

WBC: Nothing More Than a Terrorist Hate Group

By: Sarah Servie
Contributing Writer

In the past week, we have heard about the terrible catastrophe of the Virginia Tech shootings. Over thirty innocent students lost their lives at the hands of a crazed murderer. While a vast majority of Americans agree that the families of the Virginia Tech victims should be able to have this time to mourn their loved ones in peace, there is, sadly, one extremist hate group that says otherwise.

The Westboro Baptist Church (and I use the term "church" loosely) claims that the students

involved in the shooting were being punished by God. The WBC plans to voice this outlandish claim by picketing every funeral of each Virginia Tech victim. This group, which advertises slogans such as "God Hates America" and "God Hates Fags," is an abomination. They claim that any negative thing that happens to citizens of the United States is the wrath of God, punishment for the United States' support of alternate lifestyles, war, and "worshipping" the dead by way of funerals. These are the same people who, in recent months, have picketed the funerals of dead soldiers. Should

this group, although, supposedly, within their Constitutional rights, be allowed to picket the funerals of the Virginia Tech students?

I think it is a tragedy that one group of lunatics should be able to ruin the funerals of students, who were completely innocent, robbed of their futures. A legitimate church would be concerned with helping the families of the victims through such a terrible time, instead of parading their agenda to the media.

Apparently I am not the only person who feels this way. Mike Gallagher, host of a national radio

talk show, has agreed to give the WBC three hours of air time if the group promises not to picket the Virginia Tech funerals. While I think it is excellent that the families of these victims won't have to worry about uninvited maniacs at the funerals, I don't think that the WBC should be given the credibility of national radio air time. During their scheduled time slot, the WBC plans to discuss their position on the Virginia Tech shootings. Listening to the WBC slander the reputations of the Virginia Tech victims seems almost as bad as having to watch them picket the funerals.

Something needs

to be done to check this group of insane radicals. They have perverted the words of God and embarrassed Christians everywhere. While freedom of speech is something vital to this country, it seems to me that the dissemination of hate during a time of national catastrophe is something America would have a supreme interest in stopping. Needless to say, I will not be tuning in to listen to members of the WBC rant about "God's will," and I would hope that other self-respecting Americans wouldn't waste their time listening to the WBC's garbage either.

Can a computer solve a Sudoku puzzle? What does the Cherokee Indians' clothing tell us about their culture? Do Meredith students let themselves be "guilted" into doing things for others? And why are there so many spiders on our campus this year? You'll find the answers to these questions, along with a peek at the latest fashions made from bamboo and recycled soda bottles, at Celebrating Student Achievement Day, here on campus on Thursday, April 26 from 7:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

This event, now in its seventh year, features academic papers and posters, creative works in the visual and performing arts, and ceremonies to honor excellence in academics and leadership. Conference programs will be available in Johnson Hall and the SMB atrium. Lunch—a picnic in the courtyard if weather allows—is free for students with meal plans and \$4.00 for others. A band of Chinese musicians will perform, along with students in Meredith's improvisational dance group. Anyone is welcome to read a short poem or quotation celebrating diversity at the open mike during lunch.

The evening concludes with a DanceWorks recital in Jones Auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

Come and Celebrate Student Achievement Day