



THE

AFCON

SENTINEL



Volume IX, Number 3

A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

September 16, 2005

AFCON OFFICERS

David Moshman
President

Robert Haller
President-Elect

Peggy Adair
Past President

Karen Buckley
Secretary

Cathi McMurtry
Treasurer

David Moshman
Policy Coordinator

Peggy Adair
Legislative Liaison

Barbara Cornelius
Webmaster

Tom Black
Newsletter Editor

Purpose:

To promote academic freedom, defined as intellectual freedom in educational and research contexts. This includes freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—David Moshman

AFCON's annual membership meeting on Saturday, November 5, will feature a diverse panel addressing issues of evolution, creation, and academic freedom. Here are some hypothetical cases the panel will be asked to consider. Come prepared to join the discussion.

1. You are a student who has grown up believing that God created the earth 6000 years ago and at that time created all species in their current forms. Now you are taught in science classes that the earth is billions of years old and that species evolve over thousands of generations. Can you be required to take these classes? Can you be required to renounce your views or to agree to alternative views? What should you do?

2. You are the parent of the student in #1. Should you complain to the school? What is your complaint? What do you want the school to do?

3. You are a science teacher who believes that the earth is billions of years old and that species evolve over thousands of generations. What should you teach and how should you teach it? How should you respond to a request

from a student or parent to modify the curriculum? What if this request, or order, comes from an administrator, a governing board, a state legislature, or a curriculum committee?

4. You are a science teacher who believes evolution cannot account for the apparent design of living organisms. What should you teach and how should you teach it? How should you respond to objections?

5. You are a school administrator facing objections to the science curriculum from one or more students or parents. How should you respond? What if you are a member of the governing board? What if you are a member of the state legislature?

6. You are a science teacher in a state or school system in which all teaching related to evolution must include a disclaimer informing students that evolution is a theory and that they are free to believe what they choose. What should you do?

See you November 5!

Upcoming Events

Nebraska Book Festival, October 7-8, Nebraska Wesleyan University
AFCON Annual & Board Meetings, November 5, Downtown Holiday Inn, Lincoln
AFCON Board Meetings, October 8, December 10
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM

Fate Or Faith - The Scopes Trial Symposium - at the Lied, Lincoln

As part of its mission, the Lied Center exists to encourage a better understanding of the world and each other through performances by national and international artists. It is committed to creative energy, artistic achievement and community collaborations that will have a positive and dynamic effect in all everyone's lives.

The Fate or Faith event will stimulate thinking and dialogue on the UNL campus, in the community and state. The program includes a series of lectures, panels, performances, and discussions with UNL faculty, community leaders, and guest artists and scholars, to excite and involve a wide range of the community by presenting a balanced perspective and encouraging those who take part to expand their thinking in open, unbiased discussion and to broaden perspectives on the 1925 Scopes trial.

The issues include the wider community in dialogue about art, science, history, law, and intellectual freedom exploring both conflict and common ground. Through the performing arts, the Lied Center strives to promote a better understanding of who we are as a human race, where we have been together and to create a connection to a better future

From September 9, 2005:

Nebraska State Museum Exhibit: Exploring Evolution bring current research on evolution to the public. From rapidly evolving HIV to whales that walked, the public is invited to explore evolution in organisms ranging from the very smallest to the largest.

Tentative schedule:

Wednesday., November. 2

12Noon Brown Bag Lunch discussion (Not confirmed,) Noah Feldman, Professor of Law, New York University School of Law. Feldman specializes in the relationship between religion and political authority. He currently serves an advisor to Iraqis involved in the constitutional process there. His third book is *Divided by God: America's Church-State Problem..*

Thursday, November. 3

12Noon "Creationism, Intelligent Design, and Science". Panel Discussion Speaker/Moderator: Norman Smith, Geosciences, UNL. Possible panelists: Charles Austerberry, Alan Kamil, Douglas Linder, Keith Miller, Paul Nelson, Rev. Otis Young.

