

stating the museum cultivates “superstition” and confusion among schoolchildren. A spokesman from DEFCON argued the museum “is part of a campaign to deceive children and undermine scientific understanding in our country.”

The museum is open Monday through Saturday and takes a full day to thoroughly visit at a unhurried pace.

—MKG

STELLAR CELLAR

Plans to remodel basements normally do not make the news, but one recently did. In 2004, the Boulder, Colo., house where JonBenet Ramsey was murdered was purchased by the daughter and son-in-law of televangelist Robert Schuller. Carol and Tim Milner paid slightly more than \$1 million for the home where one of the most notorious unsolved murders of recent times occurred. In December 1996, the 6-year-old’s body was found in the basement, strangled and bludgeoned to death.

Recently, plans were submitted by the Milners to the City of Boulder to renovate the basement. According to the Associated Press, the refurbishment will include, “a bar, wine cellar, flat-screen television and gas fireplace.” The utility room where the child’s body was found is not part of the renovation.

Tim is employed by Schuller at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif. County records indicate the current value of the home to be \$1.6 million.

—MKG

BYU CHANGES HONOR CODE ON HOMOSEXUAL STUDENTS

In a move that is being praised by pro-homosexual advocates, Brigham Young University has modified its honor code and will no longer classify homosexual behavior or advocacy as a violation. Kevin Dion, a leader of Affirmation: Gay & Lesbian Mormons, was cited on his organization’s web site, says the revision “deserves our strongest applause and recognition.” Members of the homosexual-rights group, Soulforce Equality Ride, welcomed the change as a “significant victory.”

Despite such accolades, the Mormon university is calling the move a “clarification,” rather than a “change.” “Our Honor Code has not changed, but there has been a clarification,” according to Carri Jenkins, a spokeswoman for the university.

The former Honor Code stated, “Advocacy of a homosexual lifestyle (whether implied or explicit) or any behaviors that indicate homosexual conduct, including

those not sexual in nature, are inappropriate and violate Honor Code.” The revised text now reads, “One’s sexual orientation is not an Honor Code issue. However, the Honor Code requires all members of the university community to manifest a strict commitment to the law of chastity. Homosexual behavior or advocacy of homosexual behavior are inappropriate and violate the Honor Code.”

The change means that “the university will respond to a student’s behavior, not their sexual orientation,” Jenkins said.

Prior to — and perhaps helping to precipitate — the change, BYU’s Honor Code Office disciplined five of its students for their part in a Soulforce demonstration last year. The protest was in violation of BYU’s rules regarding on-campus demonstrations.

Other “clarifications” may be forthcoming as the university is reviewing its policies regarding alcohol, living a chaste and virtuous life, and respecting others.

—MKG

NO MORE LIMBO

For nearly 800 years, The Roman Catholic Church has taught that Limbo is a permanent and intermediate place between heaven and hell occupied by babies and infants who have died without being baptized. Those in Limbo do not suffer the pains of hell. Yet, while they enjoy happiness, they are kept from the “beatific vision” of the Creator. However, the belief in Limbo is now being renounced following a three-year study by the Vatican’s Theological Commission. A 41-page report released by the 30-member committee in April, said that Limbo reflected an “unduly restrictive view of salvation.”

The doctrine was originally established as a way to harmonize the concept of a merciful God with the belief that baptism and the church were necessary for salvation. Yet Limbo has been repeatedly questioned — even more so during the past several decades. The abundance of abortions was just one factor in rethinking the position.

A hint that change was on the way may have been in that Limbo is not addressed in the Roman Catholic Catechism’s current edition.

Pope Benedict XVI has sanctioned the report. Casting aside Limbo by the current pontiff is not surprising — and perhaps was even expected. According to a Religious News Service report, “‘Limbo was never a defined truth of faith,’ then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger told Italian journalist Vittorio Messori in 1985. ‘Personally ... I would abandon it, since it was only a theological hypothesis.’”

Despite removing Limbo, the report encourages parents to have their babies baptized as the normal means of salvation.

—MKG