



The Caleb Report

November-December 2007

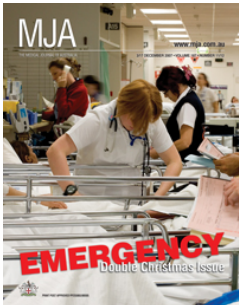
Life Decisions International

vol. xv • no. 6

LIMIT CHILDBIRTH AND SAVE THE PLANET

Margaret Higgins Sanger Would Be Proud

Scientists say the “sensitive” issue of population control should be brought to the forefront of the climate change debate. After all, it accounts for 1.2 percent of energy-based emissions into the air each year.



One academic has suggested that governments stop giving credits and bonuses to taxpayers every time a child is born. In a letter published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, Barry N. J. Walters, M.D., an associate professor in the School of Women’s and Infants’ Health at the University of West-

ern Australia, argued that paying new parents for every baby only serves to encourage childbirth, which leads to more emissions. And this is just the beginning of the “solutions” he has proposed.

Couples who have more than two children should be charged a lifelong tax to help repair the damage caused by their decision to have “excess” offspring. The funds would be used to plant trees to “offset the carbon generated by a new human being,” Walters wrote.

The parents of any baby born today in Australia will get a Federal Government bonus of \$4,187. In July next year, that will increase up to \$5,000. “Far from showering financial booty on new mothers and rewarding greenhouse-unfriendly behavior, a ‘baby levy’ in the form of a carbon tax should apply, in line with the ‘polluter pays’ principle,” Walters wrote. “Every newborn baby in Australia represents a potent source of greenhouse gas emissions for an average of 80 years, not simply by breathing but by the profligate consumption of resources typical of our society.”

Conversely, Walters said people who use birth control should be given “carbon credits”:

By the same reasoning, contraceptives, intrauterine devices, diaphragms, condoms and sterilisation procedures should attract carbon credits for the user and the prescriber that would offset their income taxes, and lead to rewards for family planning clinics and hospitals that provide such greenhouse-friendly services.

In his letter, Walters, an obstetric physician at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women in Perth,

quoted broadcaster and environmental activist David F. Attenborough who said that “instead of controlling the environment for the benefit of the population, we should control the population to ensure the survival of the environment.”

“As doctors, I believe we need to think this way,” Walters continued. “Our responsibility extends further than the patient on the other side of the desk. As Australians, I believe we need to be less arrogant. As citizens of this world, I believe we deserve no more population concessions than those in India and China.”

Sound crazy? Not to Garry Egger, Ph.D., an adjunct professor of health sciences at Southern Cross University in New South Wales, Australia, who wrote in support of Walters’ ideas. :

One must wonder why population control, which was such a popular topic during the 1970s, is spoken of today only in whispers. Is this because of the discovery of new oil in the 1980s, taking resource scarcity off the public agenda? Is it because of politicians and economists, so keen on the growth trail that “...one for mum, one for dad and one for the country” seems an easy solution? Or is it the great religions, intent on outnumbering each other?

Environmental groups have also gone silent on the issue—perhaps afraid to alienate their growing support on other environmental issues.

Population remains crucial to all environmental (and subsequently, health) considerations. The debate needs to be reopened as part of a second ecological revolution (following the failure of the first in the 1960s and 1970s). Doctors, as opinion leaders in the community, must be at the forefront of this debate.



“Population control seems to have gone off the rails in the last 30 years,” Egger told the Australian Broadcasting Network following the publication of his comments in support of Walters’ ideas. He continued:

It’s almost forbidden to talk about it these days. It’s almost like smoking—you have to go out in the alleys to talk about it. And it’s obvious that population is not going to be controlled by itself or indeed by politicians or economists because...the easy way to make an economy grow is just to have more people. And we’re ignoring the fact that the downside of that is the pollution and the carbon footprint that’s created by increasing the population.



Egger

Egger believes that two children per couple would be a reasonable tax-free number because it represents replacement value. He admits the proposals do not have widespread public support—yet. But both Egger and Walters believe it is just a matter of time before their proposals are embraced by the vast majority of citizens worldwide.

