

February 2nd, 1999

Laughter

Let's bring him out and see if his answer matches Monica's."

Guests on this program were:

Steve Lawrence
Carol Alt
Nancy Schaefer
Kristen Short

There's nothing you can say without—at one point, someone in the room objected to a question and somebody else said, "Sustained."

And Monica said, "I thought we weren't going to talk about the dress."

Laughter, Applause

Actually, it was interesting.

All the newspapers today described Monica as poised and humorous.

They said she actually had a good sense of humor about the thing.

In fact, at one point she said to Henry Hyde, "Is that Linda Tripp in your back pocket or do you just have a big, fat ass?"

Laughter, Applause

Not a clever joke.

I just wanted to say he had a big, fat ass.

Anyway, well, today was Vernon Jordan's turn in the dock.

They put him, get this, in a soundproof room.

It's a game show now.

I don't get this.

Laughter

"Vernon is secluded backstage in a soundproof room.

Laughter

Well, speaking of game shows, did you hear this, Saddam Hussein, the game-show master of all time, is offering \$14,000 to anyone who can shoot down an American pilot.

That's his latest gambit.

The White House says this actually might be good news because if he's gonna throw money at the problem, maybe he's a Democrat.

Anyway, thanks for coming.

It's all been satirized for your protection.

Thank you, folks.

Panel Discussion

Bill: All right, she is the founder and president of Family Concerns Incorporated, Nancy Schaefer.
Nancy.

Applause

There she is.

How are you, young lady?

Nice to meet you.

Have a seat.

She's the development director of the Young America's Foundation, Kristen Short.
Kristin.

Bill: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

What a great crowd on—thank you, please.

Groundhog Day, it always happens.

People come out.

It is Groundhog Day.

Do you see this?

Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, which means only six more weeks of impeachment.

Laughter

Well, yes, the trial goes forward now.

As you know, Monica Lewinsky was deposed in the hotel room the day before today.

Today, the Senators saw the videotape, a couple of sticking points there that were bad for Monica.

At one point—

Applause

Nice to meet you as well.

How are you?

She's a big-deal, international actress, Miss Carol Alt has joined us.

Yeah.

Cheers and applause

They're animals.

I hate it.

How are you?

Nice to see you again.

And finally, this month he's on another sold-out national tour with Eydie Gorme, our legendary buddy, Mr. Steve Lawrence.

Okay.

Well, as you probably know, the pope was here last week.

I did not see him myself.

And I have the greatest respect for the pope.

He pontificates a lot.

Laughter

Kristin: Yes.

Steve: That's why they call him the pontiff.

Bill: There you go, you see.

All right, never mind.

Well, one of the things he, you know, had his dress up about was—

Laughter

Nancy: His robe.

Bill: What he calls the "culture of death."

He said that America has a culture of death.

Abortion, euthanasia, death penalty.

And he did something which many guests on this show have done to our big pro-life advocates, he compared abortion to slavery.

And I just thought it was about time I got in this battle and said I think it's insulting to black people to make this comparison.

Kristin: Well, I think that abortion was the great moral crisis of the 1800s.

And—I mean, I'm sorry, slavery was the great moral crisis of the 1800s.

Steve: Abortion was a little quieter then.

Kristin: And abortion is the great moral crisis of the 1900s.

I think that's the comparison that he's making.

Bill: I know that's what you think but you're comparing—

Kristin: But I mean, the fact that the pope is calling abortion a problem should come as no surprise to anyone.

Bill: That is no surprise.

We're talking about whether it's comparable to slavery.

You're comparing a person, a real person, be they black, to a glob of sperm.

That's the main—

Nancy: He is right in that he's comparing this group of people as being outside of protection.

Here's a large group of people outside protection.

Bill: People?

Nancy: People.

Bill: People are like us.

We're here.

We're talking.

We eat.

Nancy: And the slaves were outside of a certain protection.

They were outside the boundary of protection.

Bill: They were people.

Nancy: The unborn are also a large group of people.

Bill: They're not people.

They're unborn.

You just said it.

Unborn.

Steve: You could compare slavery, like, to the Holocaust because those were all people that were oppressed and really put down and put to death.

