



RELIGION

The great outdoors

Ministries geared for hunters and people who love the outdoors are becoming popular around the state.

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TELEVISION

Return to roots

Traditional film critics A.O. (Tony) Scott of The New York Times and Michael Phillips of The Chicago Tribune are taking over as hosts of the long-running syndicated show "At the Movies."

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GOT A MINUTE?

SEE A MODERN TRAGEDY

Head to Guthrie to catch the Pollard Theatre's production of "Death of a Salesman." Arthur Miller's 1949 stage classic focuses on Willy Loman, a salesman whose ultimate downfall arises from his misconception of himself as someone capable of greatness. Curtain time is 8 p.m. at the theater, 120 W Harrison. For more information, call 282-2800.

CONTEST



INVENTIONS FOR DORM ROOMS

Have you discovered a need for a dorm room product that does not exist? Bed Bath & Beyond has partnered with Edison Nation to offer a contest for young inventors. The invention created by the winner of the "Students of Invention" contest could be sold in Bed Bath & Beyond stores. Edison Nation will screen submitted inventions and present the best to Bed Bath & Beyond. For more information, go online to www.BedBathandBeyond.com or www.EdisonNation.com.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

LIFE

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THE OKLAHOMAN | NEWSOK.COM



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RELIGION

Culture influences worship?

I had an interesting e-mail from a reader about my Aug. 15 column that discussed racism in the church.

James Clark of Ardmore said he once attended a church where the black pastor could not seem to get other blacks to come to services on a consistent basis.

The church was a part of a denomination that is liturgical in nature, and services were not known as particularly demonstrative.

Clark, who is white, wrote that after witnessing this, he and his wife attended several churches at which most of the people were black. Among the characteristics Clark listed were that they were "loud, noisy, lots of music, charismatic, clapping, lots of 'Amen's!'"

Clark said he realized racism may not be the reason many churches are largely segregated.

"It dawned on me that racism wasn't the reason for the acute segregation on Sundays in America," he wrote.

"There is simply a wide chasm in the cultures of blacks and whites when it comes to spiritual displays and emotions. That's not to say that one is superior to the other."

Clark said he hoped that I respected his views.

"To me, it will never change, and I frankly don't think it's a bad thing. Just one of those curious aspects of cultural differences."

Well, I do respect Clark's views, and I agree with him to a large extent.

I hinted at something similar in my earlier column when I said that many churches are segregated because people tend to drift toward people who look like themselves. Taking that a step further, it could be that people tend to be more comfortable around people who act like they do or worship in the same manner they do.

The latter would be more about the differences in worship styles among denominations or differences in the way services at nondenominational churches are conducted compared to denominational churches. I agree with Clark that things such as this may not ever change for all the reasons I stated.

Everyone is different to somebody. The key is not to let differences get in the way of true fellowship when the occasion arises.



Pastor Deborah Burke sits in the sanctuary of Inner City OKC, 2215 SW 55, where she is pastor.

PHOTO BY CHRIS LANDSBERGER, THE OKLAHOMAN

Vision anchors church

INNER CITY OKC | AFTER PASTOR'S DEATH, WIFE CARRIES MINISTRY FORWARD

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

— Matthew 7:24

BY CARLA HINTON
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The Rev. Deborah Burke smiles when she thinks of how happy her husband would have been to see the blessings that have rained down on his church.

The Rev. Robert Burke served as pastor of Inner City OKC from 2002 until 2006, when complications from a brain tumor claimed his life.

He was 35 when his death plunged Deborah Burke and her two young sons into despair.

The heartbroken family drew strength from the legacy left by "Pastor Rob": His ministry.

Deborah Burke said Inner City OKC gave her and her boys something to strive for beyond the pain of their loss.

Today, the church has relocated to a larger facility at 2215 SW 55, paid for by a generous benefactor. Proceeds from the sale of a



Developer Paul Odom III, the Rev. Deborah Burke and builder Wayne Long, from left, stand outside a south Oklahoma City home that will be sold as part of a fundraiser for Burke's Inner City OKC ministry and Reach the World missions.

