

October 15th, 1998 Politically Incorrect
Guests on this program were:

Dee Snider
John Fugelsang
Edie McClurg
Christine O'Donnell

Bill's Opening

Bill: All right.
Well, thank you very much.
I know why you're happy today.
We have a budget.

Laughter

The country does. No, there was going to be another government shutdown. But President Clinton announced it today. He seemed very happy. He should be. He got everything he wanted, it looks like. Although, there is going to have to be some belt-tightening going on in Congress.

Laughter

You can't say anything anymore. No. Truly. They're going to have to do that with some of the activities. In fact, all future sexual witch hunts, from now on — B.Y.O. Bible.

Laughter, Applause

No, President Clinton looked very happy as he announced this. And he should because his poll numbers are up. He's in the mid-60s, Congress, way down in the

mid-40s. And yesterday, CBS News did a poll, get this — 72% of the people could not think of one thing that Congress did all last year, but everybody could name the one person Clinton did. You know, so —

Laughter

He's totally —

Applause

The President is on the shores of Maryland tonight with Yasser Arafat and Netanyahu of Israel, trying to get the peace talks going there. And there was one embarrassing moment at the lunch. They served a Middle East cuisine, because they had Middle East guests, and boy, it was embarrassing. Arafat — Arafat asked Clinton if he was going to eat his dates.

And, you know, and —

Laughter, Applause

Well —

Laughter

What's good for the goose is good for the gander. You know who's in trouble on this day? Kenneth Starr.

Applause

Kenneth Starr is in trouble. He is accused of not revealing to the justice department that he consulted with Paula Jones' lawyers way back in 1994, which makes it look like a tremendous conflict of interest.

And he's trying to, you know, get out of it now. What he is saying is that way back then, he didn't have the job as independent counsel and collecting arcane data about the President's penis was just a hobby.

Laughter, Applause

And, finally, Janet Reno, at a press conference the other day, said that Eric Rudolph, the guy who's hiding out in the hills, charged with bombings of abortion clinics is also the guy they think they know now also bombed the '96 Olympics. And the FBI is confused. They're trying to figure out what the link is between a guy who would bomb an abortion clinic, a gay bar and the Olympics.

Light Laughter

They don't know what it is. It's a long shot. They think it may be that Scott Hamilton knocked up his sister.

Laughter

All right. Thanks for coming. It's all been satirized for your protection.

Thank you very much.

Cheers and applause

Panel Discussion

Bill: All righty. Let us meet our panel. He is the co-host of "America's Funniest Home Videos" right here on ABC, John Fugelsang. John.

Cheers and applause

John: Sorry.

Bill: That's almost a Kramer entrance. She is the founding member of the Savior's Alliance for Lifting the Truth, and our friend, Christine O'Donnell. Yeah.

Cheers and applause

Christine: Hello.

Bill: Hello, savior.

Christine: How are you?

Bill: How are you?

Good to see you.

She is a terrific comic actress on "Maggie Winters." And her next movie is "A Bug's Life," Edie McClurg. Our friend.

Cheers and applause

Hello, sweetheart. How are you, beautiful?
Thank you.

The former leader of "Twisted Sister" and the writer and star of the new horror movie "Strangeland." Dee Snider right here.

Cheers and applause

Dee, pleasure to meet you. How are you?

Dee: Good.

Bill: Okay.

All right.

I don't know if you watched the news last night, but I was watching it and I was getting very angry. They had — I guess you all know about the trial that went on, the case of this guy, Jeremy Strohmeyer. He killed a 7-year-old girl in a Las Vegas casino.

Okay.

We all hate that. But what I think is debatable is whether they should allow the victims and him, also, to make statements at the courthouse. I don't understand this. The mother of the victim was there and she was yelling at him, as well she would. I mean, obviously, she's upset. But it looked and sounded, I swear to God, like "The Jerry Springer Show." The things that she was saying to him. "You're a devil," you're this. And I'm here to say, this is not the place for the courts. The courts are for dispassionate meting out of justice, not for people to vent like they do on television.

