

**FYI**

A confidential bulletin brief **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** from Beverly LaHaye

February 18, 2002

- The anthrax alarm that shut down Capitol Hill for weeks last fall also put a damper on the arrival in Washington of CWA's new president, Sandy Rios. So last week House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) lent his ceremonial office, just a few feet from the House Chamber, for a reception to welcome Sandy, to Washington. Scores of guests dropped by, including members of Congress, Bush administration officials and conservative movement leaders. Even though Sandy has been making her presence felt for quite some time, she is now officially part of the Washington scene. And, as we have said so often in the past, thank you, Dick Armey!
- The following evening Sandy was right back to making her mark, this time as a guest on Alan Keyes' new TV show on MSNBC, speaking up for the embattled Judge Charles Pickering. Judge Pickering, targeted by the radical left as this season's "borking" victim, was a civil rights-era hero in his native Mississippi. His opponents, stymied by Pickering's outstanding personal character and judicial record, have been reduced to claiming he was once too lenient in sentencing a criminal. Nonetheless, Pickering's nomination to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals is in trouble because Democratic senators fear retaliation if they vote for confirmation. They include the Democratic senator who was once a Ku Klux Klan member and the Democratic senator who, as a governor in the 1960s, when Charles Pickering was testifying in court against the imperial wizard of the Klan, raised the Confederate battle flag over his state Capitol as a sign of his commitment to segregation.
- Secretary of State Colin Powell has long been admired as a man of character, but what he did last week has some people wondering. In a world youth forum – to be broadcast on MTV – Powell told a young woman from Milan, Italy to "forget about conservative ideas" and use condoms to protect herself from sexually transmitted diseases. "In my own judgment," he said, "condoms are a way to prevent infection – and therefore, I support their use." According to an important study released last summer by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), condoms are about as effective in preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS as they are in preventing pregnancy: They have about a 15 percent transmission rate per year among those who use condoms correctly and consistently. And there is evidence that they help protect men, but not women, against gonorrhea. Otherwise, there is no evidence that condoms protect users against any other sexually transmitted diseases, and it is clear they are not at all effective in preventing transmission of the most widespread STD of all, human papillomavirus, the cause of cervical cancer. So if you want to stay healthy, do not listen to Secretary Powell's advice.

-Beverly LaHaye

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