

New Bethel Christian Life Commission Report – May 2006

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'Anti-Christian Culture' No. 1 Issue in LifeWay Survey topped a list of the 10 most important issues facing today's families in an Internet survey by LifeWay Christian Resources.

Stay of Soledad cross removal extended

By Greg Moran SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE – edited from American Center of Law & Justice, Sekulow e-mail July 8, 06

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy ordered Friday that his temporary stay protecting the Mount Soledad cross extend until state and federal courts can hear the city of San Diego's appeal this fall. In blocking a federal judge's order that the city remove the cross by Aug. 1 or face a daily fine of \$5,000, Kennedy also indicated that the full court may want to review the controversial case.

Kennedy said the court, which refused three years ago to get involved in the dispute, may consider it because of two new factors favorable to cross proponents. He cited legislation to make the area a national veterans memorial and a successful ballot initiative in which San Diegans overwhelmingly voted to transfer the land to the federal government.

Texas' patient care law at hub of Houston dispute

Life-support case 'raises questions of whether the law might be used to bury mistakes'

By TODD ACKERMAN - Copyright 2006 Houston Chronicle July 8, 2006, 2:01AM - edited

Texas' controversial **futile care law** is at the center of a drama at Memorial Hermann Hospital involving a patient who suffered brain damage after her breathing tube became disconnected.

Doctors invoked the law, which allows hospitals to remove life support in cases deemed medically futile, two weeks later, after deciding 29-year-old Kalilah Roberson-Reese was in a vegetative state.

"This case raises questions of whether the law might be used to bury mistakes," said Jerri Ward, an Austin attorney who this week asked a judge to stop Memorial Hermann from withdrawing life support from Roberson-Reese. "At the very least, there is an appearance of a conflict of interest that should preclude a futility review committee from making a life-or-death decision before an independent investigation is made." Dr. William Winslade, an ethicist at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, said the case "raises questions about how quickly these decisions should be made in the face of potential litigation." Lawyers are studying Roberson-Reese's medical charts at her mother's request to determine whether to file a malpractice lawsuit.

According to hospital medical charts, nurses discovered Roberson-Reese was unresponsive after finding her tracheal breathing tube had become disconnected June 12. That was more than a month after doctors performed an emergency cesarean section, trying to save the life of her 33-week fetus. The baby died....

Neurologists say such "wakefulness without awareness" is the hallmark of a vegetative state, which becomes a persistent vegetative state after one to three months.

It was such movement and apparent responsiveness that family members cited in the case of Terri Schiavo, a Florida woman in a persistent vegetative state for 15 years. Widely circulated video of Schiavo during the years-long legal battle between her husband and her family appeared to show Schiavo was aware of people and her surroundings. After her death in March of 2005, doctors who performed her autopsy found her brain had shriveled to half its normal size and suffered damage in nearly all its regions, including the one responsible for vision....

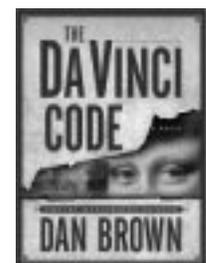
Doctors subsequently determined Roberson-Reese's case was futile and, on June 26, the hospital's futility review committee voted to approve the recommendation. That set a timetable under which the hospital could legally remove the patient from life support July 8. Deason was not at the meeting.

Efforts to transfer Roberson-Reese are focused on Mayfield Care Center, a nursing home in San Antonio. Texas Right to Life, which is assisting Deason in the matter, said the facility is open to such a transfer but has no vacancies at the moment. Many other facilities in the state already have refused to accept Roberson-Reese as a patient.

Da Vinci Code, Part 2 of 2

***The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown – My Two Cents – Part Two**

I have now seen the movie, and it tried to follow the book, but seriously lacked the on-the-edge-of-your-chair holding power. I almost fell asleep a couple of times. Book is a page-turner, very intriguing, like many of the spy novels I have enjoyed, while not necessarily agreeing to the ethics. The book *is* fiction. The problem is that historical facts are mixed with liberal interpretations. The **greatest fallacy** is that only *two* non-church non-Christian



persons retain the truth of Jesus, not even the Catholic church that apparently is sponsoring the secret society knew the truth. I liked the *Star Wars* series, not because they were true, but because they were entertaining and filled with novel and funny characters, because the plot took you away and made you feel your humanness. Not because of it had anything real. In 1978, I was not threatened by “the force” any more than I was today. Is there a threat in the *Da Vinci Code*? Maybe, for a small number that might be duped by the liberal mixture. But not for the millions who have read the book, for the book is an expansive cat-and-mouse with a smidgeon of religion. Have no fear, no cult will arise from Dan Brown’s book, and the boring movie will insure that. Mike

