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PRESS RELEASE
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April 21, 1989 - RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

TUPELO, MS--The American Family Association says that the government official responsible for approving the spending of tax dollars for an art exhibition featuring a "work of art" expressing bigotry toward Christians should be fired.

The "work of art" was a very large, vivid photograph of Christ hanging on a cross submerged in urine and titled Piss Christ, done by Andrea Serrano. The "work of art" was displayed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Carnegie-Mellon University Art Gallery in Pittsburgh and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

The exhibition was part of The Awards in the Visual Arts program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency supported by tax dollars, The Rockefeller Foundation, and The Equitable Foundation, a division of Equitable Life Insurance.

"The fact that a government agency would spend tax dollars to help promote this piece of anti-Christian bigotry is deplorable," said Donald E. Wildmon, a United Methodist minister who is executive director of AFA. "The person at the National Endowment for the Arts responsible for approving federal tax dollars for the promotion of the 'work of art' should be fired," Wildmon said. "The government has no business spending tax dollars to support anti-Christian bigotry," he stated.

Wildmon said that Serrano was rewarded for his anti-Christian bigotry by The Rockefeller Foundation and The Equitable Foundation with \$15,000 in prize money. "The Rockefeller Foundation and Equitable Life Insurance owe Christians a public apology and assurance that they will not be party to such anti-Christian bigotry in the future. If no apology is forthcoming, we hope people will cancel their Equitable Life insurance policies," he said.