



NEWS & NOTES

■ Coloradans will vote on whether to legalize assisted suicide this November in a ballot measure that does not require psychiatric evaluation for patients requesting suicide. Data shows that most Oregon patients who underwent physician-assisted suicide in that state listed depression rather than pain as the top reason for requesting death. Yet only 5.3 percent of those requesting suicide were referred for a psychiatric evaluation. Five states—California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Vermont—have legalized physician-assisted suicide in some form. PAS remains illegal by statute in Montana, but a 2009 Montana Supreme Court decision shields doctors from prosecution so long as they have the patient's request in writing. There are nine other states in which the legalization of physician-assisted suicide is being considered in the state legislatures: Alaska, Arizona, Michigan, Nebraska,

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And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed...

— Romans 12:2

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New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Utah. Currently, one in six Americans lives in a state where a doctor can prescribe a lethal dose of drugs to a patient. In 1997, the Court ruled that since the individual states can have a legitimate interest in prohibiting PAS. The ruling made it clear that legalizing or criminalizing PAS is a matter of states' rights. *FACT, 10/14; The Weekly, 10/14*

■ On Tuesday, Orange County, Calif., District Attorney Tony Rackauckas filed a lawsuit against Da Vinci Bioscience and DV Biologics for allegedly profiting illegally from the sale of fetal tissue. The suit does not implicate Planned Parenthood though evidence may suggest that the abortion giant could also be responsible for illegal activity. Rep. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., chairwoman of the House Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives that has been investigating fetal tissue trafficking, said this about the lawsuit, "officials at the state and local level share our concern that some fetal tissue middlemen may have broken the law."

FACT, 10/14

■ The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has closed public comments on new regulations that would keep states from defunding Planned Parenthood. After the Center for Medical Progress released videos revealing that

Planned Parenthood sells the body parts of aborted babies, 14 states attempted to strip Planned Parenthood funding. Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn., said every county in her state has redirected money from Planned Parenthood to other community health centers. An outspoken voice against the new rule that she called "a last-ditch administrative edict," Black has co-sponsored a bill that would end taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood.

World News Service, 10/14

■ A July poll conducted by Marist, the polling agency used by the Wall Street Journal and NBC News finds that 8 in 10 Americans support at least limiting abortion to the first trimester. The Marist poll also revealed that six out of ten self-identified pro-choice Americans believe abortion should be limited to the first three months of pregnancy. In June, though the Supreme Court struck down most abortion clinic health regulations, the Marist poll found that 78 percent of Americans believe abortion clinics should meet the same standards as other surgery centers, and 70 percent of Americans want doctors who perform abortions to be required to have hospital admitting privileges

Federalist, 10/7

■ CoverGirl just signed 17-year-old makeup artist and social media star James Charles as their first male spokesmodel as part of the cosmetic company's "bound-

ary-breaking" direction. The brand said in a statement, "All of our CoverGirls are role models and boundary-breakers, fearlessly expressing themselves, standing up for what they believe, and redefining what it means to be beautiful. James Charles is no exception." Charles demonstrates his makeup looks on both women and men — himself included. Gender-blurring continues to be a trend in beauty. This fall, Giorgio Armani launched a line of tinted lip balms, billed "for him-her."

WND, 10/11; FACT, 10/14

■ Johns Hopkins psychiatrist-in-chief Dr. Paul McHugh recently reported in *The New Atlantis* that gender identity and sexual orientation are not necessarily "innate." McHugh's conclusions might have been somewhat nebulous, but after meeting with the Human Rights Campaign, Johns Hopkins sent out a statement earlier this month explaining how they intend to be "fully committed to supporting LGBT individuals" by offering, among other things, sex-change surgeries for trans-genders that will be covered by insurance. *FACT, 10/14*

■ Judges at the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals have sided with students at Florida's Valencia College who complained that they were being publicly pressured to undergo transvaginal ultrasounds at the hands of their classmates as part of

a college class. The female students faced browbeatings by school employees who threatened that their academic and professional careers would suffer if they did not comply. *FACT, 10/14*

