

# Fear defies simple definition

an essay

by Fredericka Turner

Fear is the death of the heart. It is the cessation of all feeling except a strange ticking in the brain. Fear can be magnified to a point beyond other abstract concepts like beauty or truth. It is one word that each individual can define clearly through examples.

The dictionary defines fear as dread, fright, alarm or panic. It says that fear is an often strong emotion that comes about as the result of impending or supposed danger. Yet this definition merely outlines what fear really is. The one way to illustrate cold dread is through examples that have been related to me or through my own personal experiences.

When I was visiting my grandmother in Woodville, Miss., an old, rather drunk man related the following tale to me. I realize that what he had seen were visions, but the cold sweat that broke out on his brow and his trembling hands were very real.

"Well, I was retunin' from a pah-ty down by ole Luke's . . . you know ole Luke? I was down by dem railroad tracks by yo

grandmammy's and I was jest a-walkin'. And you know when I's get a-walkin' I's get a whistlin' too. Well here is me, jest a-walkin' and whistlin' down dem tracks when all of a sudden I sees a man about a five yards ahead of me. I'm thinkin' bout now that I might like some company bein' it so dark on the tracks. So I call out to him. But he didn't turn around. I figure he must of didn't have heard me so I call out again. He still don't answer.

"So I figure maybe he deaf or something, but deaf company is better than none so I begin to run. But no matter how fast I run, and I'm running to beat the devil now, I can't catch him and he is still walking the same slow pace. And that's when I stop running and take a good look at the fellow. I guess he decided to look at me too 'cause he turned and looked over his shoulder and smiled at me. I hopes never to again see such pasty skin and hallowd nothin'-lookin' eyes. I hope never again to look in the face of death like I did that night. I turned and ran and I'm damn sure you'll never see me over dere again."

My own fear also stems from the supernatural. I have a deep fear of dolls. Many people denounce this fear as ridiculous or improbable but it is very real to me.

When I look in the face of a china doll, I do not see its exquisitely painted cheeks or charming smile; I see its dark eyes staring relentlessly into mine. I gave away a gorgeous and expensive rag doll that bears my name (this was long before that mockery of a doll called Cabbage Patch came to market) because its eyes remained steadily fixed upon me at every turn. Once it fell from the mantle directly onto my sleeping face and I screamed until my mother removed it. I cannot tolerate dolls.

The dictionary also defines fear as reverence or great respect for God. I acquired this ill-named respect when I was 10 years old. My mother was in the hospital having a baby. My father had joined her in the delivery room and, with the uncanny wit that children sometimes have, I sensed something was wrong. I later discovered that my mother had a very difficult time delivering my

little brother Jade.

My sister Jules, who was eight at the time, and I were left in the dark and rather cold waiting room under the assurance that a nurse would keep a constant eye over us. The nurse left. I assumed that since I was a big girl, all of 10 years old, I could be responsible for taking care of the both of us. We played games, watched television and ate snacks that my father had left for us. Yet the night waned away and my father did not return. My little sister fell asleep in a chair and I knew that though it was late at night and I was tired, too, I had to stay awake to protect her.

The waiting room was completely devoid of life. I had never been more frightened in my life. Sleep seemed to want to claim me, but I constantly fought it. I could only sit nodding in the hard chairs of St. Francis Hospital. To stay awake, I stared at a magnificent statue of Jesus Christ that stood in the center of the foyer.

Suddenly, as I stared, His robes began to flow softly. I rubbed my eyes, but not disbelievingly. As I watched, Christ stepped from the pedestal upon which He was standing and walked slowly

toward me and my sleeping sister. I felt no fear in the traditional sense; I had never thought much about God. When He had walked close enough, He bent and kissed my brow and the brow of my sister.

I remember nothing else afterwards except waking in my father's lap to the news that I had a baby brother. When I told my mother this tale, she smiled and never questioned me. I have never taken time to question whether the event was a childhood fantasy or the visions of a sleeping child. Such an event as this is beyond questioning. It is to be taken and appreciated, and it cultured in me a reverence for the greatness of our Savior.

These are just a few examples of the fears that everyone has experienced. Fear cannot be defined because it is beyond our ability to understand it even within ourselves. When we feel fear, we do not take the time to interpret it. Often we cannot even determine where the roots of this dread lie. We only know the heart-rending emotion that is as overwhelming as a flood and as deep as the deepest ocean. We only feel the fear.

## Mandela's latest writing denounces apartheid

Two new books by the imprisoned leader of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, Nelson Mandela, have been recently published in the United States. They are "The Struggle Is My Life" and "Habla Nelson Mandela."

Mandela's books are published by Pathfinder Press in New York, which also publishes books by Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, and leaders of the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua.

"Life" brings together speeches and writings by Mandela spanning more than 40 years of his activity in the African National Congress (ANC), the major organization fighting for the end of apartheid rule in South Africa. Mandela's courtroom testimony in the 1964 trial at which he was sentenced to life imprisonment is also included. A special supplement contains accounts of Man-

dela in prison by his fellow prisoners.