Jack Pezzey, Ph.D., a senior fellow at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University, said that more than half of all energy-based emissions come from population growth, which has been growing at an annual rate of two percent since 1990:

Projected forward about 15 years to 2020, it will contribute about 20 per cent growth in emissions and that will make it that much harder to meet any ambitious reduction target like getting our emissions down to 25 to 40 per cent below our 1990 levels.

Pezzey said talking about population control seems to be rather taboo:

If you raise issues of controlling population growth, the accusation is very rapidly made of being an eco-fascist or a racist. But unfortunately population growth is simply there. As I've said before, it has an effect on total emissions and therefore if you want to control total emissions you cannot ignore total population growth. You simply have to admit that it's part of the problem.

The sensitive nature of population control makes it a tricky issue in some circles. Cam Walker, campaigns coordinator for Friends of the Earth Australia, said it is a vexed question for many in the environment movement. "We're cautious about just raising the issue of population growth per se. We tend to focus on consumption issues. But it is certainly one that does need to be considered overall when we are looking at the continued growth in global greenhouse gas emissions."

Walker agreed that curbing population growth is not just an issue for the developing world:

The time of large, enormous families—we're past that. Certainly in the global north it's something that is starting to appear perhaps selfish in the current context, particularly in the context of, as an average Australian I consume the resources of eight average Indonesians. So therefore if I have four or five kids, I'm actually adding in effect a considerable number of people to the global population.



While quite lengthy, a response to Walters' proposal by Michael Cook, editor of the international bioethics newsletter *BioEdge*, is worth reading.

It was published by Australasian Bioethics Information and MercatorNet:

It's hard to know where to begin unpacking so much confusion. The current flare-up of the population control virus, like a polio epidemic in a country that has been disease-free for 30 years, shows

that the professorial brains are still fevered with the totalitarian temptation. Why bother with reality, when you've got an ideology?

The first reality is that calculations of the size of carbon footprints depend not only on population size, but also on consumption preferences. These vary enormously. Who left the bigger carbon footprint: Scrooge or Bob Cratchett's brood? Large families make do with more modest lifestyles. No holidays abroad, no expensive cars, no nights out on the town. China's little emperor syndrome provides a cautionary tale. With only one obese little toddler, parents ignore the high-impact negative externalities of triple-scoop ice creams.

Second, the University of Woollomooloo senior common room hasn't done a human rights impact study. Walters' proposal would work exactly like China's draconian one-child policy, with a green tinge to it. But China has an enormous sex imbalance, forced abortions, social unrest and a demographic overhang that well might cause the economy to collapse under the weight of caring for retirees.

Admittedly, the likelihood of Australian family-planning police throttling infants whose levy has not been paid is small. But there would be other unpleasant consequences: pressure on women to abort a third child, bureaucratic discrimination against large families, and so on.

Third, why pick on polyphiloprogenitive parents? Why not apply the Stalinist logic of mandating eco-friendly social conformity elsewhere? A recent study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that divorce creates more households with fewer people, which use more energy and water and take up more space. How about a ban on divorce, eh? On pets? On Formula One? On non-essential air travel? On restaurants? If we all dutifully dined on spinach and brussels sprouts and pedalled to work, we could keep our carbon footprint small enough to enable double-digit families for anyone who wanted them.

The Aussie proposals may sound wacky, but in truth they are the logical conclusion to today's trend for measuring humanity by its waste and "carbon footprint". After all, if human life is seen as fundamentally polluting, then why shouldn't the creation of new human life be viewed as irresponsible and problematic?

At the heart of this hostility towards new life is a lack of faith in the capacity of humanity to solve its problems. First food, then oil, then scarce metals, now carbon footprints. In another 20 years, it will be collisions with asteroids. This adolescent hankering for Doomsday by the University of Woollomooloo senior common room, and its fellow travellers elsewhere, stems not from facts, but from a smouldering hostility towards their own species.

Walters treats the oracular David Attenborough as sacred writ: "Instead of controlling the environment for the benefit of the population, we should control the population to ensure the survival of the environment." How about barracking for the home team, lads?

