

The Price of a Moral Stand

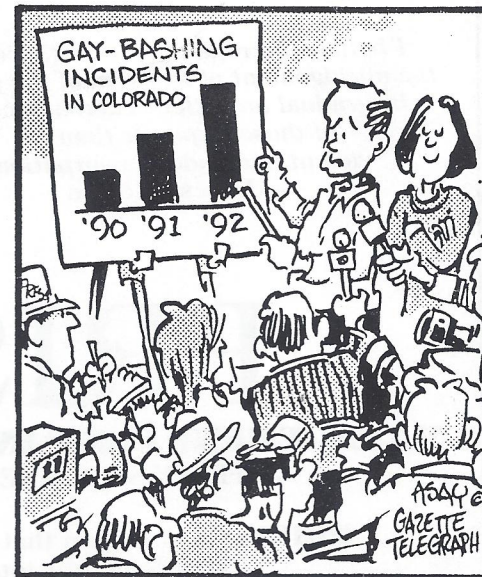
During the last election, Colorado voters approved Amendment 2, which forbids state and local governments to treat homosexuals as a protected class. No Colorado resident has been deprived of constitutional rights as a result of the amendment; the measure is simply a rebuke to the unconstitutional practice of assigning "rights" to favored groups — in this case, homosexuals. Will Perkins of Colorado for Family Values, which sponsored the amendment, explains, "Our objective has never been to discriminate. Our position is that sexual orientation is not an acceptable criterion for special rights."

Left Reaction

The institutional left reacted to the passage of Amendment 2 in predictable fashion: It undertook to impose sanctions upon the state. Several large conventions planned for Colorado were canceled. The city governments of Philadelphia and Atlanta enacted measures banning purchases of Colorado products and forbidding city employees to travel to Colorado on business. The 1993 National Conference of Mayors had been planned for Denver; following the enactment of Amendment 2 the event's organizers announced plans to select a different location. Disciples of political correctness also demanded a boycott of Colorado's ski industry, which generates \$1.2 billion in consumer spending and \$113 million in local tax revenue every year.

Hollywood's elite joined the chorus of Colorado's critics. Speaking at a November 18th Hollywood AIDS benefit, Barbra Streisand urged a Hollywood boycott of Colorado: "We must now say clearly that the moral climate there is no longer acceptable, and if we're asked to, we must refuse to play where they discriminate."

Once the warm glow of self-adulation given off by Streisand's speech dimmed, Hollywood remembered that Colorado is a favorite vacation spot for many entertainers. Although Hollywood can look kindly upon sexual depravity, it is invincibly committed to the sanctity of



its leisure activities, and many in Hollywood were less than enthusiastic about the prospect of canceling holiday vacation plans. In addition, several celebrities who live in Aspen protested that Streisand's proposed boycott would injure those who had voted against Amendment 2.

Faced with the unexpected disapproval of her peers, Streisand did what any devout humanist does when snared in a moral predicament — she lied. In a statement released on November 24th, Streisand chirped, "I have not called for a boycott." Unfortunately for Streisand, her November 18th speech had been captured on videotape and broadcast to the nation.

The Media Campaign

The Establishment media has attempted to link passage of Amendment 2 to murkily alleged anti-homosexual "hate crimes." The November 23rd issue of *Newsweek* reported, "Many activists see the vote as tacitly sanctioning gay bashing.... If Colorado is any example, such initiatives [as Amendment 2] could trigger ugly consequences." The story ended on a melodramatic note intended to illustrate the alleged "ugly consequences": "A day after the vote, a man dying of AIDS wrote a note saying, 'I refuse to live in a state where a few

people can, at will, make my life a living hell.' Then he killed himself."

Newsweek was too busy peddling pathos to inform its readers that Marty Booker, the young man who killed himself, was a seriously troubled individual who had tried to kill himself twice before. His former boss informed the *Denver Post* that Booker "had a lot of problems other than Amendment 2; he was generally unstable."

