



Christian View of the News



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IS THE WAR ON TERROR OVER?

(I have avoided mentioning the deaths of well-known people lest I eventually use a whole page on obituaries.

However, **Dr. Lee Roberson** was my pastor at Highland Park Baptist Church in the early 50s while I attended Tennessee Temple. He was a great inspiration to me and thousands of others over the years.

He wrote me once or twice a year, thanking me for CVN. I am grateful for that encouragement.

Dr. Roberson went to be with the Lord he loved and served on April 29 at age 97.

Dated August 1, 2006 at the age of 96, Dr. Roberson published what he called his farewell letter and final testimony *"to give encouragement to pastors, evangelists, and full-time Christian workers.*

"I believe the Bible! I believe in the promises of God regarding our future life! I believe 'to be absent from the body, to be present with the Lord.' I believe the future will hold some of the most glorious blessings that one could ever conceive. We will be present 'with the Lord.' The Apostle Paul said 'this is far better.' The future is bright! I know the Lord may come at any moment - He has promised 'I will come again.'

"Continue in His great work! Give attention to the winning of souls and exhort yourself to a close walk with God." - N.P.)

Do we still need to fight a war on terror? The answer seems to be "no" for an increasing number in the West who are weary over Afghanistan and Iraq or complacent from the absence of a major attack on the scale of September 11, 2001.

The British Foreign Office has scrapped the phrase "war on terror" as inexact, inflammatory and counterproductive. U.S. Central Command has just dropped the term "long war" to describe the fight against radical Islam.

An influential book making the rounds -- "Overblown: How Politicians and the Terrorism Industry Inflate National Security Threats, and Why We Believe Them" -- argues that the threat from al Qaeda is vastly exaggerated. Abigniew Brzezinski, Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, goes further, assuring us we are terrorized mostly by the false idea of a war on terror -- not the jihadists themselves. . . .

Here is the latest evidence that that is not the case:

DODGING BULLETS AT FORT DIX

The United States dodged another bullet -- several in fact -- when authorities foiled an alleged terrorist attack on the Fort Dix Army base in New Jersey by six men described by authorities as "radical Islamists." Three of the men are illegal immigrants. . . .

Had it not been for the carelessness of one of the suspects who asked a local video store to copy a training video depicting men with weapons shouting "God is great" and proclaiming jihad, the alleged

plot might have succeeded. The owner of the store tipped off authorities, which then began a 15-month investigation resulting in the arrests of the men. Some advocacy groups want the right to sue people who report suspicious activity, as in the case of passengers aboard a U.S. Airways flight who reported several imams they believed were behaving suspiciously. Now the imams, with the help of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim lobby group, have filed suit in hopes of obtaining the names of the passengers so they can be sued.

The usual groups issue the predictable statements condemning the alleged terrorist plot at Fort Dix, repeating that Islam is a "peaceful religion." Recall that the late Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, repeatedly condemned terrorist attacks he either helped instigate or inspired.

It is more prudent to pay attention to what terrorists say and do rather than to what the sophisticated, media-savvy conveyers of disinformation tell us.

Authorities said one of the suspects is believed to have been a sniper in Kosovo and he and the other men had been training at a firing range in Pennsylvania. Eljvir Duka, 23, is quoted in the complaint as saying, "When it comes to defending your religion, when someone is trying to attack your religion, your way of life, than you go jihad." This is the triumph of the brainwashers throughout the Islamic world. They teach the youngest of children that jihad and dying for Allah is their sole guarantee of heaven. That's a tough doctrine to overcome, especially when Western diplomats are seen as infidel "cross-worshippers:" and "Jewish pigs" deserving of death.

Christopher J. Christie, the U.S. attorney for New Jersey, told a news conference, "This is a new brand of terrorism where a small cell of people can bring enormous devastation."

Is anyone in doubt as to the terrorist game plan? It is to intimidate, subjugate and eradicate U. S. citizens and bring the United States to its knees. This is not a secret. It is preached throughout the world in mosques and in Arab and Muslim media. As more aliens enter this country -- legally and illegally -- those who are Muslims are building mosques faster than coffee shop chains. The Saudis, who teach the most virulent and violent strain of Islam, underwrite most of them. That is not to say all Muslims are terrorists, or that all mosques are centers for terrorist training, but surely some are and how do we identify them before

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we experience another Sept. 11 -- times 10?

According to the Hartford Institute for Religious Research, the number of mosques in America grew 60 percent between 1995 and 2000, second only to the Christian mega-churches and well ahead of the Mormon and Assemblies of God. One finds no reciprocity in Muslim countries, where churches, and especially synagogues, are either tightly controlled or banned outright. In the Washington, D.C. area, alone, there are an estimated 45 mosques. It only takes one to serve as a theological instruction center for young jihadists, who believe that killing Americans is his or her highest "calling."

It is long past time to stop worrying about political correctness and "sensitivities" and do what is necessary to improve our security before someone with official ties to al-Qaeda, or simply religious freelancers, shoot up a shopping mall or a school. Congress can start by putting real teeth into the immigration bill that will be up for debate soon. And then we have to get serious about dealing with the threat living in our midst. - Cal Thomas, *townhall.com*, 5/10/07

And here are some other reasons why radical Islam is not going away:

1. Islamic terrorists plotting attacks are arrested periodically in both Europe and the United States. Just two weeks ago a leaked British report detailed al Qaeda's plans for future "large-scale" operations. We shouldn't be blamed for being alarmist when our alarmism has resulted in our safety at home for the last five years.

