

Summer 2003

Orlean Koehle – President, Doug Thomson - Editor

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**Gross, Grosser, and Grossest –
How Far Have We Sunk in Children’s Literature?**

By Orlean Koehle,
President, Eagle Forum of California. Former
teacher of speech, drama, and journalism,
now substitute teaching.

Whatever happened to beautiful
classical literature in our public
schools, where students read about
the lives of real heroes, from whom
they can learn and emulate great
character traits? It appears now that
the adjectives of choice for literature
in the classroom are either gross or
funny, and the grosser the funnier.
Some teachers or students don’t
seem to have any expectations that
moral teachings or redeeming values
will be learned – just that students
will be entertained.

violation of an education code that all teachers are supposed to adhere to: California ED Code 233.5a states that teachers are to “impress upon the minds of the pupils the principles of morality, . . . dignity, . . . to avoid profanity, . . . and to instruct them in manners and morals . . .”

Griffith’s book is teaching just the opposite of morality. Many of the words in his books would be classified as profane. I urge all teachers to please follow the ed code when you select books to have in your classroom or to read to your students – books that elevate children not degrade them with embarrassing, gross, “toilet talk humor.”

And I urge parents to become more involved in finding out what kind of literature is in the classroom. If your child’s teacher is reading gross books to your child, hold that teacher accountable for violation of the education code he or she is supposed to be upholding. When a teacher signs their contract with the schools, they sign a statement in which they promise to uphold the Constitution of the United States as well as the Constitution of the State of California. Make sure they live by the codes and oaths that they have promised to uphold in their signed contracts.

What did I do about this book? I wrote a two-page article about it in which I told more about the author and other gross books that he has written. I sent it out over the internet. I wrote a letter to the principal of the school including my article, I spoke at a Healdsburg School Board meeting and gave them each a copy of my article. A reporter who was there at the meeting asked for a shorter version for the Healdsburg newspaper, which was published. I have since spoken with the principal. She is very supportive and totally agrees with me about refusing to read such a book in a school classroom. She had had other experiences with this same teacher concerning other inappropriate material used in the classroom. The principal passed copies of my article on to other parents who had complained after hearing their children talk about the book, and she is using my article as evidence to try to not have this teacher rehired next year. We can make a difference and improve our children's schools if we will just be bold and stand for what we know is right and decent and fight against that which is not. (To read the two-page article go to www.eagleforumofcalifornia.com.)

I recently discovered what I consider the “grossest” of all books that I have seen in a public school classroom. I was substitute teaching for a fourth grade in a school in Healdsburg. The book the teacher had been reading to the class and from which I was expected to read was entitled *The Day My Butt Went Psycho* by supposedly a best-selling Australian author, Andy Griffiths and published by Scholastic. The front cover states, “The epic tale of one brave boy and his crazy, runaway butt.” It has everything one would expect in such a book, lots of usage of words like “fart,” the weapon of choice for runaway butts and even a glossary of gross terms at the end.

To the dismay of some of the students, I refused to read from what they called the “Butt Book.” When they asked why, I replied, “Even the author himself on the back cover says his book is rated G for gross and not meant for adults. I am an adult and I don’t read gross things.” I told them that I felt literature should have some redeeming value or it is a waste of time.

I also told them that reading such a book would be in

SUSD Graduation

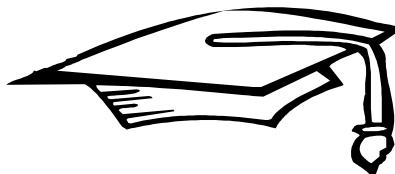
By Sharon Kientz
NEA, CTA Issues Director

Sierra Unified School District is located in the Sierra foothills of eastern Fresno County. The district serves a large geographic area including the small, rural communities of Auberry, Prather and Tollhouse. It is a haven of reason within the public school system as many teachers, administrators, and trustees make decisions grounded on their Christian faith and their understanding of the first amendment.

A beautiful example of this Christian leadership was evident at Sierra High School's graduation exercises that occurred on Thursday evening, June 12th. School policy allows

commencement speakers to express their personal religious beliefs without censure.