4:00 PM Women: Point of View with Susan Albert Loewenberg.

7:30 PM An Evening With...L.A. Theatre Works. The Stars of The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial talk

Friday, November 4

5:00 PM Nebraska Connections: A look at our state and how it connects to the Scopes Trial through historical figures and places.

7:30 PM L.A. Theatre Works – The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial with Edward Asner, Marsha Mason, and James Cromwell.

Saturday, November 5

AFCON ANNUAL MEETING. Downtown Holiday Inn, Lincoln, 9:30 AM. AFCON welcomes the public to a discussion of Academic Freedom Issues associated with the creation/evolution controversy, including the authority of teachers over the curriculum and the right of individual teachers and students to hold and express beliefs of their own. AFCON President Dave Moshman will be the speaker/moderator. Lunch is at Noon with the new chef's favorite chicken recipe. Formal meeting of the AFCON Board to follow. Also open to the public. Cost: \$10 for Lunch; program is free. Send reservations for lunch to Bob Haller at rhaller1@unl.edu. .

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings Karen Buckley

June 11, 2005—(Karen Buckley)

Present: Peggy Adair, Karen Buckley, Bob Haller, Dick Herman, Ben Keele, Mel Krutz, Laurie Thomas Lee, Dave Moshman, Doug Paterson, Michael Baker

Opening: President Moshman called the meeting to order.

Minutes: (Buckley) Minutes of the May 14, 2005 meeting were distributed and approved

Treasurer: (McMurtry) \$2328.70 in account. As of June 10, AFCON has 31 individuals and 14 organizations with paid dues for 2005. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Newsletter: Haller brought copies of the June 17, 2005 AFCON *Sentinel*.

Guest: Michael Baker, social studies teacher at Lincoln East High School, said his method of teaching U.S. History

in reverse chronological order has drawn criticism from his supervisors and a directive to cease instruction in this method, despite curriculum guidelines which allow instructors to teach in their own methodology provided the required curriculum is covered. Baker provided copies of communication received from his supervisors and research supporting his teaching strategy. The board voted to allow Moshman (representing AFCON) to work with Baker and proceed with whatever action is deemed appropriate in supporting his academic freedom rights to continue teaching U.S. History in reverse chronological order.

President's Report: (Moshman) Moshman distributed copies of the letter he wrote to the Nebraska State College Board of Trustees, on behalf of AFCON, in support of Dr. Druann Durbin and the Peru State Times. He also distributed copies of a book

review he authored, "With Liberty and Development for All", published in Applied Development Psychology. The board voted to offer a free membership for the remainder of the 2005 AFCON year to the Nebraska Collegiate Media Association (college newspapers advisors).

Legislative: (Adair) Adair noted that the Unicameral session has ended.

Old Business: Banned Book Week (Lee) Lee reported on plans for Banned Book Week, which will be observed Sept. 24-Oct. 1. Kicking off the week will be an afternoon of panel sessions interspersed with readings and displays at Eiseley Branch Library Sept. 24. ACLU Nebraska will partner with AFCON for observances. They are sponsoring two evenings of readings with

Continued to page 3)

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings (Continued from Page 2)

the Angels Theatre Group in Lincoln at the Loft and in Omaha. Lee hopes that some of these readings may also be part of event at Eiseley. She has also contacted Brenda Ealey, president of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA/NEMA conference is being held Wednesday through Friday of that week in Lincoln) to see if that group might also present/sponsor a panel. Lee noted that the American Library Association has promotional materials for Banned Book Week. The board approved allotting an initial budget of \$300 for Banned Book Week. Annual meeting. (Moshman and Haller) More discussion was held regarding AFCON's annual meeting Saturday, Nov. 5. Laura Kendall, director of outreach and education at the Lied and Charles Henry Bethea, executive director of the Lied, envision a series of events held in conjunction with the L.A. Theatre Works' radio play *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial*. AFCON's annual meeting will be part of this series.