2. Have we forgotten that Nazi Germany was never able to kill 3,000 Americans on our homeland? Did Japan ever destroy 16 acres in Manhattan or hit the nerve center of the U.S. military? Even the Soviet Union couldn't inflict billions of dollars in damage to the U.S. economy in a single day.

3. In some ways stateless terrorists can be more dangerous than past conventional threats. Autocrats in some Middle East countries allow indirect financial and psychological support for al Qaeda terrorists without leaving footprints of their intent. They must assume a single terrorist strike could kill thousands of Americans without our ability to strike back at their capitals. This inability to tie a state to its support for terrorism is our greatest obstacle in this war -- and our enemies' greatest advantage.

4. Jihadists have already scored successes in all sorts of ways beyond altering the very nature of air travel. Cartoonists now lampoon everyone and everything -- except Muslims. The pope must weigh his words carefully. Otherwise, priests and nuns are attacked abroad. A single false Newsweek story about one flushed Koran led to riot and death. The net result is that terrified millions in Western societies silently accept that for the first time in centuries they cannot talk or write honestly about what they think of Islam and the Koran.

5. Everything from our 401 (k) plans to municipal water plants depend on sophisticated computers and communications. And you don't need a missile to take them down. Two oceans no longer protect the United States -- not when the Internet knows no boundaries, our borders are relatively wide open, and dozens of ships dock and hundreds of flights arrive daily.

A germ, some spent nuclear fuel or a vial of nerve gas could cause as much mayhem and calamity as an armored division in Adolf Hitler's army. The Soviets were considered rational enemies who accepted the bleak laws of nuclear deterrence. But jihadists claim they welcome death if their martyrdom kills thousands of Americans.

6. Radical Islamists largely arise from oil-rich Middle East. Since September 11, 2001, the price of oil has sky rocketed, transferring trillions of dollars from successful Western, Indian and Chinese economies to unsuccessful Arab and Iranian autocracies.

Terrorists know that blowing up a Saudi oil field or getting control of Iraqi petroleum reserves -- and they attempt both all the time -- will alter the world economy. Even their mere threats give us psychological fits and their sponsors more cash.

This is a strange war. Our successes in avoiding attack convince some that the real danger has passed. And when we kill jihadists abroad, we are told it is peripheral to the war or only incites more terrorism.

But despite the current efforts at denial, the war against Islamic terrorism remains real and deadly. We can't wish it away until Middle Eastern dictatorships reform -- or we end their oil stranglehold over the world economy. - Victor Davis Hanson, *Washington Times Weekly*, 5/7/07

SEVEN BIG LIES OF BIG MEDIA

Why in the world do we keep listening to our nation's major media? Why do the nation's big newspapers, radio and television networks, and wire services keep getting a pass -- when day after day and night after night they keep hurling king-sized lies our way? Just to remind us how gullible we all tend to be, here's a short list of where the big media regularly get it not just slightly skewed but exactly backwards. Here are seven Big Lies we all are subjected to virtually all the time.

EVOLUTION Amazingly, according to polls, the masses -- after at least two generations of propaganda -- aren't convinced. By majorities of at least 2-1, they still think "God" had something to do with where everything came from. But evolution remains a basic assumption of the elites who control the media. The evidence? Almost never will you hear an argument. What you almost always get instead is an "expert."

GLOBAL WARMING Ditto about "experts" instead of serious two-way arguments. (Global warming alarmists tell us there is an overwhelming consensus on the issue and further debate is pointless. Yet there are a significant number of genuine dissenters in the relevant disciplines. Many more would doubtlessly emerge from the closet but for the potential financial consequences that might ensue. Plus, many of those counted as experts by the alarmists are scientists with no appreciable expertise in the field. Despite arguably insufficient data and questionable techniques to measure climate change historically, not to mention questions concerning the extent of man-made warming, the global warming zealots brook no dissent. They ridicule and castigate anyone, including those every bit as credentialed as they are, who refuses to imbibe their Kool-aid. . . .

By pronouncing an end to debate -- just because they say so -- they betray the very principles they claim to uphold: an adherence to scientific inquiry and a commitment to facts and reason in favor of ideologically and politically driven conclusions. - D. Limbaugh, *WTW*, 5/14)

ABORTION Just imagine 45 million people dying from any other cause over the last 34 years since the *Roe v. Wade* decision -- and then avoiding painstaking media analysis. Where are the truth-seekers about the connection between those 45 million deaths and the Social Security crisis? Or truth-seekers exploring a possible connection between those 45 million deaths and our nation's need now to allow a steady stream of problematic immigrants? Where are the truth-tellers who will show -- on TV -- what really happens during an abortion?

HOMOSEXUALITY Why no serious pursuit of why homosexuals have a life span 20 years shorter than the general population? (The U.S. House is expected to pass a landmark federal law that would expand *hate crimes* legislation to include attacks against lesbian, gay,

bisexual and transgender citizens. Opponents argue that it's conceivable under the bill that if a rabbi, priest or pastor reads to his congregation a passage from the Bible condemning homosexuality, he could be considered an accomplice to any parishioner who later commits a "hate crime" against a homosexual. - D. Limbaugh, *WTW*, 5/14/07)

STEM-CELL RESEARCH Almost every day on the news, you'll hear references to conservatives' opposition to "stem-cell research." . . . The debate of course is about embryonic stem-cell research -- a practice that requires the discarding of early human embryos. The mainstream media so often and so consistently confuse the two practices that their basic honesty has to be called into question.

