

Gibson painted an indelible portrait

All the media uproar about "The Passion of the Christ" may signify the secular world's profound contempt for Christianity. Has Mel Gibson opened our eyes to something that was in front of us all along? Is the brutality, humiliation and gore inconceivable?

We got used to a pleasant, comforting biblical promise of eternal life based on God's grace and our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, in Easter services it was a "sanitized" Christ. Seldom did ministers and priests paint such a truly agonizing picture as Gibson did. Fantasy? Hardly. Man's inhumanity to man has been documented through the ages. How about a movie with close-up details of the Christians being fed to the lions? Could anything show more carnage?

I do not have that gift to visualize and feel the pain and agony that Jesus Christ suffered. I need a medium such as this movie to appreciate just what Jesus Christ went through for me. Gibson has undone what Darwin did to Christianity in the 1860s.

Bob Wearley

I need no movie to be passionate

"The Passion of the Christ" is way too violent for me to see. Why should a movie about Jesus have to be R-rated? I don't think he is very pleased to have his sacred passion commercialized and made into a spectacle Hollywood style. I'll stay home and thank him for making the supreme sacrifice for me and all humankind — past, present and future.

Jerome A. Welch

Look to Bible to know homosexuality

Homosexual relationships. They're all the rage nowadays, but what does God's holy word say about it? "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination." Leviticus 18:22

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Richard W. Burridge

Now let's snooker the grandkids, too

Alan Greenspan said raising taxes to pay future Social Security and Medicare benefits poses a risk to the overall economy. Greenspan now says future benefit cuts are needed over tax increases. President

Bush stated Social Security benefits "should not be changed for people at or near retirement."

Both statements refer to a commitment or promise made. However, was not a promise made to all workers as well? This commitment or promise is similar to the phrase "We earned it!" When a person says, "We earned it!" what exactly does he mean? To me, this phrase masks the truth: "We were snookered by this Social Security Ponzi scheme, and now we are going to snooker the next generation!"

If Social Security benefits have been "earned," who is obligated to pay benefits to those who "earned" them? Workers? On a regressive tax basis? Why? Why perpetuate a fraud upon the innocent? Who is responsible for bearing the burden of a fraud? The person defrauded? Or an innocent or unborn child? Please read Myths: The Political Tool of Choice at www.justsayno.50megs.com/political-myths.htm.

William Larsen

*Republican Primary Candidate
District 3 U.S. Representative*

Bless your vision, Ruth Baker

One of Fort Wayne's finest watercolorists and portrait artists recently passed away.

Ruth Baker, her husband, Bud, and their family lived next door to our family on East Cox Drive through the mid-50s to mid-70s. Ruth enjoyed flower gardening. At the age of five, my twin brother enjoyed her tulips so much that he pulled them all up.

As I grew older, I learned Ruth's passion involved easel, canvas, brushes and a God-given talent to color the world. She was commissioned by hundreds, if not thousands, of clients to paint animals, loved ones and landscapes. She belonged to numerous artists' organizations and the Orchard Gallery in Fort Wayne. In my own beginning years as a member of the Artists Guild, Ruth's encouragement kept my easel standing tall and brushes active. Ruth, now and then, would see my paintings and say, "Terry, I can't believe how much you've improved, and I like your style."

May God's love shine upon Ruth's husband, Bud, and all their family. Thank you, Ruth Baker. The artist that you were colored my world and contributed to this artist I am proud to be. My easel stands taller and my brushes are kept busy.

Terry E. Haffner

The GOP started dirty tactics

In an editorial brief March 1, The News-Sentinel castigated the Democrats in the Indiana House of Representatives for inviting a minister to pray before the House. It seems that the minister prayed to God that the legislators "find the right balance between