

# FAMILY TIMES

A Home-school Newsletter for New Testament Christians  
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7846 St. Joe Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46835



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September-November, 2005

## The Fallacy Detective

by Hans and Nathaniel Bluedorn  
reviewed by Gerry Wright

"Fallacy - an error in logic - a place where someone has made a mistake in his thinking." This clear definition, simply stated, is the opening sentence of "Fallacy Detective: Thirty-Six Lessons on How to Recognize Bad Reasoning," by Nathaniel & Hans Bluedorn, and is typical of the book's writing. The back cover states that the Bluedorns (sons of the authors of *Teaching the Trivium*) "designed this book to be a handy text for learning to spot common errors in reasoning", and they've succeeded very well. The clearly written text and humorous examples and illustrations make up an easy, interesting introduction to logic that will, one would hope, entice your children - and you - to want to learn more about proper logic.

Each lesson takes less than 30 minutes to complete. Lesson 1 is four pages long, which is typical. The hope of the authors was that a family would do the lessons together - mother and/or father and children reading the chapter together, discussing it, and doing the exercises at the end of each chapter which illustrate, reinforce, and review. Jamie and I would often read the chapters at different times and then come together for discussion and review. She especially liked the fact that the book requires no written work - just a short reading session and discussion as long as is profitable.

The book begins with a section that teaches good reasoning before progressing to two other sections teaching such logical fallacies as the red herring, ad hominem attack, the straw man fallacy, and many more. The lessons were designed for ages 13 to adult. (Younger children could read the book, but some of the abstract reasoning might be a stretch). We liked the humor with which the Bluedorns write - a laugh always seems to make a point more memorable. Even more importantly, the Bluedorns write from a very moral viewpoint.

The Fallacy Detective costs \$22.00 - plus any tax and shipping - and is soft cover. It may be ordered from most homeschool materials sources. I bought mine from Rainbow Resource, CBD has it (although as far as I know it is not discounted at any source), and it may be ordered from the Bluedorns' web site at <http://www.triviumpursuit.com/>. Another plus for the book is that when you've finished it, it has very good resale value, making it an even better value.

The only negative I found with Fallacy Detective is that, once you've finished it with your child, he will then be well-prepared and quite delighted to point out your own fallacious reasoning, should you be so careless as to indulge in such a thing!

## Minnesota Boy Wins 2005 National Geographic Bee

David Braun, *National Geographic News*, May 25, 2005

The National Geographic Bee champion for 2005 is Nathan Cornelius of Minnesota.

The homeschooled 13-year-old from Cottonwood, in the southwestern part of the state, edged out Rhode Island's Karan Takhar, a 14-year-old eighth grader at the Gordon School in East Providence, in a tense competition today at the National Geographic Society's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Samuel Brandt, 13, in eighth grade at Roosevelt Middle School in Eugene, Oregon, came in third.

All three boys are three-time winners of their respective state-level National Geographic Bee competitions.

Cornelius, this year's national champion, won a U.S. \$25,000 scholarship for college. Takhar and Brandt were awarded college scholarships worth \$15,000 and \$10,000 respectively. Cornelius also won lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society.

Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek put more than a hundred questions to the ten finalists who took part in today's final round.

Cornelius and Takhar emerged as the top two students. They faced off in the championship round of questioning designed to produce a champion.

The boys correctly answered a long series of questions until Takhar was unable to name the river that was dammed to form Lake Gatún as part of the construction of the Panama Canal. (Cornelius correctly answered that it is the Chagres River.)

"I think geography is my favorite subject," Cornelius said in an interview after the competition.

He started taking part in the National Geographic Bee four years ago, going on to win the Minnesota state-level bee in 2003, 2004, and 2005. "I spend a couple of hours a day studying geography by looking at atlases and geography books," he said. "I've also used the Bee quiz [on the National Geographic Web site] and the *National Geographic Desk Reference*."

Cornelius also got help by reading *Afghanistan to Zimbabwe: Country Facts That Helped Me Win the National Geographic Bee*, a book written by last year's Bee champion, Andrew Wojtanik of Kansas.

Cornelius said his mother, Michele, is his teacher, "but both my parents helped quiz me for the Bee."

Will he grow up to be a geographer? "I think I'd like to do something to do with geography," Cornelius said. "Perhaps I will be a nature photographer or a meteorologist."

Cornelius is already a keen photographer and likes to take pictures on visits to national parks. He also plays the piano and classical guitar. And although he is only 13, he has already taken the SAT. His score: 1520.

