

National News

Report finds Americans don't believe in 'truth'

The Barna Research Group of California has produced a report which profiles the religious beliefs of Americans. Of those surveyed, 62% said that "there is no such thing as absolute truth" and "that different people can define truth in conflicting ways that will still be correct." That figure rises to 74% for 18 to 25 year olds, according to an account of the study published in the Oct. 9 *Washington Times*.

Most people, 63%, think the "purpose of life is enjoyment and personal fulfillment." The report concludes that "in line with the secularization of the nation, Americans typically view life as a temporary effort to obtain all the satisfaction and pleasure possible during their tenure on this planet."

This view is underlined by the 63% who agree that "when it comes right down to it, your first responsibility is to yourself." The report says, "Over the last 25 years we have consistently built a mind-set which allows us to view each person as responsible only to himself" and other views which are the hallmarks of New Age thinking.

Supreme Court curbs anti-abortion protests

The U.S. Supreme Court refused without comment on Oct. 7 to hear a challenge to an injunction restricting protest demonstrations outside any abortion clinic in Atlanta, Georgia. In a separate action on Oct. 7, the court also turned down an appeal by nine anti-abortion protesters arrested in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building on Jan. 22, 1988.

In both cases, the appeals had been based on claims that restrictions on such activities violated the protesters' free speech rights under the First Amendment.

The Atlanta case stemmed from protests against abortion throughout the city, held during and after the July 1988 Democratic National Convention. In early 1990, the city

of Atlanta obtained an injunction barring "demonstrations, pickets, or protests" within 50 feet of any abortion clinic in the city.

The injunction also states that no one may "pass a leaflet or handbill" or "engage in oral protest, education, or counseling" within five feet of any person outside the clinic, unless the person first "gives express oral consent."

In the second case, *Pearson v. U.S.*, the Court refused without comment to intervene on behalf of nine people arrested in 1988 as they knelt and prayed in front of the Supreme Court building. The nine, who had crossed a police line to enter the barricaded plaza area in front of the building, were convicted of unlawful assembly and unlawful entry. Each was sentenced to probation.

Term limitation plan upheld in California

The California Supreme Court ruled on Oct. 10 in favor of a far-reaching term-limitation plan which is heralded as a model for state legislatures around the country. Under the terms of Proposition 140, all current legislators must be removed from office by 1999, and will be banned from running again, unless they run for office in a different branch of government. The measure is accompanied by budget-cutting proposals which are being championed by groups such as the National Tax Limitation Committee.

The term-limitation scheme is expected to be copied in at least a dozen other states this fall, and the proposal's sponsors hope to eventually extend it to Congress. Despite the populist rhetoric of the measure's sponsors, the idea is the brainchild of a Republican Party think-tank in Washington which has members of the Trilateral Commission and Council on Foreign Relations on its board.

In New Orleans, a term-limitation referendum which would limit the number of terms of city council members is being attacked as an attempt to erode the city council's black majority. A similar referendum in Washington State, which would limit the time a U.S. congressman or senator may serve to 12 years, is threatening to prevent

any incumbent congressman in that state from running for reelection, including House Speaker Tom Foley (D-Wash.).

President Bush has made term-limitation a part of his program of congressional reform, and Vice President Quayle has said that this will be come a major theme in the presidential campaign.

American vets condemn war against Iraq

Six American war veterans condemned the U.S. bombing of Iraq during the Gulf war and the U.N. trade sanctions, while in Baghdad Oct. 8. The veterans, five men and one woman, have toured southern Iraq and Baghdad to see the results of the allied bombing in January and February and the effects of the sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August last year.

"History will judge that 42 days of bombing and economic war against the innocent population of Iraq one of the crimes of the century," said delegation leader John Schuchardt, a former U.S. Marine Corps captain from Ipswich, Massachusetts.

"We have come with great shame," Ellen Barfield, a former U.S. Army sergeant and laboratory technician, told a news conference.

She said the bombing had wrecked the water supply system. "Rivers are now open sewers. Even without sanctions, it would take two years to restore water supply to Baghdad, five to restore sewage treatment," she said.

"We fought a vicious war against a wonderful, lovely people," said Philip Roettinger, a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel and former CIA officer. "I want to try to stop the killing, cheating and lying. . . . The American people are completely ignorant of much that is done in their name," he told the news conference, which was organized by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

All six are peace activists at home. The others include Rick Droz, a former Marine and Vietnam veteran, and William Kelsey, a former U.S. Navy pilot discharged as a conscientious objector.

The U.S. economy will not recover with Bush

As long as George Bush is in office, the U.S. economy will not recover, Harvard economist Paul Krugman told *Wirtschaftswoche*, the German business and industry weekly, in early October.

