

FAMILY BULLETIN ALERT

Faith, Freedom & Citizenship Class

Kempsville Presbyterian Church

March 13, 2005

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

Good News From Teens

Readers of a Christian magazine geared toward teens have chosen Jeremy Camp and Rebecca St. James as the best vocalists on the Christian music scene, Reliant K as their favorite band, and "Who Am I" by Casting Crowns as the best song this year. Campus Life announced the winners of its "Golden Ear Awards" on Wednesday (March 9), saying the winners were decided those who read their magazine and those who visit their website, CampusLife.net. In addition to being chosen as best band, Reliant K's "Mmhm" was chosen as album of the year -- and like Reliant K, the group Switchfoot showed up in several award categories, including best live band and best song. The magazine and website readers felt BarlowGirl, a three-sister team from Illinois, was the best new artist over the past year. The group Casting Crowns came out on top as "Best Worship Leader" in the survey. The magazine Campus Life has a circulation of more than 100,000. From AGAPE PRESS 3-10-05

Comment: It's always fun to give good news. Ed.

"Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives." - John Adams

The High Cost of Immigration

...A Washington, DC-based immigration think tank says a study by two Columbia University economists shows that American workers lose \$68 billion a year from immigration. The Center for Immigration Studies says the study by David Weinstein and Donald Davis shows that U.S. workers have maintained a competitive advantage over the years because of superior technology. But CIS spokesman Steven Camarota says when more and more foreign workers are allowed to immigrate to America, wages for

American-born workers drop. "Natives end up worse off," he says, "because now they don't just have to compete with the guy from China, he's equipped, if you will, or armed with American technology." And Camarota says the negative effect comes from increases in the supply of labor, not the legal or illegal status of immigrants. He explains that the study focuses on all immigrants because the "effect of each additional worker is going to be the same, whether he's legal or illegal." From AGAPE PRESS 3-9-05

Comment: We need to be writing frequently to our congressmen/women and telling them to stop immigration. Our country could use a 10-20 year cooling off period of NO immigration. Ed.

U.S. Takes Back Authority Over Death Sentences for Aliens

by Keith Peters, Washington, D.C., correspondent

Bush administration withdraws from international agreement regarding death sentences given to criminals who are not U.S. citizens. Some observers say the

president is reasserting American constitutional authority over our laws. The United States originally complied with the World Court decision to review the death sentences of 51 Mexicans because they were not informed of their right to consult with their country's diplomats.

Douglas Kmiec, a law professor at Pepperdine University, said American courts should enforce American law. "They administer it pursuant to the rights and protections of the American constitution," he said, "and it is not to be subverted or added to or changed in any respect by international precept." Judge Robert Bork said some recent Supreme Court decisions citing international law may have been a factor in the president's decision -- and the reversal will help protect America's sovereignty.

"Our sovereignty is gradually being eroded by international obligations," Bork said, "and by people trying to involve us in international tribunals."

One recent Supreme Court decision, by Superior Court Judge Roper, banned the death penalty for juvenile criminals based on international law. "The recent Roper decision was really somewhat frightening in the way it hooked our constitutional law into foreign law," Bork said, "and I think that serves as a wakeup call for the administration."

Another court ruling utilizing international law was the infamous Lawrence v. Texas case that legalized sodomy.

Comment: The Bush administration got one right. We need to write and thank them for this decision and urge him to repeal other U.N. treaties that take away our sovereignty. Ed.

Feminist Whines Lead Down a Dead-End Road

by Phyllis Schlafly March 9, 2005

Harvard President Lawrence Summers started a firestorm with his remarks... Now that Summers has released the text of his January 14 speech, we can see that he presented three very rational hypotheses to explain why there are fewer women than men in science and engineering academia: (1) "the high-powered job hypothesis" (the concept that women voluntarily reject the 80-hour-week and job-intensity that top careers require), (2) "different availability of aptitude at the high end," and (3) "different socialization and patterns of discrimination" (the favorite feminist explanation for all sex differences).

Comment: I would love to print the whole report here but that would take too much space. The report is available at EagleForum.org if you would like to read it. Ed.

Saying NO To "No Child Left Behind"

The Patriot recently reported, the Utah state legislature has been on the verge of repudiating the No Child Left Behind Act. In the name of state and local control, Utah was willing to forego \$116 million in federal aid. The effort unanimously passed the State House and had sufficient votes to pass the Senate. But at the request of the White House, Utah's Republican governor has managed to postpone the Senate's vote. "We must go forward, but out of respect for President Bush and our governor, we are going to give another month for negotiation," state Rep. Margaret Dayton said. We share Mrs. Dayton's respect for President Bush, but our highest respect is for the Constitution, which gives no place to federal control of education. It is absolutely essential that the states prove themselves willing to give up federal funding in the name of federalism. Here, we would urge Utah *not* to cave to pressure from Washington. From the *Federalist Patriot* 3/11/05.