Today's competition was the 17th annual National Geographic Bee, a contest started by the National Geographic Society to encourage the study of geography.

Five million fourth through eighth graders in nearly 15,000 schools across the United States take part in the preliminary round of the Bee. Top school winners qualify to compete at the state level. State winners go to Washington, D.C., for a two-day competition that produces ten finalists and eventually the national champion.

The ten finalists who took part in today's Bee final, as well as last year's ten national finalists, are eligible to apply to take part in the seventh National Geographic World Championship. The competition will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from July 10 to 15. Also hosted by the National Geographic Society, the National Geographic World Championship will pit 21 teams from around the globe against one another for the world title.

The 2005 National Geographic Bee was sponsored by the JPMorgan Chase financial services firm.

## The Complete Idiot's Guide to Homeschooling

Written by Marsha Ransom (published in 2001 by Alpha Books, 201 W. 103rd St., Indianapolis, IN 46290, a Pearson Education Company)

Reviewed by Wayne S. Walker

This is one of a whole series of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to..." books published by Alpha Books. The back cover says, "You're no idiot, of course. You know it's important for your kids to get a good education — and you'd love to teach them yourself, in your very own home. But when you think about the knowledge and resources you'd need to succeed, you wonder if you make the grade.... Don't put those

kids on the school bus! *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Homeschooling* will help you make your living room a classroom — and open the doors to a lifetime of learning.”

The author, Marsha Ransom, is the mother of four children, two of whom have always been homeschooled. Having homeschooled for twelve years, including all the grades from kindergarten to senior in high school, she is actively involved with her local homeschool support group, serving on the planning committee for the cooperative where she has taught creative writing and coordinating field trips, and serves as a homeschool resource for her local library. In addition, she has spoken at homeschool conferences and curriculum fairs. I would not have paid the list price for this book of \$16.95, or even the marked down price of \$12.71. However, when we happened to be in a discount bookstore and saw it for \$7.50, I figured what could I lose!

This book truly has a wealth of information in it. It is divided into six parts with at least three chapters in each part. Part 1, “Homeschooling in North America Today,” discusses “What Is Homeschooling?”, provides some “Homeschooling Facts and Figures, and gives “Quick Answers to Beginners’ Questions.” Part 2, “First Things First: Getting Started,” discusses the legal questions, approaches to homeschooling, and how to find support. Part 3, “Choosing/Planning a Curriculum,” has chapters on both using a full-service curriculum and planning your own curriculum. Part 4, “Taking the Plunge: What Do I Do Now?” provides advice on how to home educate 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds, teenagers in high school, and kids with special needs. Part 5, “Keeping Track: Testing/Assessments/Record-Keeping,” gives information on each of those three subjects. Part 6, “Burnout Prevention,” contains five chapters on various topics that should be helpful in avoiding homeschool burnout.

There are also five appendices that provide a glossary, selected resources including websites, homeschool support organizations, a list of study programs, support schools, publications, and vendors, and a bibliography for further reading. Also, unlike some other homeschooling books in my collection, this one is fully indexed, which greatly increases its usefulness as a reference resource. Mrs. Ransom does tend a little to push unschooling (after all, she is a writer for Home Education Magazine and a state liaison for National Home Education Network, both of which lean toward unschooling) but does so gently and is not “pushy” about it. She gives equal time to all homeschooling approaches without being judgmental about any of them, and also discusses with the same weight those who homeschool for religious reasons as well as those who do so for purely academic reasons. All in all, it should prove to be a very helpful book for beginning homeschoolers, veteran homeschoolers, and non-homeschooling friends or family who would be willing to read pro-homeschool literature.

### **A Penny Saved**

by Dawn Thompson

I recently found a cheap telephone long distance company. It is called Enjoy Prepaid. Amazingly enough, their web address is [www.enjoyprepaid.com](http://www.enjoyprepaid.com). As the name implies, it is a prepaid system, with signup and recharging done online. They have several plans from which to choose, but we did a little math and decided that the best deal (at least for us) is the EZ Plan with one-minute rounding. Some of their plans have a weekly fee, but the EZ Plan does not. There are no connection fees for any of their plans. With the EZ Plan, domestic calls are 2.4 cents/minute.

Most international rates are also good, and some are very good. For example, calls to China, Australia, and Sao Paulo, Brazil, are 3.5 cents/minute and to the Czech Republic and Mexico 4 cents/minute. Calls to El Salvador cost 13.5 cents/minute. On the other hand, calls to Cuba are \$1.16/minute.