ISLAM Mainstream media, like mainstream politicians (including president Bush), dance dishonestly around this one -- and for understandable reasons. But isn't it a hallmark of serious journalism that the truth must be pursued no matter what the cost?

PLURALISM Assumed by all elites to be an indicator of a mature and virtuous society, pluralism never seems to face the serious scrutiny of the media. Nor does the public get much help exploring exactly what pluralism, multi-culturalism, and similar so-called qualities ultimately mean. Basic test: How do the media determine which movements can be mocked and ridiculed, and which ones can't?

On all these issues -- and they're not tiny, insignificant social questions -- we're not asking that the media agree with us. All we want is an honest discussion. So long as such a conversation is regularly denied, why should we not conclude that **someone actually means to be lying to us?** - Joel Belz, *WORLD*, 4/21/07

E.R.A. UNNECESSARY THEN, AND NOW

Liberals, dolled up in love beads and bell-bottom trousers, have had another bright idea, one as fresh as other 1970s fads. Sens. Ted Kennedy and Barbara Boxer and Reps. Carolyn Maloney and Jerrold Nadler, high-octane liberals all, have asked Congress to improve the Constitution by adding the Women's Equality Amendment, which, like the Equal Rights Amendment before it, says: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Although it was first introduced in Congress in 1923, the ERA went nowhere until March 22, 1972. Then Congress sent it to the states to be ratified or rejected by March 22, 1979, the standard seven years stipulated to assure that there is a contemporaneous consensus for any constitutional change.

Thirty-five years ago, as now, the argument for the amendment was a pastiche of peculiar thoughts: It was needed to "put women into the Constitution," and for the expressive function of "raising the nation's consciousness." March 1972 was a year *after* the Supreme Court cited the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment when invalidating a law that involved discrimination on the basis of sex. And March 1972 was 10 months before the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade*.

The full inclusion of women in America's regime of rights was accomplished in the 20th century without an ERA. And what mature person thinks the Constitution should be cluttered with consciousness-raising pieties or affirmations, on the theory that, by some mysterious causality, the social climate will be improved? . . .

All amendments generate litigation, but the ERA's *purpose* is to generate litigation. It is a device to get courts to impose social policies that supporters of the policies cannot convince legislatures to enact. ERA -- now WEA -- supporters, being politically lazy, prefer the shortcut of litigation to the patient politics necessary to pass legislation.

If Kennedy and like-minded legislators think the condition of

American women needs improvements, they should try to legislate them. Instead, they prefer to hope that liberal judges will regard the ERA's language as a license to legislate. But, then, support for the amendment testifies to the supporters' lack of confidence in their ability to persuade people to support such policies. - George Will, *Atlanta Journal/Constitution*, 4/1/07

RISING GAS PRICES

Today, as the price of a gallon of regular (\$3.00+ nationally, on May 14) "soars" almost to where it was (measured in constant dollars) in 1982, the "news" is: "Drivers Offer a Collective Ho-Hum as Gasoline Prices Soar" (*The New York Times*). People are not changing their behavior because the real, inflation-adjusted cost of that behavior has not changed significantly, and neither has the cost of the commodity in question, relative to disposable income.

The next wave of stories about "soaring" gas prices will predictably trigger some politicians' indignation about oil companies' profits. The day after Exxon Mobil's announcement that it earned \$39.5 billion in 2006, Hillary Clinton said: "I want to take those profits, and I want to put them into a strategic energy fund that will begin to fund alternative smart energy, alternatives and technologies that will begin to actually move us toward the direction of independence" . . .

In the 20 years from 1987 to 2006, Exxon Mobil invested more (\$279 billion) than it earned (\$266 billion). Five weeks after the company announced its 2006 earnings, it said it will invest \$60 billion in oil and gas projects over the next three years. It will, unless a President Clinton and a Democratic-controlled Congress "take" Big Oil's profits, which are much smaller than Big Government's revenue from gasoline consumption.

Oil companies make about 13 cents on a gallon of gas. Government makes much more. The federal tax is 18.4 cents per gallon. Mrs. Clinton's New York collects 42.4 cents a gallon. Forty-nine states -- all but Alaska -- make more than the oil companies do on every gallon.

In 1979 President Jimmy Carter, an early practitioner of the Oh, Woe! School of Planetary Analysis (today Al Gore is dean of that school), said that oil wells were "drying up all over the world." Not exactly.

In 1971, according to M.A. Adelman, an MIT economist, non-OPEC countries had remaining proven reserves of 200 billion barrels. After the next 33 years of global economic growth, Adelman says, those countries had produced 460 billion barrels and had 200 billion remaining. As for OPEC countries, in 1971 they had 412 billion in proven reserves, by 2004 they had produced 307 billion and had 819 billion remaining.