Del Griffith, senior class president,



uttered these wonderful words in his welcoming speech: "As I look back on all these great memories and accomplishments I give God all my praise for how He has blessed my life. I have found that in all this there is only one place to find my strength, satisfaction, peace, and identity, and that is in Christ Jesus."

This statement was met with applause from the hundreds of gathered

family members. Del closed his speech with, "I wish you all the best of luck in your journey through life, but if you are in need, or feel unsure, always remember there is hope in the living God."

Tom Spencer, the interim principal who is leaving the district for a position with a Catholic elementary school, spoke with courage and conviction when he said, "I give God the praise and honor and glory."

Contrast Del and Tom's freedom of religious expression with the repression of all reference to God in most public schools. The families in SUSD are truly blessed in having Christian witnesses and Constitutional adherents in roles of leadership and decision making.

Collegian Summit Scholarship Winners, Jose Ochoa, and Jonathan Krive:

Congratulations to two outstanding young men who won the state and national Eagle Forum Collegian Summit Scholarship Contest with their winning essays. Their reward was free transportation and attendance costs at the national Eagle Forum Collegian Summit, June 12-13 in Washington D.C. They were Jose Ochoa from Sacramento and Jonathan Krive from Petaluma. Jose wrote about a successful Pro-Life Event he helped with on his college campus in Sacramento and Jonathan wrote about "The Great Pillars of our Government, Virtue, Morality and Religion." They both returned from the Summit with glowing reports about the great events, speakers, and the fellowship with other like-minded, conservative college students from over 120 universities across the nation. They both express their gratitude to Eagle Forum and its donors for making this exciting experience possible for them. Jonathan writes, "I thoroughly enjoyed the summit and appreciate all yours [California Eagle Forum] and Eagle Forum's contributions so that I could go."

Smaller Learning Communities--The New Face of School-to-Work

By Susan O'Donnell
Issues Director, Eagle Forum of California

All over the country, high schools are being transformed into "smaller learning communities."

(SLCs, for short), also known as "small schools."

What are they? Small schools are created when a large high school is broken into a number of smaller schools-within-a-school, each with its own career-oriented curriculum emphasis.

The benefits, according to small school supporters, are numerous: better test scores, lower dropout rates, less violence, better attendance, improved behavior, higher achievement for low-income and minority students, and better preparation for the workplace.

Proponents rave that small schools are more personal, caring, intimate, and equitable; students and teachers get to know each other better; and students find school more 'relevant.'

If one reads local newspaper articles about how the small school reform comes to each school, the scenario described is remarkably the same. First, there is general dissatisfaction with the large, impersonal, underachieving high school. Someone, such as the district superintendent, proposes the small school idea that he has heard about, to the school board. Described in glowing terms (see above) that almost everyone is favorable to, the proposal is met with enthusiasm. Unbeknownst to most people, the small school idea, its strategy for change, its governance, the

career emphases, its funding, etc. have all been pre-packaged, so there is really no need for anyone involved (administrators, school board, teachers, and members of the public) to do any real innovating. The formula has already been worked out and replicated many times.

Public school districts may apply to the U.S. Department of Education for grants for the Smaller Learning Communities Program. Nonprofit groups can apply for some of the \$31 million that the Gates Foundation (funded by Bill and Melinda Gates) has committed to the founding of small, alternative high schools. Gates has contributed over \$400 million for small schools in the past three years.

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The Center for Collaborative Education (www.ccebos.org) is just one organization devoted to assisting school districts in transforming their high schools into small schools. It is funded by a long list of foundations, including the Gates, Annenberg, Carnegie, Walton Family, and others.

Lost in the shuffle is the main point, which Minnesota State Senator Michele Bachmann wrote about in her new booklet, "Fed Ed in the Classroom: Smaller Learning Communities Preparing Workers for a State Planned Economy." The SLC high school has really been designed for the purposes of the school-to-work transformation, not for the benefits that are used to promote the idea to the public.