In some cases, calls to cell phones are higher, and in some cases much higher. For instance, a call to the United Kingdom is 2.2 cents/minute, while a call to a cell phone there is 25.5 cents/minute. Those with relatives in Iraq might like to know that calls to that country are 12.5 cents/minute, with calls to cell phones being 27.5 cents/minute.

I have not had any problems with domestic calls I have made using Enjoy Prepaid. I have also called Sao Paulo a couple of times, and my connection was very good there, as well.

The company can be contacted through the website or by calling (888)32-NOBEL, which translates to (888)326-6235.

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## Ethnomathematics

By Diane Ravitch, *Wall Street Journal* - Opinion Page June 20, 2005

It seems our math educators no longer believe in the beauty and power of the principles of mathematics. They are continually in search of a fix that will make it easy, relevant, fun and even politically relevant. In the early 1990's, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics issued standards that disparaged basic skills like addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, since all of these could be easily performed on a calculator. The council preferred real life problem solving, using everyday situations. Attempts to solve problems without basic skills caused some critics, especially professional mathematicians, to deride the "new, new math" as "rain forest algebra."

In a comparison of a 1973 algebra textbook and a 1998 "contemporary mathematics" textbook, Williamson Evers and Paul Clopton found a dramatic change in topics. In the 1973 book, for example, the index for the letter "F" included "factors, factoring, fallacies, finite decimal, finite set, formulas, fractions, and functions." In the 1998 book, the index listed "families (in poverty data), fast food nutrition data, fat in fast food, feasibility study, feeding tours, ferris wheel, fish, fishing, flags, flight, floor plan, flower beds, food, football, Ford Mustang, franchises, and fund raising carnival."

Those were the days of innocent dumbing down. Now mathematics is being nudged into a specifically political direction by educators who call themselves "critical theorists." They advocate using mathematics as a tool to advance social justice. Social justice math relies on political and cultural relevance to guide math instruction. One of its precepts is "ethnomathematics," that is, the belief that different cultures have evolved different ways of using mathematics, and that students will learn best if taught in the ways that relate to their ancestral culture. From this perspective, traditional mathematics - the mathematics taught in universities around the world - is the property of Western Civilization and is inexorably linked with the values of the oppressors and conquerors. The culturally attuned teacher will learn about the counting system of the ancient Mayans, ancient Africans, Papua New Guineans, and other "non-mainstream" cultures.

Partisans of social justice mathematics advocate an explicitly political agenda in the classroom. A new textbook, "Rethinking Mathematics: Teaching Social Justice by the Numbers," shows how problem solving, ethnomathematics and political action can be merged. Among its topics are: "Sweatshop Accounting," with units on poverty, globalization, and the unequal distribution of wealth. Another topic, drawn directly from ethnomathematics, is "Chicanos Have Math in Their Blood." Others include "The Transnational Capital Auction," "Multicultural Math," and "Home Buying While Brown or Black." Units of study include racial profiling, the war in Iraq, corporate control of the media, and environmental racism. The theory behind the book is that "teaching math in a neutral manner is not possible." Teachers are supposed to vary the teaching of mathematics in relation to their students' race, gender, ethnicity, and community.

This fusion of political correctness and relevance may be the next big thing to rock mathematics education, appealing as it does to political activists and to ethnic chauvinists.

It seems terribly old-fashioned to point out that the countries that regularly beat our students in international tests of mathematics do not use the subject to steer students into political action. They teach them instead that mathematics is a universal language that is as relevant and meaningful in Tokyo as it is in Paris, Nairobi, and Chicago. The students who learn this universal language well will be the builders and shapers of technology in the 21st century. The students in American classes who fall prey to the political designs of their teachers and professors will not.

Note: Ms. Ravitch is a historian of education at New York University, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a member of the Koret Task Force at the Hoover Institution.

## HSLDA Announces New Homeschooling Thru High School Program

On August 8, 2005, HSLDA launched a new program to aid and encourage parents teaching high-school-aged children. Included among the benefits are:

- \* Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- \* Curriculum resource lists and links
- \* Record keeping and transcript resources
- \* Testing resources

\* College admissions information

They promise to regularly add more resources and services.

They also have a email publication "Homeschooling Thru High School" which will provide regular encouragement and guidance for families who are home schooling through high school.

Members of HSLDA will receive special assistance with questions regarding home schooling in high school. One benefit is a special SAT preparation CD-ROM at a fraction of normal cost.

