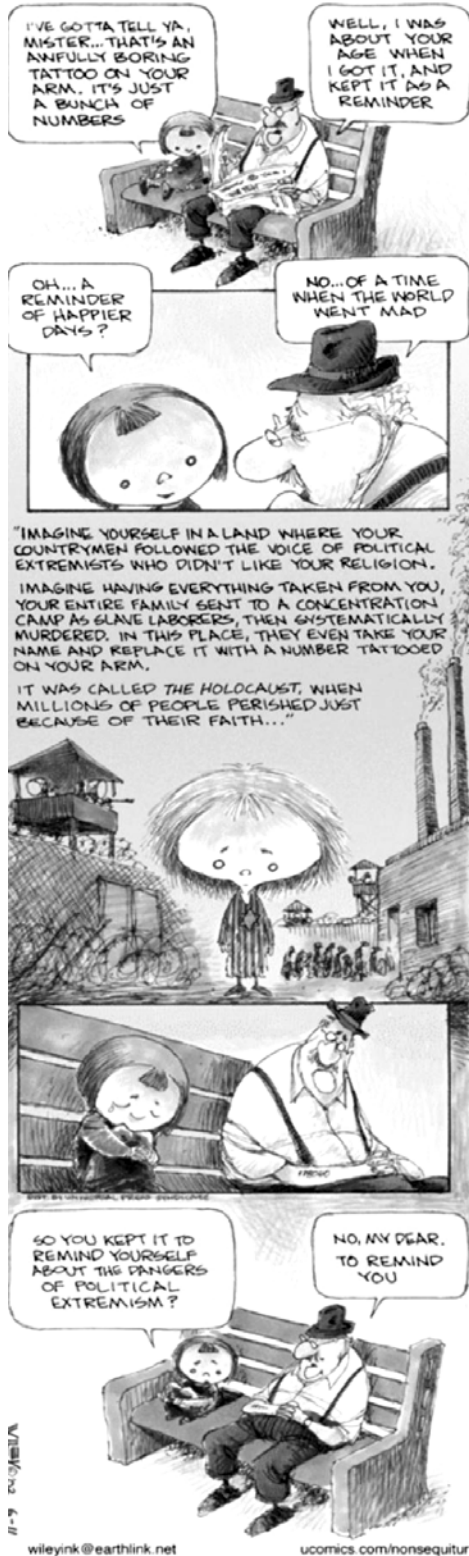


**NON SEQUITUR  
BY WILEY**



**New Bethel Christian Life Commission Report –  
November 2006**

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**Quote of Year**

“A TV reporter asked the grandfather of two of the girls who died where he had forgiven the killer. ‘In my heart, yes,’ he said. ‘Through God’s help.’”<sup>1</sup>

A far better man than me, that grandfather did what I do not think I could do. What grace. The *English*, as the Amish call the secular community around them, helped the Amish families of the victims of a psychotic and demon-possessed killer, Charles Carl Roberts IV, the milkman who “lined 10 little girls up in the one-room schoolhouse last week” who became a “force of darkness” in the West Nickel Mines Amish School; he shot them, then killed himself. Ironically, every guest who came to the school was met by a sign over the blackboard “Visitors Brighten People’s Days.”<sup>2</sup>

God help our children in these dangerous times.

**‘Dry’ Counties Are Drying Up in Texas**

Even more are putting the liquor option to voters since easing of law

LUFKIN — Sarah Strinden is tired of what she calls the “pain-in-the-neck” drive she must take as a consequence of Texas’ patchwork of local liquor laws. From her house it’s a 10-mile jaunt to the metal-sided beer barns and package stores in either of two adjoining wet counties. “We don’t buy a lot and store it, so when we’re planning a casual drink with friends it’s a 40-minute trip,” she said. “It’s just inconvenient.” Strinden and others in Angelina County will vote in November whether to allow beer and wine in their grocery and convenience stores as well as whether restaurants can serve beer, wine and mixed drinks.

The vote comes as part of a wave of local-option elections that are steadily “wetting up” the more populous parts of Texas. Lufkin’s Baptist churches and others are mounting a campaign to keep their corner of East.<sup>3</sup>

**McKissic Wants SBC to Address  
‘Tongues’ in Baptist Faith & Message**

The Associate Baptist Press reported that Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, and a trustee at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in nearby Fort Worth, publicized a letter ... [asking] SBC President Frank Page and other leaders to study the issue of tongues among Southern Baptists. “The purpose ... is to ... request that the ... SBC initiate a process of ... formally adopting a position sanctioned by the SBC in 2007 or 2008 annual meeting, to be included in the ‘Baptist Faith & Message....’”<sup>4</sup>



< Cartoon sent by Rev. Jack Lewellen, Moderator,  
New Bethel Baptist Association

<sup>1</sup> Will Sullivan, “Eyeing the Unspeakable, and Forgiving,” *U.S. News & World Report* (9-16-6): 11.  
<sup>2</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>3</sup> Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/4227278.html>. By Thomas Korosec, Houston Chronicle (10-1-6).  
<sup>4</sup> Source: <http://www.baptiststandard.com/postnuke/index.php?module=htmlpages&func=display&pid=5414>, by Robert Marus - Associated Baptist Press (9/22/06).