In the transformed high schools, there is always block scheduling (to which most schools have already switched in advance, most people not being informed as to the real purpose.)

There are usually some varieties of

career training such as job shadowing, actual work-based 'learning,' school-business partnerships, etc. Each small school will have different career emphases (technology, environmental science, etc.)

Students may apply to the school of their choice, but the reality is that they may be assigned to a school with a career emphasis they did not choose. Some career emphases will simply be more popular than others.

Remember too that the designers of small schools designed them to be equitable. Especially in 'urban' districts, each school may be required to maintain a "racially, socially, economically, and ably diverse student body that in general mirrors the student population of the district" (as is a requirement in this writer's local public school, Berkeley High.) School-to-Work necessarily takes time away from purely academic studies that are not related to job training.

If the public was aware of the real purpose of Smaller Learning

Communities, it is doubtful it would rush to embrace the 'reform' as quickly as it has to date.

Visit these web sites to see the "pro-small schools" side:
www.jff.org; www.nessn.org;
www.smallschoolsworkshop.org;
www.bayces.org; www.ccebos.org;
www.essentialschools.org;
www.stanford.edu/dept/SUSE/csrn;
www.smallschools.org;
www.earlycolleges.org;
www.schoolredesign.com; and
www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/HS/SLCP.

Go to the website of Maple River Education Coalition (www.EdWatch.org), of which Sen. Bachmann is a member, for more information on School-to-Work and Smaller Learning Communities.

Tell your family, friends, neighbors, and local newspaper editors, too.

Announcing Leadership Workshop and Lobby Day!

Aug. 20-21, Sacramento, 9:00-4:00.

Secretary of State Office, 11th St.

Come and join us for an exciting two-day event sponsored by Eagle Forum and Capitol Resource Institute. Outstanding leaders from both organizations will help train youth and adults for more effective leadership. The second day, attendees will be taught the legislative process, listen to legislators speak about

key bills, and be taught the fine art of lobbying. That afternoon, hands on experience will happen as attendees are divided into small groups and go to the Capitol Building and lobby, speaking to legislators about pending bills.

The cost for the two-day event is \$30, with students receiving half-price discounts. For those coming long distances, housing will be provided. Bring sleeping bags.

Call CRI for reservations: (916) 498-1940.

The Global Economy — It's Wonderful!

By Phyllis Schlafly
June 11, 2003

The *Boston Globe* revealed the reason why tens of thousands of information technology (IT) jobs have been outsourced overseas in the last couple of years, and why major American banks, brokerage houses, and insurance companies plan to shift 500,000 more jobs overseas in the next five years. MBA graduates of the Indian Institutes of Technology can be hired for \$12,000, compared to the average starting salary of

Harvard Business School graduates of \$102,338.

The half-million jobs figure was reported by business consulting firm A.T. Kearney Inc., which surveyed 100 major companies. It's all a matter of money; the big banks are following the trail to Asia blazed by Microsoft and IBM.

A study by Forrester Research of Cambridge, MA, estimates that the rush to export U.S. jobs will accelerate and corporations will send 3.3 million American jobs overseas

by 2015. India is expected to get 70 percent because many Indians speak English.

The future is now. U.S. companies are already using Indian employees to do research and development, prepare tax returns, evaluate health insurance claims, transcribe doctor's medical notes, analyze financial data, dun for overdue bills, read CAT scans, create presentations for investment banks, and more.

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J.P. Morgan Chase & Co is planning to set up an equity research department in Bombay and build up its Technopolis office to 1,100 Indian employees by the end of this year. Delta Air Lines has contracted with two Indian companies to handle some of its customer reservations.

Morgan Stanley plans to experiment with hiring stock analysts in India, and Goldman Sachs Group and Citigroup are studying the benefits of shipping research jobs to India. Industry observers say that every bank on Wall Street will soon reap the cost benefits of the inexhaustible supply of business graduates in India eager to work for as little as ten percent of the market rate in New York or London.