You may contact them at Home School Legal Defense Association P.O. Box 3000 Purcellville, Virginia 20134 Phone: (540) 338-5600 Fax: (540) 338-2733 Email: [info@hslda.org](mailto:info@hslda.org) Web: <http://www.hslda.org>

### **Book Review: I Kissed Dating Goodbye**

Written by Joshua Harris; Reviewed by Katy Jones

Has your child's hormone level recently surged? Is he or she now expressing an interest in the opposite gender? Have you tried telling him or her about the dangers of the "dating game" but couldn't find just the right words?

This book is for you! Joshua Harris, son of home-schooling leaders Gregg and Sono Harris, has written a hard-hitting, sensitive, mostly Bible-based book that shows: (1) the pitfalls of "defective dating," (2) the importance of purity in mind and body, (3) how to make the most of the single years, before family responsibilities change the direction of one's service to God, and (4) practical ways to implement these ideas and answer scoffers.

Josh writes heart-to-heart, and though just in his early 20's at the time of writing the book, he sometimes shows wisdom beyond his years. I would recommend reading this book before letting your son or daughter read it, because some of Josh's real-life examples are pretty explicit, and you need to decide if your child is mature enough to discuss such matters. Josh gives all the Biblical references, too, so you can use this as a Bible study together.

As a former victim of the dating game, I wish someone had cautioned me as a teenager. I highly recommend this book to anyone with twitterpated teenagers as a way to help them focus on what's truly important: serving God without distractions, realizing that marriage is still "way down the road," and now is not the time to indulge in emotional and physical relationships for which they are not ready.

### **The Young Scientist Club**

By Sally Perz

We have always had a relaxed approach to science. Other than a workbook here and there, most of our science has come from assorted books and occasional unit studies.

This past year I received a pamphlet in the mail from The Young Scientist Club that looked interesting to me. First, understand up front that this may not be the most economical material. Second, understand that it is not primarily designed by homeschoolers for homeschoolers. In spite of these things, we are thrilled with the program. We have had to make very few changes regarding conflicts with God's word.

Once a month we receive a science kit with virtually everything we need for several experiments on a topic. It is clear, user friendly, and interesting. The only items that are not included are easy to obtain and often found in most homes on a regular basis. Our five children (13, 11, 10, 8 and 5) work together and we all enjoy the experiments. They have worked every single time! We have learned quite a bit in a fun way and it has changed my outlook on science completely.

There are 36 kits and various options regarding the kits and how often you receive them. Some topics include: minerals, fossils, mirrors, electricity, magnetism, polymers and many others. The program is designed for ages 4-12. The web site will answer any further questions.

<http://www.theyoungscientistsclub.com/introduction2.html>

### **Bumper Snickers**

via Homeschoolers' List  
**i souport publik edekashun.**

## **The Outrages Taxpayers and Parents Pay For**

by Phyllis Schlafly, March 30, 2005

The reluctance of the University of Colorado (CU) to fire Professor Ward Churchill is showing the public that colleges and universities are nests of subsidized radicals. Churchill is no anomaly; like-minded professors hold forth on campuses all over the country.

Repeated surveys report that Democratic professors outnumber Republican professors by about 10 to 1, but that ratio doesn't begin to reveal the outrageous leftist culture to which college students are subjected. Many professors are Marxists or other varieties of radicals who hate America.

The Churchill episode confirms leftwing Professor Richard Rorty's boast that universities are now "the power base for the Left in America." Churchill's Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, Gay and Lesbian Studies, and African American Studies are not merely studies or departments; they are university-financed "movements" of the Left.

Churchill and the 199 CU faculty members publicly defending him claim the mantle of academic freedom for his offensive statements likening the 9/11 victims to "little Eichmanns" and referring to the "gallant sacrifices" of the "combat teams" that killed 3,000 Americans. They want academic freedom also to shield him from charges of plagiarism, false claims of Indian status in his affirmative action job application, and misrepresentation of sources in his academic writings.

Public opinion supports the verdict that Churchill was guilty of "conduct which falls below minimum standards of professional integrity," which is the University of Colorado's standard for dismissal of tenured professors. Instead, CU president Elizabeth Hoffman resigned, saving herself from the task of either firing or defending Churchill.

The most frequent complaint I hear from college students is that professors inject their leftist political comments into their courses even when they have nothing to do with the subject. An anti-Bush tirade, for example, might stream forth without warning in math class.