Membership: Krutz reported on the Summer Writers Conference to be held June 20-23 at UNL. AFCON will staff an exhibits table. She also reported on funding suggestions for AFCON and distributed copies of these suggestions. Krutz said that Clark Kolterman said that NELAC will appoint a new representative to AFCON this fall. Krutz reminded members that AFCON has a set of posters on censorship

July 9, 2005—(Dwayne Ball, acting secretary)

Present: Dwayne Ball, Jim Bunstock, Joanne Chapuran, Nancy Comer, Barbara Cornelius, Bob Haller, Dick Herman, Ben Keele, Mel Krutz, Laurie Lee, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Doug Paterson, Mary Reiman.

Opening: President Moshman brought the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., and introduced our newest board member, Mary Reiman, of the Lincoln Public Schools Media.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 11, 2005 board meeting taken by Karen Buckley were distributed. Motion to approve: Herman. Second: Lee. Approved unani-

mously. Ball volunteered as acting secretary for this meeting.

Treasurer: (Cathi McMurtry) \$2263 in account. As of today, there are 34 individuals and 15 member organizations with paid dues (or excused dues) for 2005. There are still organizations yet to send in dues. The previous month saw \$90 in income and \$156 in expenses. Motion to approve: Herman. Second: Lee. Approved unanimously.

Newsletter (Tom Black): no report.

Website: (Cornelius) Website functioning normally.

President's Report: Lincoln East High School: Moshman reported on the case of social studies teacher Michael Baker. Baker was told to stop teaching history in reverse chronological order. He appeared at the June AFCON meeting and explained his position, and the board authorized Moshman to work with him to resolve the issue with his administration. Baker, who held a conversation with the LPS director of Instruction and Curriculum, has asked AFCON to hold any action for the present until she makes a decision regarding the continuance or discontinuance of his teaching method.

Moshman reported that the Nebraska Collegiate Media Association has joined AFCON.

Moshman has been invited to speak at the NHSPA state meeting in a panel on the First Amendment and the high school press, Oct. 17 at the UNL City Student Union.

Moshman noted a recent decision by the U.S. 7th Circuit Court that determined that the *Hazelwood* decision applies at the college level. This is the third U.S. Circuit court to so decide. Two other U.S. Circuit courts have decided otherwise. Thus, the applicability of the *Hazelwood* decision to the college level is mixed. *Hazelwood* determines that the administration of a school has censorship rights over a student publication if it is part of the curriculum. If it is established as a public forum, however, the First Amendment appears to protect the student publication from censorship.

Banned Book Week: (Lee):

Lee discussed plans for Banned Book Week, beginning Sept. 24. We will hold a panel discussion with panel members from library organizations at Eiseley Library Sept. 24. The NLA will have a display of banned

books, including possibly a display of children's picture books wherein spectators must guess which pictures have gotten them challenged. A panel of students from Bob Haller's class on banned books is in the works. The NLA may also sponsor a member acting as Mark Twain to discuss his banned books. The ACLU will sponsor the Angel's Theater presenting readings from banned books, probably at the Loft at the Mill, Sept. 26, 27, and 29. The NLA will have a meeting at the end of the week. Lee is trying to get some censored authors to talk or read from their works. Lee will send an e-mail to AFCON Board members giving the entire Banned Book Week schedule so it can be distributed to AFCON organizational members. Ball moved, and Herman seconded, that the AFCON budget for Banned Book Week be raised from \$300 to \$500. Approved unanimously.

Annual Meeting (Haller and Moshman): The AFCON annual meeting will be Saturday, November 5. The theme will center around the evolution/creationism controversy.

Sam Walker Case: After the administration denied Prof. Walker (of UNO) emeritus status for negative public statements about a UNO program, it reversed itself two days later. No AFCON action required

Membership: Krutz thanked Haller, Buckley, and Comes for staffing the AFCON table at the Nebraska Summer Writers Conference. Chapuran mentioned the annual NHSPZ meeting will be held the week of July 11 at UNL's city union. Cornelius mentioned that the NLA annual conference will be held the last week of September, probably at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, and requested the AFCON table from the afternoon of the 28th through the 30th. Comer mentioned that she would hand out AFCON materials at the NSRA board meeting July 15 and 26. Krutz mentioned that the Nebraska Center for the Book Festival would be hosted by Wesleyan University on Oct. 7th and 8th at Old Main Hall, and would feature U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser.

