

## ANITA BRYANT

*When the Homosexuals Burn the Holy Bible in Public . . . How Can I Stand By Silently*

ca. 1977

*Former beauty queen and recording artist Anita Bryant jumped into politics in 1977 in her adopted hometown of Miami (Dade County) to overturn a new ordinance that affirmed the rights of gays and lesbians. This newsletter explains the mission and goals of her work in the wake of the Dade County victory.*

Dear Friend:

I don't hate the homosexuals!

But as a mother, I must protect my children from their evil influence.

And I am sure you have heard about my fight here in Dade County, Florida—and nationwide—for the rights of my children and yours.

But I had no idea my speaking out would lead to such frightening consequences:

(. . . ugly persecution at the hands of militant homosexual groups.  
 . . . the attempted blacklisting of my career.  
 . . . constant bitter threats to shut me up for good.  
 . . . misguided individuals hounding me and my family—  
 even when we go to church.)

All this, because I stood up for my children—as a mother—as an American—as a Christian.

Then, when the militant homosexuals lost the public vote in Dade County, their friends in New England burned the Holy Bible!

And now there is a group that wants to produce a motion picture that portrays Jesus Christ as a homosexual . . .\*

That's why I am writing you today—because I cannot remain silent while radical, militant homosexuals are raising millions of dollars and

\*Note: All ellipses in this document are in the original.—Ed.

Anita Bryant, "When the Homosexuals Burn the Holy Bible in Public . . . How Can I Stand By Silently" (Anita Bryant Ministries, ca. 1977).

waging a campaign for special privileges under the disguise of "civil rights" . . .

. . . and they claim they are a legitimate minority group.

Do you realize what they want?

They want to recruit our school children under the protection of the laws of our land!

Already San Francisco has a local ordinance with age of consent down to 14, and the school board has ordered homosexuality to be taught as an alternate lifestyle in all the sex education classes.

All this is why I have formed a new organization, Anita Bryant Ministries. And I am concerned about more than just one problem.

In fact, I am going to speak out against all the evil forces that threaten our children and the security of our families and all individuals.

But first, I must turn to persons like you for advice.

I must know what problems concern you.

Therefore, I am enclosing one (1) Official Public Opinion Survey Ballot for you.

Furthermore, I am requesting you to mark your ballot immediately and return it to me.

Your vote will be held in strict confidence, and my office will tabulate the opinions, so that when I write my books, give interviews and appear on nationwide television, I will be able to represent your concerns as well as my own.

For example, how do you stand on survey question number one?

(1) Do you approve of legislation allowing known practicing homosexuals to teach in public, private and religious schools?

(Yes) (No) (Undecided)

Please mark your ballot to indicate that you either approve, disapprove, or are undecided.

And remember, militant homosexuals want their sexual behavior and preference to be considered respectable and accepted by society.

They want to recruit your children and teach them the virtues of becoming a homosexual.

One militant homosexual group actually published a newsletter giving techniques to entice and recruit young men to commit unnatural sex acts.

And churches are even ordaining homosexual preachers! Can you imagine? Doesn't the sin of open homosexual behavior rank right along with adultery and incest?

I don't hate the homosexuals. I love them enough to tell them the truth . . .

. . . that God hates sin but He loves the sinner and He will forgive any sin if the sinner repents of his sin . . . and not flaunt it or ask the law to condone it.

And I want to help them find the love of Jesus in their own hearts and return to God's moral law.

But I insist they leave my children and your children alone. We must not give them the legal right to destroy the moral fiber of our families and our nation.

I must—and I will—protect my children.

How do you vote on this issue?

That brings me to survey question number two:

(2) Do you favor stricter laws controlling child pornography?

(Yes)      (No)      (Undecided)

Please keep in mind that the use of young children in obscene magazines and films is growing. Even five and six year olds are being photographed and used for perverted sexual appetites.

Sometimes, for the price of an ice-cream cone, a child will pose naked for a porno film.

What a sorry state of affairs. And what a terrible attack on the values of our American life.

I believe that all sexual pictures of children must be banned by law, regardless of whether or not the pictures are "legally obscene."

And I believe that everyone who engages in this sinful profit should be arrested . . . the producer, the photographer, the printer, the distributing agent and even the salesman in the bookstore.

If the law protects the child pornographer, then the law must be changed.

As William Penn once said, "Men must be governed by God, or they'll be ruled by tyrants."

Finally, what about the problem right in your own living room?

(3) Do you favor the elimination of "R" rated movies from television and stricter controls governing sex and violence on TV?

(Yes)      (No)      (Undecided)

That TV set in your home has the power to destroy your family. Your children are being taught to:

(  
 . . . commit cold-blooded murder.  
 . . . rape, steal, get drunk, and sell drugs.  
 . . . set fire to a school building.  
 . . . run away from home.  
 . . . use vulgar language.  
 . . . become a prostitute.  
 )

In brief, sex, violence, beatings, rape, and sexual perversion is an everyday affair and happens nightly in your living room in full view of your children.

Is the answer to smash your TV set? Perhaps. But first, let's give TV a chance. Let's try to clean it up.

You and I must share the blame with the TV producers. We have not spoken out. We have failed to stand up for our convictions.

Your children know what's going on. When an "R" rated movie is being shown, the explicit rape scene may be cut out . . .

. . . or when the axe splits the skull of a kindly old man, you don't see his brains spill out on the pavement, but your child knows what has happened.

All this is such a shame because television can be a wonderful force for good.

Will you cast your ballot on these burning issues threatening our daily lives?

I must hear from you immediately, because I cannot carry on this fight by myself.

Some liberal newspapers are saying "Anita Bryant should be shut up."

But what do you say? Shall I be silent?

And if you want me to speak out, will you consider sending a special love gift to support the work of Anita Bryant Ministries?

I am following the leadership of the Lord—and already it has cost me a great deal, but it is worth it to protect my children and yours . . .

. . . and take a stand for what is moral and right in our nation.

In fact the Bible says, "If God be for you, who can be against you?"

I believe this with all my heart and so does my husband, Bob Green, who has been with me since this fight first started . . .

. . . and now we have a peace with our Lord that surpasses all understanding, and with His guidance in our lives, we are not afraid for our lives, or for our family.

So there you have it. All I can do is turn to you. I must know how you feel on these burning issues.

And I must depend on your \$10 tax deductible gift of love—or perhaps even \$15 or \$25 or \$100, if these issues really shake you as they do me.

May I hear from you immediately?

As you know, the militant homosexuals are always preparing massive public relations campaigns . . .

. . . will you help me stop the militant homosexuals?

. . . and stop the evil child pornography business?

. . . and stop the sex and violence on television?

Please mark your official Public Opinion Survey Ballot immediately, and return it and your gift of love to me in the reply envelope I am enclosing.

And by the way, I will be reporting the results of the Ballot to you in my newsletter, "Anita Bryant Ministries."

So for now, thanks so much, and God bless you.

Much love from all of us.

Your friend,

Anita Bryant

*Here is my most precious  
possession . . . my family...  
My husband Bob and our  
children Bobby Jr., Gloria,  
Lynn, Billy and Barbara  
... and I hope you  
will join me in  
taking a stand against  
the evil forces that  
threaten our children.  
Thanks so much and  
God Bless you!*