General Electric Co. shifted software development and back-office jobs to India under CEO Jack Welch. Today, GE's Indian engineers are contracted for tasks as sophisticated as analyzing the materials and design of new jet engines.

So, it's not just the steelworkers and the blue-collar manufacturing workers who are getting shafted by the global economy; it's smart college graduates, too. As one executive, who has no shame about replacing Americans with foreigners, said, "If it can be done by sitting at a desk in front of a computer, then it can be done abroad."

Some U.S. companies such as American Express are using Indians to service American customers by telephone. The Indians adopt American names (Sanjeep becomes Sam, Radhika turns into Ruth), learn how to avoid British colloquialisms, and take speech therapy to sound American.

Many American companies subcontract with Indian software-serving companies, especially with the three largest: Tata, Infosys Technologies, and Wipro Technologies. These Indian companies then transfer their employees to the United States on L-1 visas (which are supposed to be issued only to key employees).

Business Week reported that L-1 visas were the ticket of entry to take a U.S. job for half of Tata's 5,000 workers, for one-third of Infosys's 3,000 U.S.-based workers, and for 32 percent of Wipro's U.S. employees. L-1 visas enable Indian workers to replace U.S. workers, and they bring in their spouses and children on L-2 visas.

New Jersey residents were shocked to learn that state officials had hired contractors who in turn arranged for operators working in Bombay, India, to handle calls from the state's welfare recipients. New Mexico residents were shocked when KOAT-TV reported that the state hired aliens as computer programmers in the Taxation and Revenue Department, and then paid private attorneys to process their green cards.

The large amount of taxpayer-paid computer work performed by non-citizens for at least 12 state governments and 9 federal agencies is a scandal crying out for investigation.

Age discrimination is a significant factor in the layoffs of Americans. The termination rate for those over age 40 is generally 10 times higher than for those under 40, and even those as young as 35 are at risk.

Sun Microsystems is now defending itself against a lawsuit alleging that it laid off 2,500 older U.S. workers and replaced them with young, lower-paid workers from India. The lawsuit alleges that Sun discriminated on race, national origin and age, and that Sun manifested an "institutional bias" in favor of Indian workers because they are "more compliant" and "less willing to make waves."

Not only is the corporations' claim that we suffer a shortage of computer programmers and engineers a fraud, but so is their claim that the aliens they import have very specialized knowledge that is needed to retain the industry's technological edge. In fact, most foreigners coming in on H-1B or L-1 visas are very ordinary workers making very ordinary salaries.

CONSERVATIVE ALERT

From grizzly bears and lynx to bull trout and slick spot peppergrass, the list of species for which Americans have to make special allowances just keeps on growing. Many parts of our country have become one big minefield of endangered species, with bureaucrats and environmental extremists burning through taxpayer money to tell us where it's safe to step.

Enough is enough.

Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter (R-ID) has introduced legislation to help ensure the Endangered Species Act is not used without sound scientific justification to restrict the use of the public lands.

Otter's bill, the Scientifically Identifying the Need for Critical Habitat (SINCH) Act (H.R. 2602), would give the

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SILENT DAY

By Georgiana Preskar
Director Eagle Forum of Sacramento

Silent Day comes but once a year; it's message is heard throughout the Land. In increasing numbers middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities in America are intimidated into believing that they "must" give their okay to this day of silence. What is this day and more importantly what can we do to "stop" it?

Students are silent the entire day. They wear badges which explain that gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders have been silenced through the years. This day recognizes a "victimization" of a "by choice" lifestyle. The students are allowed to pass out information before, during and after school. They are not required to participate in class and if called upon can remain silent. The day ends with a ceremony of some sort on or off campus. The big concern is the students who are a "captive audience" in the classroom; a classroom reserved for a particular subject matter. It is not in the American Spirit to "push" homosexuality on children or teens in the confines of a classroom.