Comment: President Reagan tried to kill off the US Department of Education. It would have been better if he had. The whole issue of Federal intrusion in education is of course unconstitutional. Education is best left to the local Moms and Pops and the school board. Ed.

INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT: HUMAN "RIGHTS" COALITION PLEADS CASE TO U.N.

The international gun prohibitionists have their sights set on you.

A coalition of human "rights" groups is urging the United Nations (UN) to begin drawing up plans for a "legally binding," worldwide "marking and tracing" system that they foresee as a means to track firearms from "factory" to "user" anywhere in the world (including the United States). The coalition includes the International Action Network on Small Arms (JANSA) and its vehemently anti-gun Director Rebecca Peters (who, in October 2004, debated NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre in the "*Great Gun Debate*"),

But, of course, it's not hard to see through the coalition's predictable posturing and alarmist rhetoric. Behind

the humanitarian platitudes exists a clear goal—a complete ban on private handgun possession, especially here in the United States. The truth is that she and her cohorts are determined to destroy our Second Amendment rights. Rest assured. From the NRA-ILA Newsletter Feb 2005.

Comment: Beware the U.N., they'll get us if we allow them to. Our best and last chance to get out of the UN is through our congressmen & women. They control the purse strings and could shut down the UN by withholding our dollars. No communist country has ever lasted without massive outside aid. So it is with the UN. Ed.

Below is the correct way to calculate Real Estate Tax

The code is very specific. In essence it says, that the taxes generated by the new assessment can not exceed the previous year's taxes by more than 1% and in calculating this amount improvements and new construction since the previous assessment must be omitted.

For purposes of illustration, the assessed value of the property in Virginia Beach was \$31,013,320,973 at the beginning of the tax year. The income to the city was \$371,043,372 based on the tax rate of \$1.1964 per \$100. According to the law, the new amount of taxes the city could collect would be \$374,753,805 which is 1.01 times the previous year. Keep in mind that this new amount does not include taxes on improvements or new construction.

To calculate the new tax rate you divide the new allowable amount (\$374,753,805) by the new assessment (\$37,383,779,314) which does not include improvements or new construction. The new tax rate should be \$1.0024 per hundred to comply with legislative guidelines.

What the city council must do is lower the tax rate to \$1.0024 per hundred dollars. Any increase above that amount is a tax increase. *Excerpted from a letter to the Taxpayer's Alliance. Ed.*

UN General Assembly Calls on Nations to Ban All Forms of Human Cloning

In a historic pro-life victory, the United Nations has called on all nations of the world to ban all forms of human cloning. The Declaration adopted by the General Assembly on Tuesday urges countries to "prohibit all forms of human cloning inasmuch as they are incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life."

84 countries voted in favor of the Declaration, while only 34 voted against it. In addition, at least six countries absent during the vote requested they be recorded as voting in favor, bringing the total to 90 in favor of a total ban on human cloning.

An East-West split was evident in Europe, where 14 countries voted in favor and 17 against the Declaration. Many Eastern European countries, including Slovakia, Croatia, Poland and Russia, voted for the total ban on human cloning. They were joined by a few Western European countries including Italy, Germany and Ireland. France, Spain and Belgium voted against the ban. From AGAPE PRESS 3-11-05.

Comment: It is good to see the UN get it right for a change. Ed.

The Armed Citizen

Baltimore Ravens cornerback Corey Fuller was confronted at his Tallahassee, Florida, home by an armed man about 2:30 a.m. when he and a houseguest went outside to retrieve something from his car. The gunman chased after Fuller who ran back into his home to get his revolver. After an exchange of gunfire the assailant fled and no one was injured. Fuller is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of his assailant. (*St. Petersburg Times*, St. Petersburg, FL, 01/22/04)

Comment: We know that without the Second Amendment we would be at the mercy of lawless types. I believe we should become like Switzerland, every family has guns and are trained to use them. It is no accident that Hitler did not invade this little country. Ed.

A Reminder:

We should be writing our Senators to oppose the following treaties:

- 1) The Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST)
- 2) CAFTA & FTAA. These treaties are an expansion of NAFTA and we lose our sovereignty. It is all about control, NOT free trade.
- 3) Any thing to do with the UN is suspect. Be on guard!!!

Put on your Schedule:

Monday 18 Apr 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Philippine Cultural Center. An excellent national speaker on the FTAA treaty and why we should oppose it. Ed.

It is good to be back. Editor.