

## Laws to protect children from Internet pornography face obstacles

The Child Online Protection Act (COPA), which was signed into law by **Bill Clinton** in 1998, was again ruled unconstitutional by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The bill is designed to keep Internet pornography out of the hands of children online.

COPA would make it a criminal offense for any "for profit" business to put porn on its website without an adult verification mechanism. This is the second time the appeals court has ruled the law unconstitutional after being asked to reconsider by the Supreme Court.

The court has said that the law would make it too difficult for adults to view porn. **Bruce Taylor**, director of the National Law Center for Children and Families, said, "This court just committed one of the most irresponsible, unconstitutional acts by issuing an opinion where they struck the law instead of fixed it."

Taylor predicts that the Supreme Court will now address the bill. "I think

there's a good chance that the Supreme Court will have to take the duty of saying, 'This is your job but since you won't do it, we'll do it,'" said Taylor.

The Supreme Court is now considering another law designed to keep pornography out of the hands of children in America's public library system, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

CIPA would place filters on Internet service in public libraries. The law has already been ruled unconstitutional by lower courts citing free speech principles. The Court is now considering whether or not Congress can require libraries to install Internet filters on their computers.

**Jay Sekulow**, of the American Center for Law and Justice, said, "A library does not carry pornography. You don't go up to a librarian at your local library and say, 'Give me the most recent issue of *Penthouse* or *Hustler* magazine.' They shouldn't be doing

that on the Internet either."

Sekulow also explained that the law has some level of flexibility in that adults would be able to request that the filter be turned off during computer use. Representative **Ernest Istook** (Oklahoma) said he is optimistic that the law will be passed.

Istook, the original author of the bill, said, "They (the justices) understood that we don't want taxpayers' money being used to undermine the morals and values of our children." He also said that the Supreme Court judges hearing the arguments "ripped to shreds the arguments that were presented by the American Library Association and the ACLU in this case."

Supporters of the legislation argue that because libraries are publicly funded, Congress can rule on the constitutionality of putting filters in place. The court is expected to rule in the case in the next few months.

—*Evangelical Press News Service*

## Thousands of college students expected to attend OneDay03

More than 50,000 college students from all over the world are expected to attend the Passion-sponsored OneDay03 worship gathering over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27, on a private 400-acre ranch in Sherman, Texas. "We hope it will be the biggest gathering of students ever," said Passion's founder, **Louie Giglio**.

The four-day event is designed to allow students commuting from across the country enough time to set up their tents, rest, fellowship, and pray before the main event on May 26, involving well-known worship leaders, bands, and speakers. "Our desire is to see God's name magnified in this generation. That simple heartbeat fuels the vision for OneDay03," Giglio said.

Giglio's ministry among the collegiate crowd began in 1985, where for 10 years he worked in ministry at Baylor University in Texas. In the spring

of 1995, he and his wife, **Shelly**, felt a call to move back to Atlanta to help care for his dying father.

Shortly afterward, Giglio learned an astonishing statistic from a freshman survey. Of the quarter of a million students asked, "Do you consider yourself born again?" 75 percent of the students answered that they did not. With 13-16 million college students in the country, that percentage translated to 10 million students who claimed no personal relationship with God.

Giglio believes reaching college age students is crucial. "They're going to graduate and start leading this nation. They're the future and the future with them is now," he said.

In 1995, Giglio formed Passion Conferences, running the first gathering in 1997, with the intent to bring Christian college and university students together. Two thousand students attended.

A subsequent gathering was held in 1998, culminating with 11,500 students from six continents filling Fort Worth Convention Center for four days in 1999.

In May of 2000, over 40,000 students came for the first OneDay gathering, held on Shelby Farms in Tennessee. Giglio believes students drove thousands of miles to OneDay because they sensed Passion's objective was not to form an organization, but to spark a movement. "We're just trying to serve them and encourage them. We want to be fluid and keep seeking the Lord," Giglio said. "We did not want to build this into an enterprise. Kids don't want any part of an enterprise. They want to be part of a movement, and with Passion they sense that our hearts are genuine and our motives are pure."

Information about the Passion Movement may be found at [www.one-day03.com](http://www.one-day03.com). —*EPNS*