Dee:

You've got to let the victims' families vent.

Bill: In court?

Christine: Yeah.

Dee: In court.

They should be allowed to pull the switch on the electric chair, as far as I'm concerned.

Cheers and applause

What do we get? If something happens — I'm married. I have four kids. If something happens to one of my kids, I have to sit through a whole court process. I have to just sit there. I don't even get to voice my opinion? Absolutely, people should be able to voice their opinions.

Christine: He wants to say, "We're not going to take it anymore."

Laughter

Dee: What a cunning linguist.

Applause

Bill: You followed around "Twisted Sister" for some years.

Christine: Yeah.

Bill: Every day —

Christine: I just remember that big blond hair on the TV screen.

Bill: Oh, you were on that tour bus.

Dee: You got everything but the blond.

Christine: You had blond hair.

Bill: Well —

Dee: Big hair.

Christine: Oh, oh, oh, yeah, yeah.

Dee: Go ahead, Bill.

Laughter

We're going to arm-wrestle in two seconds here.

Christine: I'm not going to do a cover of the song.

Eddie: Well, he feels that the victims should be allowed — the victims' families should be allowed to state what their feelings are and, perhaps, you don't feel that it should be done in a court. But a long time ago when the court system was set up, we were a very sparsely populated country. Little towns where, if someone does something wrong, they are castigated by other members of the community. They feel a consequence to their actions by shunning or whatever.

Bill: More than execution?

Eddie: Well, I'm saying now, many executions are voided by deal-making. And also, the population is so dense. We are not in small communities where people feel the consequences of their actions anymore from the citizens around them. So, where are they going to get that feeling out? Where are they going to get to face the person who killed their child? There is no place. So that, I feel, is right. That the sister of that —

Bill: That's interesting.

Eddie: — The person who —

Bill: But then the, you know, the father took the high moral road. The father, who let the kid run around the casino at 3:00am.

Christine: Yeah.

Applause

Bill: He got to speak.

And he got to say, "You know, you —" and I don't think this father is really — he's not as bad as the murderer, but he's certainly no better than that David Cash creep.

Applause

Do you think he's any better than the guy's friend who didn't lift a finger to help? I think the father is just as bad as that guy. And he got to act like he was Mr. Moral High Road.

Applause

Christine: But, you know what? Being a negligent parent — because I agree. It was totally inappropriate for a 7-year-old to be in a casino at 4:00 A.M. unsupervised.

Bill: But supervised would be okay.

Light Laughter

Christine: No.

Bill: If she was with a gambling group.

Laughter

Christine: No, no. But that doesn't mean that his daughter, because of his negligence, he deserved this to happen to him. And I think what makes —

Dee: I agree.

Christine: But what makes it like "The Jerry Springer Show" is the media.

And also —

Scattered applause

They do need —

Bill: But why are the courts following the media's example? They shouldn't be.

Christine: Because I think allowing the family of the victim to vent is a good thing, because I know if anyone did anything like that to one of my nieces or nephews — I don't have my own kids, but I can imagine how I would feel knowing how much I love them. I would want to do a lot more than just yell at them.

Dee: You can't expect — you can't expect all victims' families to be as articulate as Ron Goldman's father was.

Christine: Mm-hmm.

Dee: And he was incredibly articulate and impressive when he spoke. But some people are just angry and don't have the words, don't have the vocabulary to express themselves.

Bill: I'm not quibbling with their level of articulateness.

Dee: Obviously, you are.

You're comparing it with "Jerry Springer" and I hate that show.

Laughter

Bill: No, I'm not.

I'm not saying —

Dee: But, you know —

Bill: The court is no place —

Dee: Oh, there goes my shot. "Jerry Springer."

Bill: Oh, I doubt that.

Christine: Maybe — maybe they could have — meet the same goal by allowing the parents to do this, but not in the courtroom. Maybe after the —

Bill: That's what I'm saying.

Not in the courtroom! It's the court! It's for meting out justice! It's not for venting your spleen!