August 2005—No AFCON Board meeting. The next meeting is September 10, 2005.

AAUP Signs Statement on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

Washington, D.C. — The American Association of University Professors has joined with 26 national higher education associations in signing the joint *Statement on Academic Freedom and Responsibility*. The statement lays out five overarching principles that are widely shared in the academic community.

“We were happy to join our colleagues in another statement supporting academic freedom and intellectual integrity,” said Roger Bowen, general secretary of the AAUP. “Our Association has been singing this tune for 90 years. By now, we know the melody and the words pretty well.”

The joint statement emphasizes the importance of the independence of colleges and universities from government interference, and stresses that this autonomy “is essential for academic and intellectual excellence.” This emphasis directly opposes the recent campaign of conservative writer and political commentator, David Horowitz, and his associates in the group Students for Academic Freedom, to have restrictive legislation adopted in state legislatures. The legislation, called by the misleading title, “Academic Bill of Rights,” would have obligated universities and colleges to establish and enforce specific requirements with respect to the “scholarly methodologies and perspectives” presented by faculty in those states. Pennsylvania has decided to study the issue; no state has adopted the legislation.

“The joint statement simply reiterates widely accepted principles that we have always embraced, and it leaves out all the silliness that was in Horowitz’s legislative proposals,” Bowen commented.

The joint statement recognizes the important role of academic disciplinary societies, which provide a critical forum for competing academic ideas. “The validity of academic ideas, theories, arguments and views,” the statement says, “should be measured against the intellectual standards of relevant academic and professional disciplines.” Horowitz’s legislation, in contrast, would have required academic institutions and professional societies to “maintain a posture of organizational neutrality” in the case of scholarly disagreements, preferring that individual scholars be left free to “reach their own conclusions about which methods, facts, and theories have been validated by research,” without any inconvenient critical judgments proffered by colleagues in their field. The legislation would have required professional societies to give up their critical role in the creation, testing, and assessment of new knowledge.

“We join with our national colleagues to celebrate the diversity of institutions that make up higher education in

the U.S.,” Roger Bowen commented. “Among both public and private institutions, there is huge range of differences in character and mission; the faculty and leadership of each institution set the academic standards and tone for the campus. Horowitz’s legislation, unfortunately, proposed a one-size-fits all solution,” Bowen said. “The bills would have required faculty in small religious institutions as well as in major public research universities to present materials that ‘respect all human knowledge’ in their courses and that the institutions incorporate a ‘plurality of methodologies and perspectives’ in their programs.”

Addressing student rights, the joint statement notes that “grades should be based solely on considerations that are intellectually relevant to the subject matter under consideration,” that political opinions should not be relevant to student or faculty evaluations, and that there should be a “clear institutional process” available to any member of the academic community who has a grievance on these matters. In 1967, AAUP adopted a *Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students*, with four other national organizational sponsors. The 1967 policy document includes the rights and freedoms listed in this year’s joint statement, along with other rights and detailed guidance on student appeals. Most colleges and universities now have such grievance and appeal procedures for students.

1970 was another year when the AAUP spoke out on academic freedom and responsibility. Addressing a context of violence and serious disruptions on college campuses, the AAUP National Council said at that time, “Membership in the academic community imposes on students, faculty members, administrators, and trustees and obligation to respect the dignity of others, to acknowledge their right to express differing opinions, and foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and free expression on and off the campus.”

The Association is pleased to join our higher education colleagues this year in stating a continuing commitment to the ‘free exchange of ideas...in an environment characterized by openness, tolerance, and civility,’ in academic institutions all over the country that find their own way, without the involvement of government or political oversight of curricula and faculty.”

