



# Zombies Versus Jesus

BY BILL O'REILLY  
Creators Syndicate

On Easter Sunday evening, a TV show about good and evil aired on the History Channel — the final installment of “The Bible” miniseries in which Jesus is executed. AMC ran the season-ending episode of “The Walking Dead” — the series where zombies try to eat the brains of human beings. One footnote: The world might have been a better place had the zombies preemptively gotten to the guy who thought up this series in the first place.

Anyway, the zombies won. They beat Jesus in the ratings, especially among viewers ages 18 to 49.

What lesson can be derived from Jesus losing to the walking dead? Well, it proves that about 12 million Americans want to see blood and gore. Wait — there was plenty of that in the Bible’s crucifixion scenes. Maybe the zombie viewers simply wanted cheap thrills. Yeah, that’s it. Cheap thrills triumphed over a spiritual experience. Cannibalism beat baptism.

Base entertainment almost always beats highbrow stuff. But watching flesh-eating zombies on Easter does put a different spin on things, does it not? I mean, how soon can we digest dismemberment on television after eating our baked ham dinner? One hour? Two?

At least Jesus was in context. The New Testament says the son of God rose from the dead on Easter. The zombies rise from the dead whenever their makeup is finished.

Honestly, I have no idea what this zombie phenomenon is all about. Way back in the 1960s, I saw the first modern zombie movie: “Night of the Living



Bill O'REILLY

Dead.” Things were creeping along OK until a little girl turned into a zombie and tried to eat her mom. At that point, my entire group decided enough was enough, and we bolted out of the theater.

But today that scene would be tame. Now zombie kids will eat their entire families if given the opportunity. Depravity doesn’t even begin to cover it. Apparently, we Americans have an unending appetite for gross behavior. Pun intended.

What must Jesus think? Here he is, being nailed to the cross by smirking Romans and getting trounced by TV zombies at the same time. The prince of peace preached that we all should love our neighbors as ourselves. I do not believe that Jesus would condone eating your neighbor even if you are dead.

Many folks who like this zombie business freely admit it’s a low form of entertainment. “But so what?” they say. It’s fun to envision yourself outsmarting zombies, blasting them to hell with shotguns and then escaping to some tattoo parlor. I guess that’s fun in some precincts.

But not for me. I threw in with Jesus even though the guy who played him looked a bit like Spicoli in “Fast Times at Ridgemont High.” Sure, I knew how the miniseries was going to end, but there are worse things you could do on Easter Sunday — like watching man-eating zombies.

All I know is this: When Jesus appeared to the apostles after he died, thank God they did not have access to AMC.

*Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show “The O'Reilly Factor” and author of the book “Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama.”*



Leonard PITTS

Perhaps you’re old enough to remember when, as a culture, we decided to take rape seriously. If you recall public service announcements telling you that “no means no,” if you saw police implement policies aimed at more sensitive treatment of rape victims, if you were paying attention when the boss chasing the secretary around the desk ceased to be a comic staple, perhaps you can appreciate what strange times we find ourselves in.

Perhaps you find yourself saying: Didn’t we already have this conversation?

Perhaps you have felt the profound disconnect of hearing would-be senator Todd Akin seek to explain the biology of rape.

Or would-be senator Richard Mourdock discussing how God wants women to get pregnant through rape.

Perhaps you were stunned how two boys in Steubenville, Ohio, raped a drunken girl and it was documented in text messages and cellphone pictures.

Or how students at Yale paraded around chanting, “No means yes! Yes means anal!”

Perhaps it made you feel — and this feeling is depressingly common lately — as if yesterday’s achievements are eroding like sandcastles in the surf. Ignorance, in remission for years, returns like a stubborn cancer.

We should have known.

Progress has no finish line. Once won, it must be protected and renewed. At 37 years of age, Rick Ross grew up in the era after the “no means no” lectures, when we apparently assumed people would “just know” things the rest of us were painstakingly taught. The fallacy of that is testified to in a song celebrating date rape by a man who has not the faintest clue at darn near 40 years of age.