John: It's good to have a catharsis going on. But there is a certain medieval quality about it. And I don't like Gerald Ford thinking the solution is to have all the Congressmen yell at Clinton in the well of the House and say, "Bad President, bad President."

Christine: Right.

Bill: You know, you're right. That's very similar. That is Gerald Ford's solution is to have — Clinton should stand in the well of the House and be harshly rebuked.

John: A tongue-lashing, as it were, yes.

Bill: A tongue-lashing.

John: I don't really —

Christine: How much humiliation —

Bill: — How he got into trouble in the first place.

Laughter

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. All right.

John: Thank you.

Christine: He might like that.

Bill: All right.

We've got to take a commercial. We'll be right back.

Applause

Bill: All right. We're talking about crime and punishment. And we got onto President Clinton. And Christine, you are — you are always our expert on sin and sinners. So, I want to ask this question. Aren't — shouldn't a sinner be put on a scale of how serious the temptation is for him and that sin? In other words, if a guy says, "You know what, I never touch a drink," but he's not an alcoholic. He doesn't even like liquor, so what? President Clinton, obviously, has trouble staying away from a certain type of temptation.

Christine: Aw.

Bill: So, shouldn't we put that on a scale because he actually did pretty well?

Christine: No.

Bill: No?

Christine: No.

Laughter

Bill: Why not?

Christine: Number one, I don't think he did very well at all, even for a man with a high —

Bill: Compared to what his predilection for it is — everyone has —

Eddie: Oh!

Dee: Predilection?

Eddie: All men are dogs, therefore, we can—

Christine: Yeah!

Bill: Not all men are dogs. Charlie Watts of the "Rolling Stones" — of the "Rolling Stones," famously, never had a groupie. Obviously, it's not a big temptation for him.

Dee: Excuse me.

John: Dee Snider, "Twisted Sister."

Dee: 23 years with the same woman. And, ah —

Christine: Yea!

Applause

Dee: Thank you. No affairs, thank you. Bill, this isn't horseshoes. Almost doesn't count, okay? I mean, you're either monogamous

or you're not monogamous.

Christine: Right.

Dee: Okay.

Bill: You're saying all temptations for all people are the same level?

Christine: No. I'm sorry.

Laughter

Dee: Are they all the same? Absolutely not. But if I've got to deal with it, so does he.

Christine: Yeah!

Bill: But, maybe —

Christine: What that whole idea is doing is — Josh McDowell wrote a book called “The New Tolerance.” And it talks about how today, you're trying to create truth rather than discover the truth that's already there. And to say that it's only wrong depending on these kind of circumstances —

Bill: I didn't say “Only wrong.”

I said, “Judge on a scale of how serious the temptation is.” We're all tempted by different things.

Christine: So, then you're saying that adultery isn't as bad as if it were the first time he did it. Or — I mean, it's wrong.

Eddie: Are you saying that Paula Jones and Monica Lewinsky were very tempting morsels?

Laughter

Bill: No.

Cheers, Applause

Dee: Now, Edie, Bill was grading on a curve, as well.

Bill: Everybody should be rated —

Dee: I got a cousin who likes —

Bill: I'm saying, if you don't like chocolate, to say, “You know, I never touch chocolate,” is not a big thing. But if you can't — if that's your passion in life, then you should be judged by how little chocolate you eat.

Laughter

Christine: No, because we all — we all.

Eddie: That's very — logic there.

Christine: We all have weaknesses.

Bill: We all have weaknesses.

Christine: We all have temptations. It is how we handle those temptations and how we —

John: And how we judge our peers who succumb to temptations.

Christine: No.

Do we let —

Bill: Yes.

Christine: No.

Do we let our weaknesses control us, you know? I mean, God promises that he will never tempt us beyond what we can bear. So, like, for me in my personal life, if I feel tempted in a situation, you know, when you're in that moment, you realize, “Wait a

minute, I wouldn't be here if there was not a way out.” I wouldn't — get that smirk off your face.