The American Association of University Professors is a nonprofit charitable and educational organization that promotes academic freedom by supporting tenure, academic due process, and standards of quality in higher education.

Robert Burns, AAUP, Dept. of Public Policy and Communications, 1012 14th Street, NW. #500, Washington, D.C. 20005

An Open Letter Concerning Religion and Science

Within the community of Christian believers there are areas of dispute and disagreement, including the proper way to interpret Holy Scripture. While virtually all Christians take the Bible seriously and hold it to be authoritative in matters of faith and practice, the overwhelming majority do not read the Bible literally, as they would a science textbook. Many of the beloved stories found in the Bible - the Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark - convey timeless truths about God, human beings, and the proper relationship between Creator and creation expressed in the only form capable of transmitting these truths from generation to generation. Religious truth is of a different order from scientific truth. Its purpose is not to convey scientific information but to transform hearts.

We the undersigned, Christian clergy from many different traditions, believe that the timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist. We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as one theory among others is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children. We believe that among

God's good gifts are human minds capable of critical thought and that the failure to fully employ this gift is a rejection of the will of our Creator. To argue that God's loving plan of salvation for humanity precludes the full employment of the God-given faculty of reason is to attempt to limit God, an act of hubris. We urge school board members to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution as a core component of human knowledge. We ask that science remain science and that religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary, forms of truth.

To view the list of thousands of religious leaders who have signed this letter already, please go to: http://www.uwosh.edu/colleges/cols/religion_science_collaboration.htm

If you would like to sign this letter, please send an e-mail to mz@uwosh.edu listing:

Your Title and Name
Affiliation/Church (optional)
City and State

(Editor: This letter is not an AFCON policy or position statement. It is simply a discussion on a matter of interest to many.)

“Books won’t stay banned. They won’t burn. Ideas won’t go to jail. In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost. The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas. The source of better ideas is wisdom. The surest path of wisdom is liberal education.”

—Whitney Griswold

FOR SALE BY AFCON

Send orders to Mel Krutz, 2625 Bluff Road, Seward, NE 68434-9801

Note cards with a Paul Fell design; \$1.50; four for \$5.00. Packaging and postage: \$0.75 per packet.

Reader’s Theatre Script of a TANGLED ISSUE: Student Freedom of Expression. \$10.00 buys the book with rights to duplicate the script and produce the play. Packaging and postage: \$2.00 each.

AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU (As of December 2004)

Dwayne Ball: "Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"
adball@alltel.net

Linda Beckstead: "Freedom of Student Press Issues"
BecksteadL@aol.com

Bob Haller: "Free the Students! Why Higher Education Needs a New Movement" and "How Books Can Harm You: Lessons of the Censors"
rhaller1@unl.edu

David Moshman: "Principles of Academic Freedom"
dmoshman1@unl.edu

John Bender and David Moshman: "Student Freedom of Expression/Student Rights"
bender@unl.edu
dmoshman1@unl.edu

Mark Weddleton and Laurie Thomas Lee: "Implications of the USA Patriot Act"
mark@weddleton.com
llee1@unl.edu

Presentation of the Readers' Theatre production of A Tangled Web: Student Freedom of Expression (a cast of adults and students)

ADDRESS FOR THE AFCON WEB SITE

<http://www.AFCONeBr.org>

Check it out and learn Who We Are and about Our Activities; read our Constitution; learn how to Join Us; see the where and when of our Meetings; meet our Members and Officers; Study our Publications, Principles, and Statements



Nebraska Book Festival, October 7-8 at Wesleyan University



Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate and 2005 Pulitzer Prize winner, will headline the 14th annual Nebraska Book Festival. This year's festival is hosted by Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, and as always, is supported by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, with major funding by the Nebraska Humanities Council. The event celebrates Nebraska's rich literary heritage and promotes the state's growing population of talented, contemporary writers. Everyone is welcome to participate in the sessions about reading and writing and all things under the umbrella of "the book." The theme for the 2005 Nebraska Book Festival is *Local Won-*

ders, from the title of Ted Kooser's book about living in Nebraska's Bohemian Alps. Everyone who attends the festival on Saturday will receive a free copy, donated by the University of Nebraska Press.