## Roberts Court May Be Defined in Second Term

“WASHINGTON, Oct. 1 — If Year 1 was the transition for the new Roberts court, Year 2 is likely to be the test.... Less than six weeks from now, for example, the court will hear the Bush administration’s defense of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003.... Two federal appeals courts, in St. Louis and San Francisco, declared the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Act of 2003 unconstitutional, basing their rulings on the Supreme Court’s decision in *Stenberg v. Carhart*, which struck down Nebraska’s similar law six years ago.”<sup>5</sup>

“The statute outlaws a surgical procedure that doctors use to perform abortions after about 12 weeks of pregnancy. In its decision six years ago, the Supreme Court held by a vote of 5 to 4 that the law had to take into account medical judgments that the procedure was sometimes necessary.... Congress responded by enacting a federal law without a health exception, declaring that the procedure was never necessary to protect a pregnant woman’s health.”<sup>6</sup>

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## Seniors & Economy—No Downside!

The *U.S. News & World Report* reported that in 1900 only 4.1% of the population was over 65, today about 12%, and projected that in 2030 that 19.6% of our American population would be over 65. Also, and best of all, “There’s no doubt that seniors have been a boost to economic activity. Prof. William Hall, senior economist at the Center for Business and Economics Services at UNCW, estimates that retirees ... generate \$2 in economic activity for every \$1 they spend.” In Wilmington, North Carolina, Connie Majure-Rhett, president of the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, noted many improvements. One noted that he was “hard-pressed to think of any downside to the flood of seniors.”<sup>7</sup>

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## Billy Graham—Christian Statesman to the End (Full Quotes)

“All my life I’ve been taught how to die, but no one ever taught me how to grow old,’ Graham remarked one day to his daughter Anne Graham Lotz. ‘And I told him, “Well, Daddy, you are now teaching us”.’ The less of age, Anne says, is this: ‘When you get older, secondary things like politics, begin to fall away, and the primary thing becomes primary again—and for Daddy, the primary thing is, as Jesus said, to try to love God totally, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.’”<sup>8</sup>

“Graham spends hours now with his Bible, at once savoring and reconsidering old stories and old lessons. While he believes Scripture is the inspired, authoritative word of God, he does not read the Bible as though it were a collection of Associated Press bulletins straightforwardly reporting on events in the ancient Middle East. ‘I’m not a literalist in the sense that every single jot and tittle is from the Lord,’ says Graham. ‘This is a little difference in my thinking through the years.’ ...

“Now, more than half a century later, he is far from questioning the fundamentals of the faith. He is not saying Jesus is a just another lifestyle choice, nor is he backtracking on essentials such as the Incarnation or the Atonement. But he is arguing that the Bible is open to interpretation, and fair-minded Christians may disagree or come to different conclusions about specific points.” [Like “day” in Genesis, which Graham believes figurative, though he believes Jonah was swallowed whole by a whale.]<sup>9</sup>



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

**Congresspersons ~ 80th Texas Session begins January 2007**

**Todd Staples**, Senator, Texas Senate District 3 – Capitol: 512-463-0103; District: 903-729-7717

**Jim McReynolds**, Representative, Texas House District 12 – Capitol: 512-463-0490; District: 936-634-9786

**Texas Legislature** [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) - Who represents you: [www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm)

[www.Senate.gov](http://www.Senate.gov)  
[www.House.gov](http://www.House.gov)

**Kay Bailey Hutchinson**, US Senator – <http://hutchinson.senate.gov/> 713-653-3456

**John Cornyn**, US Senator – <http://cornyn.senate.gov/> Tel: 713-572-3337 — **Kevin Brady**, U.S. Rep. Dist. 8 – 202-225-4901

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<sup>5</sup> See [http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/p/planned\\_parenthood\\_federation\\_of\\_america/index.html?inline=nyt-org](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/p/planned_parenthood_federation_of_america/index.html?inline=nyt-org).

<sup>6</sup> Linda Greenhouse, *New York Times*, 10-2-6.

<sup>7</sup> *U.S. News & World Report* (10-2-6): 57.

<sup>8</sup> Jon Meacham, “Pilgrim’s Progress: In the twilight, Billy Graham shares what he’s learned in reflecting on politics and Scripture, old age and death, mysteries and moderation,” A NEWSWEEK exclusive, *NEWSWEEK*. (8-14-6): 38.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 40-41.