Canadian law school controversy

Trinity Western University’s decision to open a law school sparked intense opposition from lawyers and legal societies across Canada because of a clause in the Christian school’s community covenant that requires students to abstain from sexual intimacy outside of marriage between a man and a woman. In spite of this opposition, this past April the British Columbia Law Society voted 20–6 to accredit the school. But that only intensified the controversy. More than 1,300 British Columbian lawyers signed a petition urging the British Columbia Law Society to reconsider its approval. The Law Society of Upper Canada voted to deny Trinity Western’s law graduates the right to practice in Ontario, and the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society voted to accept them only on condition that the university drop its policy on marriage. However, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and so far British Columbia, have given the nod to Trinity Western law graduates practicing in their provinces.—ChristianWeek
Jesus statue beheaded

This past June a vandal took a sledgehammer to a six-foot-high concrete statue of Jesus on the grounds of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The vandal, who was arrested a short time later, said he defaced the image because “the second or first commandment states to not make an image of a male or female to be on display to the public.” He was probably referring to the second commandment, which forbids making or worshiping an idol.—Christian Today

NEW RESOURCES for Sharing Your Faith

Truth Matters

Life Matters

Religious affiliation of U.S. Hispanics

Catholic
55%
Evangelical Protestant
Atheist offers prayer

Atheists have long objected to the prayers that are traditionally given at the start of government meetings, and several years ago, the town of Greece, New York, became the focal point of that controversy. Atheists objected that Greece’s invocations at the start of its city council meetings violated the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment against a governmental establishment of religion. The case eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court, and the atheists were hopeful of a ruling in their favor, but they were disappointed. On May 5, the court ruled 5–4 that the city council’s prayers do not violate the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause, provided the city council does not discriminate in favor of one religion. The atheists decided that “if you can’t beat ’em, join ’em.” So this past July 15, atheist Dan Courtney offered the invocation at the start of the city council meeting in Greece. —Religion News Service
Tell The World About Jesus

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Believers vs. science

A survey by the Associated Press found that 51 percent of U.S. adults (and 77 percent of Christian evangelicals) doubt that the scientific theory of a big bang explains the origin of the universe. Forty-two percent of American adults (76 percent of evangelicals) doubt that the theory of evolution explains the origin of life on earth. Thirty-six percent of adults (56 percent of evangelicals) question whether the earth is 4.5 billion years old. And 54 percent of adults (87 percent of evangelicals) believe the complexity of the universe requires belief in a Supreme Being that guided its creation. —Christian Century

As Quoted

“We’re all children of God.”

—President Barack Obama, urging people of all faiths to condemn anti-Semitism, following the murder of three people at Jewish centers in Kansas City on Palm