In any case, American economist Julian Simon's optimism about harmonising the environment and population growth has again and again been proved right. "The ultimate resource is people—especially skilled, spirited and hopeful young people endowed with liberty—who will exert their wills and imaginations for their own benefit and inevitably benefit the rest of us as well", said Simon.

What Walters and Egger fail to take into account is that children create hope, not problems. Without the next generation—as Alfonso Cuarón's stunning film *Children of Men* showed so vividly—there is no point in working for the future. Buildings decay, gar-

bage piles up, injustice spreads like a cancer, and no one cares. But the birth of a child brings optimism and determination to make its world better than our own. The daft proposal for a baby levy would kill the very hope which sustains and drives our society.

The Advertiser reported that Angela Conway of the pro-abortion Australian Family Association disagrees with Walters:


I think self-important professors with silly ideas should have to pay carbon tax for all the hot air they create. There's [sic] masses of evidence to say that child-rich families have much lower resource consumption per head than other styles of households. How many families with more than a few children trip off overseas once or twice a year? How many overseas trips has the professor made recently?

At least this is Conway's *public opinion*.

ACTION: Pray for Barry Walters and Garry Egger. Keep your eyes and ears open. We are bound to encounter more of these kinds of proposals in the future.


FOUR POLLS ON ABORTION RELEASED

Several public opinion surveys on abortion have been conducted over the past few months. All of the polls show that a majority of Americans support a ban on *most* abortions.

 A poll conducted for CBS News in mid-October 2007 found that 16 percent of Americans believe abortion should be legal only when necessary to save the "life" of the mother. Thirty-four percent believe abortion should be legal to save the mother's "life" or when a baby is conceived as a result of a sex crime. And 16 percent said abortion should be legal but be subjected to greater restrictions.

Twenty-six percent want abortion to be totally legal. Only four percent of survey respondents said it should be totally illegal.

In a poll commissioned by Bloomberg News and the *Los Angeles Times*, which was conducted just a few days after that for CBS News, pollsters asked respondents which one of four statements most closely represented their views. Nearly 40 percent said abortion should be illegal "except in cases of rape, incest and to save the mother's life." Ten percent said abortion should be completely illegal. Some 31 percent said abortion should be legal without restriction and 13 percent believed it should be legal "most of the time."

 FOX News commissioned a poll that was conducted on the heels of that done for Bloomberg News and the *Los Angeles Times*. It showed that nearly 73 percent of Americans supported legal abortion when the pregnancy puts the mother's "life" at risk. Fifteen percent opposed all abortions and 11 percent either had other reservations or were not sure of their position.


Seventy percent of respondents would sanction the killing of a child conceived as a result of a sex crime, while only 21 would oppose it. Some eight percent were undecided.

In cases where the pregnancy puts the mother's "health" at risk, 56 percent support legal abortion. Nearly 28 percent would outlaw abortions in such a case and 15 percent did not take a position.

A slight majority of Americans (53 percent) support legal abortion if the preborn child is diagnosed with a fatal birth defect. Thirty percent oppose such abortions and 16 percent were not sure where they stood.

When it comes to abortions committed for socioeconomic reasons, the FOX News survey found that 50 percent of Americans oppose legal abortion and 39 percent support it. Ten percent did not take a position.

A poll conducted for *Time* in mid-November 2007 asked Americans which of three position statements best represented their views. Some 46 percent said abortion should be allowed only if the child was conceived as a result of a sex crime or if the mother's "health" was in danger. Nine percent said abortion should be illegal without exception. Nearly 42 percent said abortion should be legal in all circumstances up until the time of viability. (Oddly, support for abortion throughout the entire pregnancy was not surveyed.) Three percent did not express an opinion.

 A poll conducted for *The Washington Post* and ABC News in early December 2007 asked the question, "Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?" According to the poll, 18 percent said abortion should be legal in all cases. Nearly 35 percent said the deadly act should be legal in most cases. Some 27 percent believe most abortions should be illegal while 17 percent said abortions should be prohibited, period. While the survey is significantly vaguer than that commissioned by *Time*, it clearly indicates a decline in support for a hard pro-abortion position.

Polls on abortion have been relatively consistent for many years. A majority of people believed abortion should be legal when a child is conceived as a result of a sex crime, when the mother's life or health is threatened, or when it is believe the child will be "grossly deformed."