Note the adjective "proven." In 1930, U.S. proven reserves were 13 billion barrels. Then we fought a global war, fueled the largest, most sustained economic expansion in human history, and achieved today's electricity-powered "information economy." Today, America's proven reserves are about 30 billion barrels -- not counting the perhaps 15 billion in the field discovered last year in deep water 175 miles off Louisiana's coast.

America produces about one-quarter of the 20.6 million barrels of oil it uses a day. Unfortunately, just as liberals love employees but not employers, they want energy independence but do not want to drill in the "pristine" (read: desolate) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (potential yield: 10.4 billion barrels) and are reluctant to countenance drilling offshore.

Well, then, what can be done immediately about the gasoline "crisis" du jour? Americans could save 1.2 billion of the 130 billion gallons of gasoline they use a year if they would properly inflate their

tires. And they might do that if ever "soaring" prices actually make gasoline unusually expensive. - George F. Will, *townhall.com*, 4/5/07

ROMNEY, MORMONISM & THE PRESIDENCY

The Romney candidacy put Mormonism into the American spotlight and has given us all opportunity to clarify our convictions on our political system and the Mormon faith. The lines between politics and religion are being questioned, pressing Americans to think through the relationship between a candidate's value system and policies with those of their own political and religious convictions. This is both proper and good.

The issue, as I see it, is not about whether a Christian would or should vote for a Mormon. That's confusing categories. Every American should vote for whomever he or she chooses. That choice is usually for the candidate whose worldview and policy preferences most closely resemble one's own. Should Romney win the Republican nomination, I will vote for him because in our two-party political system -- as it is currently aligned ideologically -- my vote will almost certainly go to the Republican. The GOP aligns more closely with my conservative, evangelical policy preferences than does the Democratic Party. The war against radical Islam, the protection of marriage, the right to life, limited government with smarter spending, and the make-up of the Supreme Court are all matters of deep personal conviction. And, for these reasons, I'll vote for the Republican candidate, whoever that is.

As many have said, "We're not electing a pastor, we're electing a president."

Historically, our largely Christian country has chosen to elect Christian candidates (not that there have been many non-Christian candidates). In the last two presidential elections, church attendance was the most reliable indicator of voting preferences. It's no coincidence that the Democrats this time around are determined to appear more religious (i.e., more evangelical friendly) in order to win the White House. Yet, if appearing more religious in this majority-Christian nation is an electoral advantage, then being from a faith other than Christianity presents a new set of challenges. And therein lies the problem for the Romney campaign.

Though I could vote for Romney, my ballot should not be seen as an endorsement of Mormonism. Conservative Mormons are among the finest people I've ever met, and they are critical allies in the culture war. I appreciate their contribution to advancing our shared values. Yet as we make common cause, I should not be asked or feel pressured to compromise, weaken, or dilute my theology. Allies need not obfuscate distinctives. We can unite politically and socially to advance our cause, but we must not blur the lines between our distinct religions.

Just as Christians and Jews, by definition, cannot ignore their differences over the resurrection and the New Testament, so too Christians and Mormons cannot ignore the differences between the Bible and the three books of Mormonism: the Book of Mormon, Doctrines and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

Yet many Mormons in recent years have taken to calling themselves Christians, and a growing number of Christians are willing to speak of mormonism as something akin to another Christian denomination. But, Mormonism is not a Christian denomination, nor is it merely "a non-Christian religion." To be theologically precise, though perhaps politically incorrect, Mormonism is a cult of Christianity (www.apologeticsindex.org/c09a01.html) -- a group that claims to be Christian while denying one or more central doctrines of the Christian faith. . . .

The Romney candidacy is both good news and bad news for

Mormonism. It is the greatest opportunity in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to win converts because hundreds of millions of people from all over the world will be exposed to the teachings of Mormonism for the very first time.

However, that's also the bad news.

I say this with no animus towards Mormons. I am neither "anti-Mormon" nor a bigot. But, words mean things. And we are in danger of losing a perfectly good word to the forces of political correctness.

"Cult" is in danger of becoming the new theological "n-word." . . . Most Christians and many Mormons do not know Mormon theology.

"A cult of Christianity is a group of people, which claiming to be Christian, embraces a particular doctrinal system taught by an individual leader, group of leaders, or organization, which (system) denies (either explicitly or implicitly) one or more of the central doctrines of the Christian faith as taught in the sixty-six books of the Bible." - Alan Gomes, Ed., *Unmasking the Cults* (Zondervan, 1995).

If Mormonism can no longer be called a cult of Christianity, then neither can the Jehovah's Witnesses, the United Pentecostal Church, or the Unification Church (to name but a few.). . . .

Mormonism has almost nothing in common with Christianity. Mormonism is polytheistic, it denies original sin, it teaches that both God the Father and God the Holy Spirit have physical bodies, that Jesus was conceived through sexual intercourse between God the Father and Mary, that Jesus was the spirit-brother of Lucifer, that Jesus was a polygamist, that Jesus traveled to the Americas during His three days in the tomb, and that every Mormon male will one day become a God ruling over his own planet, accompanied by multiple wives, just as the God of this Earth, named Elohim -- who was once a man -- has done here. . . .

However, you will not find this information located on the "Basic Beliefs" page of the official L.D.S. website. It is the "meat" you will learn once you're able to digest the "milk" of basic Mormon theology. There is a lot of Christian terminology on the official website, but upon examination, you come to understand that though the terms are familiar, the meanings of those terms are foreign and heretical.