This politicizing of academia is confirmed by a survey commissioned by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. It reported that 46 percent of students at the 50 top U.S. universities and colleges say professors "use the classroom to present their personal political views."

The survey also showed that 74 percent of students said their professors made positive remarks about liberals while 47 percent reported negative comments about conservatives.

Of more concern is the survey's report that 29 percent of students said there are courses in which students must agree with the professor's political or social views in order to get a good grade. That sort of intellectual oppression ought to be exposed in the evaluations of professors that students fill out each term, but according to 83 percent of the students polled, there isn't anything on the evaluation form to report a professor's imposing his irrelevant political and social ideology on the class.

Professorial bias against conservatives in general and George W. Bush in particular is exceeded only by the bias against traditional morality. We are indebted to columnist John Leo for revealing the shockers at Wesleyan University: "the naked dorm, the transgender dorm, the queer prom, the pornography-for-credit course, the obscene sidewalk chalking, the campus club named crudely for a woman's private part," and more.

Prospects for change in campus bias any time soon are dim because of the lock that the radicals have on the hiring of new professors, the granting of tenure, and selection of publications by academic journals and the university press.

Meanwhile, tuition and fees were up 10.5 percent last year and 14 percent the year before. Over the last 25 years, tuition increases have annually exceeded the consumer price index by 3.5 percent.

The scandal that over 30 percent of university students do not graduate within six years is a direct consequence of the easy availability of government grants and loans. Why hurry if your easy-going campus lifestyle is heavily subsidized, even for taking remedial courses to learn what you failed to learn in high school?

On the other hand, university presidents are doing better and better: 42 presidents of private colleges and 17 presidents of public universities draw salaries of more than a half million dollars a year. Nine universities pay their presidents more than \$700,000.

There is no evidence that the taxpayers are getting more for our money, or that students are learning more, or even that additional revenues are spent on instruction. The average score on the Graduate Record Exam is lower today than in 1965.

The exorbitant rise in tuition is largely caused by the increased amounts of government money spent without accountability or any kind of market discipline. Federal grants and loans to students provide a direct financial incentive to colleges to raise the sticker price of tuition in order to extract more from the government as well as from students and their parents who don't receive financial aid.

The only way to put a lid on tuition prices is to eliminate the tremendous incentive caused by government subsidies. Follow the money.

## **Brownie The Lonely Dragon**

Written by Peter, Gina, and Victoria Culpepper

Reviewed by Wayne Walker

I just finished reading a delightful little children's book aloud to our seven-year-old son, and he really thought that it was great. It was first written in 1973 when author Peter Ryan Culpepper was thirteen years old. However, it languished for seventeen years, until he married Gina and she found it buried in a box. After reading it to their then two-year-old daughter Victoria, Gina encouraged Pete to do something with it. However, he was too busy in the corporate world until Victoria was struck with cancer at age five in 1999. Realizing that time was slipping by too fast, Pete and Gina expanded the story to its current form, and Gina and Victoria, now seven, illustrated it.

When Victoria was ill, the Make-A-Wish Foundation gave her a special wish that made a tremendous difference in her life at that time. The Culpeppers decided to make the story of Brownie available to a larger audience and to give back to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. They formed Felix Culpepper International, Inc., P. O. Box 70, Jefferson City, TN 33760-0070 (865/475-4493, phone; 914/470-1091, fax; 203/536-4842, cell), to publish and market the book, and all profits after the production costs will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The first edition was printed in 2003. They are trying to build a brand that will include other children's books, videos, and plush animals.

The story is set on an unknown island in the Pacific Ocean, on which live a number of animals, including a flying dragon named Brownie who had many different colors and really stood out from all the others. Therefore, while it is children's fiction, it would make a great beginning point for homeschoolers to do a study of the Pacific Ocean and islands in general, as well as a good starter for learning more about the various animals that are mentioned in it and the history of beliefs about dragons. The basic messages of the book are the importance of friendship, respecting differences in others, and believing in yourself. These lessons are needed for all ages, especially in our world today.

Author Eddie Siebert wrote, "Brownie The Lonely Dragon' takes readers' imaginations on an entertaining, meaningful journey! I am honored to be associated with the creators of this book; the Culpepper Family. They are a tribute to LIFE, LOVE, COURAGE, and FAITH. Let their enthusiasm be an INSPIRATION to everyone they touch." Over 2,200 children have already appreciated the story and illustrations first-hand. Teachers have submitted the book to be considered for the Volunteer State Award.