The poll conducted for CBS News referred to the woman's "life." Yet a definition was not provided. If a definition had been given to respondents, the results may have been much different. The Bloomberg News/

TIME



Los Angeles Times poll is even worse. The word “life” is used and, just as in the CBS News poll, it is left to each individual to define it in their heads.

The Bloomberg News/*Los Angeles Times* poll allowed people to say abortion should be legal “most of the time.” Each individual may have had different circumstances in mind when they selected this option. LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr., called the use of the phrase “most cases” in the *Washington Post*/ABC News poll “equally problematic.” He said “most cases” could include an endless array of exceptions. “Each respondent may have a completely different set of exceptions in mind when they speak of ‘most cases.’”



Scott

“A definition of ‘health’ was not provided by the polltakers hired by *Time*,” Scott said. “Consequently, depending upon the respondent, it could include emotional, physical, psychological, and even financial ‘health.’ In other words, it could include the *Doe v. Bolton* definition, which includes virtually every reason under the sun.” (It was the United States Supreme Court’s decision *Doe v. Bolton*, the companion case to *Roe v. Wade*, which effectively made abortion legal throughout an entire pregnancy.) Scott said he believes most Americans would define “health” very loosely.

Scott criticized the use of the word “viability” in the *Time* poll. “Viability is a measure of scientific and medical advancement and nothing more.” He said its use in the poll could only serve to mislead or confuse respondents.

“I am disappointed to see some pro-life activists claim a sort of victory from these results,” Scott said. For example, lifenews.com provided what Scott called “a rather rosy but not-all-together accurate” analysis of poll results.

Writing about the survey released by CBS News, Steve Ertelt argued that “a majority of Americans are pro-life...,” noting that 54 percent “take one of three pro-life positions opposing all or almost all abortions...” He also wrote that according to the poll, 79 percent of self-described evangelical Christians “take one of the three pro-life stances with 35 percent taking the life of the mother position and the same percentage taking the rape, incest and life of the mother position.”



Ertelt

With regard to the poll released by the *Washington Post*/ABC News, Ertelt wrote, “The survey found 44 percent of Americans take a pro-life position...with 27 percent saying most should be illegal and 17 percent saying all abortions should be prohibited.”

“Mr. Ertelt is publicly advertising his availability to speak at pro-life events,” Scott said. “I hope he will reconsider classifying the 27 percent who believe ‘most’ abortions should be illegal as ‘pro-life;’ it is not. In my opinion, pro-life activists should not be diluting the definition of ‘pro-life’ when speaking to people who may be less knowledgeable and experienced in the Pro-Life Movement. We need to raise the standard; not lower it.”

Scott said he realizes that Ertelt, as well as the other pro-life activists who are taking the same approach, are capable of making their own decisions on such issues. “We are talking about people who surely want to do the right thing. If they give this matter some careful consideration, I think they will come to the same conclusion.”

WHAT TRUMPS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?



Spitzer

In October 2007, the United States Supreme Court announced that it would not consider an appeal in the case of *Catholic Charities of Albany, et. al., v. Gregory V. Serio* (then-superintendent of the New York State Department of Insurance). The decision brought to an end a case that was first filed in December 2002 and let stand a state court ruling upholding the Women’s Health and Wellness Act of 2002. The law forces church agencies to pay for insurance coverage of prescription birth control in medical plans.

The plaintiffs said the state law infringes upon religious liberty. The Catholic Church teaches that the use of artificial birth control is sinful. But Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany (New York) was joined in the suit by several protestant churches, schools, health care institutions and social service agencies.

“This is a sad day for religious liberty in our state and nation,” said Richard E. Barnes, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference (NYSCC), shortly after the decision was announced. He said the “unpopular” teaching of the Catholic on artificial birth control “was an easy target” for enemies of the Catholic Church.

The State of New York claimed its arguments would have been the same if the issue at hand had been abortion rather than birth control. “It is logical to assume that, with a willing judiciary’s acquiescence, an abortion mandate will now become a front-burner issue for the same advocates who promoted the contraception bill,” Barnes said. “Indeed, for several years a bill has been introduced in the Assembly that would mandate abortion coverage in all insurance plans.”

