

Quotes of Day

“Stone walls cannot a prison make, Half so secure as rigmorale.”¹

C. S. Lewis, *Poems* (1947), 78.

Free Speech or Espionage? - <http://wikileaks.org>

U.S. Asks WikiLeaks to Halt Document Release

By Matthew Lee, The Associated Press, Nov. 28, 2010, 8:03AM

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration has told whistleblower WikiLeaks that its expected imminent release of classified State Department cables will put "countless" lives at risk, threaten global counterterrorism operations and jeopardize U.S. relations with its allies²

From WikiLeaks web site home page 11-27-10!

“At 5pm EST Friday 22nd October 2010 WikiLeaks released the largest classified military leak in history. The 391,832 reports ('The Iraq War Logs') document the war and occupation in Iraq, from 1st January 2004 to 31st December 2009 (except for the months of May 2004 and March 2009) as told by soldiers in the United States Army. Each is a 'SIGACT' or Significant Action in the war. They detail events as seen and heard by the US military troops on the ground in Iraq and are the first real glimpse into the secret history of the war that the United States government has been privy to throughout. The reports detail 109,032 deaths in Iraq, comprised of 66,081 'civilians'; 23,984 'enemy' (those labeled as insurgents); 15,196 'host nation' (Iraqi government forces) and 3,771 'friendly' (coalition forces). The majority of the deaths (66,000, over 60%) of these are civilian deaths. That is 31 civilians dying every day during the six year period.”

Yes – you can go to the site, log on and see things hitherto “secret” or “classified.” Hitting news as we meet, whether this will lead to arrest of web site and security of several nations.

Men’s LIB – The End of Man

Andrew Romano and Tony Dokoupil, “Men’s LIB—To survive in a hostile world, guys need to embrace girly jobs and dirty diapers. Why it is time to reimagine masculinity at work and at home” *NEWSWEEK* (9-27-10).

Clipped and edited by Michael G. Maness

“What’s the matter with men?” – the long article leads. The authors summed several popular articles, like Hanna Rosin’s article in the influential *The Atlantic* where Rosin declared, “‘The End of Men’ is upon us.” Our U.S. economy has transitioned from brawn to brain in the last thirty years and many more women are in the work force: “Women have matched or overtaken men as a percentage of students in college and graduate school, while men have retained their lead in alcoholism, suicide, homelessness, violence, and criminality.” There are some throw backs, like a books named, *Shop Class as Soulcraft* and TV specials *Dirty Jobs*, *Ax Men*, but even the *Ice Road Truckers* has some a beautiful young woman *trucker* doing the exact same job. Since the 1950s, the woman has gone through makeovers, but the expectations of men have remained to some degree, with an addition: the definition includes, today, both Mr. T and Mr. Mom.

There are challenges. In an article by Michael Chabon, *Manhood for Amateurs*, he recalls a trip to the grocery store with his son. While in the checkout stand, a woman comments on him being “such a good father.” It was as clear that no woman would ever get a kudo for bringing *her*

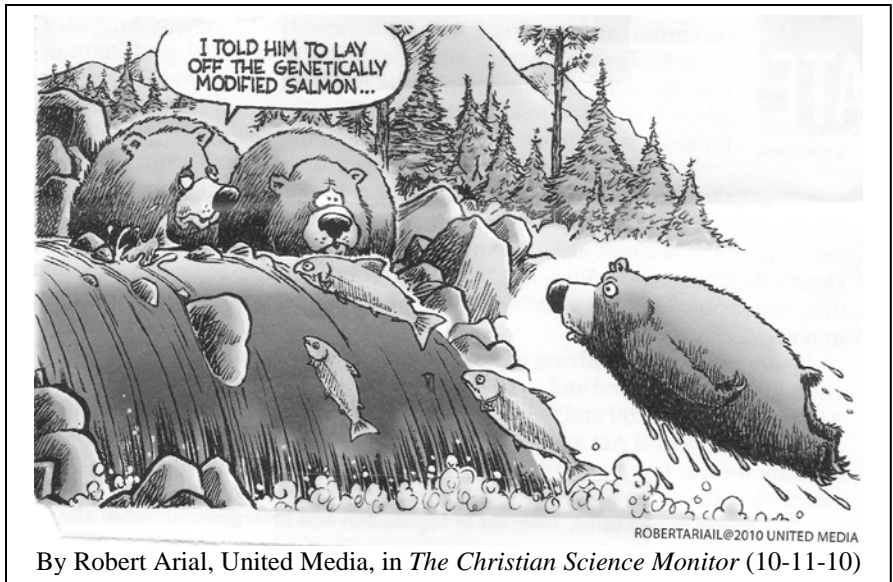
¹ *Webster’s*: Rigmorale: 1) confused or meaningless talk, 2) a complex and ritualistic procedure.

² See Houston Chronicle for full article: www.Chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/washington/7314415.html.

kids to the supermarket; it is still far more *natural* for a woman to shop with her kids than a man, and that is not likely to change soon.

In 1995 in Sweden, moves have been made to balance family time in a revolutionary law: couples lose one month of maternity leave unless the father was the one who took it. The second use-it-or-lose-it month was added in 2002, and now more than 80% of Swedish fathers take four months off for the birth of a new child.” A recent poll showed Republicans 62%, Democrats 92%, and independents 71% now support the idea of paternity leave, and several big companies are instituting two weeks of paid leave (Texas Instruments, Sun Microsystems, Ernst & Young).

While noting that some rolls seem peculiarly suited, the article closed with a question: “After all, what’s more masculine: being a strong, silent, unemployed absentee father, or actually fulfilling your half of the bargain as a breadwinner and a dad?”



AFTER thought – I was slightly surprised at the number of articles and books that were *against* males and male roles. The article seemed balanced; it *was* written by two men after all. But I suspect that between the lines even they were uncomfortable with how so much of the *traditional* man as leader and protector—even as dominator—seems to have come under assault, and assaulted mostly by a small percentage of influential women. And they did not go into what seems to be an concern today, in most persons’ minds, and that is women on the battlefield. While some push for exacting equality, there are some rolls that seem to defy that equality. Hard choices face us.

Dignity Based on Creation, Not Capability

Ken Camp, *Baptist Standard* (11-8-10), edited by Michael G. Maness

The President’s Council on Bio-ethics met at Baylor University on October 28-30, 2010. Lutheran Gilbert Meilaender, professor of Christian ethics at Valparaiso University, spoke on “Human Dignity and the Future of Health Care,” noting the difference between the dignity accorded for achievement and that “inherent in every person created by God.” Reflecting upon 13 years in hospice care, Helen Harris of Baylor’s School of Social Work said, “When dealing with end-of-life issues, it’s important to recognize who the expert is, and it’s not you [the doctor or preacher]. The expert in the room is the patient—and the family—the people who are going through the experience.” The article went on to explain the tragedy of the bottom line and how some institutions minimize time with patients to maximize revenue, often leaving “patients feeling demeaned and doctors feeling demoralized.” Yet, in settings where physicians are encouraged to “engage in attentive listening” and “look for the personhood in people, care improves at all levels.”

Finally, they found that sincerity in care “improves” care at all levels, even the bottom line.

BGCT Texas Christian Life Commission, www.ChristianLifeCommission.org, 888-332-5870
Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, DC www.BJCPA.org
SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, www.ERLC.com
Texas Legislature www.capitol.state.tx.us - Who represents you > www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm

www.Senate.gov
www.House.gov