Laughter

Bill: Because I know you two want to get it together so bad, but both of you are strong.

Laughter

John: That's logic, but we're talking about an area where there is a lot of subjectivity on this. Let's say that my temptation was to sell arms to the Iranians who killed our Marines in Beirut to get hostages out.

Laughter

And, guess what? Nobody cared. So, what's the big deal?

Bill: Right.

John: You know, Clinton just had dead sperm. Reagan had dead people, ya know.

Bill: Right.

John: But nobody was upset about that.

Cheers and applause

Christine: You know what? What you're doing again is ignoring that there's an absolute truth. For example, an alcoholic would not be able to have —

Bill: Yes, absolute truth is a scary thing, especially in the mind of a human. In God's mind, there's absolute truth. You? No. Sorry.

Laughter

Christine: Right.

Because I don't create truth. I don't create truth.

Bill: You don't create truth. And you don't know truth. None of us do.

Eddie: But what if there's no God? Then there's no absolute truth.

Applause

Christine: And that — you know what? That would be a true statement, but the reality is there is a God. There's no way that you can look around this Earth and not see a perfectly created, perfect design for human existence.

John: Oh, you haven't watched — you have a lot —

Eddie: Evolution seems to me to be a pretty good way that things have been created.

Christine: You know what? Evolution — evolution is a myth. And even Darwin —

Audience reacts

Bill: Evolution is a myth?

Christine: Yes.

You know what?

Bill: Have you ever looked at a monkey?

Laughter

Christine: Well then, why aren't monkeys still evolving into humans?

John: It takes a long time.

Laughter

Christine: Darwin himself —

John: You can sit in the zoo all day, baby. You can sit there all day in the simian house. It ain't going to happen.

Bill: How can you look at monkey and not at least give evolution a day in court?

Laughter

Not look at a monkey and go, “I see how we could have. There is a similarity there.”

John: What does it matter? What is evolution anyway?

Laughter

Why is evolution in any way inconsistent with Christianity, anyway? Genesis, I don't really believe, was meant to be taken literally when it was written.

Bill: Right.

Applause

Christine: Okay, well, then, that brings us back to the point. The point here —

Bill: It brings me to a commercial.

But we'll come back to the point after that.

Applause

Bill: Okay. We're really talking about religion and the way people interpret it. And I never understand that point of view because I believe in God. And I think you're saying you do, too. But we don't understand why, at least I don't, why there's a God who says, “You know, I can create a sunset, I can create life. What I really need is a best-seller.”

Laughter

“I've got to write a book and I've got to create everything in one day.” You know, it's like, why isn't evolution God's way? Why can't that have been his system? John: Well, I mean, you've got to look at how the Bible was actually written. These books existed in the oral tradition for hundreds of thousands of years.

Bill: Right.

John: They finally wrote them down in Aramaic, later translated it to Greek, and then Latin and finally English.

Dee: By a monk, without glasses, by candlelight.

John: Hundreds and hundreds of revisions. And this is supposed to be the absolute, direct word of God. It's like telephone tag. You know, I mean, it's like Jesus said,

“Love your enemies,” Rush Limbaugh heard, “Kill the fags.”

Laughter

Dee: That’s what I heard!

Christine: You know what? That is an argument that you can believe if you want to justify —

John: Research it and educate yourself about it. I mean, it’s — you know.

Christine: No, absolutely not. I mean, if you want to justify living however you live, because I was not always a Christian. I went from, you know, all kinds of religious backgrounds into everything, until finally, you know, my desire was to know the truth. And any time I began to get involved in —

Bill: But you never will. That’s what being a human is.

Christine: Yes, you will.

Bill: That’s why God is God and we’re not God.

Christine: The truth can be known.

Bill: Because we don’t know the truth. If we did, we would be God.

John: It’s so prideful! To assume you know the truth is so completely prideful!

Christine: No, it’s not.

Bill: Right. Exactly.

Eddie: Yes, it is!

Christine: Because I don’t create the truth. I don’t create the truth.

