

NATIONAL NEWS

...Officials in Cumberland, Maryland, have moved a Ten Commandments monument back onto the Allegany County Courthouse lawn. Last week, commissioners moved it 30 yards to private property in hopes of pre-empting a possible lawsuit alleging that it amounted to state-sponsored religion. Then they ordered it moved back a day later in the face of public outcry and after the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to consider a Texas case involving a similar monument. Courts around the country have disagreed on whether such displays violate separation of church and state. Allegany County commissioners say they will make a final decision regarding the monument's location after the court rules.

...As a pre-election guide for pro-family voters, Concerned Women for America (CWA) has issued a review of the victories and failures of the 108th Congress. Robert Knight of CWA's Culture and Family Institute says it is important for pro-family Americans to understand that a direct correlation exists between their vote and the decisions made by their elected representatives on issues like abortion, religious freedom, and judicial activism. He notes that just before the members of Congress returned home to campaign, House-Senate conferees scored significant victories for life and religious freedom by taking military-funded abortions and "hate crimes" language out of the final version of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Although Knight is glad the abortion and hate crime provisions were removed by the lawmakers, he says, "Regrettably, they also took out good language increasing fines for

broadcast indecency." Next, the CFI spokesman says Congress needs to turn its attention towards judicial tyranny, "in which judges are ignoring law and acting like dictators." Overall, Knight says America needs more legislators who recognize the judicial activism problem and will support laws to put the judges in their place.

...It has been widely reported in Washington that more than two dozen radical Islamic terrorists from Russia may be inside America's borders. Newspaper and terrorism experts are concerned about a recent incident along the U.S. Southern border. Jim Phillips of the Heritage Foundation says, "Roughly 25 Chechens were seen in northern Mexico getting ready to cross the border, and it points out the continuing threat of terrorism and the continuing vulnerability of our borders -- not just the Mexican border but also the Canadian border." Those terrorists are believed to be part of the same radical Islamic group that attacked the elementary school in Beslan, Russia, killing hundreds of children.

Also, Phillips says the U.S. military has documented that up to seven former detainees at the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba have returned to their terrorist activities in Iraq and Pakistan -- something the Heritage Foundation spokesman says he expected would happen. Before being freed from Guantanamo Bay, detainees are required to sign a pledge to renounce violence. Nevertheless, an additional five former detainees have been killed or recaptured in terrorist attacks on U.S. troops.

...According to Gary Bauer of

Campaign for Working Families, Senator and Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry has managed to win the trust and support of one religious group -- Muslims. According to Bauer, virtually every major national Islamic group in the United States has endorsed the Kerry ticket, and now even Muslim leaders abroad are joining the Kerry "bandwagon." He says the prime minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, even sent an open letter to American Muslims urging them to vote for John Kerry and asserting that President Bush "is the cause of the tragedies in Afghanistan, Palestine, and Iraq," while voting for Kerry would be an "ibadah"-- an act of religious devotion and worship. But Bauer says Dr. Mohamad is "a notorious anti-Semite and all around thug" who "thinks Afghanistan was a good place when the Taliban were in control." Also, the U.S. conservative pundit says, Mohamad preferred Iraq under Saddam Hussein's rule and sees Yassir Arafat as "the hope of the Palestinians." Bauer feels it is significant that the Malaysian leader has chosen Kerry as "his man and suggests it might be worth asking, "why a notorious 'hate America' demagogue like Mohamad thinks it is a religious duty for Muslims to vote for Kerry."

...The Federal Communications Commission is considering a record fine against Fox Broadcasting for violating indecency standards, and a spokesman for the American Family Association says it is about time the government agency started doing its job. The FCC is proposing a \$1.2 million penalty against Fox because of an episode of the reality show *Married by America*, which aired last year. AFA executive assistant Buddy Smith says the federal agency was forced to take action because the network had

"crossed the line of community standards." He says the commissioners' punitive actions against Fox should encourage parents and other decency standards proponents that "we should remain vigilant and shouldn't give up. There are times when we make our voices heard and it seems like nothing happens, but in this situation, the FCC did the right thing." Smith is commending the government agency for finally taking meaningful action against Fox. Still, he says a huge problem of non-enforcement remains in the FCC, just as a huge problem remains in the U.S. Justice Department, with Attorney General John Ashcroft and his department taking, for the most part, mere token action against the pornography industry.

...One of America's most popular conservative pundits says she doubts anything will come of a Federal Bureau of Investigation probe into possible campaign fundraising violations by Senator Hillary Clinton. In an article in the October 6 edition of *USA Today*, Associated Press reported that a U.S. magistrate in Los Angeles was told by the FBI that it has evidence the Hillary Clinton campaign in 2000 deliberately understated its fundraising costs. But author and columnist Ann Coulter does not think the case is likely to go anywhere since Clinton is, after all, a Democrat. It might be another matter, the author asserts, "if this were any Republican who had been found to have violated their precious campaign finance laws." The acerbic Coulter quips that if Tom DeLay is caught jaywalking there is likely to be a 60 Minutes special on it; she adds that U.S. liberals will not be satisfied until they possess mug shots of Matt Drudge, Rush Limbaugh, and herself.