

[From the Times of India, Nov. 14, 1999]
MOB ATTACKS CHRISTIAN GATHERING

NEW DELHI.—In the first incident of its kind in Delhi, a group of about 40 persons attacked a Christian gathering outside an Independent Church (meaning neither Catholic nor Protestant) in west Delhi's Khyala area on Saturday evening. At least 12 persons were injured in the attack, allegedly masterminded by "suspected Bhartiya Janata Party activists," according to the police.

Though four persons—Radhey Shyam Gupta, Kapila, Charan and Ashok Sharma—have been named in the police FIR, no arrests have been made so far.

Area sources said the incident took place at about 8:30 pm in the C-block of a JJ colony in Khyala, near Tilak Nagar, where the group (including some women) stormed a tent where a group of Christians were conducting an open air Bible reading session. A small group of Christians live in the colony.

Sources said the attackers raised anti-Christians slogans, tore and burnt pamphlets with religious scriptures. A couple of Bibles and a Holy Cross were also reportedly damaged in the attack. The group then had a scuffle with scores of people present in the tent which led to the injuries, the sources said. Senior Delhi Police officers confirmed the attack but denied any Bible was torn or burnt by the mob. They also denied that a Holy Cross was damaged. "Initial investigations have revealed that the mob, which may have had some BJP activists, disrupted the Bible reading session and then attacked the gathering. But all the injuries sustained in the attack are minor," joint police commissioner (southern range) Amod Kanth said.

He also said the attackers tore and burnt several pamphlets which contained passages in praise of Jesus. "But I have personally spoken to the pastor who was conducting the proceedings and he has denied any cross being damaged or Bible being burnt by the attackers," Mr. Kanth added.

Local sources said the Bible reading sessions were being conducted at this Independent church for several years, and as a continuation, a pastor, Father S. John had arrived in the area on Friday from Hosangipur in southwest Delhi.

Mr. Kanth also said the police had established that the attackers did not belong to the Tilak Nagar area and had come from some other area. "It was clearly an unprovoked attack and all of them would be arrested," Mr. Kanth said.

He said the police had registered a case of rioting and of disturbing religious assembly in this connection but no arrests had been made so far. Officers said the west district police had rushed in reinforcements in the Khyala area to prevent any "further untoward" incidents, even though there was no tension in the area.

IN HONOR OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN,
COAST GUARD CAPT.
EARL FOX

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11 and was present to hear President Clinton single out a World War II veteran who is the last veteran of that war to still be on active duty.

He is 80-year-old Capt. Earl Fox, a Coast Guard doctor, who spent his last Veterans Day in uniform last week. He is retiring from active duty this week. I want to submit an article from the November 11, 1999, Washington Post, which is a tribute to Capt. Fox and his years of dedicated service to his nation. He is a patriot and hero and we salute him.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 11, 1999]
WORLD WAR II VETERAN SOLDIERS ON,
ALONE—ACTIVE-DUTY DOCTOR; 80, SALUTES
HIS GENERATION

(By Roberto Suro)

Two weeks ago, Capt. Earl R. Fox learned that he is the last World War II veteran still on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. Since then he has dwelled in memories, wondering whether he will be worthy of the fallen when he walks among Arlington's serried tombstones this afternoon.

"I have felt a weight on me to expend every effort to make it honorable for them," said the 80-year-old Coast Guard physician.

Fox will have breakfast at the White House today and then speak at a wreath-laying ceremony at the national cemetery. This will be his final Veterans Day in uniform—he is retiring next week—and he describes himself as "the last direct physical link" between today's military and the warriors of Midway, Normandy and Iwo Jima.

"One generation forms the backbone for the next to build on," says the text he has prepared for the commemoration. "As my generation fades into the mist of collective memory called tradition, you will continue the process for the next generation of your sons and daughters. In this way, those who have given the last full measure of devotion will live forever . . ."

As the Virginia native rehearsed his brief speech for a visitor to his office at Coast Guard headquarters yesterday, his voice cracked. He stopped in mid-sentence, reached for a handkerchief and apologized for the show of emotion.