PHOTO BY CHRIS LANDSBERGER, THE OKLAHOMAN

house in the south Oklahoma City Rockport addition will go into the ministry's coffers.

Deborah Burke is almost three years into her tenure as Inner City OKC's pastor.

Yes, she said, Pastor Rob would have been thrilled — but not surprised.

"God will not give a vision that He will not supply the needs, and He has continued to supply our needs."

ON THE WEB

Watch a video about Inner City OKC by going to Today's Paper on NewsOK: newsok.com/theoklahoman.

Building beyond heartache

Deborah Burke, 45, said her husband had three rules for everyone involved with Inner City OKC:

1. There must be no whining.
2. Always remember it's not about you.
3. When you get No. 1 and 2, anything is possible with God, a philosophy he based on Matthew 18:20, which describes how God's presence is invoked through the

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Religious leaders courted in debate

BY ADELLE M. BANKS
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — Facing charges that health care reform would finance abortion and euthanasia, President Obama has appealed to religious groups to help sell the plan and debunk critics' "false witness."

"I'm going to need the help of all of you," Obama told a conference call and live Web cast that attracted an estimated 140,000 people. "I need you to knock on doors, talk to your neighbors. I need you to spread the facts and speak the truth."

The "40 Minutes for Health Reform" call on Aug. 19, organized by the Washington-based group Faith in Public Life and supported by 32 religious organizations, was part of a campaign to get clergy and congregants actively involved in promoting health care reform.

The president used the call to decry what he called "misinformation" and "divisive and deceptive attacks" in the debate. "There are some folks out there who are, frankly, bearing false witness," he said.

Obama called the idea that the legislation would include "death panels" to determine whether elderly patients live or die "an extraordin-



AP PHOTO

President Barack Obama listens to a question during a town hall meeting on health care reform Aug. 11 in Portsmouth, N.H.

ary lie." He said it was "not true" that the plans represent a "government takeover of health care" or "mean government funding of abortion."

"These are all fabrications that have been put out there in order to discourage people from meeting what I consider to be a core ethical and moral obligation, and that is that we look out for one another, that I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper," he said.

Meanwhile, conservative groups, including Christian activists, ramped up their opposition to the reform package that they insist could

lead to taxpayer-funded abortions or rationing of care for the elderly.

Two hours before Obama's call, Tony Perkins, Family Research Council Action president, unveiled an ad that says money that could be used for surgery for the elderly would pay for abortions. Its tag line: "Our greatest generation denied care. Our future generation denied life."

Perkins said his organization worked to amend legislation to ensure that taxpayer-funded abortions would not be included. "They were all voted down," he said.

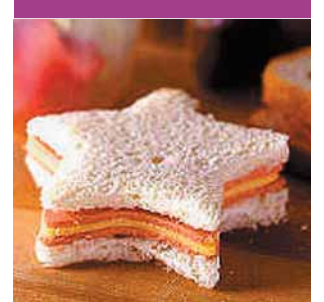
Despite denials by the president, a new poll indicates a significant percentage of Americans believe the health care plan is likely to allow use of federal funds for abortions. An NBC News poll released Aug. 18 showed that 50 percent of respondents said it was likely that taxpayer dollars will be used to pay for women to have abortions; 37 percent thought it was unlikely, and 13 percent were not sure. Asked whether the government would "make decisions about when to stop providing medical care to the elderly," 45 percent said it was likely, compared to 50 percent who said it was unlikely and 5 percent who were not sure.

ONLINE

Read Carla Hinton's blog.

BLOG.NEWSOK.COM/RELIGIONANDVALUES

FOOD



HEALTHIER SCHOOL LUNCHES

The September issue of Disney's Family Fun magazine (www.familyfun.go.com) offers these tips for packing healthier school lunches:

> **Sneak in extra veggies.** Add finely grated carrots to tuna and chicken salad or swap lettuce for nutrient-dense baby spinach.

> **Add (more) whole grains.** Take a cue from nutritionist Barbara Storper and make a checkerboard sandwich using one slice of whole wheat bread and one of white. Cut the sandwich into quarters and rearrange the squares.

> **Serve low-sugar drinks.** In lieu of traditional juice boxes, pack a juice-and-water blend.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

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