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"Keeping Our Beaches Bare"

A Need To Be Naked In The Aftermath Of The Tragic Events Of September 11

With respect to the events that shook our world on September 11, 2001, there is little that we can add to the volumes that have already been spoken. We extend our condolences to all those who lost loved ones in New York City, Washington, DC. and rural Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001.

The terrible tragedy we witnessed that day affected us all in one way or another. Life in America has begun a profound change, and we, as a people and as individuals, will never be quite the same. Only time and our thoughtful reactions to this situation will determine what those changes will be. Up until then we were all looking out for ourselves. Now we are all looking out for each other and our country.

Many people described the events of September 11, 2001 as the worst event in our nation's history since the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The attack on Pearl Harbor, however bad it was, was nothing in comparison to the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. To actually see those planes flying into the WTC and then to see the two towers disintegrate and fall to the ground with thousands of innocent people trapped inside is more than most of us can even comprehend. Never before in the history of America have so many innocent people been so brutally and savagely killed on our soil.

Television evangelists Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, two of the most prominent voices of the religious right in this country, said that liberal civil liberties groups, feminists, homosexuals and abortion rights supporters bear partial responsibility for the September 11th terrorist attacks because their actions have

turned God's anger against America.

Falwell, who said we got what we deserved, broadened his blast to include the federal courts and others who he said were "throwing God out of the public square." He added: "The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked. And when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an

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alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way – all of them who have tried to secularize America – I point the finger in their face and say, 'You helped this happen.'"

Robertson concurred.

Can you believe that these supposedly "men of God" could be so filled with hate and/or stupidity?

Even the White House issued a statement about how "inappropriate" Falwell's and Robertson's remarks were in this time of tragedy and said, "The

President does not share their views."

"Every Naturist should print out the words of Rev. Falwell and Rev. Robertson and keep them in a place where they can read them from time to time," says Richard Mason, Government Affairs spokesperson for South Florida Free Beaches. "And when you do, insert the word Naturist in the litany. They only left it out because it was an omission on their part."

Naturists need to beware those who would use this tragedy as an excuse to deny freedom, or alter it in any way. According to Mason, the Christian Coalition very much has the Nudist/Naturist issue on their agenda. When it comes to Naturism, fundamental Christians and fundamental Muslims have a commonality in that they are opposed to it. Nudity, especially public nudity, is considered one of the most objectionable practices there is.

Terrorism in America and its aftermath quickly points up the continuing and, now, escalating conflict between freedom and security. We desire both, and our country was founded on the idea that we could have both. How that is accomplished is anyone's guess. But DO NOT compromise our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

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We need to be naked, so that our societal differences, our national affiliations, our rank in the hierarchy, our attempts to influence others will vanish in a sea of multi-hued flesh. Without uniforms or the opportunity to flaunt conspicuous consumption, we can get back to basics as human beings, citizens



of the planet Earth.

We need to be naked, so that we may open up our hearts and reveal our whole being to each other, without filtering our interpersonal communication through masks or barriers.

We need to be naked, so that we may cleanse ourselves of corporate culture that has us paying for the privilege of wearing their logos and threatens to roll like a steamroller over our own time-honored

culture and those of the world.

We need to be naked, so that we may shed much of the baggage of life in the 21st Century, and enjoy nature's idyllic bounty. For if we don't make our peace with nature, and soon, all else will prove meaningless.

Never again may we abide in a world where there is not liberty and justice for all. Let this small world come together in compassion and safety. Let all people take

responsibility for one another, accepting and celebrating our differences. And until we reach that ideal world, let us be cautious to protect what liberty and justice already exists. ✨

Editor's Note: A number of different people contributed to this editorial and we thank each and every one of them.