Barnes referenced a bill put forth by New York Governor Eliot Spitzer (D), which could *force* all insurance plans, including those provided by religiously-affiliated

employers, to cover abortion. The bill could also *force* all hospitals, including religiously-affiliated institutions, to allow abortions to be committed on their premises.



Smith

“The Supreme Court made the right decision today,” said JoAnn M. Smith, president and chief executive officer of Family Planning Advocates of New York State. “New Yorkers will continue to receive the benefits of the Women’s Health and Wellness Act. Women deserve access to reproductive health care, including contraceptive coverage, to help them plan their families and stay healthy.” Classifying birth control as “basic health care,” Smith said it is “inexcusable” for an employer to “deny basic health care to women who work for them.

Planned Parenthood was quick to praise the outcome of the case. “This case was a direct challenge to women’s access to affordable birth control,” said Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) President Cecile Richards. “Birth control helps women prevent unintended pregnancy and plan their families. It should be settled law that contraception is covered by health plans just like other prescription drugs.”



Richards

PPFA also released a written statement to the media:

The Women’s Health and Wellness Act has helped to end discrimination against women in insurance coverage by enhancing access to reproductive health care including contraception. While birth control is the most widely used prescription drug for women of reproductive age, it was routinely excluded from insurance plans. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 49 percent of typical large-group insurance plans failed to routinely cover any reversible contraceptive method. Women of reproductive age were forced to pay as much as 68 percent more for out-of-pocket medical care than men.

To address this discrimination, the Women’s Health and Wellness Act was passed by the New York State Legislature and signed into law in 2002. It has been in effect since January 1, 2003.

Barnes said Catholic institutions will continue paying for birth control coverage “under formal protest.” In the meantime, he said, the Bishops of New York State must ponder what, if any, alternatives may still exist, “including the painful possibility of a loss of prescription drug benefits in employee health plans.”

LIBERAL PARTY LOSES IN AUSTRALIA

In the July-August 2007 edition of *The Caleb Report*, we wrote about the public attacks against Kevin Andrews, a member of the Australian Parliament, by pro-abortion activists and their allies in the media. Andrews, who was serving in the Prime Minister’s cabinet as Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, is also a member of LDI’s Board of Advisors.



Andrews

Andrews and his wife, Margaret, were accused of belonging to a “radical right-wing international organization that advocates economic boycotts to achieve social and political change.” In the very next sentence, Andrews was said to be “officially listed” as an LDI *board member* rather than as a member of the *advisory board*. The attacks were initiated by abortion apologists who write for the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Abortion activists resorted to using Wikipedia, one of the most popular sites on the Internet, to slam Andrews. It is believed that reporters from the *Sydney Morning Herald* are responsible for placing the erroneous and biased content on Wikipedia:

Andrews is an advisor to the Board of Life Decisions International (LDI), a (non-denominational) religious pro-life group that is primarily concerned with opposing the pro-choice Planned Parenthood organisation. LDI campaigns for chastity, boycotts corporations and names individual celebrities who support abortion, euthanasia, or embryonic stem cell experimentation or who, in their opinion, support sexual promiscuity. These include GlaxoSmith-Kline, Johnson and Johnson, Time Warner and Disney.

Andrews has described his role as “honorary patronage”. He was criticised by the *Sydney Morning Herald* for failing to declare his wife’s membership on...[LDI’s] Board of Advisors on his entry in the Parliamentary Register of Pecuniary Interests.

LDI boycotts corporate supporters of Planned Parenthood. LDI does not boycott corporations that “support abortion, euthanasia, or embryonic stem cell experimentation.” And LDI does not boycott corporations that we believe “support sexual promiscuity.”



**Wikipedia:
“the online
encyclopedia”**

Wikipedia is written by the general public. Anyone may add or subtract material from the website. Anyone except LDI, that is. LDI has been barred from making corrections. (There are several other pejorative statements made about Andrews on the web page that have nothing to do with LDI.)

We are sorry to report that the Liberal Party, of which Andrews is a member, was soundly defeated in national elections held in Australia on November 24, 2007. In fact, even the sitting Prime Minister, John Howard, was defeated in his home district. Australian participation in the war in Iraq and parental leave were among the key issues in the campaign. Howard was also accused of being arrogant and out of touch with most Australians.