Bill: That’s the lesson of the apple. The tree of knowledge. Hello! Don’t eat it!

Christine: And it was — it was —

Laughter, Applause

Bill: Right? Is that not the lesson in the Bible?

Christine: No.

Eddie: Yes!

Christine: It was to say that you will be like — “You will be a God” was the whole deception that Adam and Eve felt.

John: Right. But now you get monthly menstruation, painful childbirth and [bleep] wages for doing the same job as a man. So, you know —

Christine: Wait a minute.

It sounds like — you know what it sounds like it really going on here? I mean, you told us a little bit about your background. But there’s “Religious baggage” so to speak.

Bill: Yes.

Christine: And that is preventing you from knowing who God is.

Bill: No, no.

John: Problems with religion —

Bill: Religion is preventing —

Christine: Well, God —

Bill: Spirituality is one thing. Religion is

the bureaucracy that gets in the way of spirituality.

John: It’s the middlemen, baby.

It’s the middlemen.

Cheers and applause

Christine: Absolutely. I agree with you. You know what? I agree with you.

Eddie: And many Christian religions, especially Catholic, that bureaucracy was established in order to keep certain members of the population under repression.

John: That’s how it still is.

Christine: Wait.

Bill: Right.

John: Pardon me?

Christine: Because of the sinful and corrupt nature of human existence, does that the change who God is?

Eddie: The Christian God.

There are fewer Christians than there are the aggregate of Buddhist, Islam — all of those add up to more than the Christians.

John: The problem —

Christine: You know what?

The truth —

Eddie: Are they all wrong?

Dee: Yeah, what is the deal with that?

Christine: The truth can —

Eddie: Are they all wrong?

Christine: And what you need to do is, if you are seriously —

Bill: Yeah, it’s your God.

Christine: — Seeking the truth, then ask God, “Reveal to me the truth.” Is it true when the Bible says that there’s only one way to heaven, which is through Jesus, that’s what happened to me. I —

Bill: See, when you get to heaven, there’s a guy at the pearly gates with a clipboard and he goes, “Sorry, wrong religion.”

Laughter

John: Right.

Number one, you’re assuming that —

Applause

Bill: “You’re not on the list. Sorry.”

Christine: When you die, Jesus — God will look at our sins. And you’re either covered by the blood of Christ —

John: Okay. Hang on. You’re assuming —

Eddie: You’re scaring me! You’re frightening me!

Laughter

Stop that!

Applause

John: Christine.

Eddie: Stop that!

John: Christine.

Christine: I didn’t make up the rules. God did.

John: Hey, Christine, my issue with what you’re talking about is, number one, you’re assuming that Gandhi, Golda Meir and Malcolm X are in hell —

Bill: Yeah.

John: — Because they didn’t go this one way. Christians aren’t better just saved? I don’t think it’s that’s easy.

Christine: You know what, I can’t judge someone’s heart with Jesus and how their relationship is with Jesus.

John: But do you believe a person can live a Christ-like existence, but not accept Christ, and still get into heaven?

Christine: The Bible says that —

Bill: Who acts less Christ-like than a lot of the Christians today?

John: Exactly.

Christine: I agree with you.

Applause

Bill: Who are judgmental in a way that Christ never was.

Christine: I agree with you 100%. And you know what’s interesting about that, when the Bible talks about who will get into heaven, it says, you know, “Neither the liars or the slanderers or the greedy or the adulterers.”

John: What, are you tripping? That’s everybody!

Christine: Exactly.

Eddie: Kenny Starr can’t go either!

Bill: Right. Okay. I have to take a commercial. I know I won’t get into heaven.

Applause

Announcer: : Join us tomorrow when our guests will be Morgan Fairchild, Kathy Griffin, Richard Grieco and Jack Burkman.

Applause

Bill: All right. I have one very quick question. If Jesus Christ was walking the Earth in America today, do you think he’d be Republican or Democrat?

John: He’d be neither and he wouldn’t be a capitalist either.