

Current Issues Monitoring Report For the week ending June 13, 2008

Gay Marriage

At least two **California** counties say they'll stop performing all wedding ceremonies by next week arguing that they don't have resources to marry both gay and straight couples. Kern and Butte counties cited budget and staffing constraints as their reason for stopping the ceremonies, but activists say that the move is thinly disguised act of discrimination.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/06/11/MN2V1172KL.DTL>

Homelessness

Missoula, Montana police plan to crack down on aggressive panhandling this summer in response to complaints from downtown business owners. Officers will ask the public to support the "Real Change Not Spare Change" program which recommends that people withhold giving to panhandlers and instead donate to spare change jars placed around the city. Money donated to the spare change program is given to the food bank and The Salvation Army.

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080611/NEWS01/80611011/1002&template=printart>

Philanthropy

A recent survey by the **San Diego** Foundation found that 86% of those polled say that local charities do a good job, but that they should do a better job of explaining how they work. Bob Kelley of the foundation said, "the nonprofit community needs to promote its results better, talk about the number of people they serve and the impacts they have on people's lives. Running a nonprofit is a very complicated, complex job."

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080612-9999-1m12nonprof.html>

Melinda Gates spoke to a tech conference this week about the mission of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Here's the simple definition she used to describe it: "all lives are equal, whether in Boston, Botswana or Bangladesh."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121261652970046547.html>

Southern Baptists

In an election this month, the Southern Baptists voted against a proposal to create a database of clergy members that have been convicted or accused of child sex abuse. Citing local autonomy, authorities say that the role of the SCB is to "encourage, empower and educate local churches" on how to protect children. A spokesperson for the Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests (SNAP) says that the church's response to clergy abuse is inadequate.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/juneweb-only/124-32.o.html>