For now, in the spirit of clarity and to honor brevity, a simple overview of the birth of Mormonism must suffice.

In 1820, a 14-year-old farm boy named Joseph Smith went to the woods to pray about the religious turmoil going on around his hometown of Palmyra, New York. Revivals had broken out, and young Joseph didn't know which of the denominations to join. So, he prayed for guidance. God the Father and Jesus appeared to him in bodily form, and he was told, "I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof." (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History, 1:19).

Joseph claims he was told all Christianity was heretical, and that he would be correcting eighteen centuries of error.

The Mormon message is clear: historic Christianity false, Joseph Smith's visions true.

Three years later, on September 21, 1823, in another vision, the angel Moroni appeared and told him of an ancient book written on golden plates buried nearby in Hill Cumorah. He was shown the location, but was prohibited from taking the plates. Moroni told him the plates recorded the history of an ancient American civilization written in Reformed Egyptian Hieroglyphics -- an utterly unique language for

which there is no evidence --and that he was to translate them with the aid of two magical seer stones called the *Urim* and *Thummim*. Moroni had been given the plates by his father Mormon, and Moroni had buried them prior to his death in the final great battle between the Nephites and the Lamanites that took place near Cumorah in 385 A.D. After 1,400 years, Moroni -- now an angel -- had returned to direct Joseph Smith to the plates.

In 1827, Smith was finally allowed to take the plates just long enough to finish the translation before they were to be returned to Moroni. In May 1829, while Smith and Oliver Cowdery were praying in a forest near Bainbridge, Pennsylvania, John the Baptist appeared and conferred the Aaronic priesthood to them. Later, Peter, James, and John appeared and conferred upon them the Melchizedekian priesthood. The translation was completed in three years, and the *Book of Mormon* was published in March, 1830. On April 6, 1830, Smith and five others formed The *Church of Christ* in Fayette, New York. After two name changes over the next four years, they settled on *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.

Mormonism is not Christian, from its birth it has been anti-Christian.

The first Christians believed they had met the promised Jewish Messiah in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. It is both correct and proper to say Christianity is the completion of Judaism.

However, Joseph Smith considered both Judaism and Christianity not incomplete but *false*, choosing instead to write his own versions of the Old and New Testaments while also adding additional holy texts. Had he not claimed to be the "corrected" version of Christianity, Mormonism would be a false religion. Yet, by claiming to be the "true" Christianity, he created the archetypal "cult of Christianity."

For me, this is what makes the Romney candidacy so fascinating; a political conservative who belongs to a cult of Christianity.

It will be interesting to see whether Romney can persuade enough conservative Christians to vote for him, in spite of his Mormonism. Not since Kennedy have such questions been raised.

With regard to this writer's vote, however, Romney's got it -- if he can win the Republican nomination. - Frank Pastore, *townhall.com*, 4/15/ & 4/29/07

SECRET SERVICE ADDS OBAMA EARLY

The Secret Service said Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) was being placed under its protection, the earliest ever for a presidential candidate. According to the Department of Homeland Security, there were no known threats and Obama requested the protection. He is the second candidate in the 2008 race to receive the protection: New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has it as a former first lady. Federal law allows candidates to seek protection if they meet certain standards, including public prominence as measured by polls and fund-raising of at least \$2 million. - *AJC*, 5/4/07

FRED THOMPSON: NO ENTOURAGE

"One final footnote on Fred Thompson," Neil Cavuto writes at www.foxnews.com.

"It's a little thing, but it struck me and my executive producer, Gary Schreier, as we greeted him [two weeks ago]: He came alone.

"Alone -- no handlers, no enablers, no key people, *noany* people Just Fred, by himself," Mr. Cavuto said.

"And Gary and I are thinking, hey, this guy is tracking sometimes second in GOP polls for president. For president! Of the United States!

"And we're looking for his entourage, his hangers-on, you know,

the guy who holds his briefcase. Another, his cell phone, still another his coat. Someone who polices his words, advises him on statements to the press.

"Nope. No briefcase guy. Or cell phone dude. No policy wonk or statement checker. No people at all.

"Get this: I had more people than he had people. Which tells you something about Fred, I guess. The image things that seem to matter to others don't much matter to Fred." - *WTW*, 4/23/07

CAL THOMAS: RUN, FRED, RUN

I have no idea whether Fred Thompson, former senator from Tennessee, will run for the Republican nomination for president, but he should.

He has Ronald Reagan's communication skills, and speaks plainly in ways most people can understand. Anyone who has listened to him substitute for Paul Harvey on ABC News Radio senses that, in this, he follows in Reagan's footsteps. Radio is an intimate medium. People who are able to connect with a radio audience often can connect on TV and in person. Thompson, the actor, plays other people. On radio and in news interviews, he "plays" himself.

Thompson conveys Middle American, common sense values. When he is asked a question, he doesn't sound as if he's giving a poll-tested pabulum answer. Agree or not, his statements spring from conviction.

In an interview with Fox's Chris Wallace last month, Thompson gave refreshingly direct answers to questions. On Iraq: "We're the leader of the free world whether we like it or not. People are looking to us to test our resolve. People think that if we hadn't gone down there (to Iraq), things would have been lovely. If Saddam Hussein were still around today with his sons looking at Iran developing a nuclear capability, he undoubtedly would have reconstituted his nuclear capability. Things would be worse than they are today."

