

General Gayety

by Leslie Robinson . Contributing Writer

Doom for marriage and the family



know something I don't? I thought it was just indigestion.

I can think of only two possible explanations for the AFA choosing to ques-

tion whether the recipient would be alive in 60 days. Perhaps the group's membership is elderly and the AFA decided to be frank and rude. Or maybe the AFA folks, on principle, always allow for the possibility that the Rapture could alter the best-laid plans.

But of course it was the second part of the statement that had me ripping open the envelope. What did Donald Wildmon and his American Family Association consider one of the biggest days in America's moral history?

I wish I'd guessed wrong, but the fellow is as predictable as Popeye with a can of spinach. It's Election Day that Wildmon has in his sights, because that's when Californians can undo their Supreme Court's decision allowing same-sex marriage.

In his letter to the faithful — and nosy others — he lamented how the court "overruled both the 'will of the people' and the design of Almighty God." He bemoaned how out-of-state gay couples marrying in California will unleash legal challenges all over the country.

In the most highlighted statement, he aimed to scare the dickens out of his supporters: "On November 4 — about three months

from now — if we do not stop the drive to legalize marriage between homosexuals, that battle will be lost."

As California goes, so goes the nation. That big sucking sound is the U.S. of A. going down the morality toilet.

What can citizens do to prevent the imminent demise of the Ty-D-Bol Man? "For the sake of your children and the future of our nation," Wildmon knows precisely how Americans can help.

Californians will be voting on Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment forbidding gay marriage, and the AFA is producing a documentary called "Prop 8 and the Case Against Homosexual Marriage." The organization wants to distribute the film to its California members and churches working to pass the ballot initiative.

"I'm counting on you to underwrite production and distribution costs of this documentary," Wildmon wrote. That sounded a mite pushy to me, but when you consider that "it is crucial to our nation's survival" that Prop 8 pass, how can I quibble?

On the payment slip accompanying the letter the AFA supporter commits both to help pass Prop 8 and to pray for the nation. Apparently doing just one isn't an option.

As it happens, I feel like doing two things: promise my girlfriend no more snooping and add the letter to the recycling. America will benefit from both. ▀

info: LesRobinsn@aol.com . www.GeneralGayety.com

You never know what strange things you'll find when you snoop.

My girlfriend is away for several weeks, so I'm staying at her place, looking after the house and animals. While perusing her mail, I noticed a solicitation from Dr. Donald E. Wildmon of the American Family Association (AFA).

A lesbian receiving mail from the AFA is like a Jew receiving mail from the American Nazi Party.

Boy, I thought, did she get on the wrong list. Perhaps an angry ex wanted to do something more creative than key her car.

Then I noticed the letter was addressed to her mother. That explained it. When it comes to conservative Christian fervor, her mom makes Pat Robertson look like he's faking.

The words printed on the front of the envelope guaranteed I'd take my snooping a step further. I had to open the envelope. I hope the U.S. Postal Service doesn't hear about this.

Here are the words that hooked me: "If you are alive in 60 days, you will witness one of the most momentous days in America's moral history."

Were I the intended recipient, I'd be concerned. If I'm alive in 60 days? Does the AFA

‘guest commentary’

by Mitchell Luna

HIV Disclosure & Prevention: Stop legislating, start listening

"You have HIV" are the most difficult words I have ever had to hear. At only 26 years old in 1999, "How long do I have left?" was the first question to come out of my mouth when our doctor told me and my 19-year-old boyfriend my test had come back positive. Everything I thought my life was about changed with three words, three letters, in three seconds. Indeed, as far as I was concerned, life was over.

Growing up gay in the South, haters masquerading as Christians told me that for being gay I would get AIDS, die and go to hell. I wondered if they were right, and I hated myself more than ever.

Just like a smoker with cancer blaming a tobacco company for my sickness, I was looking for anyone else to blame — anyone but me. How could this happen? Who infected me? Who was to blame? I had a policy of using condoms except for in monogamous relationships with guys who maintained their alleged

negative status. Looking back, I know those times were life-altering mistakes.

Supposedly my HIV status is a confidential issue protected by law. Therefore, it is a contradiction to mandate disclosure by any law or court. Being HIV positive does not preclude my rights as a citizen under the Constitution of the United States. Thus, any law that requires me to tell someone I am HIV positive is a violation of the Constitution. Some people have been prosecuted in several states, including the Carolinas, for not disclosing their positive status to allegedly negative partners who subsequently sero-converted.

No doubt, government regulation of sex could potentially make the world safer, just as totalitarian government could eradicate deviant behavior. Then freedom would become but a distant memory of the decadent times when individuals were actually entrusted with the power to make decisions for themselves.

••••• Last Call •••••

Q-Notes has unveiled a revamped website and will soon be making more exciting changes.

As a part of our growing online presence, Q-Notes is searching for up to three online staff bloggers.

These volunteer writers would work with the editor to determine their specific coverage area and topic. Writers would be responsible for at least two submissions per week. We are especially seeking bloggers from the Triangle Area, South Carolina and Western North Carolina.

Persons of color, women, gender-variant people, seniors and students are encouraged to apply.

For more information, email editor@q-notes.com.

HOUSE OF AFRICA

If you can't get to Africa...
then let Africa come to you.



1215 Thomas Avenue
off Central Avenue between
Pecan and The Plaza
Charlotte, NC
704-376-6160

Hours:
Mon. - Sat. 11 am - 8 pm

For more African Art:
Safari International
1504 Central Avenue
704-376-6116

The House of Africa/Pape's Art Gallery offers the area's largest selection of African art including:
lion and zebra skins, statues, exquisite art, antique and contemporary masks, clothing, jewelry and herbal medicines

We buy interesting & worthwhile used books & Compact Discs.



Books Do Furnish A Room
1809 W Markham Avenue • 286-1076
(Between 9th & Broad) Durham



"CHARLOTTE'S BEST PLACE FOR VINTAGE FURNITURE, JEWELRY, CLOTHING & OTHER COOL STUFF"



4450 SOUTH BOULEVARD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28209
704.529.6369