The silent day was founded in 1996 at the University of Virginia with 150 participating. By 2001, GLSEN (gay, lesbian, straight, education network) had become its official organizational sponsor. They developed a leadership team to give support to high schools nation wide and joined forces with the United States Student Association to support colleges and universities nation wide. It is now in over 1900 schools throughout our Country. The on line instructions for organization of silent day is a unique combination of great planning mixed with devious methods of implementation. They have techniques on how to persuade principals or schools to participate. Also available are suggestions on useful media tactics for recognition of the day. The planning

begins six months prior to scheduled date of silence.

The impact of their web site pushed our adrenaline to new levels. It was March and we had until April of 2003. Our first step was to contact all middle and high schools in Sacramento and Elk Grove to see which schools were participating. The schools were very resistant to tell us. We found at least three in the Sacramento area and all six high schools in Elk Grove. We also found one high school in Vacaville.

We then contacted people and organizations we knew would be interested in participating to stop this day of silence. It worked. Within a week

we had support from Capitol Resource Institute, Eagle Forum of California, Defend the Family, Pacific Justice Institute, Superintendent of Assembly of God Churches in Northern California, the President of Northern Evangelical Association, Eric Hogue Talk Show and Joe Pursch Talk Show. We then began to write letters to newspapers; continuing to talk on the radio. It was a great way to share

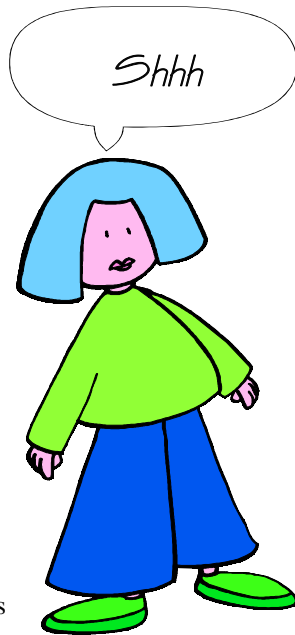
thoughts with the public and inform them of the rights of parents. We suggested them calling their schools in protest, writing letters, and even signing opt out forms. These forms allow the children and teens to be excused from classrooms participating in silent day. The schools have to provide alternative education that day. We scheduled a meeting for parents and concerned citizens. We went to two schools and passed out information about homosexuality and the meeting. Time passed quickly; the week before the official day letters were written by

lawyers Scott Lively and Brad Dacus to inform the schools that they would be held liable if they allowed this activity within the confines of the classroom. Our meeting took place with Scott Lively talking about How to Defeat the Gay Movement. School Officials attended this meeting and the town newspaper recorded the excitement of this night.

The night before silent day the Superintendent of Schools made the announcement the silent day could not take place in the classroom. They were allowed to pass out information before, during and after school but not in the classroom. The silence was broken! On silent day, Eric Hogue and Capitol Resource Institute provided a fun day called "Civics 101". Parents could bring their children to an all day education on civics and government at the Secretary of States Office Building, rather than send them to schools that still allowed pass outs on this day.

The positives of all our work paid off. The joy still reigns in our hearts. Yes we were verbally abused in the newspapers due to our stand on this topic. We were harassed at one of the high schools by the Gay Lesbian Clubs. Acquaintances wrote letters of disgust over what we did to the "poor" gay kids. Supposed Christians turned their backs on Eagle Forum. The more they lashed out at us the more I knew we had made a difference

We worked together as an army. We marched with the joy of success in overcoming the promotion of a lifestyle that is spiritually and physically dangerous to our youth. Next year we will plan six months ahead. Our goal is to educate other communities on how to keep it out of their schools. Working together for God, Family and Country is the best! We know that protection of our children is a sure way for survival of our Great America. Eagle Forum did make a difference!



Water Control

By Nancy Thomson
National Defense & Security, EFCA

Several weeks ago a "water specialist" spoke to our group. Pushing the Groundwater Replenishment System she used power point to enhance the presentation. The first picture featured a statement by the World Bank, "Water shortage is a global problem." Didn't anyone wonder what the World Bank had to do with water?

The speaker wasn't aware that in pushing the replenishment process (using processed toilet and sewer water) she is following the World Bank Water Policy recommendations.

Actually this was a sly way of integrating the Bank into the water problem without disclosing the full extent of its authority in that field.