The Liberal Party, which can loosely be compared to the Republican Party in the United States, won just 55 seats in the House of Representatives, a loss of 19. The Labor Party, which can loosely be compared to the Democratic Party in the United States, won 83 seats, an



Howard

increase of 23. The rest of the seats in the House split among one minor party (Nationals; 10 seats) and those who ran as independents (2). The new Australian Prime Minister is Kevin M. Rudd. His Labor Party fiercely supports legal abortion.

There is a bit of good news to report. Even though the Liberal Party lost its majority in the House of Representatives, Andrews was re-elected but, naturally, as a member of the minority party, his influence on national policy has been greatly reduced. Under normal circumstances, Andrews would have made an attractive candidate to become the new leader of the Liberal Party, but the public beating he took before and during the campaign made a successful run for the position virtually impossible. Liberals in the House elected pro-abortion Brendan Nelson as their new leader.



Nelson

“We at LDI are proud of Kevin and Margaret Andrews,” said LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr. “They have consistently and strongly stood tall for what is right. We know God has His hand on both of them. God has not finished with them; He has much more work for them to do for His Kingdom in the future. I love them and their commitment to truth.”



Priorities: Andrews wedding photo

Margaret Andrews, editor of *Threshold*, the magazine of the Catholic Society for Marriage Education, told *The Caleb Report* that everyone was in good cheer just one

day after the November 24 federal election. In the ultimate example of odd timing, the Andrews’ eldest son, James, was married on November 25.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men.”

— Poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919)

PRO-LIFE GROUPS SPEAK TO CHINESE

A delegation from the Maryland-based Family of the Americas Foundation (FAF) has returned from the People’s Republic of China following talks intended to steer the world’s most populated nation away from its compulsory population control policies. The five-person delegation was led by FAF President Mercedes Arzú Wilson.

FAF representatives first traveled to China in 1986 to teach the Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning (OM-NFP). FAF officials have now made a dozen trips to the country to train thousands of new teachers.

“We wanted to present a positive, life-affirming and family-strengthening alternative to forced abortion, sterilization, and the damaging effects of artificial birth control,” Wilson said after returning to the U.S. from the week-long trip that began on December 1, 2007. “Today, the most prestigious universities in Shanghai and Beijing, along with several government-run hospitals, are teaching the Ovulation Method.”



Wilson

OM-NFP is a scientifically and medically proven technique. The newly enhanced family planning program has always been greeted with great enthusiasm by Chinese family planning officials and physicians.

On their most recent visit to China, the FAF delegation addressed groups of educators, family planning officials, physicians, nurses, and students. “The people of China are anxious to spread this knowledge throughout their country,” Wilson said. FAF unveiled the latest editions of its NFP educational materials, including the addition of a CD-ROM. The Ovulation Method program may also be used on cell phones, iPods, and similar equipment. “A woman is now able to keep a record of her fertility cycle on these devices, millions of which are now in use in China.”

The FAF delegation was delighted to learn that the Chinese family planning officials had conducted an additional study of their own on the effectiveness of the Ovulation Method. After receiving the overwhelmingly positive results, the officials decided to introduce a slogan coined and used in the State of Kansas to promote the Ovulation Method—“99 percent effective; 100 percent natural. Your body knows.”

Two Chinese women who have used the Ovulation Method for several years praised the program’s effectiveness and ease of use. They also noted that use of NFP had strengthened their marriages. The women had suffered physical and emotional consequences from having to endure induced abortions as a result of becoming pregnant while using IUD’s, pills and condoms.



Mercedes Wilson (center) met with family planning officials in Shanghai

Members of the FAF delegation included OM-NFP teacher Nancy Budowski who spoke about the rampant spread of sexually transmitted diseases in the United States. Judith Leonard, director of Family Life and Natural Family Planning for the

Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, addressed the links between induced abortion and breast cancer and between artificial birth control and several major health conditions, including cancer, stroke and heart disease. Wilson

spoke about several scientific studies that verify the effectiveness and practicality of OM-NFP and the dramatic low divorce rate among couples that practice it.