Yes, we made mistakes in Iraq, Thompson says. "We went in there too light, wrong rules of engagement, wrong strategy, placed too much emphasis on just holding things in place while we built up the Iraqi army, took longer than we figured. Wars are full of mistakes. You rectify things. I think we're doing that now."

Abortion? "Pro-life. I think Roe vs. Wade was bad law and bad medical science. And the way to address that is through good judges."

Gay rights? "I think that we ought to be a tolerant nation. I think we ought to be tolerant people. But we shouldn't set up special categories for anybody. Marriage is between a man and a woman and I don't believe judges ought to come along and change that."

As for "civil unions," Thompson thinks it should be left up to the states.

Gun control? Thompson is "against it generally."

Thompson is a member of the advisory committee for the Libby Legal Defense Trust, which supports Dick Cheney's former chief of staff who is appealing his perjury conviction. Thompson told Wallace if he were president he would pardon Libby immediately: "This is a trial that never would have been brought in any other part of the world. This is a miscarriage of justice."

There's something else to like about Fred Thompson. He doesn't appear to be lusting after the job as if he needs it for his self-image. This, too, is much like Reagan, who knew who he was before becoming president and was the same after he left office.

It is said of Thompson that he has always "answered the call" of his country, whether it was serving as minority counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee, or in other capacities, including United States senator.

Some political "experts" think it is almost too late for any new candidate to announce for president. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich says he intends to wait until September before saying if he will run. Actually, waiting might be the best strategy for these Republicans. Conservative Republicans are restless about what they regard as a weak field. They want someone who can take on Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama and win. . . .

Fame and the presidency may be about to follow Fred Thompson. That would be good for the Republican Party and, should he win, good for the country. - *townhall.com*, 4/176/07

CRIMINAL MINDS

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act is a bill that expands federal hate-crime law to include violent acts based on a victim's sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. The House passed the bill on May 3, and the Senate is expected to pass similar legislation as early as this month. . . .

President George W. Bush threatened to veto the bill, calling it "unnecessary and constitutionally questionable," and noting that state and local laws already cover crimes included in the measure. . . .

A handful of Republican congressmen expressed another concern: the law's potential effect on religious leaders who speak against homosexuality. While the bill specifically targets violent crime, some argued that religious leaders could be implicated under existing conspiracy laws in aiding or abetting such crimes if assailants cite their teachings as a basis for motive. . . .

Chris Stovall, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, said, "There's no doubt this bill is a Trojan horse." While the bill addresses violent crime, Stovall believes it could lay the groundwork for targeting religious speech about homosexuality: "Virtually everywhere hate-crime laws have been passed, prosecutions for speech have shortly followed."

Stovall points to a Swedish minister who was convicted of a hate crime and sentenced to jail time in 2004 for preaching against homosexuality. (The Swedish Supreme Court eventually exonerated the pastor.) "I don't think this is Chicken Little sort of talk," said Stovall.

Stovall added that hate-crime laws are a bad idea no matter what the protected categories, saying the law should criminalize action, not motive or thought. Rep. Trent Franks (R.-Ariz.) agreed, telling fellow lawmakers: "I don't know where we find the constitutional authority to regulate the inner workings of the human mind." - Jamie Dean, *WORLD*, 5/19/07

A SUPREME TEST OF HUMAN SANITY

From the clamor following the Supreme Court's ruling to ban partial-birth abortion, one might assume that American women have been robbed of choice.

In fact, women can still render themselves unpregnant, in the vernacular of choice-speak, by several means. They can "disarticulate the fetus" and even "reduce" or "separate the fetal calvarium."

If the vocabulary is confusing, that's the point. Using Orwellian language to sanitize the issue, so to speak, is a time-honored tactic of the "pro-choice" arbiters. If we don't say what it is, we can pretend what it isn't.

Herewith, a brief translation:

Disarticulating a fetus, which sounds like suspending a pre-born's instant-messaging privileges, means to dismember it. Reducing a calvarium -- a thoroughly desirable-sounding procedure, like lancing a boil -- means to suck the brains from the baby's head. Separating the calvarium means to sever the head with scissors.

Paying attention to the language of abortion -- or anything else for that matter -- is instructive when trying to consider right from wrong. If you have to dress something up to obfuscate the truth of what's in play, you can probably assume it's wrong.

When a man murders his wife, we don't say, "Mr. X rendered his wife unalive by efficiently evacuating her cranial cavity with an instrument customarily associated with construction." We say, "He bashed her brains out in a brutal attack with a claw hammer."

We apparently have no stomach for similarly descriptive (honest) terminology when it comes to the unborn. But then, one might argue, Mrs. X -- unlike a fetus -- was a completely alive human being when Mr. X committed the deed.

With its "partial-birth abortion" (PBA) decision, the Supreme Court took a step toward defining the aliveness of not-quite-born human beings and drew a bright line between abortion and infanticide.

Until now, a baby whose head was still inside the mother's body was not alive enough to be protected under the laws of a nation that calls itself civilized. Understandably, it's easier to kill a baby -- sorry, "terminate a fetus" -- when you don't have to see its face.

Now, if a baby's body has been partly delivered from its mother, it is alive enough to be protected.