Booker's suicide received national attention in the press. The December 1st desecration of Denver's Basilica of the Immaculate Conception by AIDS activists did not. The likeness of the Virgin Mary was disfigured with red paint and the Basilica was littered with condoms; billboards bearing the likeness of Pope John Paul II were also vandalized. Responsibility for these gestures of hatred was claimed in an anonymous phone call to the *Denver Post*: "Today is World AIDS Day, as you know. We've made a statement at six sites." Although it did not directly claim responsibility for the acts, the Denver chapter of ACT-UP described the incident as a manifestation of justified "rage."

Even as they battle the political demands of the homosexual lobby, supporters of Amendment 2 have consistently denounced incidents of anti-homosexual violence and harassment.

The homosexual lobby, by way of contrast, believes that the desecration of religious sites is an acceptable form of protest. Guess which side the media depicts as the purveyors of "hate"?

Campaign Against Christianity

Many in the media are doing their level best to arouse hostility against conservative Christians in Colorado. The November 15th issue of the *Denver Post* depicted Colorado Springs (the home of Colorado for Family Values, as well as James Dobson's Focus on the Family and other conservative groups) as a community that has been polarized by the presence of Evangelical Christians. A December 13th Associated Press story embroidered this idea, reporting that some Colorado Springs residents regard the Evangelicals as "a threat to the city's cultural diversity, schools and civil liberties." A third article, written by Alan Gottlieb and Virginia Culver and distributed by the Religious News Service, described the atmosphere in the city as "oppressive" and "stifling" and drew a none-too-subtle parallel between the influence of the conservative activists and the effects of environmental pollution. According to Gottlieb and Culver, "Those opposed [to the Evangelicals] represent a broad spectrum: Protestants, Jews, stalwart Republicans, educators and business people."

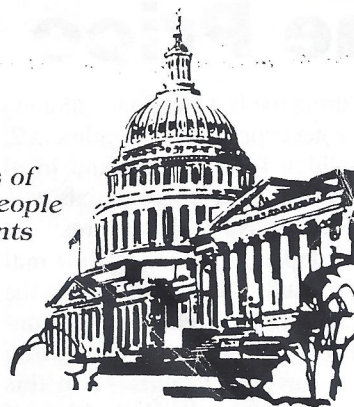
Ironically, some Evangelical organizations moved to Colorado Springs in response to economic incentives developed by the city government, which sought to attract large, non-industrial business to the area. The religious organizations provide thousands of jobs to the city without polluting the environment. Amendment 2 could not have passed without support from a "broad spectrum" of interests within the state's electorate. But through the boycott and the media campaign against Colorado, the Establishment is telling the state, in no uncertain terms, that it must suppress its conservative Christian element and curb its appetite for unauthorized acts of self-government.

One Denver radio talk show host predicts that Colorado may soon witness open persecution of Evangelical Christians. Such a development is not unlikely, and if it comes it will be ignored by the custodians of "compassion." ■

— WILLIAM NORMAN GRIGG

I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpation.

— James Madison



PRISM

MANAGEMENT COMPANY, INCORPORATED

JEFFREY S. SKINNER, *PRESIDENT*

PRISM: Any medium that resolves a seemingly simple matter into its elements

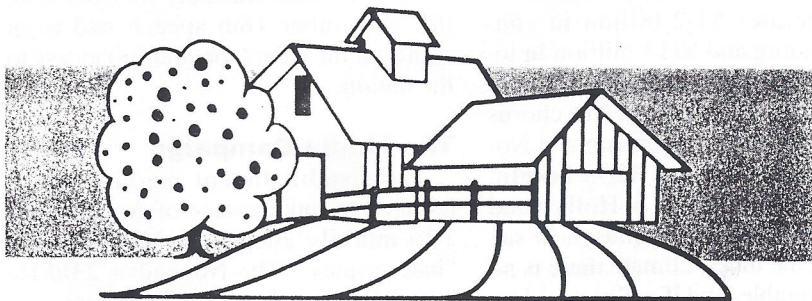
CONSULTANTS and ACTUARIES

Serving Dental Practices Exclusively

(818) 363-3163

Post Office Box 7007, Porter Ranch Station, Northridge CA 91327

Osceola



Farm & Home Store

A Complete Line Of:

Garden Tools

Patio & Picnic Needs

Farm Supplies

Products By:

CORNOVAN

714 McLane Highway 34 West Osceola, Iowa 50213 (515) 342-4990