



She's history, and gay groups everywhere are saying **Bravo!**

Laura Schlessinger's TV talk show, criticized by homosexual rights groups and snubbed by advertisers and viewers, was canceled after one season.

"Dr. Laura," which debuted in September, 2000, taped its final episode last

Dr. Laura's Television Show Gets the Ax

week but could continue to air through the Fall, Paramount Pictures Television Group stated.

Poor ratings had prompted stations in major television markets including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago to move the syndicated "Dr. Laura" from daytime to the middle of the night.

Schlessinger, who was unable to convert her radio popularity into TV success, said she was proud of the program that she called a "true alternative."

"I believe it could have earned a substantial audience in time, but the television advertiser boycott precluded that," Schlessinger said in a statement.

Paramount had defended the show as part of a free exchange of ideas in which "hurt, hate and intolerance" had no place.

"We commend Dr. Laura, her producers and staff for their desire to create an alternative program for daytime viewers, and

are proud of their efforts to do so," Paramount said Friday.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, a vocal Schlessinger critic since she labeled homosexuality "deviant" and "a biological error" several years ago, lauded the show's demise.

"Paramount from the beginning said 'Let the people decide.' Viewers and advertisers alike have decided, and they decided to reject 'Dr. Laura's' message of intolerance," said GLAAD executive director Joan M. Garry.

"We hope that as a function of this media outlets will think twice before giving a platform to somebody who is provocative at our expense," Garry said from New York.

Schlessinger, defending her show, noted that no specific episode of her TV show generated protests. She had toned down her combative radio style, and offered an apology last October for what she called "poorly chosen" words about homosexuality.

But protests against "Dr. Laura," starting with the website stopdr.laura.com, which began as soon as Paramount announced the series, were unabated. Advertisers felt the pressure, with Procter & Gamble and other big firms pulling out as sponsors.

Media analysts said her relative blandness on TV also worked against her. Chances for "Dr. Laura" to find an audience dwindled when stations shoved her show into the late-night hours.

Schlessinger, who draws her "Dr. Laura" title from a Columbia University doctorate in physiology, is heard on more than 400 U.S. and Canadian radio stations and attracts about 18 million listeners.

She maintained that her goal on television as well as on radio was to "preach, teach and nag for people to do the right thing."

She won't be doing so on tv any longer.

Soulforce Escalates Their 'Stop Spiritual Violence' Campaign

Urges Community to Stand Up Against Church Teachings and Actions that Lead to Spiritual Violence Against Them

By Robert Blair

Long Beach CA - The Soulforce Leadership Team announced plans Monday, March 23, to escalate their *Stop Spiritual Violence Campaign in 2001*. Hundreds of Soulforce supporters are expected to conduct vigils, teach-ins, and possible acts of nonviolent civil disobedience at the following denominational events.

They are expected to protest the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13, 2001, in New Orleans, LA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church National Convention, August 10-12, 2001, in Indianapolis, IN Mormon Church National Convention, October 5-7, 2001, in Salt Lake City, and the UT National Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 12-15, 2001, in Washington, DC

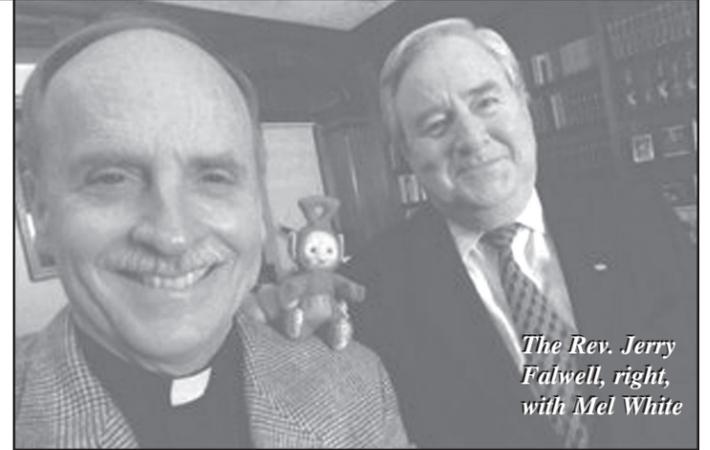
Soulforce leaders also announced plans to incorporate a "Faithful Dissenter's Campaign" into the direct actions, which encourages gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) people and allies to withhold all or a percentage of their usual contribution to denominations that discriminate against them.