Opponents of the ruling assert that this is a dark day for Americans' constitutional rights and women's right to choose. They say this ruling is merely part of the pro-life strategy for gutting *Roe v. Wade*, one ruling at a time.

They also argue, correctly, that this ruling saves no babies from abortion. As stated previously, a fetus can still be disarticulated. And that "procedure" is, arguably, equally brutal, though perhaps not as painful as collapsing the skull.

According to expert testimony, a fetus from 20 weeks' gestation forward may feel "prolonged and excruciating" pain during a PBA -- especially when the skull is crushed or punctured for "evacuation" of its brains. The other side did not rebut the claim.

Reality pop quiz: *When rational people can dispassionately discuss whether it's better to dismember or collapse the skull of a pre-born baby, are they still allowed to call themselves rational?*

The main argument from the pro-choice side, the constitutional issue at stake, has been that the PBA is sometimes needed to protect the health of the mother. But in no single court case were doctors able to demonstrate that PBA was ever a medical necessity. Instead, all arguments were in the realm of the hypothetical.

Indeed, the majority of PBAs are performed on the healthy babies of healthy women. Meanwhile, other alternatives are available that are safe for the mother, if no less unpleasant for the fetus.

It is, of course, true that pro-lifers are celebrating this ruling and that they also hope eventually to see abortion-regulation reverted to the states.

It is also true that many states now will pass PBA bans as well as "informed consent" laws that may require women to view a sonogram before consenting to abortion. Pro-lifers expect the informed consent laws to be challenged and hope for a favorable ruling.

Whatever legal battles lie ahead, Wednesday's high court decision seems a civilizing step forward, affirming as it does that the state has a substantial interest in protecting and preserving life. - Kathleen Parker, *Conservative Chronicle*, 5/2/07

VIRGINIA TECH AND DR. HENRY MORRIS

"Today, Virginia Tech is in the news for all the wrong reasons. This is a well-known engineering school in Blacksburg, Virginia. I

suppose many will blame this tragedy on 'guns' (as if a gun can be either good or bad). Truth is, if one of the 'good guys' had carried a gun, they could have stopped the bad guy(s)! But that's another issue. This story struck me because of another angle. I've always admired Dr. Henry Morris, who died and went to Heaven last year at 88 years of age. He was Christian and he was a scientist. He wrote many books proving that the Bible is scientifically correct and that evolution does not hold the answers to the origin of life.

Dr. Morris was the founder of the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) in El Cajon, California (www.icr.org). Did you know that years ago Henry Morris was a Professor at Virginia Tech? He held a degree in Hydraulic Engineering and taught in the Engineering Department at Virginia Tech. He even wrote a textbook on the subject that was used for years.

During his career there, he began a Bible study that eventually grew into the College Baptist Church of Blacksburg, Virginia. He used his degree in Hydraulic Engineering to study the Genesis account of Noah's Flood. He wanted to understand the power of water and what it could do. While a professor at Virginia Tech, he co-authored (with John Whitcomb) *The Genesis Flood*

Henry Morris had an exceptional record as a professor at the college, and the Dean of Virginia Tech (at that time) was in favor of the book. But a new Dean took over (Dean Wooster) and he was not in favor of Henry Morris' view of the young age of the earth and a Biblical, world-wide flood, so Dean Wooster began to make things difficult for Dr. Morris. With his good record, he kept his job and continued to teach; however, as time went on God was not welcome on the campus of Virginia Tech, and since Henry Morris believed in God and the Bible he began to feel unwelcome, as well.

In 1970, Dr. Morris moved to California and eventually started his own school, ICR, which is still going strong today. At the same time, the Engineering Department of Virginia Tech lost a man of great moral influence." - Pastor Matt Furse, *Christian News*, 4/30/07

THE INTERFAITH CONVOCATION AT V.P.I.

"I watched part of the convocation at Virginia Tech from Tuesday (April 17) and found much of it to be very spiritually curious. How do you have a service of mourning with no clear commitment to belief in any particular religion or view of God?"

The painfully politically correct service was hard to watch. Here are some reflections. Most disconcerting was the segment when four leaders from the religious community [a Muslim, a Buddhist, a Jew, and the Lutheran campus minister] were asked to speak. . . . The Buddhist informed us that 'the message' of all religious teaching is the sacredness and value of human life.' She also noted that 'we are born into this world with an inherent good nature' and 'we must restore our faith in humanity.'

The mainline Lutheran told the audience that one of their purposes for coming together was to 'drink deeply from religious streams.' Note the plural. The 'all is one' spiritual philosophy was the only view on display. He also affirmed what he called 'the sovereignty of life over death' but said nothing of the sovereignty of the God of the Bible. . .

The Convocation ended with a poem by Virginia Tech Professor Nikki Giovanni. This was one of the most surreal aspects of this convocation. First, this "Black Panther" poetess came to the podium dressed as a man with a dark androgynous suit, white shirt and black tie. Her poem, 'We are Virginia Tech,' was presented in the oratorical style of a black preacher. She shouted, 'We did nothing to deserve it.' (Contrast Jesus' reaction to unexpected evil in Luke 13:1-5 and his challenge 'I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.') She

said, 'We are better than we think.' And she compared the human losses at VA Tech with a baby elephant losing its family to ivory poachers! Wasn't the whole point of the convocation to decry the devaluing of human life? When no preachers of the gospel are allowed to speak, I guess a woman poet dressed up as a man is the best a secular world can offer. . . .