The festival begins October 7 in the late afternoon with café and coffeehouse readings, a reception, and a screening of *King of the Corner*, Peter Riegert's film based on Gerald Shapiro's collection of stories, *Bad Jews and Other Stories*. Shapiro, UNL professor of fiction writing and Jewish-American literature, will participate.

At 10:30 am on October 8, Ted Kooser will read and discuss his poetry. Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefkorn will speak at the luncheon where attendees

will honor the winners of the Mildred Bennett Award and the Nebraska Center for the Book "Book Awards."

Saturday's panels will include the state of book publishing, how to publish in creative journals, ways for book groups to probe a book, and discussion among historical Nebraska author organizations. All Friday and Saturday events, except for the luncheon are free and open to the public. The Luncheon cost of \$10.00 is payable at the door.

For updates and the complete schedule, see the Nebraska Center for the Book web site www.nebraskabookfestival.org or contact Jim Schaffer, Festival Director, jrs@nebrwesleyan.edu or 402-465-2352.

REQUEST FOR NEWS FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The editor of the AFCON SENTINEL invites all AFCON individual and organizational members to send news about academic freedom issues in Nebraska or editorial comments for inclusion in this newsletter and/or announcements of organizational meetings for the UPCOMING EVENTS column.

Due date for submissions to the **December 16, 2005**, issue is **November 21, 2005**.

Send to Tom Black, editor, 610 West Park, West Point, NE 68788 or wpc6296@cablone.net

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

By Dwayne Ball

(Sources are the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (CHE), the newsletters of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (F.I.R.E.), and various newspapers and other sources as noted.)

FREEDOM OF SPEECH ON CAMPUS. **Seminole Community College** denied a student the right to distribute material for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals on campus. When challenged regarding why distribution of some materials were not allowed and others were, the viewpoint-based nature of the restrictions were obvious, and the College reversed itself a day later. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletters of 6/15 & 6/16/05)

Washington State University's Office for Campus Involvement (a "diversity" center) purchased tickets for 40 students to attend a student production of a play, "The Passion of the Musical." The play was advertised as irreverent, politically incorrect, and deliberately offensive. During the play, the 40 students stood up and heckled the play in an attempt to halt the production. Washington State University's president refused to censure the hecklers, calling their actions a responsible exercise of free speech. The University police, when asked to remove the hecklers, instead suggested that offensive material be changed. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 7/18/05).

Washburn University in Topeka, KS, has the right to place a statue deemed "anti-Catholic" on its campus, ruled a Federal appeals court. According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, "The sculpture, a bronze bust called 'Holier Than Thou,' depicts a scowling Roman Catholic clergyman whose headgear, some viewers say, resembles a penis." (CHE 8/3/05)

PRESS FREEDOM ON CAMPUS.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit has ruled that a dean at Illinois-based **Governors State University** is immune from a lawsuit filed by a student publication, the *Innovator*. The dean demanded the right of prior

and now has it. This ruling extends Hazelwood, a 1988 case allowing administrators prior censorship rights over high-school publications, into universities in the states covered by the 7th Circuit. (CHE June 21, 2005)

Craven Community College, in North Carolina, however, has voluntarily backed off from its position of demanding prior censorship rights over the student newspaper. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 6/22/05).

ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN THE CLASSROOM. **LeMoyné College** is being sued by education student Scott McConnell. As previously reported in these pages, McConnell expressed reservations about multiculturalism and lax discipline standards in a term paper, and was expelled by the college for having the wrong viewpoints for an education student. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 5/5/05)

Dartmouth College has eliminated its speech code after being featured on the F.I.R.E. speech code database, www.speechcodes.org. The college has further declared that it will no longer allow the provisions of the speech code to be used as a basis for discrimination or other complaints. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 5/9/05). Possibly this is connected to the election of two new trustees by the alumni, who publicly stated that their goal was to eliminate such speech restrictions (CHE 5/13).