"For thirty years, GLBT people and their allies have been supporting oppression with every dollar we donate and every special talent and gift we volunteer to our local churches," says Dr. Mel White, Soulforce Executive Director. "This campaign by Faithful Dissenters to withhold tithes and offerings is designed to empower and give voice to our oppressed sisters and brothers and to 'step up' the level of spiritual resistance against local congregations and/

or denominations that discriminate."

Soulforce is a national network of people of faith committed to applying the principles of relentless non-violent resistance as taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King to the liberation of sexual and gender minorities from religious policies that exclude and discriminate against God's GLBT people.

Last year, Soulforce was present at the denominational meetings of the United Methodist Church, the Southern Baptists, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Episcopal Church, and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Over 1000 people were trained in non-violent civil disobedience, and



The Rev. Jerry Fabwell, right, with Mel White

more than 500 were arrested.

"Christian church teachings are the primary source of misinformation and intolerance against homosexuals," says Jimmy Creech, Soulforce Board Chair. "For thirty years they have waited for justice. But the debate goes on and with it more wasted lives, ruined families, broken relationships and divided churches. We cannot support the suffering with our tithes. This tragic debate must end."

For more information about Soulforce, or to register for the Southern Baptist Direct Action see <http://www.soulforce.org>.

Study Reveals Gay Voters' Interests and Issues

In one of the most in-depth studies profiling lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) voters, it is clear that there is a growing political sophistication within that community and an increasing awareness of LGBT issues and the candidates who support them among the general population.

Out of the Closet and Into the Voting Booth: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Voters in

2000, is a groundbreaking research study into an often under-counted portion of the electorate, completed during the 2000 election by the Denver-based Gill Foundation.

"This research demonstrates that issues important to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community are also important to significant numbers of voters who are not members of that community - making it even more important that policy makers pay attention to and deal with concerns like employment non-discrimination, hate crimes and other issues," said Katherine Pease, Executive Director of the Gill Foundation.

Some key findings from the research include the following:

Knowing someone who is LGBT makes a difference. 37% of voters familiar with

LGBT people say their personal relationship has increased their awareness of LGBT issues. 26% of likely voters say they have a family member who is LGBT. 32% of likely voters know a close personal friend, 44% know a co-worker and 63% say they have a friend or acquaintance that identifies as LGBT.

Voting matters to LGBT individuals. 92% of LGBT respondents said they are registered to vote, 52% say they vote in all elections and 34% say they vote in most but

not all elections.

LGBT voters, like other voters, embrace political moderation. In terms of political philosophy, 43% of LGBT voters identify as moderate compared to 40% of voters in the total US population.

More LGBT people are comfortable coming out. Half of LGBT voters consider themselves to be very open about their sexual orientation while 35% say they are not open at all about their orientation.

LGBT voters will not often reach out to others. LGBT voters tend to talk to each other as opposed to potential allies about public policy issues affecting the community. 72% say they speak with gay or lesbian friends about issues, while 51% say they speak to friends who are not gay or lesbian about the same issues.



Katherine Pease, Gill Foundation Executive Director

"The 2000 election saw both major parties openly courting our votes. This study shows that our community is growing in its understanding of and participation in the political process. No candidate can afford to ignore gay votes, or the votes of our friends, family and colleagues who support us," said Katherine Pease, Gill Foundation Executive Director.

The research, conducted by Harris Interactive, was done in three phases. Two

focus groups of hard-core nonvoters who identified as LGBT were used to guide the design of messages for the campaign, with a pre election and post election survey of LGBT and general population voters.

The mission of the Gill Foundation is to pursue equality for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Copies of the full report can be obtained by calling the Gill Foundation at 303-292-4455 or at www.gillfoundation.org.

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