"The United States needs an industrial policy like Japan or Europe," said Krugman, "and that requires state subsidies." He answered the interviewer's remark that Bush has an opposite view, saying: "Right. That is why such an industrial policy will not come that soon. . . . Maybe in seven years," after Bush's second term.

"The U.S.A. cannot become a nation of hamburgers and flippers. We also need factories. It is pure nonsense to believe that we could turn into a pure information and servicing society. All big industrial nations need products for world trade," Krugman said.

In a similar vein, Michael Prowse wrote in the Oct. 11 London *Financial Times*: "Rarely in U.S. history can a President have felt as boxed in economically as Mr. George Bush," and this, only 13 months before the next presidential election.

"In the past fortnight, the once-sanguine White House has shown signs of losing its economic nerve." Bush, claims Prowse, "must hate this feeling of helplessness." He quoted Spanish Finance Minister Carlos Solchaga, who "probably speaks for other European finance ministers," saying he is "absolutely terrified" about U.S. monetary policy.

Bush focus of new angle on Atlanta child murders

Defense attorneys William Kunstler and Alan Dershowitz, lawyers for Wayne Williams, who was convicted in 1982 for the Atlanta child murders, called for President George Bush to be subpoenaed to testify. The call came in a hearing held to determine whether Williams should have a new trial.

According to the Oct. 10 *Atlanta Constitution*, Bush, who was the head of the South Florida Drug Task Force at the time, made numerous trips to Atlanta during the investigation and took a personal interest in the case.

"We believe President Bush attended a meeting of top officials at the governor's mansion and at that meeting he pushed a reluctant [Fulton County District Attorney] Lewis Slayton into indicting Wayne Williams," Kunstler said. "It was at that meeting that the officials decided they could not indict a Klansman in the slaying or it would start a bloody race war in the streets of Atlanta. . . . And if Bush attended that meeting, he's no different than the average citizen in being required to testify as to what happened."

According to testimony at the hearing, Georgia Bureau of Investigation tapes implicated Klu Klux Klansmen in the killings of 28 black children.

'Respect Life' walk nearly 1 million strong

The pro-life Respect Life Walk, part of the Respect Life Sunday, mobilized close to 1 million people in more than 200 sites across the U.S. on Oct. 6. In most cases, demonstrators formed human chains protesting abortion.

The walk is an annual event, but this year was particularly well-attended in Boston, Massachusetts because of outrage against proposals by Gov. William Weld. Led by Cardinal Bernard F. Law, the activists marched through downtown Boston in "an impassioned show of defiance against Governor Weld's attempt to eliminate restrictions on abortion," the *Boston Globe* reported.

Numerous marchers in Boston said they were participating in their first pro-life protest because of outrage at the package of abortion bills Weld recently filed which would, among other things, lower from 18 to 16 the age at which a minor must obtain her parents' consent to have an abortion. Weld's bill would also prohibit pro-life demonstrators from blocking the doors of clinics where abortions are performed.

● **GEORGE BUSH** has authorized the formation of the "Bush-Quayle '92" campaign reelection committee, headed by Midland, Texas oilman Bobby Holt. GOP sources have said the campaign hopes to raise the maximum amount of \$26 million.

● **NEW YORK** Gov. Mario Cuomo told a meeting Oct. 11 that he would "think about" running for President. "A time frame has been set for a decision within the next few weeks," said Paul Tully, political director of the Democratic National Committee. "That's a change on the part of the governor."

● **THE EXECUTION** of juveniles in the United States was attacked by Amnesty International in a recent report. Only Iran and Iraq have a worse policy, the report charged, accusing the U.S. of having taken a "retrograde step for human rights."

● **BILL BASS**, a judge in the 12th Circuit Court of Appeals and a former Texas legislator, called for the recognition of Croatia. Bass, calling from a bomb shelter in Osijek, Croatia, told Rep. Charles Wilson (D-Tex.), "It's time for somebody in Washington to stand up and raise some hell," the Oct. 8 *Dallas Morning News* reported.

● **ORAL ARGUMENTS** were heard by a panel of the Virginia Court of Appeals in the appeals of Donald Phau and Michael Billington on Oct. 8 and Oct. 9. The two associates of Lyndon LaRouche were convicted on concocted "securities fraud" charges as part of the national "Get LaRouche" task force operations.

● **MILITARY** officials from Russia and the U.S. met in Washington for a conference sponsored by the International Security Council, the Oct. 10 *International Herald Tribune* reported. Writer Jim Hoagland said the Russians were anxious to cooperate with the U.S. on the Strategic Defense Initiative against threats from "the South."