Nancy: Exactly.

Steve: But I think abortion, you can't really compare it.

Kristin: Take the octuplets that were born.

Steve: I mean, I don't like to take issue with the pope.

I mean, you know.

Kristin: Smart man.

Steve: He's a wonderful man.

And he is a very fancy dresser.

Bill: He wears a yarmulke.

Steve: He got the biggest yarmulke I have ever seen.

Kristin: Take the octuplets that were born—

Steve: You take the octuplets.

Kristin: They're saying—no, thanks, I don't need it.

Carol: That's their point.

That's their point.

Kristin: If they were born prematurely.

Steve: Somebody had to make a decision.

Kristin: You're saying people that are unborn aren't people.

You're saying—

Carol: Slaves were people.

Talking at once

Bill: They're not people.

Kristin: At a certain point are saying by law that they're not people.

Bill: Wait, wait.

Nancy: They are people.

Bill: They're not people.

Steve: Now, when do you consider it life?

Carol: That's the point.

Nancy: Conception.

Bill: Conception?

How about masturbation?

Nancy: No, no.

Laughter

Carol: But wait a minute.

Wait a minute.

Talking at once

Nancy: When a baby is conceived, it is life.

Bill: But you said conception.

So I mean, just when two people get together and—

Nancy: No, when a baby is conceived.

That is life.

That is life.

Bill: How do you know when that is?

It's, you know, going on inside.

Carol: But there's a whole other point here is the life of the mother who's carrying it.

There are several problems here.

I remember on Long Island when the pro-life advocates were gonna pull the plug on a woman who had been in a car accident because—do you remember this one?

She was in a coma and the doctor said that there's a possibility she would if they aborted the child.

And the pro-life people came in there and said, well, then you can't abort this child because it's a child.

Well, whose life then are we choosing between, the mother and the child.

Steve: Carol, there are a lot of nuts on both sides.

It's a very heated and passionate subject.

Carol: It's a very heated and passionate subject.

Steve: It really is.

Carol: But she said we're talking about life here.

And I'm saying whose life are we talking about?

The mother or the child?

Steve: They want to save the life of that unborn child.

Now you have somebody that's gonna bomb an abortion clinic and kill a lot of innocent people.

Bill: Right.

Steve: Where do you draw the line?

Nancy: Sometimes we have to save the life of the mother.

Carol: If my sister was raped, heaven forbid, and she got pregnant from that, I would not want her to carry that child because every day she looked at that child, she would think of that.

Steve: You're 100% right.

Carol: So I think there are certain situations where abortion or the choice for a person to make the choice of having an abortion, that's their conscious and what they have to live with.

Steve: What about when there's a multiple birth involved.

And like a woman is carrying, you know, they have like six, eight kids.

Bill: The octuplets.

Kristin: Right.

Steve: Now, assuming that you have to go in and, like, one or two or three of the fetuses have to be put away because they—

Nancy: Might kill them all.

Kristin: Sure, sure.

Steve: Now is the person who makes that decision, is he considered a murderer?

Kristin: What you're talking about there is a way to save as many lives as possible.

And what you have in most abortion clinics is the way to just eliminate life altogether.

You're not talking about a case where you're choosing one life, where you are trying to save life and then you are forced with the difficult decision—

Carol: But that's the point I'm making.

What life are you saving?

You might be saving the mother's life.

Kristin: In most abortion cases, you are simply aborting a child.

Bill: Guys, I have to abort this discussion and take a commercial.

Laughter

We'll be right back.

Announcer: Join us tomorrow when our guests will be—Eric Braeden, Kristy Swanson, Stephanie Miller and Donnie Kennedy.

Applause

Bill: All right.

We're talking about the pope and all that.

Just so you think I'm not completely blasphemous and anti-spiritual, here's something I thought I'd bring up.

It was in the paper today.

Israel's parks department, get this, is building a submerged bridge under the Sea of Galilee so tourists can simulate Jesus' walk on water.

Laughter

I am not kidding about this.

Nancy: That's outrageous.

Bill: Their building—

Nancy: That's outrageous.

Bill: I hope Jesus makes a wind come up and blow the first person off and drowns them.

Nancy: I do, too.