So take “U.O.E.N.O.,” as a cautionary tale, a remix of the old axiom about eternal vigilance being the price of freedom. Turns out, it’s the price of enlightenment, too.

*Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at [lpitts@miamiherald.com](mailto:lpitts@miamiherald.com).*

© 2013, The Miami Herald

back out over the English Channel. Laughing, Hod said, “I knew then I had seen enough of the world; I wanted to get back to South Dakota.”

And so he did, devoting his life not just to on-the-field heroics, but also to the bonds that lasted a lifetime for teammates, the second stringers who starred in the classroom or in other endeavors, the values that went well beyond touchdowns scored or state tournament wins.

Meredith and I made a special trip to Yankton last fall to spend some time with this special man and he was characteristically up to date on the local teams and the whereabouts of our relatives and class-mates.

He was a man at peace with his life, as he should have been for he leaves a legacy of service, citizenship and abiding friendship.

God bless our friend Hod.

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS’ OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861  
Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

## Johnson Will Retire As A Big Winner

**CAPITAL JOURNAL, Pierre (March 28):** The late, great Republican Gov. Bill Janklow, after losing his primary smash-up against U.S. Sen. Jim Abdnor, used to boast with an asterisk that he’d never lost an election in which Democrats could vote.

South Dakota’s Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson, who announced this week that he will retire in 2014 instead of seeking re-election, did even better at pulling from the opposite party. He never lost an election at all during his political career, despite serving one of the nation’s most conservative states — a feat that surely required a healthy dose of support every election cycle from South Dakota Republicans.

Some here in Pierre may have come to know Johnson first during his years in the Legislature. He served two terms in the state House of Representatives starting in 1978 and two terms in the state Senate starting in 1982.

He easily walked away with his first congressional election victory in 1986, though the real contest in that year, with a farm crisis in progress, was the tough primary against Jim Burg of Wessington Springs.

Some of his contests were closer in the years that followed, but Johnson always had more votes than his opponent every time his name was on the ballot - even though he may not always have voted the way some of his more conservative backers would have liked him to.

We didn’t always agree with him here at the *Capital Journal*, but we have always trusted him to make the decisions he thought best for the people of South Dakota. And this is another one of those times when he’s making a tough call. Though not all of Johnson’s Democratic supporters may agree — already the political press is saying Johnson’s retirement opens the door for the Republicans to claim another Senate seat — we applaud Sen. Johnson’s decision to retire as a difficult but correct choice, and we thank him for his service.

## The Availability Of Prenatal Care

**KEARNEY (Neb.) HUB (March 30):** The Legislature’s Health and Human Services Committee did the right thing this week when it killed a bill by state Sen. Charlie Janssen of Fremont to cut off taxpayer funded prenatal care for illegal immigrants.

Regarding immigrants and immigrant issues, Janssen is famous for his distrust, dislike and disconnect with people he regards as unworthy to be in the United States. It wasn’t a surprise that he chose to challenge his legislative colleagues, who in 2012 voted 30-16 to reinstate taxpayer funding for prenatal care for illegal immigrants and low-income women.

This year, in his attempt to throw out the funding, Janssen argued that a new crop of state lawmakers ought to have an opportunity to vote. He said he was disappointed the Health and Human Services Committee voted 6-0 this week to kill his LB518. Apparently, none of the lawmakers on the committee agree with Janssen’s reasoning.

Last year, in a move that attracted national attention, Nebraska lawmakers acknowledged the many good reasons to restore funding for prenatal care. It lapsed in 2010 after federal officials notified the state that Medicaid must be based on the mother’s eligibility.

Illegal immigrants are not eligible for public benefits, but lawmakers reasoned it’s not the mother’s eligibility that matters as much as the infant’s eligibility. Babies of illegal immigrants become U.S. citizens the moment they are born.

Many legislators believed that funding the prenatal care was a moral responsibility. However, for most it was a money issue. It’s less expensive to pay for prenatal care than to contend with the big hospital bills that result from premature births and other complications when mothers don’t get medical attention during pregnancy.

The Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by state Sen. Kathy Campbell of Lincoln, recognized the fiscal advantages of caring for soon-to-be citizens and made the right call in stopping Janssen’s challenge.

“It’s still going to be an issue across Nebraska,” Janssen predicted. Yes, prenatal care could remain an issue as long as people such as Janssen continue fanning the flames.

If only Janssen could drop his vendetta and start acting more charitably toward his fellow man. It’s hard to believe the guy has visions of becoming governor.

### TODAY IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Monday, April 8, the 98th day of 2013. There are 267 days left in the year.

**Today’s Highlights in History:** On April 8, 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for popular election of United States senators (as opposed to appointment by state legislatures), was ratified. President Woodrow Wilson became the first chief executive since John Adams to address Congress in person as he asked lawmakers to enact tariff reform.

**On this date:** In 1820, the Venus de Milo statue was discovered by a farmer on the Greek island of Milos.

In 1913, the Republic of China’s first parliament convened.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act, which provided money for programs such as the Works Progress Administration.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered a freeze on wages and prices to combat inflation.

In 1946, the League of Nations assembled in Geneva for its final session.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman seized the American steel industry to avert a nationwide strike. (The Supreme Court later ruled that Truman had overstepped his authority, opening the way for a seven-week strike by steelworkers.)

In 1963, “Lawrence of Arabia” won the Oscar for best picture at the Academy Awards; Gregory Peck won best actor for “To Kill a Mockingbird” while Anne Bancroft received best actress honors for “The Miracle Worker.”

In 1973, artist Pablo Picasso died in Mougins, France, at age 91.

In 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth’s record.

In 1988, TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart resigned from the Assemblies of God after he was defrocked for rejecting an order from the church’s national leaders to stop preaching for a year amid reports he’d consorted with a prostitute.

In 1993, singer Marian Anderson died in Portland, Ore., at age 96.

In 1994, Kurt Cobain, singer and guitarist for the grunge band Nirvana, was found dead in Seattle from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; he was 27.

**Ten years ago:** U.S.-led military strikes in Baghdad hit a hotel housing hundreds of journalists and an Arab television network, killing three journalists. Kidnapper-rapist John Jamelske, who had imprisoned five women and girls, one after another, as sex slaves inside a makeshift dungeon in his DeWitt, N.Y., home, was arrested. Connecticut won its second straight NCAA

women’s basketball championship, defeating Tennessee 73-68.

**Five years ago:** The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Army Gen. David Petraeus, told Congress that hard-won gains in the war zone were too fragile to promise any troop pullouts beyond the summer as he held his ground against impatient Democrats and refused to commit to more withdrawals before President George W. Bush left office in January 2009. American Airlines grounded all 300 of its MD-80 jetliners amid safety concerns about wiring bundles; the carrier ended up canceling more than 3,000 flights over the next four days. Tennessee captured its eighth women’s NCAA championship with a 64-48 victory over Stanford.

**One year ago:** A U.N.-brokered plan to stop the bloodshed in Syria effectively collapsed after President Bashar Assad’s government raised new, last-minute demands that the country’s largest rebel group swiftly rejected. The U.S. and Afghanistan signed a deal giving Afghans authority over raids of Afghan homes, resolving one of the most contentious issues between the two wartime allies. Bubba Watson saved par from the pine straw and won the Masters on the second hole of a playoff over Louis Oosthuizen.

**Today’s Birthdays:** Comedian Sheeky Greene is 87. Actor-turned-diplomat John Gavin is 82. Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh is 76. Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is 75. Basketball Hall-of-Famer John Havlicek is 73. “Mouseketeer” Darlene Gillespie is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer J.J. Jackson is 72. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 72. Songwriter-producer Leon Huff is 71. Actor Hywel Bennett is 69. Actor Stuart Pankin is 67. Rock musician Steve Howe is 66. Former House Republican Leader Tom DeLay is 66. Movie director John Madden is 64. Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 62. Actor John Schneider is 53. “Survivor” winner Richard Hatch is 52. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 51. Singer Julian Lennon is 50. Rock singer-musician Donita Sparks is 50. Rapper Biz Markie is 49. Actress Robin Wright is 47. Actress Patricia Arquette is 45. Rock singer Craig Honeycutt (Everytime) is 43. Rock musician Darren Jessee is 42. Actress Emma Caulfield is 40. Actress Katee Sackhoff is 33. Actor Taylor Kitsch is 32. Rock singer-musician Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend) is 29. Actor Taran Noah Smith is 29. Actress Kirsten Storms is 29.