Another member of the delegation was LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr. “We were asked to bring someone who could give advice on how to reach out to youth,” Wilson said. “I don’t know anyone who could do a better job than Doug Scott so I asked him to join us.”



Several attendees stayed after the conference to be photographed with the FAF delegation.

“Chinese officials seemed surprised by what I had to say,” Scott said. “It was as though they had never even considered the possibility that Chinese youth could embrace chastity.” After his presentation, which included specific and successful strategies for reaching youth, most of the questions from the group regarded the efficacy of such a message when presented to young people in the United States. “I said we have seen great success throughout North America. We need to raise the bar higher and stop believing it is impossible to reach young people.”

Professor Jin-xun Xu, M.D., director of the Projection and Statistics Division of the Shanghai Municipal Commission and Family Planning, expressed a strong desire to expand the working relationship and cooperation between FAF and his country’s family planning office.

“Women in China are like women everywhere,” Wilson said. “They want to be treated with respect. They want to safeguard their health and emotional wellbeing. The women of China now have an option that does both.”



Wilson, author of *Love & Family: Raising a Traditional Family in a Secular World*, has been a leading voice in the promotion OM-NFP for several decades. Her most recently released book,

Love & Fertility, offers practical OM-NFP information, along with the latest scientific research and statistical evaluations from around the world.

MORE INFORMATION: Visit the Family of the Americas website (www.familyplanning.net). Alternatively, write to: P.O. Box 1170, Dunkirk, MD 20754-1170, or call (301) 627-3346.

THE PRAYER PROJECT

Please join us in daily prayer for the men and women who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life con-

victions: *November*—**Simon P. Cowell**, chief executive officer of International Save the Children Alliance; *December*—pro-abortion Australian reporters **Kerry-Anne Walsh, Michelle Singer, and Barrie Cassidy**; *January*—**Scott Barancik**, pro-abortion staff writer for the *St. Petersburg Times*; *February*—singer/songwriter **Barry Manilow**; and *March*—Australian Prime Minister **Kevin M. Rudd**, and **Brendan Nelson**, leader of the opposition Liberal Party.

HOMOSEXUAL GROUP JUDGES NETWORKS



Ayers

For the past decade, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has tracked the number of regular and recurring homosexual, bisexual and transgender characters on television. “These statistics have been and continue to be a helpful indicator of overall gay visibility in television,” wrote GLAAD’s Dennis Ayers, “but what is missing is a comparison of each network’s record of gay representation.” GLAAD analyzed each of the major broadcast networks. “This allows us to grade the performance of each network relative to their peers,” Ayers wrote.

Coming in last was **NBC**, which received a grade of **C**. It did not fair as well as many people might have expected. After all, it was NBC that aired the long-running sitcom “Will & Grace.” While the network is responsible for several made-for-television movies with homosexual themes, such as “Traces,” “An Early Frost,” and “Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story,” Ayers wrote that overall NBC has a “lackluster record.”



Dekker

Still, several NBC programs such as “Passions,” “Homicide: Life on the Street,” “The Office,” “Friday Night Lights,” and “ER” have featured homosexual themes. As originally written, the character “Zach” on the hit show “Heroes” was to be homosexual, but the idea was rejected by network executives. Management for actor Thomas Dekker reportedly did not want their client to play a homosexual character. Dekker is apparently under consideration for his own show on FOX and his management thought playing a homosexual character could have a negative impact on the deal. Dekker’s management threatened to pull him from “Heroes” if NBC did not relent. The network quickly caved in.

GLAAD spokesman Damon Romine said it is “extremely disappointing that the backward thinking of an actor’s representative could yield [sic] such influence...” (Is not Romine attempting to wield a bit of in-

fluence himself?) “Heroes” executive producer Dennis Hammer assured GLAAD that the show will “continue” to be diverse. “We’re not afraid of having a gay character on the show, and the network and studio have never discouraged it.”



A grade of **C+** was given to **FOX**. “Melrose Place,” “The War at Home,” “In Living Color,” and “The O.C.” included homosexual characters and themes. But the highest praise was for “The Simpsons,” which Ayers referred to as one of the network’s “crowning achievements” in terms of “gay visibility.” Without “The Simpsons,” FOX would probably have received a D+ at best.