Water has been called liquid gold, no life can be sustained without it. The internationalist's have plans for managing everyone's water. It is called the World Bank Water Policy. While the World Bank's goal is supposed to reduce poverty (with our money) it is really involved in social engineering. Pointing out the mismanagement of water by governments (we have "too much" while Africa hardly has any) the Bank intends to schedule water use everywhere.

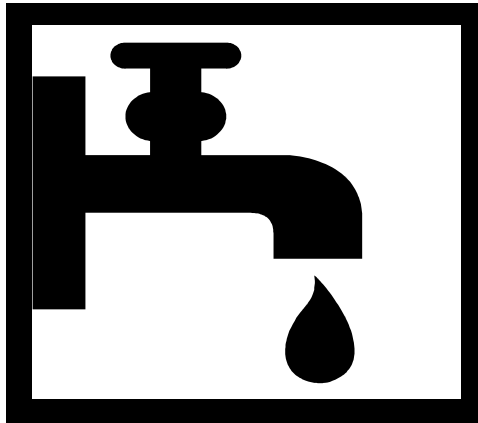
The cost of our water is too low and therefore fees will be added. There will be:

- Social fees. Those who have bettered themselves will have

to subsidize the poor.

- Benefit taxes. If you receive any benefit whatsoever from your land, you will be taxed on "that benefit."
- Pollution charges. Any pollution on your land will incur a tax, including anything left by your dog.

The World Bank intends to establish RIVER BASIN BOUNDARIES. A Basin includes all surface and underground water. This plan calls for Private Corporations and "User Associations" to take over government contracts concerning



control of water. California legislators are already considering privatizing the state's dams, reservoirs, and hundreds of miles of rivers and waterways. Thanks to World Bank and IMF loans, Bechtel Corporation is involved in bridge and dam building throughout the world. There has been rioting in some countries due to Bechtel's doubling the price of water.

Acceptance of World Bank funding means all treaties,

conventions and Agreements must be implemented along with the Bank's policies on water and land use.

The world Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) were established under US Code, title 22 which provides methods for our wealth (money and water) to be "redistributed" to poor nations as determined by international law. (World Bank to Control Water, Hari Heath, October 2000, Idaho Observer)

A pre-set level is 40 liters per person a day, or 10.57 gallons a day for each person. This includes ALL water usage. Of course this preservation of land and water will require some resettlement of people.

Regarding the "desire to help evenly distribute resources" H L Mencken's observation is most appropriate. "The urge to save humanity is almost always a false front for the urge to rule."

You may obtain a copy of the World Bank Water Policy by contacting the :
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development /The World Bank,
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433

Nancy Thomson's essays can be found at www.isburg.net

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The PC (Political Correctness) Police

By Sharon Hughes, Director, Sonoma County Eagle Forum

Chairman is now chairperson; Assemblyman is Assemblyperson. No more using the words cowboy or cowgirl, landlady, or landlord. The phrase Founding Fathers has been removed from America's textbooks and if used at all, is replaced with "framers." Illegal immigrants are now referred to as "undocumented immigrants."

Realtors have been told by the PC police that the term walk-in closet is inappropriate to use because it discriminates against "wheelchair-bound persons," and the term master bedroom infers slavery.

Easter vacation is now spring break and Christmas is winter break. You can't sing traditional Carols in our public schools any more, although you can have your Junior High student take on a Muslim name, bow down to recite prayers to Allah, and then play Jihad.

If you were to read the "inclusive" New Testament translation by the Oxford Press you wouldn't find the word "begat" because it favors fathers over mothers; evil is not referred to as darkness and light as good because of its racial inference. Parents no longer discipline their children but "guide" them, and children no longer obey their parents but "heed" them. And you would probably be surprised to see all references to God as Father changed to "Father-Mother," and Jesus no longer called Master but "teacher" only. Oh, and Satan is gender-free.

According to Webster's New World College dictionary, political correctness is: "conforming or adhering to what is regarded as orthodox liberal opinion on matters of sexuality, race, etc. usually used disparagingly to connote dogmatism, excessive sensitivity to minority causes, etc."