Laughter

That was a wonderful—

Applause

Bill: So you want the tourists to die, but the baby you've got to save.

Nancy: That's like selling souvenirs in the temple.

Steve: Well—

Carol: No, but that's not true.

I spoke with somebody two months ago.

And they're thinking of doing a theme park in Israel—they are—based on the Bible.

Steve: Yeah, but I mean, walking on water is not a theme park.

I mean, if this is a hit what do they do after, nail you to the cross?

What are you gonna do after that?

There will be a lot of rides.

“Come, we’ll just nail you for the afternoon.”

Laughter

That’s nuts.

Nancy: It’s blasphemous.

Carol: Why is it blasphemous?

Nancy: Because you’re just laughing and making a commercial.

Bill: It’s narcissistic more than blasphemous.

It’s like, you know, bad enough that they have, you know, stick your head in the shark’s mouth at Universal Studios, but now, I am Jesus?

Kristin: Bill, it’s never gonna happen.

I mean, look at—

Bill: It’s happening.

They’re doing it.

Kristin: Disney tried to build a theme park on Virginia in the Civil War battlefield.

Bill: This ain’t Disney.

This is Israel.

Kristin: People feel very passionate about Civil War battlefields.

Bill: This is a different country.

Hello.

Hello.

Different country.

Different country, different rules, different—

Kristin: Israel has a lot of healing to do.

I don’t think they need to start by having—

Carol: They’ll be looking at this as healing.

Bill: Okay.

Steve: How much are the tickets, by the way?

Carol: Bringing tourists in, that’s what they’re looking at.

Bringing tourists in.

Kristin: This is going to offend the people that would be their tourists.

Who do you think they’re trying to market this to?

Talking at once

Bill: Tourists.

Carol: I thought it was a great idea.

Most people know nothing about the Bible.

I thought it was a great idea.

Steve: How much are the tickets by the way, Bill?

Nancy: Most of their tourists are churches.

Laughter

Steve: What are they charging to walk on water these days?

Nancy: A lot.

A lot.

Bill: If I could just clarify this factually, you don’t seem to understand.

This is actually happening.

This is not in our country, so we have nothing to do to stop it and they’re doing it.

Carol: No, but we’re probably backing it.

Bill: I know you don’t understand the difference between life and not life, but this is like happening.

Kristin: Actually, I think I do understand.

Bill: And it’s because they’re expecting 4 million people for the millennium.

That’s gonna be a big thing in Israel ’cause of the year 2000 is coming.

Nancy: That’s right, so they’re gonna make money off of it.

Bill: So they’re gonna cash in and make this money.

Steve: In Israel it’ll be 2000 reduced from \$3.95.

Laughter

Nancy: This is the parks department so maybe they don’t care about the sincerity of the way people feel about the Sea of Galilee. Maybe the parks department could care less.

Maybe they just want to make the big bucks off of this.

Bill: Well, they do.

That’s the whole point.

Nancy: That’s the whole point.

Bill: I’m sure, is that they’re gonna make money off this.

Nancy: But she is right in her point that look who the tourists are.

Most of the tourist groups to Israel are churches from the United States.

Kristin: Right, so who are you marketing this to?

I mean, you’re gonna offend the people that you’re trying to get to buy tickets to come.

I mean, you know, American families are gonna scrap Disney and now they’re gonna go walk on water and, like you said, be nailed to the cross?

I mean, what is this?

Bill: Well, there are all sorts of contradictions in Christianity.

So I’m not sure they’ll all be—all these people will be offended.

Are you a Christian?

Carol: Yes.

Bill: And you’re not offended.

Carol: I’m not offended.

Bill: There you go.

Talk to the customer.

Laughter

Kristin: But if Carol led the tour I’m sure people would sign up.

Nancy: Steve, are you offended over there?

Steve: Uh, but—

Laughter

Nancy: Yes, you are.

Kristin: If you have to pause to think about it, you’re not standing behind it.

Steve: Yeah, I guess a little offended.

Yeah, I am.

I am offended.

Because where do you stop?

After that, where do you go after that?

After the walking on water trick, then what?

Bill: Well, but why should someone have to be Jesus?