■ On Tuesday, ADF filed suit on behalf of four Massachusetts churches after the state expanded its definition of "public accommodations" to include churches. This change would require churches to allow bathroom access according to gender identity and would also prohibit "discriminatory" statements, meaning that simply teaching biblical doctrine about males and females could subject a pastor to a fine or up to a year in prison. The churches have also filed a motion to suspend enforcement of the public accommodation laws against churches while their lawsuit proceeds. *FACT, 10/14*

■ Lt. Col. Michael Kersten is in trouble with the Military Religious Freedom Foundation's Mikey Wein-

stein for saying in an interview with the 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs that Jesus was the leader who influenced his career the most. Said Kersten, "As a Christian, my example is to be like Christ. He is my guide and affects all of my decisions. He teaches [me] to do all things as unto the Lord and I believe this is synonymous with integrity first and excellence in all we do." Weinstein, who is accusing Kersten of "Christian exceptionalism," is demanding that the lieutenant colonel be publicly reprimanded, forced to apologize, and made to reaffirm the military unit's commitment to religious diversity. *FACT, 10/14*

■ Kirk Cameron will host his Revive Us gathering of Christians in movie theaters on Tuesday, October 18, for worship, prayer, and inspirational words from Francis Chan, Ben Carson, Eric Metaxas, James MacDonald, and Jennifer Rothschild. There will also be live Q&A

All Scholars Shall Live Religious, Godly and Blameless Lives according to the Rules of God's Word, diligently Reading the holy Scriptures the Fountain of Light and Truth; and constantly attend upon all the Duties of Religion both in Publick and Secret."

— YALE STUDENT REGULATIONS (1745)

Yale University was founded on this day, October 16, 1701, by Congregationalist ministers unhappy with the growing liberalism at Harvard. Prayer was a requirement. Furthermore every student was instructed to "...consider the main end of his study to wit to know God in Jesus Christ" and "to lead a Godly, sober life." For many years these high ideals were followed. One faculty member wrote around 1800, "It would delight your heart to see how the trophies of the cross are multiplied in this institution. Yale College is a little temple: prayer and praise seem to be the delight of the greater part of the students." But fathers cannot ensure the fidelity of their sons.

from audiences across America. FACT, 10/14

■ In nearly half of two-parent households in the U.S. today, children are raised by parents who both work full time. By contrast, in 1970, only 31% of these households had both parents employed full time. Yet most Americans say that children with two parents are better off when one of them stays home to tend to the family, according to a Pew Research Center survey. Pew, 10/10

■ Just months after London researchers found the two major chemicals in marijuana serve dueling roles towards mental health – one good and one bad – another group of scientists found that those who use marijuana when they are young may be at risk of abnormal brain function and lower IQ. Previous studies suggest that frequent marijuana users, especially those who begin at a young age, are at a higher risk for cognitive dysfunction and psychiatric illness, including depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. An earlier study had found that cannabidiol, or CBD, affects the brain in a way that makes it an ideal treatment option for schizophrenia,

while the same London lab found that adolescent exposure to THC, the other major compound found in marijuana, may lead to the onset of schizophrenia in adulthood. London Free Press, 10/5

■ Franklin Graham concluded his 50-state Decision America Tour prayer rally in his home state of North Carolina on Thursday. For the past several months, Graham and his team have been stopping at each state's capital, urging Christians to pray for America and to get out and vote. Graham has said that he has no hope in the Democratic Party, but also no hope in the Republican Party. "Your vote counts. America needs the Christian voice," he said. Christian Headlines, 10/13

■ Three Iranian Christian converts have been sentenced to receive 80 lashes each for drinking communion wine--a punishment they are appealing. Since conversion from Islam is forbidden in Iran, the three men are still considered Muslims under the law under which alcohol is forbidden. The Iranian government has arrested and jailed over 200 Christians in the past year. Christian Headlines, 10/11

■ After more than seven years in prison, the first Pakistani Christian woman to be sentenced to death for blasphemy has had her Supreme Court appeal delayed, amidst renewed Islamist calls for her to die. Asia Bibi, in prison since the summer of 2009, was arrested for allegedly insulting Islam's prophet when she offered water to a Muslim co-worker. About 150 top Muslim clerics (muftis) issued a statement which demanded that the government hang Asia Bibi and all other prisoners of blasphemy laws; and demanded a speedy trial of all cases still pending. They also issued a verbal decree that all those who might rescue those accused of blasphemy or who assist in trying to rescue them should be killed. World Watch Monitor, 10/13

■ In September China released a draft of new religious restrictions, including the prohibition of religious activities that are not approved by the State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA). In addition to the effective prohibition of house or unregistered church in China, online religious services must be approved. If approved, the regulations could take effect early next year. ChinaAid, 10/3

Early Voting begins this Wednesday, October 19, Exercise your duty!