The **State University of New York at Brockport** settled a lawsuit brought by F.I.R.E. attorneys by eliminating its speech code. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 5/10/05)

Rhode Island College has told conservative social work student Bill Felkner that he may no longer pursue their MSW. He has refused to participate in mandatory internship activities that require him to "promote progressive social causes" in which he does not believe. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 5/26/05)

David Horowitz's Academic Bill of Rights (considered by 15 state legislatures but so far passed by none), has

generated significant response from various academic interest groups. The latest was a statement of the American Council on Higher Education (ACHE) and over two dozen other education groups, affirming the rights of students and faculty holding unpopular opinions to the unfettered expression of those opinions, without fear of reprisal. Mr. Horowitz issued a statement saying it was a victory for academic freedom. The statement by ACHE is available on their website. (CHE June 23, 2005)

The Global Colloquium of University Presidents has issued a statement affirming academic freedom rights world-wide. (CHE July 2, 2005)

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives, by passing resolution HR 177, has formed a panel to investigate allegations that conservative students have had their opinions suppressed in the classroom, have been exposed to classroom political indoctrination by faculty, and have been graded unfairly based on viewpoint at the state's public universities and colleges. (CHE July 7, 2005)

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION ON CAMPUS The **Milwaukee School of Engineering's** Student Government Association is now recognizing the ReJOYce in Jesus Campus Fellowship, after first denying them rights as a student organization. They demand that members live in accordance with their statement of faith to remain members (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 4/22/05)

The **University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire** student senate has banned groups that require "a particular ideological, religious, or partisan viewpoint" (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 4/27).

Princeton University has now recognized a Christian student group to which it had previously denied recognition based on viewpoint. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 5/11/05). Other universities similarly forced to eliminate or substantially revise unconstitutional speech codes by F.I.R.E. legal action are Shippensburg State U., Citrus College, and Texas Tech.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS (Continued from page 7.)

FACULTY EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS DePaul University has suspended professor Thomas Klocek without a hearing for engaging in a harsh debate over Israel with student members of two Moslem organizations at a student activities fair. Dr. Klocek argued that a Christian point of view should be included in the debate, and the argument became heated. The University allowed him to teach only one class in the following semester, which was to be "monitored." (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 5/18/05)

The **University of Oregon** has revised a controversial diversity plan to remove provisions that would have required faculty to be reviewed for "cultural competency" for tenure and for post-tenure review. In other words, professors

could be terminated for failing to sufficiently appreciate "diversity." "I was hired to teach chemistry and do research," said Michael Kellman, a chemistry professor. "I wasn't hired to be evaluated and even interrogated about cultural competency, whatever that is." (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 5/27/05)

The **University of Montana** law school will allow professor Robert G. Natelson to teach constitutional law. As previously reported in these pages, Natelson was denied this opportunity, despite constitutional law being his area of expertise, because his views are conservative. After a formal complaint, a hearing, and negative publicity, the University reversed its previous denial. (F.I.R.E. e-mail newsletter 7/20/05).

Macquarie University, in Sydney, Australia, has suspended the teaching rights of law professor Andrew Fraser for his public statements. He argued

that the admission of additional immigrants from Africa into Australia would cause increases in crime, and made further statements judged inflammatory and racist by the university. (CHE, 8/3/05)

RESEARCH FREEDOM The chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce has called for an investigation of the research and grants of 3 professors who have presented evidence of global warming and the causal effects of fossil-fuel burning. In an obvious attempt at intimidation of the global climate research community, U.S. Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tex.) has launched an investigation into the work of professors Michael E. Mann at the **University of Virginia**, Raymond S. Bradley at the **University of Massachusetts at Amherst**, and Malcolm K. Hughes at the **University of Arizona**.