That’s so narcissistic.

Especially about a guy who was not about narcissism.

I think Jesus would be offended that people would be like, “Marge, take a picture.

I’m Jesus.”

Nancy: I do, too.

Laughter, Applause

Carol: I wish we could be more like Jesus all the time, you know?

Maybe that’s the point.

Bill: If only Christians were more like Jesus they’d have something there.

Carol: We should all be more like Jesus more of the time.

Kristin: Well, I think we can agree on that. That we agree on.

Bill: Well, we got to take a commercial.

’Cause I’m not like Jesus.

Bill: All right.

We were talking about idolatry really.

Let’s talk about Ronald Reagan, ’cause there’s a lot of it going on there.

Carol: Why?

Laughter

Bill: No, really, actually good segue.

Because, you know, they renamed the airport in Washington after him.

Some people want to carve his head onto Mt. Rushmore.

Laughter

And get this, it was in the paper today, the Century Plaza Hotel, which is where he stayed out here when he was president, when he came out here, they have a Ronald Reagan suite now.

They took two years to refurbish it.

Everything down to Nancy's favorite perfume.

They have all his movies.

It sounds like something that they would do at Graceland for Elvis.

And I just think it speaks of the bankruptcy of the Republican Party now.

And I speak as someone who would like a viable Republican Party.

Steve: Is the Republican Party doing it or is it the hotel doing it?

Bill: No, but I mean, it's like the Republicans—

Kristin: It's the Century Plaza that's doing it.

Bill: It is.

But come on.

Kristin: Get your facts straight now.

Bill: Okay, but it's the Republicans who renamed the airport after him and who were trying to get him on Mt. Rushmore.

Carol: Well, that's silly.

Kristin: But I think what it shows is the overwhelming support that people had for President Reagan.

This hotel is already booked up.

Bill: Yeah, you heard the two claps there.

Laughter

Overwhelming.

Nancy: Oh, no.

Applause

Nancy: I think that—

Kristin: The hotel suite's already booked. People from all over the world are coming here.

Nancy: I think it's a wonderful thing to do.

Steve: Is it a newlywed suite?

Or for—

Kristin: I think you could probably do whatever you want there.

Steve: Whatever you want.

You can do one for the Gipper.

Laughter

Carol: Yeah, but Reagan's not the only person who has a suite in a hotel named after him.

I mean, I was just in Monte Carlo and the suite across from my suite was the Placido Domingo suite.

So I mean that—but recarving Mt. Rushmore, come on.

That's a national monument.

And it's an antique.

I mean, it's been that way for hundreds of years.

Steve: Yeah, but Carol—Carol?

They have presidential suites in just about every hotel in the country.

Carol: Sure, so it's nothing unusual.

Steve: So what's wrong with calling it after—

Carol: However, Mt. Rushmore is kind if silly.

Bill: Except that they've redone it with all the Reagan stuff.

It's a little creepy.

Okay.

Forget the suite.

Kristin: It's better than Clinton selling off the Lincoln bedroom in the White House.

I mean, come on.

Nancy: Don't you think people today like this kind of thing?

Bill: What happened?

Nancy: People today like this kind of thing. Like, they like to go to Graceland and they like to see all of this.

It probably has jelly beans in it.

Bill: It does.

Nancy: But he was a great president and I think it's wonderful.

I'd like to see him on Mt. Rushmore.

Bill: Well, that's ridiculous.

Laughter

Carol: Yeah, totally.

Nancy: I would.

Carol: And who would pay for that.

Bill: But even if he was a great president.

It seems like the Republican Party, when they're not looking up Monica Lewinsky's dress, has only one other agenda now, which is Ronald Reagan.

It's like he was president.

He's not President now.

Get over it.

Come up with a new leader, not Henry Hyde.

Come up with a new idea, not impeachment.

Just move on.

Carol: They're trying to save face at this point.

And the only good thing that they've had in the last 20 years has been Reagan.

Nancy: But Reagan is a president that we should do this for.

He is the president that said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear that wall down."

Bill: Tear down this wall, yeah.

Nancy: I mean, tear down that wall.

That was great, great.

Applause

Bill: I agree.

I agree.