CBS, which is owned by boycott target NATIONAL AMUSEMENTS INC., earned a grade of **C+**. “Thanks primarily to the work of producer Norman Lear, CBS was in the lead in the early-to-mid-1970s in terms of gay and lesbian representation and treatment of gay issues,” Ayers wrote. He cited “Maude,” “All in the Family,” “The Jeffersons,” “M*A*S*H,” and “Good Times” as examples of shows that included homosexual themes.

THE JEFFERSONS



Ayers lamented that since the 1970s, CBS “has fallen seriously behind—particularly with its scripted programming.” But he suggested there is evidence of a change in attitude at the network.

Last year, “As the World Turns” became the first American soap opera to regularly feature a homosexual male character. Lesbians were featured on “Out of Practice” and “Still Standing.” This season, homosexuals have been included in CBS primetime programming on “The Class” as well as in most of the network’s so-called reality shows, including “The Amazing Race,” “Big Brother,” and “Survivor.” In fact, it seems the network makes a point of including at least one homosexual in each of its “reality” programs.

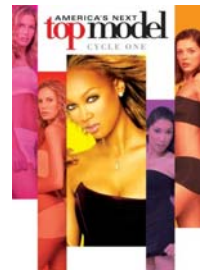


Johnson (l) & Hallisay In December 2006, CBS aired an episode of “Cold Case” titled “Forever Blue” that featured a storyline Ayers and others compared to the motion picture “Brokeback Mountain.” Shane Johnson and Brian Hallisay portrayed homosexual police officers in 1968 Philadelphia who were having an “affair.” In the episode, Hallisay’s character is married and his wife is pregnant with their fourth child.

Ayers wrote that “Forever Blue” was “very well received by critics and seemed to generate no backlash

from conservative viewers—which is surprising considering the episode featured a very passionate same-sex kiss.” It was repeated this past summer.

The CW, which was formed as a result of the merger between The WB and UPN, received a grade of **B-**. The grade is largely based on The WB’s programming rather than current shows. The CW inherited “an impressive history of gay representation from the WB,” Ayers wrote, “but its current gay visibility is limited to a flamboyant judge on ‘America’s Next Top Model.’” (In the past season of “America’s Top Model,” contestants who would not pose nude for moral reasons were automatically disqualified.)



Ayers pointed to programs such as “Dawson’s Creek” and “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” as reasons for the good grade. (Like The WB, The CW target audience is 18-34 year olds.) Ayers was counting on “Hidden Palms” to help “beef up gay visibility on the network,” but the drama was cancelled after only eight episodes.

The best grade (**A-**) was given to **ABC**, which is owned by boycott target THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY. “Beginning in the 1960s, ABC aired a string of gay television firsts, and their current slate of scripted programming offers viewers nearly half of all existing...[homosexual] characters on network television,” Ayers wrote.



One episode of “N.Y.P.D.” that aired way back in 1967 had a homosexual theme. In the 1970s, Billy Crystal portrayed a homosexual on “Soap.” One decade later, homosexual characters and themes were included on “Dynasty,” “All My Children,” and “thirtysomething.” The 1990s programs “My So-Called Life,” “NYPD Blue,” and, of course, “Ellen,” included episodes with such characters and themes.

The current decade has brought an explosion of this kind of programming on ABC. “Brothers and Sisters,” “Ugly Betty,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “All My Children,” “Spin City,” “Desperate Housewives,” and “The Book of Daniel” are primary examples.

We wonder how each network would score if judged on fair coverage of the abortion debate.

The Caleb Report, an official periodical of Life Decisions International (LDI), is published six times per year. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of every LDI Partner or members of its Board of Directors/Advisors or staff. This publication may be copied so long as the appropriate citation(s) are included. It may be quoted so long as proper acknowledgment(s) are provided. Write: P.O. Box 439, Front Royal, VA 22630-0009 (USA). Phone: (540) 631-0380. All past editions of *The Caleb Report* are available on LDI’s website (www.fightppp.org).

© 2007 Life Decisions International