**Thought for Today:** “A highbrow is a person educated beyond his intelligence.” — James Brander Matthews, American author and educator (1852-1929).

### FROM THE BIBLE

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Ephesians 6:10. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*

### CONTACT US

PHONE:  
(605) 665-7811  
(800) 743-2968  
NEWS FAX:  
(605) 665-1721  
ADVERTISING FAX:  
(605) 665-0288  
WEBSITE:  
[www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)  
EMAIL ADDRESS:  
[news@yankton.net](mailto:news@yankton.net)

SUBSCRIPTIONS/  
CIRCULATION:  
Extension 112  
CLASSIFIED ADS:  
Extension 108  
NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
Extension 114  
SPORTS DEPARTMENT:  
Extension 106  
ADVERTISING OFFICE:  
Extension 122  
BUSINESS OFFICE:  
Extension 119  
NEW MEDIA:  
Extension 136  
COMPOSING DESK:  
Extension 129

\* \* \*

### MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood  
*Publisher*  
Michele Schievelbein  
*Advertising Director*  
Tonya Schild  
*Business Manager*  
David Jeffcoat  
*Circulation Director*  
Tera Schmidt  
*Classified Manager*  
Kelly Hertz  
*Editor*  
James D. Cimburek  
*Sports Editor*  
Beth Rye  
*New Media Manager*  
Kathy Larson  
*Composing Manager*  
Bernard Metivier  
*District Manager*

\* \* \*

### DAILY STAFF

Andrew Atwal  
Melissa Bader  
Derek Bartos  
Brett Beyeler  
Cassandra Brockmoller  
Rob Buckingham  
Randy Dockendorf  
Jeannine Economy  
Jeremy Hoeck  
Nathan Johnson  
Muriel Pratt  
Sheldon Reed  
Noelle Schlechter  
Cathy Sudbeck  
Sally Whiting  
Brenda Willcuts  
Jackie Williams

\* \* \*

### Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.  
Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

\* \* \*

### MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

\* \* \*

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES\*

(Payable in advance)

**CARRIER DELIVERY**  
1-month . . . \$12.09  
3 months . . . \$36.27  
6 months . . . \$72.53  
1-year . . . \$133.09  
**MOTOR ROUTE**  
(where available)  
1 month . . . \$14.51  
3 months . . . \$43.53  
6 months . . . \$87.05  
1-year . . . \$139.14  
**MAIL IN RETAIL TRADE ZONE**  
1-month . . . \$16.93  
3 months . . . \$50.79  
6 months . . . \$101.57  
1-year . . . \$148.82  
**MAIL OUTSIDE RETAIL TRADE ZONE**  
1 month . . . \$19.35  
3 months . . . \$58.05  
6 months . . . \$116.09  
1-year . . . \$186.33  
\* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates

### YOUR LETTERS

#### Brokaw: Hod Will Be Missed

Tom Brokaw, New York

Hod Nielsen was an emblematic member of the greatest generation, a soft spoken and modest man who spent most of his life celebrating in radio broadcasts or newspaper columns the achievements of others.

Those of us who grew up hoping to get a mention in a Hod column the morning after a game or in a preview of a coming season had no idea of his youthful heroics leading up to the greatest military invasion in history — D-Day, the audacious battle that began to spell the end of Nazi Germany.

Hod was a P-38 pilot, flying air photo reconnaissance missions over the landing sites during that stormy spring of 1944. He once described to me a German fighter plane chasing his lightly armed aircraft