The convocation was a fascinating look into what human-centered spiritual life looks like without all the encumbrance and strictures of the God of the Bible. As Jeremiah lamented in his day, 'They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace.' How do we find real peace? See Romans 5:1: 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.'" - Jeff Riddle, *CN*, 5/7/07

STAMPED OUT

Large and sudden postal rate hikes threaten the viability of independent magazines. . . .

Rate hikes slated to take effect July 15 would cripple many small and medium-sized periodicals, diminishing the competition for print media powerhouses. . . .

It will raise the cost of postage at least 20 percent for 5,700 publications and at least 30 percent for hundreds more. . . .

Such dramatic and sudden changes threaten to eliminate thousands of the smallest journals, whose mailing costs make up the bulk of their budgets. - Mark Bergin, *WORLD*, 5/19/07

I do not know yet how this will affect CVN. But if you have not been able to send a gift in the past year, what ever you can do will be appreciated. - N.P.

THE IMMORALITY OF DEFEAT

Winning is everything. Fighting ruthlessly may not please the safe-at-home moralists, but it's losing that's immoral. Consider just one of the many issues about which we're insistently naive and hypocritical: **torture**.

Earlier this month, our Army released the results of an internally initiated survey of soldiers and Marines in Iraq. The results showed that almost half of our troops would condone torture in a specific instance if it saved their buddies' lives.

The media were, of course, appalled. I was shocked too -- surprised that so few of our troops would condone any action that kept their comrades alive. (Me too!)

Torturing prisoners should never be our policy, both because it's immoral and because it's usually ineffective. But it's madness to declare that there can never be exceptions. Forget the argument about the "ticking bomb" and the terrorist who might have information that could save numerous lives. Let's make it personal.

Whether you're left, right or in between, ask yourself this yes-or-no question: If torturing a known terrorist would save the life of the person you love most in the world, would you approve it?

If your answer is "no," you're not a moral paragon. You're an abomination. And please make your position clear to your husband or wife, mother or father, son or daughter. Just tell 'em, "Sorry, honey, but I'd rather see you dead than mistreat a terrorist. It's a moral issue with me."

There are countless other ways in which we elevate the little immoralities required in war above the supreme immorality of losing. Leftists loved My Lai -- they just adored it -- but they were never called to account for the communist atrocities after Saigon fell. Pol Pot's butchery was never laid at the feet of the self righteous who shrieked, "Give peace a chance."

And no one on the left will discuss what might happen if we fail in Iraq. The truth is that they don't care.

We face merciless, implacable enemies who joyously slaughter the innocent with the zeal of religious fanaticism. Yet we want to make sure we don't hurt anyone's feelings. - Ralph Peters, *New York Post*, 5/14/07

FACILITATING STUDENT-TEACHER AFFAIRS

Have you wondered, as I have, why the large number of sexual affairs being reported almost weekly between high school teachers and their students? Dr. Mary Grabar, English professor at Clayton State University, has suggested a reason:

"Maybe now that 18-year-old Sean Powell is dead, it won't seem so cool to have had an affair with the high school teacher. Maybe now that we see the consequences of having the teacher transformed from an authority figure to a cool friend we may question current pedagogical methods.

But probably not, considering who runs our schools. As study after study has indicated, most educators do not emerge from the top tier of college graduates.

These administrators, curriculum devisers, and teacher trainers will continue in their schizophrenic way: by divesting teachers of the authority traditionally endowed to adults -- especially those in the classroom -- and at the same time being puzzled by student-teacher affairs.

Time was when the teacher was an authority figure, someone to be feared, not a pal, not anyone a teenager would choose to spend

time with. That was a time when parents were held in the same regard.

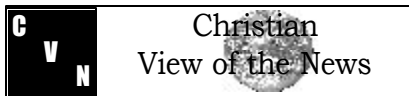
But today the child rules. Sometimes the child is a six-foot male with raging hormones in a classroom with females in various modes of provocative dress, including the teacher, who does not lecture but holds rap sessions, where each and every opinion from students is given the consideration of that of a panelist at a scholarly conference.

The ethos of relativism dominates the conversation as well. The big sin is to declare a right or wrong. "What's right for you may not be right for me."

Most college students utter this inanity as if a wizard were inside them pulling their vocal chords. This ethic of relativism is so predictable as to be boring and it quashes any meaningful discussion. I hear it over and over from college students: Who are we to judge? Who are we to judge a culture that places its women in seclusion behind yards and yards of black cloth? Who are we to question ritual suicide? Who are we to question sexual relations between any two (or more) human beings? This is what the college professor is faced with.

It begins early in education and by high school it is the rare student who can defend notions of right and wrong.

In fact, given that the method of teaching promoted in education classes and in teacher seminars today is that of "facilitation," the barrier between teacher and student is not much of one at all. The teacher becomes a peer, and according to the regnant ethos, it's okay to have sex with one's peer. (Remember, judgments about sexuality are verboten in the classroom too.) The emphasis on "discovery," "group work," and "discussion" puts the teacher in the role of facilitator, not someone who has knowledge to impart". - *townhall.com*, 3/25/07



Christian
View of the News

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