That was Reagan's greatest thing was his stand against communism.

But he didn't do it alone.

Carol: Yeah, but if he had been president ten years before and he said, "Mr. Whoever, tear down that wall," they wouldn't have.

It was the right time, you know?

He was at the right place at the right time.

Kristin: Okay, that's what they—

Steve: My wife said that to the contractor the other day.

"Tear that wall down."

Laughter

Nancy: Bold lady.

Cheers and applause

Carol: Steve knows how to take the steam out of your sails.

Kristin: Did it come down with communism and everything, too?

I mean, was she really mad?

I think what President Reagan did is he said—

Steve: I will pay you money to stop talking.

Laughter, Applause

I will pay a high price.

Cheers and applause

Gold coins, shekels, I'll give you—I'll take you on a ride.

You can walk on water.

Talking at once

Steve: My wife can tell you how to do it.

She's been walking on water for years.

Laughter

Kristin: Good for you.

Steve: Thank you.

Bill: What's that?

Nancy: I don't think President Clinton would have ever said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear that wall down."

Kristin: I don't think President Clinton has the vision for anything but interns.

Laughter

Nancy: He don't have time.

He's so busy in the White House doing other things.

Bill: Well, I don't know if he would have used those words, but every American president since the end of World War II contributed to Reagan's culminating moment.

And Reagan did a great thing there.

But it wasn't all Ronald Reagan.

Reagan couldn't have made that statement unless Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy and every other president, Eisenhower, had done their part to bring us to that moment.

Carol: And he just happened to be there.

Steve: Yeah, Bill, that's quite true, but what happened is that the executive in charge at the time takes the credit or the blame.

Bill: Right.

Steve: So he was there and he deserves the credit.

And he also made the country feel pretty good, I think.

Nancy: And he should be acknowledged for it.

Bill: Acknowledged.

But he didn't do it all by himself.

Nancy: No, he had the whole country behind him.

Bill: The whole country and the—and many other presidents, Democratic and Republican, who did their job.

Carol: Who contributed to it.

Kristin: Yeah, Carter really helped bring down communism, let me tell you.

I mean, Reagan inherited a country—

Bill: Carter boycotted the Olympics in 1980 when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.

Carol: Thank you.

Applause

Bill: That is exactly the kind of thing.

He was there at the time.

At the time that was what the battle was.

President Johnson prosecuted the war in Vietnam.

That was going on with communism when he was president.

Every president did their part.

Kristin: And Carter told us we were in a state of malaise.

This is the president talking about the American public.

And he says we're in a state of malaise?

Bill: What does that have to do with Ronald Reagan and communism?

Kristin: Because that's the country that Ronald Reagan inherited.

He inherited Carter's America, which was in shambles.

Applause

Bill: Right, well, Carter didn't create that America.

And we were in a state of malaise.

And, you know what?

Kristin: Yeah, and Reagan turned it around.

Bill: I happen to like a president—

Kristin: He ended inflation.

He returned a sense of pride to America and he ended the Cold War.

Bill: I'm not here to defend Jimmy Carter.

Applause

I don't even like him.

Carol: He didn't singlehandedly all by himself end the Cold War.

Bill: Yeah.

Carol: I mean, communism destroyed itself.

Kristin: There were a lot of heroes of the Cold War, but communism did not just miraculously disappear.

Bill: No, it didn't.

Carol: When you have people that are saying, "We're all supposed to be equal," but they were very unequal.

Bill: Right.

Carol: You had generals living like kings and people living like peasants.

And they started to see the difference, and they started to see the outside world.

And they went, "Wait a minute."

And all this came together all at one point when it happened to be under Reagan.

So he can't take credit for what happened interior in that country.

Bill: Beauty and brains all together, what are you going to do, ladies and gentlemen?

We have to take a commercial.

We'll be right back.

Bill: All right.

I wish Jerry Springer was here to give a final thought about Jesus and Ronald Reagan.

But he's not, so I just have time to tell you tomorrow we're gonna have Eric Braeden, Kristy Swanson, Stephanie Miller and Donnie Kennedy.

And thank you, our conservatives.

We had two lady conservatives today.

Nancy: Thank you.