Feminists have "led the way" in the PC movement pushing past their stated purpose of "equality"...to dominance. A simple example brought this into focus for me recently with the pregnancies of our two daughter-in-laws. The baby books now have all references to baby as "she," instead of "he" that my generation read. Now, if you're going to go to the trouble of changing all the books, and you are truly interested in equality, then it should read he/she or if you are really insistent, she/he.

But the PC police are involved in more than just changing words. For example, in New Jersey, even though there had been patients across the nation who had been infected by their dentists with AIDS and then died, NJ health providers who are HIV-positive do not need

to tell their patients that they are infected.

In New York City, children with Hispanic sounding last names are placed in bilingual classes to learn in Spanish even though they don't speak a word of Spanish.

And extreme PC results in tragic consequences such as the 14-year-old Boy Scout who had become separated from the rest of his troop in New Mexico. When a search helicopter finally spotted him, the Forest Service refused them permission to land and rescue the youth, because "mechanized vehicles are banned from wilderness areas," and that "a life threatening situation did not exist." The young teen spent another night in the wilderness before the Forest Service reversed its decision.

Where does the UN come in on the PC issue? Well, how about CEDAW, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women? Phyllis Schlafly reported in her May 22, 2002 column: "Article 2 reiterates that the treaty would 'eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise,' including 'customs and practices' as well as all 'public institutions.' This would include mandating the longtime feminist goal of a gender-neutral military."

Then there's the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which elevated children's rights above those of parental responsibility. And in the name of "third-world-equality" the UN puts countries at the helm of major committees that have no right being there, such as Libya heading the UN Commission on Human Rights. Libya? Yes, Libya.

Well, what can we do? Charlton Heston in his address to a Harvard Law School Forum in 1999 said, "You simply...disobey. Peaceably, yes. Respectfully, of course. Nonviolently, absolutely. But when told how to think or what to say...don't. If you talk about race, it does not make you a racist. If you see distinctions between the genders, it does not make you a sexist..."

Language is powerful. And world shapers understand this. It's time to take our language back...and it begins with not giving in to the PC police, as well as turning the light on for others to see what's going on in this subtle manipulation of speech in order to shape policies and worldview.

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secretary of Interior discretion in determining whether to designate critical habitat for species listed as threatened or endangered. The Endangered Species Act now mandates designation of critical habitat, which is defined as an area occupied by a listed species or areas the species needs in order to recover.

Federal agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries office about any federal action within designated critical habitat to ensure species are not harmed, or to determine how to mitigate the harm. However, agencies must consult with species protection regulators about any action that may affect a listed species regardless of whether critical habitat has been designated.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to fall at least \$2 million short of the money it needs to meet court-ordered deadlines, generated by environmentalist lawsuits, for designating critical habitat for 32 species during the current budget year alone. The agency reportedly would need \$120 million to \$150 million to deal with the backlog of listings and critical habitat designations.

As of April, the Fish and Wildlife Service was involved in 31 active lawsuits over critical habitat designations and was in

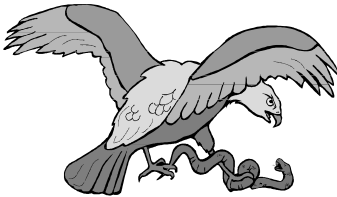
the process of complying with 35 court orders. It also has received 36 notices of intent to sue.

"Give the people who live here and the local leaders responsible for complying with the law some credit for common sense and good intentions," Otter said. "And if you're going to throw a blanket over big chunks of our land, you better make sure you have the solid evidence to back it up."

ACTION ITEM: Too often, implementing the Endangered Species Act involves using advocacy science. When the Interior secretary determines whether a critical habitat designation is needed, the standard should be higher than "best available science." It ought to involve sound science that's been peer reviewed, just as it should with listing of species in the first place.

Go to our site below to send your Congressman a FREE message, asking him or her to support H.R. 2602, the "SINCH Act":

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