# Guinness says religion vital to liberty

#### **By CECILIA LYNN CASEY**

Dr. Os Guinness delivered the 1994 Staley Foundation Lecture on Oct. 11 in the Leon Russell Chapel on the campus of North Carolina Wesleyan College. His lecture was entitled "Making the World Safe for Diversity: Freedom of Conscience in a World of Tribalism and Pluralism."

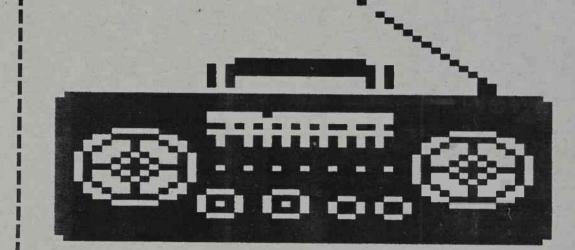
Dr. Guinness outlined 15 points, with each of the 15 points having three parts, on how Americans need to guard against falling into tribalism. He pointed out that there is a danger of not seeing America as a land divided by tribalism, yet in some places, such as California, there are schools that have as many as 90 different religions represented among their student body.

Dr. Guinness suggested that by strengthening our freedom, and by remembering that freedom of religion is the most important freedom, America will be able to keep tribalism at bay. In the first of his 15 points he said there are three stages in building a society that will remain free: 1) winning freedom, which we have done, 2) ordering freedom, which we have done, and 3) sustaining freedom, which is where he says we need to pay more attention.

His third point discussed three reasons why religion is vital to a free nation. Guinness said freedom of conscience is the source and the safeguard to liberty, that religion is close to the heart, and that the First Amendment is the answer to the problems of the world. He also said the combination of church and state is important to freedom.

Dr. Guinness maintained that it is through religion and the practice of religion that living with deep difference can be achieved, because that is where deep conscience is developed and maintained, and it is when one is truly religious that one truly comes to respect the rights of others. He discussed how keeping respect for the rights of everyone needs to be guarded not only by secular means, but by helping everyone have the right, and the means, to develop their conscience.

Dr. Guinness pointed out the need for tough, robust debate between people and religions, not in order to overwhelm each other, but in order to clarify each side, so each can be respected without either losing their beliefs or identity.



## News and Quotes you can use or lose New advertising campaign

In Baltimore bankers have begun an ad campaign to convince bank robbers to stop robbing banks. The average bank robber nets \$2,000 — and serves 25 years. A record 333 banks were robbed in 1993.

#### Gilligan's island

One third of all Gilligan's Island episodes were about getting off the island.

#### Lost on the information highway

President Clinton can be sent electronic mail via the Internet. His address is president@whitehouse.gov. To reach Vice President Gore, the address is vicepresident@whitehouse.gov.

#### **Birth control information**

• A child born in 1993 to a middle-income family will cost his/her parents \$231,140 by the time he/she reaches 17.

• Vasectomies aren't foolproof — six percent failed in a recent study.

• Forty percent of teens have had sex by the time they reach ninth grade, and only 45 percent reported that they used a condom.

#### **Chicken meat**

Free range chickens are no more nutritious than traditionally raised chickens and they are almost twice as likely to be contaminated with salmonella bacteria.

#### **Flower power**

Flowers cut in the afternoon will last longer and be more fragrant.

#### **Famous words**

• Marci Klein, daughter of Calvin Klein — "My only complaint about having a father in fashion is that every time I'm about to go to bed with a guy I have to look at my dad's name all over his underwear."

• Senator John McCain, urging a filibuster-pocked Senate to adjourn on time — "Most Americans want us to get out of.town. They think we have done enough harm."

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