Priory of Sion web site Promo – The Story Line (edited)

The special illustrated version of *The Da Vinci Code*, one of the best-selling novels of all time that has intrigued and thrilled millions of readers around the world, now contains all the artwork, symbols, architecture, and historic locations—over 160 images—beautifully compiled in this full-color collector's edition. A mind-bending code hidden in the works of Leonardo da Vinci. A desperate race through the cathedrals and castles of Europe. An astonishing truth concealed for centuries... unveiled at last. While in Paris on business, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon receives an urgent late-night phone call. The elderly curator of the Louvre has been murdered inside the museum, a baffling cipher found near the body. As Langdon and a gifted French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu, sort through the bizarre riddles, they are stunned to discover a trail of clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci—clues visible for all to see and yet ingeniously disguised by the painter. The stakes are raised when Langdon uncovers a startling link: the late curator was involved in the Priory of Sion—an actual secret society whose members included Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo, and Da Vinci, among others. Langdon suspects they are on the hunt for a breathtaking historical secret.... In a frantic race through Paris, and beyond, they match wits with a faceless powerbroker who appears to anticipate their every move. Unless they can decipher the labyrinthine puzzle, the Priory's secret—and an explosive ancient truth—will be lost forever.... From secrets embedded in the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, to the symbols of ancient Egypt, to the architecture of landmarks such as the Louvre, Westminster Abbey, Rosslyn Chapel, and more.... Dan Brown is the author of *Digital Fortress*, *Angels & Demons*, *Deception Point*, and lives in New England.

American Film Institute Most Controversial Religious Films

Source: Movies.aol.com/film-fixation-controversial-religious

10. **The Pope Must Die(t) 1991**- an unqualified goofball priest (Robbie Coltrane) is named pope and battles against the mafia-controlled Vatican
9. **The Crime of Father Amaro 2002** – Gael Garcia Bernal plays a young and sexy priest who begins a torrid affair with a 16-year-old girl. Major success in Mexico, and Catholic groups in Mexico called for a ban. Portuguese critics claimed the adaptation wasn't faithful to the novel.
8. **Monty Python's Life of Brian 1979** – Born next door to Jesus, Brian of Nazareth (with waist long hair and beard) can't shake the fanatics who think he's the Messiah. A leading rabbi said “Brian” was “produced in hell.” Banned in Ireland, Norway, Italy, parts of UK, but became a huge box office hit.
7. **Water 2006** – a 7-year-old widow befriends a gorgeous prostitute in a home for Indian widows, who are forced to live in poverty. A Hindu mob burned down Deepa Mehta's original set and threatened her. A Gandhi-era drama.
6. **Priest 1994** – The head priest of a Liverpool church likes to shag the pretty housekeeper, while the younger priest acts on his homosexual desires. The Catholic League urged mass boycotts of Disney when Miramax planned a Good Friday opening. Financial flop.
5. **Dogma 1999** – Christ's last descendent (an abortion clinic worker) must prevent two rogue angels from ending humanity. Catholic League publicly dissed Miramax and Disney. Director Kevin Smith claimed he received 300,000 pieces of hate mail.
4. **The Passion of Christ 2004** – Mel Gibson's Aramaic epic was a brutal depiction of Christ's last hours on earth. Evangelical sold out multiplexes, Jews protested the film as anti-Semitic. Made over \$370 million, 10th-highest-grossing film of all time.
3. **The Da Vinci Code 2006** – Murder at the Louvre uncovers an age-old battle between the Catholic sect Opus Dei and a secret society, the Priory of Sion. Several Catholic and Opus Dei groups called for boycotts, and one cardinal suggested legal action. Early reviews not positive, but Tom Hanks not a flop in years.
2. **The Message 1976** – Islam's origins with Anthony Quinn as Hamza. Mistakenly believing Mohammed would be depicted in the film (forbidden by Shari'a), some Black Muslims took hostages and demanded the movie never be shown. Lukewarm reviews and cold public reception.

