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POLITICAL GRAPEVINE

Straight Firefighters Forced to March in a Gay Parade Say They Were Humiliated

Tuesday, August 07, 2007 By Brit Hume FOX NEWS

E-MAIL STORY | PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION

Now some fresh pickings from the Political Grapevine:

They Don't Love a Parade

San Diego firefighters who say they were forced to participate in the city's Gay Pride parade are preparing to sue the city. The four firemen said they did not want to attend --- but were ordered to do so by a superior.

The men say they were subjected to "vile sexual taunts" from gay people --- and Cybercast News reports they were told by religious protesters that they were going to hell for taking part in the parade.

A religious legal group called The Thomas Moore Law Center has filed paperwork to begin a lawsuit against the city for sexual harassment. The city fire chief --- who is a lesbian --- says she has apologized to the men and is taking their allegations seriously.

Climate Cash

The Web site junkscience.com is offering \$100,000 to the first person who can prove that humans are responsible for harmful climate change. The Ultimate Global Warming Challenge says --- "If you think it's a no-brainer that humans are causing catastrophic global warming, here's your opportunity to earn an easy \$100,000."

(Story continues below)

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The Web site lists the specifications for the challenge and the contest rules. It's open until December 1, with the results announced next February.

Gauntlet Thrown

Meanwhile another global warming skeptic is challenging Al Gore to a debate. This time it's best-selling author Dennis Avery, whose book "Unstoppable Global Warming Every 1500 Years" attempts to refute Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." So far Gore has refused to debate any of the numerous challengers.

Impeachment Reaction

The resort town of Telluride, Colorado is experiencing a backlash after the city council's approval of an ordinance to impeach President Bush and Vice President Cheney.

The Denver Post reports the city and its newspapers have received a furious flurry of critical e-mails. Some people have even canceled their vacation plans --- including one group of 175 skiers. One person threatened to sell his telluride vacation home.

The impeachment ordinance was to have a second reading today --- and if it passes again --- it will become the town's

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And a headmistress at a primary school in Somerset, England celebrated the last day of school with her students — by reading to them the last page of the new Harry Potter book.

Children were shocked and parents outraged. One student said he put his hands over his ears and squeezed his eyes closed so he would not hear the ending. The headmistress reportedly gave no warning at all to the 400 kids in the assembly.

A school district spokesman says the principal was trying to reflect the theme of saying goodbye. But a spokeswoman for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations tells The Sun newspaper the incident was "unforgivable," saying it was one of the cruelest things the headmistress could have done to the children.

—FOX News Channel's Martin Hill contributed to this report.

See Political Grapevine Archive

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