of any credit for victory because it could benefit him politically. How sick is that?" —Cal Thomas

"Let's stipulate that everyone in Washington has done a horrible job in restraining federal spending, which is up 33% since 2001. Federal largesse now exceeds \$22,000 per household, in inflation-adjusted terms a level of profligacy not seen since World War II. The spending restraint that Congress is attempting now is both late and puny. But it is a start. —John Fund