1. **The Last Temptation of Christ 1988** – Martin Scorsese’s take on the eponymous novel, about what Jesus might have imagined as he hung on the cross. Conservative Christians protested peacefully; in France a Molotov cocktail injured moviegoers. Bust financially.

Resources and Opinions (edited)

EthicsDaily.com: *The Da Vinci Code*—From the first scene, when Louvre curator Jacques Sauniere rumbles through his Grand Gallery to avoid a gun-wielding albino monk, you get the sense that this adaptation—if you’ve read the book—might be disappointing. Movie review by CLIFF VAUGHN

http://www.ethicsdaily.com/article_detail.cfm?AID=7381

NELSON DeMILLE, #1 New York Times bestseller: "Dan Brown has to be one of the best, smartest, and most accomplished writers in the country. *The Da Vinci Code* is many notches above the intelligent thriller; this is pure genius."

CLIVE CUSSLER, #1 New York Times bestseller: "Intrigue and menace mingle in one of the finest mysteries I’ve ever read. An amazing tale with enigma piled on secrets stacked on riddles."

HARLAN COBEN, New York Times best-selling author of *Tell No One*: "Dan Brown is my new must-read. *The Da Vinci Code* is fascinating and absorbing – perfect for history buffs, conspiracy nuts, puzzle lovers or anyone who appreciates a great, riveting story. I loved this book."

VINCE FLYNN, New York Times best-selling author of *Separation of Power*: "The *Da Vinci Code* sets the hook-of-all-hooks, and takes off down a road that is as eye-opening as it is page-turning. You simply cannot put this book down. Thriller readers everywhere will soon realize Dan Brown is a master."

ROBERT CRAIS, New York Times best-selling author of *Hostage*: "I would never have believed that this is my kind of thriller, but I'm going to tell you something--the more I read, the more I had to read. In *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown has built a world that is rich in fascinating detail, and I could not get enough of it. Mr. Brown, I am your fan."

Christian Coalition says: Christian Coalition of America Speaks Out on 'Da Vinci Code' Movie. I am asking all of our partners to take an active stand against the movie ... This movie will cause much confusion for anyone that is searching for Truth... Linda Blankenship, National Prayer Coordinator, Christian Coalition Thursday, 5-1106, www.cc.org.

Louisiana Baptist Convention is making a DVD, *The Da Vinci Code: Fact, Faith or Fiction*, for \$5 with discounts for bulk orders: 318-449-4254.

Apologetics Resource Center has a book list: www.arcapologetics.org.

Christian Research Institute has several tools: www.equip.org.

Reasoning from the Scriptures, Dallas, has extensive article by Ron Rhodes, www.ronrhodes.org.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary had a March 2005 workshop, with audio downloads available at www.mbts.edu/Resources/workshop_davincicode.htm.

Westminster Seminary has launched www.thetruthaboutdavinci.com, an entire web site.

Watchman Fellowship at www.watchman.org has a DVD available with several Southern Baptists on it, including Albert Mohler, June Hunt, and Mac Brunson.

Sermon Spice as www.sermonspice.com has several sermons and study tools.

Gospel According to the Da Vinci Code: The Truth Behind the Writings of Dan Brown by Kenneth Boa and John Alan Turner is in LifeWay stores and at www.lifewaystores.com.

Breaking the Da Vinci Code by Darrell Bock, NT Professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, will certainly help anyone sort out the facts from the fictions. In an interview with *Southern Baptist Texan* reporter, Bock said, "I think it's both a problem and an opportunity simultaneously. It's a problem to the extent the church hasn't prepared people for it, but it's an opportunity to the extent that once people gain hold of the facts and what's really going on, there's a lot of affirmation that follows about what this early church history actually is" (*SBT*, 5-8-06: p12).

BGCT Texas Christian Life Commission, www.christianlifecommission.org & www.bgct.org, 888-332-5870 — **Baptist Joint Committee**, Washington, DC — www.bjcpa.org — **SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission**, www.erc.com — **American Center for Law and Justice**, www.aclj.org - **Christian polling:** www.grassfire.org & www.ethicsdaily.com ~ **Christian Coalition** www.cc.org

Congresspersons ~ 80th Texas Session begins January 2007

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Texas Legislature www.capitol.state.tx.us - Who represents you: www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm

www.Senate.gov
www.House.gov

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