Among the most recent material is Mandela's reply to South African President P. W. Botha's 1985 offer to release Mandela if the ANC leader "unconditionally rejected violence as a political weapon." In his reply, read by his daughter Zinzi to a mass meeting in Soweto, near Johannesburg, Mandela said: "Let him (Botha) renounce violence. Let him say that he will dismantle apartheid. Let him unban the people's organization, the African National Congress. Let him free all who have been imprisoned, banished or exiled for their opposition to apartheid. Let him guarantee free political activity so that people may decide who will govern them. . . .

"But I cannot sell my birthright, nor am I prepared to sell

the birthright of the people to be free. . . .

"Only free men can negotiate. Prisoners cannot enter into contracts . . . I cannot and will not give any undertaking at a time when I and you, the people, are not free.

"Your freedom and mine cannot be separated. I will return."

Mandela remains imprisoned at the Pollsmoor maximum security prison near Cape Town, despite the growing movement in South Africa and throughout the world demanding his release.

"Habla" contains Spanish translations of Mandela's courtroom testimony in 1962 and 1964, and the freedom charter, the key document of the South African freedom struggle.

Both books contain photographs of Mandela, his wife, Winnie, and protest activities in South Africa.

## Women are heading more families but the growth rate is decreasing

The growth rate of families maintained by black women has declined significantly since the mid-1970s, according to the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

Such families grew by 41 percent from 1970 to 1975; the growth dropped to 19 percent in the 1980s.

The rate of increase among white female householders also has slowed since 1975, but at a lesser rate than for blacks, the report shows. The white rate dropped to 15 percent in 1980-1985 from 25 percent in 1970-1975.

While growth rates have fallen, the number and proportion of families maintained by women have risen since 1970. For blacks the total rose from 1.4 million to 3 million and for white families from 4.1 million to 6.9 million. Women maintained 44 percent of black families in 1985, up from 28 percent, while women maintained 13 percent

of white families, up from 9 percent.

The nation had an estimated 6.8 million black families in 1985, of which 51 percent were married-couple families. Black families totaled 4.9 million in 1970.

The number of white families increased from 46.2 million to 54.4 million in 1970-1985. A husband and wife were present in more than four out of five of white families in 1985.

The data in this report come from a survey, and are subject to a margin of error that would not be present in a full census of the population.

Copies of this final report, "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1985," P.20, No. 411, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

## Newsmakers: info you should know

**Memorial Scholarship:** Ellease Colston, director of Alumnae Affairs, has announced a \$25,000 scholarship in memory of Mrs. Willie Mae Floyd McCallum has been given to the college by the United Institutional Baptist Church in Greensboro.

Mrs. McCallum, a 1935 graduate of Bennett, was also an instructor in the college's department of social sciences until her retirement in the spring of 1980. Throughout her years at Bennett, she gave active support to the college's alumnae program.

Dr. Charles W. Anderson, pastor of the United Institutional Baptist Church, has stated that the gift is to honor a loyal member of his congregation and is also one of the many projects the church has undertaken to reach the community. He and co-pastor, Dr. Lois Anderson, are great supporters of education, according to Colston, also a member of the U.I.B. Church. Colston reports that the church has given a total of \$100,000 to educational institutions since June 30.

The Willie Mae Floyd McCallum Scholarship will be perpetuating and will be available to any new or present student from Guilford County that maintains a "C" average. (Sallie Hayes)

**Baskets for the needy:** Did you know that the Thanksgiving season is not a season of Thanksgiving for many people? At least for most of those who find themselves with nothing during this season.

What we do here as a family on this campus is to try each year to provide for them some of the basic blessings which most of us usually take for granted. Lately we have been counting our blessings at the Student Interfaith Center and we have counted, for example, the fact that we have yet to run out of coffee and tea at the center during the cold months and we could use more.

The Thanksgiving season offers us the opportunity to share what we have with those not so fortunate in the Greensboro community through the distributive program of the Greensboro Urban Ministry. Many students and campus organizations are already doing their part. We hope you are also encouraging your

friends, your dormitory, your club or sorority to contribute to the baskets for this year. Please let the Interfaith Center know when your basket is ready.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and wish for you, your friends and family the best Thanksgiving season. (Rev. P. E. A. Addo)

**Magazine Contest:** Belles are invited to participate in Glamour Magazine's 1987 Top Ten College Women Competition. Young women from colleges and universities throughout the country will compete in Glamour's search for ten outstanding students. A panel of Glamour editors will select the winners on the basis of their solid records of achievement in academic studies and/or extracurricular activities on campus or in the community.

The 1987 Top Ten College Women will be featured in Glamour's August College Issue. During May, June or July, the ten winners will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City and will participate in meetings with professionals in their area of interest.

The deadline for submitting an application to Glamour is Dec. 19.

**Career Services News:** Here is the latest recruiting schedule.

**November 18-19—Kroger (Mid-Atlantic Marketing Area);** for Business, Accounting and English Majors—9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**November 20—Bell Communication Research;** Mr. Stone will be recruiting for math/computer science, engineering, business, chemistry, accounting, marketing with a computer science background majors—9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**November 21—Roche Biomedical Lab., Inc. Subsidiary of Hoffmann La Roche Inc. Ms. Hunley** will be recruiting for biology, chemistry and medical technology majors—9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Seminar:** The Career Services Center will present "Preparing for the Job Interview" in the Health Center Conference room on Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.