Vote at a convenient place and time — Avoid the lines

CHRISTIANS, TRUMP, AND THE ELECTION

'Locker Room Talk' is No Excuse

by John Stonestreet

Well, here it is...What do we do with Trump's "locker room talk"? What do we do with this election?

The headlines were stolen this week by a video of terrible comments made by Donald Trump in 2005. It has further divided the American people, and it has further divided Christians. In just the last week I've been accused of being both pro-Trump and "a tool of the progressive agenda." Even so, I'm going to wade into these contentious waters today.

It should go without saying that the media are not unbiased. They've been looking for a silver bullet to end Mr. Trump's campaign, and they think they've found it. So they've swarmed. But that's no excuse. Mr. Trump handed them the ammunition.

His comments from 2005 are indefensible and disgusting. That's why it's so disheartening to hear Christians, including some Christian leaders, dismiss them. "His words were from eleven years ago," some say. That might have mattered if he were, at the time, a teenager addicted to today's hip hop music. But he wasn't. He was 60.

"Others have done worse," others say. But that's not a moral argument, and it doesn't make Trump's words any less repugnant.

Trump himself, after an initial apology, has repeatedly dismissed his own comments as "locker room talk." In doing so, he's only dismissed his own apology.

Look, we've given men a "boys will be boys" pass for far too long. As many have noted, Trump's words went far beyond "locker room talk." I agree. There's little evidence of it today, but I was an athlete through high school and college. I've heard locker room talk. It got raunchy, but it never approached braggadocio about sexual assault.

But that locker room excuse has been bugging me all week for a different reason. It assumes that the tamer stuff that we more accurately labeled "locker room talk" is itself harmless. But it isn't. That sort of talk is an outward expression of a dangerous attitude about women and sexuality. It's among the

most damaging and dangerous of all the lies from the sexual revolution.

When I was in college, a young woman, a dear friend, had the courage to tell me how I had objectified her. By God's grace, my eyes were opened to the pain this "locker room talk" attitude can inflict. I was horrified when I realized how much I had hurt her.

And today, I'm horrified by what I see on both sides of this presidential race. During the Lewinsky/Clinton scandal, many, Chuck Colson included, proclaimed that "character counts." They were right. And it still matters today.

And yet here we are: facing an election involving two of the most unlikeable and morally unqualified candidates in American history. And yet they represent political parties and agendas with dramatically different ideas for the future of America, particularly on the issues Christians care about most: life, marriage and religious freedom. So what now?

Well first, civic engagement is still not optional for Christians. We must do the good we can and stand against the evil that we can. And that means voting. There are so many important things on the ballot: representatives and senators, decisions about legalized drugs and legalized suicide, and yes, who will be president. We must show up to vote.

Second, those settled on that top-of-ticket decision need to be somewhat gracious to those who are still struggling. Don't be smug, sanctimonious, or dismissive. And let's stop saying silly lines like, "Well, we aren't electing a Sunday School teacher." No one ever said we were.

And third, this election is revealing deep problems politics alone cannot solve. As Chuck said, salvation will never come in Air Force One, and I'll add especially not this year. So the Church will have to find a way to be reconciled with each other, if we are to be the force for reconciliation in the world that God has called us to be.

Breatpoint Commentary, 10/14/2016

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

★★NEW MOVIES

	Quality	Moral	Age
<i>Max Steel</i>	PG-13	+2	-1 12+
<i>The Accountant</i>	R	+4	-2 OT/A
<i>Kevin Hart: What Now?</i>	R	+3	-3 A

A- Adult, T-Teen, OT- Older Teen

Film "Quality" is an estimate (+1 to +4) of appeal for the intended audience or age group. "Moral" rating ranges from extremely objectionable (-4) to very good (+4). movieguide.org; pluggedin.com