

Florida Mayor Bans Satan From Town

And, no, we're not even making this up.

by **Kate Rockwood**

If Satan wants to stay out of trouble, he'd better avoid the small fishing village of Inglis, Florida. Inglis Mayor Carolyn Risher recently issued a proclamation revoking the Prince of Darkness' visiting rights. "Satan, ruler of darkness, giver of evil, destroyer of what is good and just, is not now, nor ever again will be, a part of this town of Inglis. Satan is hereby declared powerless, no longer ruling over, nor influencing, our citizens," Mayor Carolyn Risher declared on official town letterhead, complete with gold seal.

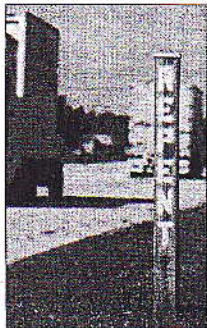
Motivated in part by the events of September 11th, Risher wrote the proclamation and stuffed copies of it into fence posts at the four entrances of the town. "[The events of September 11th] gave me the inspiration that these people need to be ready if something like this was to happen to the town of Inglis. We need to be ready to meet our maker," Risher explained. She went on to say that there are people in Inglis who needed to repent, choosing to not name any names.

While the proclamation is not in reference to any singular event in the town (there have been no reported sightings of Satan, according to local police), Risher says there is need for an overall sense of concern. She talks of drunken drivers, fathers who molest their daughters, and teenager who wear all black and paint their faces white in a style known as "Goth."

"As blood-bought children of God, we exercise our authority over the devil in Jesus' name. By that authority, and through His Blessed Name, we command all satanic and demonic forces to cease their activities and depart the town of Inglis," the proclamation continues.



Carolyn Risher, Mayor of Inglis and one of God's children. photo courtesy of CNN



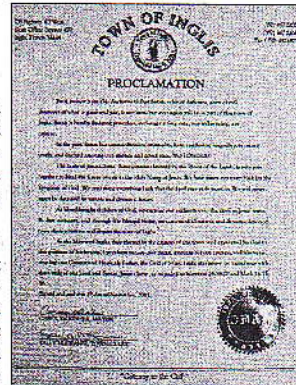
Copies of the proclamation were stuffed into fence posts like this one. photo courtesy of CNN

Aside from broad support from the Town Commission, the proclamation also received much applause from the citizens of Inglis. "Because we refused to stand up for God, we have let Satan take over," one woman said at a town meeting.

Some citizens, however, were concerned, not so much with the blurring of state and religious boundaries, as the misuse of official town stationery. "I just think that when she put it on town letterhead, that she crossed the line," resident Polly Bowser told CNN. "There is an ordinance in our town that says that you do not use town letterhead for personal opinion." Steven Young, another concerned citizen agreed that if Risher wants to be a bible-thumping, satan-banishing Mayor, she has every right to be—she just needs to keep her writing off the town letterhead. "One person's beliefs are fine but not on town letterhead. It just doesn't seem appropriate," he explained.

Risher calls for solidarity in these dangerous, satanic times. "If our churches band together and pray, our nation and our town can be a godly nation and a godly town," she said. In response to the complaints that she's abused her town letterhead privileges, Risher responded, "We've gone so far in the separation of Church and State, it's almost like Christians don't have rights anymore." FP

Kate Rockwood is slowly getting over her inability to use the telephone. She has not yet accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.



Uncontroversial proclamation on controversial letterhead, complete with gold seal. photo courtesy of CNN

Stuff that Just Missed the Rinse Cycle

Nice plan, With a Nasty Semantic Catch

A plan suggested by the Bush administration on 1.31.02 would allow low-income pregnant women to attain prenatal care for themselves and their fetuses under the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which does not usually provide healthcare for unborn babies or pregnant mothers. However, under the suggested plan, fetuses would be classified as "unborn children," a term that worries many abortion supporters. Laurie Rubiner of the National Partnership for Women and Families states, "If they're interested in covering pregnant women, why don't they talk about pregnant women? I just have to believe their hidden agenda is to extend personhood to a fetus."



Pot: A Women's Issue

Many women's groups in the United Kingdom are pressing their government to legalize marijuana, arguing that it is a "women's issue" because smoking weed offers women a low caloric way to chill out. They say that smoking pot is less fattening than chocolate and cookies. But these women are overlooking a very important issue—the munchies.



If You Can Birth 'Em, You Can Have 'Em

China recently passed a new version of its family planning law that now places a man's desire to have a child on equal footing with a woman's right to not have a child. While there will be no legal recourse for men who feel their wives are denying them the right to have a child, legal experts feel that this could increase the number of marital rapes. How 'bout we come up with a nice compromise—if you can find a wife who wants to have a kid, then you can have a kid. Or better yet, if you can figure out how to birth a baby yourself, we won't stop you.

Value-based Payments Leave Men's Sex Skills Penniless

In Germany they opened up "the first women's brothel" but this month the brothel went bankrupt—not from want of customers, but because the owners didn't collect money from the women upfront. Instead, the women paid after they had sex and paid "for what they thought the services were worth."



Child Molester Unmolested by Charges

Last month, a judge made Daniel Ortega one of the happiest child molesters—or former presidents of Nicaragua ever. Rape charges were brought against him by his stepdaughter, now 33, who claims that Ortega had begun to molest her at the age of 11 and raped her repeatedly after the age of 14. The judge decided that too much time had passed for guilt or innocence to be legally determined. As Janice Earlbomb of girlbomb points out, "This case highlights the basic problem with applying a statute of limitations to sexual abuse suffered by children: many years may pass before the abused party understands and be able to prosecute the offender. Maybe the statute of limitations should last as long as the statute of crappy awful trauma lasts."

Gender Neutral Bible Hits Market 500 Years Late

Today's New International Bible is releasing a new gender-appropriate (and often neutral) bible this Spring. "We firmly believe that to effect positive change in our world, we must communicate with today's generations in the English they are being taught and that they speak," Peter Bradley, president of the Colorado-based International Bible Society, said in a prepared statement. "To accomplish this mission, we must make certain that Scripture is presented in a way that is unquestionably accurate and perfectly clear." Some changes that rock our feminist world are "sons of God" being changed to "children of God," "a man is justified by faith" became "a person is justified by faith" and, the real kicker, Mary's no longer "with child" she's now "pregnant." Maybe someone should pass out this new version of the Bible at all those abortion protests.

Racial Profiling at O'Hare

On January 16, 2002 the ACLU filed a lawsuit against the Illinois National Guard on behalf of Samar Kaukab. Traveling home from her father's funeral, Kaukab was asked to remove her hijab at an O'Hare airport security station. Kaukab initially refused to do so, citing her religious beliefs which prohibit her from removing the hijab in public. After the security men persisted that she must remove the hijab, Kaukab grew frustrated and became convinced that she was being singled out on account of her race. Kaukab made "inflammatory suggestions" that there might, indeed, be a bomb on her person. Airport security proceeded to strip search and detain Kaukab. The ACLU argues that racial profiling is to blame.