If anyone is interested in more information about the book or even purchasing a copy, you can contact Felix Culpepper International, Inc., by e-mail at [gipc@cshore.com](mailto:gipc@cshore.com) or visit their website at <http://www.bigboxhead.com>, where you can buy Brownie the Lonely Dragon from their online store. You can also find out more about it via the Make-A-Wish Foundation link at [http://www.wish.org/home/supporters\\_corporatepartners\\_promotions.htm](http://www.wish.org/home/supporters_corporatepartners_promotions.htm) or obtain the book through <http://www.amazon.com> by typing in Brownie The Lonely Dragon. The story is very readable and enjoyable; the illustrations are gorgeous. As I am an avid reader of children's books, it is one that I would highly recommend.

## **Homeschoolers Score Higher on ACT College Entrance Exam**

**HOMESCHOOL AVERAGE 22.5 – NATIONAL AVERAGE 20.9**

Press Release from the Home School Legal Defense Association, P.O. Box 3000, Purcellville, VA 20134;  
August 19, 2005

Purcellville VA – Newly released figures for the ACT college entrance exam show that homeschoolers have again scored above the national average.

"Homeschoolers continue to excel academically," said Michael Smith, President of the Home School Legal Defense Association.

The 8075 homeschool graduates who took the ACT college entrance exam this year comprised about 1 percent of those who took the exam.

According to ACT a 22.5 score is significantly higher than the national average and homechoolers have maintained their success over the eight year period they have taken the exam.

“Homeschoolers consistently score above the national average,” said ACT spokesman, Ed Colby.

Homeschooling is not a short-term phenomenon. It is growing between 7 and 15% per year and an estimated 2 million children are homeschooled. In addition, homeschoolers consistently score above their peers on standardized achievement tests. The new ACT scores confirm this trend.

To find out more about homeschool achievement please visit <http://nche.hsllda.org/research/default.asp>

[The press release continues with information about HSLDA and Michael Smith.]

## MTV and Immoral Speech

Citizen Link Daily Update, 8/16/05

[Editor’s note: I retitled this article, because I was concerned that some might consider the original title to be inappropriate – DP]

SUMMARY: Watchdog group tags MTV for not labeling programs with rough language.

The Parents Television Council (PTC) monitored more than 70 hours of MTV and found programs loaded with expletives were not being blocked by v-chip technology. The study revealed MTV sent objectionable words into homes approximately every three minutes on average, with no “language” warnings for parents.

In the 136 shows reviewed, the PTC found 1,480 uses of expletives and obscenities — sometimes outright and sometimes partially bleeped.

The group said three out of four teens watch MTV.

Melissa Caldwell, director of research and publications for the PTC, pointed out that MTV’s parent company, Viacom, is currently promoting the use of the V-chip to filter unwanted programming. But that simply won’t work for MTV.

“I think it’s just a lack of respect for families which is evidenced through their programming choices to begin with,” she said, “but further evidenced by the fact that they don’t give parents the information they need to help block out inappropriate content on their shows.”

Caldwell told Family News in Focus that while MTV tries to paint a picture that kids are not influenced by its programming, the network carries highly political ads designed to impact world views.

“They want us to believe that they are able to encourage kids’ behavior in certain respects,” she said, “whether it is their decision to vote or to be more open-minded about gay marriage or whatever other issues they happen to be championing at the moment.”

MTV’s formal response to the charge was “We don’t air vulgar language.”

“Obscenities included hundreds of uses of partially-bleeped F-words and just about everything else under the sun. If MTV isn’t vulgar, then Colorado doesn’t have mountains, and the pope isn’t Catholic,” said Brent Bozell, president of the PTC.

Bob Peters, president of Morality in Media, said parents need a bundle of strategies to keep sleazy programming out of the house.

“I am just not sure there is only one answer,” he said. “Indecency regulation is part of the answer. ‘A la carte’ on cable is part of the answer. And, in my opinion, a much better rating system than what the industry put forth a few years ago is desperately needed.”

### EDITORIAL NOTES

Once again we want to thank all who submitted articles for this issue of *Family Times*. We thank our regular writers for their submissions: Wayne Walker, Sally Anne Perz, and Dawn Thompson. And we especially thank Gerry Wright and Katy Jones for their reviews.

**We are running short on articles for our next issue, so we encourage all readers to consider if you have written or found material you believe would benefit our readers.**

### **Time to Renew Your Subscription?**

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