SIECUS Press Statement: HHS' 4parents.gov Website Inaccurate and Ineffective

National Public Health Professionals find HHS' 4parents.gov Website inaccurate and ineffective. Includes Multiple Inaccuracies, Misleading Information, and Biases

New York, NY – On July 13, Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) sent a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt to inform the Secretary that four leading scientists found that the U.S. Department of Human Services' website, www.4parents.gov, was inaccurate and ineffective. National experts in infectious disease, adolescent sexuality, reproductive health, and adolescent development reviewed the website at the request of Representative Waxman and found that it contained multiple inaccuracies, misleading information, and biases.

"As the premiere guardian of the nation's health, HHS should provide parents and caregivers with medically accurate and inclusive information that will promote the health and well being of all of our families," said Bill Smith, vice president for public policy of the Sexuality Information and Education of the U.S. (SIECUS). "SIECUS applauds Representative Waxman for taking this bold action on behalf of the nation's families to help ensure that they receive the scientifically sound information they need." Smith continued.

The experts identified major problems with

the site, including:

4parents.gov provides inaccurate information about sexually transmitted diseases. The website understates the effectiveness of condoms, provides false information about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and misstates the risks of various types of sexual behavior.

4parents.gov's dismissive message on contraception is likely to backfire. The website's emphasis on condom failure rates will leave youth more likely to have unprotected sex.

4parents.gov uses inappropriate language and provides incomplete information about sexual orientation. The site errs by referring to gay and lesbian "lifestyles" rather than "people," and does not explain to parents that youth questioning their sexual orientation are at increased risk for suicide most often because of rejection, ostracism, harassment, and violence by other peers and adults.

4parents.gov degrades divorced and single parents. The site suggests that divorce and single parenthood are responsible for the nation's social ills.

4parents.gov has misplaced priorities. While the site primarily addresses teen sex, its emphasis on what it considers other unhealthy behaviors is inappropriate. For example, the experts found that tattoos and body piercing receive more attention than alcohol and tobacco use.

"**4parents.gov** falls far short of what par-

ents and caregivers need in order to talk effectively to their children about sex and relationships, and instead uses fear, censorship, and ideology that only serves to divide American families," Smith said. "HHS should heed the concerns of the nation's top public health professionals and immediately take the website down for extensive review and revisions," Smith continued.

Earlier this year, SIECUS and more than 150 public health organization asked that the website be immediately taken down and that HHS launch a formal review of its content and techniques for communication and behavioral learning. These organizations uniformly felt that the website presents biased and inaccurate information as fact and does not address the needs of many youth, including sexually active youth, youth who have been or are being sexually abused, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. To date, Secretary Leavitt has not responded to the organizations' concerns.

"All of us agree that parents should be the primary sexuality educators of their children. Therefore it is critical that parents have all of the information, resources, and skills they need to tackle this complex issue," said Smith. "It is, after all, HHS' mission to lead all Americans to better health, safety, and well-being," said Smith.

AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue
Oakland, NE 68045.

Mailing
Address
Label

ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

HELP AFCON PROMOTE ACADEMIC FREEDOM

As a member of AFCON, you can help us

- ◆ support applications of the First Amendment in academic contexts, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.
- ◆ educate Nebraskans about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom, intellectual diversity, mutual respect, open communication, and uninhibited pursuit of knowledge, including the role of these ideals in academic contexts and in democratic self-government.
- ◆ assist students, teachers, librarians, and researchers confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of ideas.
- ◆ act as liaison among groups in Nebraska that support academic freedom.

MEMBERSHIP (To become a member, send dues, organization or individual name, address, and phone number to Cathi McMurtry, 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045)

Organizational Membership (\$100) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board and one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, and eligibility for office and chairing standing committees and provides newsletter subscription for the board member to share with the organization's information director and reduced rates to AFCON conferences for its members.

Individual Membership (\$10) provides newsletter subscription, eligibility for office and for chairing standing committees, reduced rates for AFCON conferences, and one vote at annual meetings.

Student Membership (\$5) entitles full-time students to the same privileges as provided by the Individual Membership.

**AFCON ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS, PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR MEMBERS.
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT.**