"I had classmates who did not come home," he said. "I had shipmates who did not make it. I knew these men well. I knew what they thought and what they thought about. And I am filled with humility and faith in God, because I feel like I am here today because of their courage and bravery."

After five years of service on patrol-torpedo boats and submarines, Fox left the Navy in 1947 to attend medical school and then to prosper as a physician in St. Petersburg, Fla. In 1974, he retired at the age of 55 to enjoy his 43-foot yacht and life as a yacht club commodore who made a practice of entertaining officers from the local Coast Guard air station. He was at the club one day when an emergency call came in.

A man aboard a pleasure boat was suffering a heart attack. With the Coast Guard's doctor away, Fox was asked to help. Within minutes, he was being lowered from a helicopter at sea.

Fox enjoyed the experience so much that he agreed to join up when the local commanding officer suggested he could get a commission under a program that waived age limits for physicians. He made only one demand: He wanted to go to flight school. Eventually, he learned to fly helicopters as well as airplanes.

For 16 years, until 1990, Fox served as a flight surgeon at Coast Guard stations up and down the East Coast, making more than a dozen helicopter rescues. For the past nine years, he has worked as the senior medical officer in the personnel department at Coast Guard headquarters.

Combining his Navy and Coast Guard service, Fox has now spent 30 years in the mili-

tary, the point at which most officers must retire. But he said his decision to leave uniform is driven primarily by a desire to spend more time with his wife of 56 years, Reba.

It might be mere serendipity that this genial octogenarian is the last of 16 million World War II veterans to don his ribbons and decorations every working day. But Fox seems the perfect representative of a generation that, in his words, "experienced both great times and times of desperation."

Thinking back to nighttime battles fought in tropical waters, Fox said, "when things get tough you need more to fall back on than yourself and the present." He had the heritage of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, all military officers. But he also had shipmates. "We were bound together by common purpose," he recalled. "The trust we had in each other made us strong."

Fox has a small photograph, now fading to sepia, that shows 10 sailors in jaunty poses at the bow of a PT boat, one of the mahogany-hulled speedsters dispatched on hit-and-run missions against enemy fleets. Seated on stools before them are two officers. It's the summer of 1943 and Fox is already a decorated combat veteran and boat commander at the age of 23. To his right sits an even younger man Al Haywood, just out of Yale and assigned as the boat's executive officer.

A few weeks after the picture was taken, they were on patrol off the coast of New Guinea when a single Japanese airplane appeared out of nowhere. It strafed the boat. A sailor fell wounded. Haywood rushed to his side. As the fighter wheeled and dove for another run at the boat, Haywood threw himself over the injured man.

The airplane's gunfire "stitched him from head to toe," recalled Fox, who buried Haywood at sea. The wounded crewman survived.

"Remembering people like Haywood and the many, many others like him is important," said Fox, "because those memories of honor and sacrifice are the fabric our country is made of."

ZERO-TOLERANCE AND COMMON SENSE

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the following editorial from the November 12, 1999 St. Louis Post-Dispatch in order to make a statement in opposition to so-called "zero-tolerance" discipline policies in our Nation's schools.

While maintaining discipline and orderly conduct in our schools should continue to be a top priority of educators and school administrators, we must be mindful that not all misdeeds are worthy of the stringent and unbending punishments administered under these policies. Such policies fail to allow a more reasonable system of addressing each incident separately, thus failing to teach our students the values of discipline and tolerance. As I remain outraged at the actions taken against the seven students in Decatur, I am hopeful that other school boards and districts across America will soon examine their own disciplinary policies in order to create a more equitable system of punishment.

ZERO-TOLERANCE AND COMMON SENSE

The Rev. Jesse Jackson's protest of the expulsion of seven students from a Decatur,

Ill., high school goes beyond the particulars in that incident and spotlights an even larger issue—the mindless application of so-called “zero-tolerance” discipline policies in our schools.

The seven students were in a fight Sept. 17 at a local football game. There were no weapons, no drugs, no alcohol involved. Nobody was hurt, but someone might have been.

Punishment was certainly in order. The school board decided to suspend the students from school for two years, without the possibility of attending an alternative school. It cited its policy of zero tolerance for violence. Zero tolerance or not, the punishment was far too severe.

In the wake of the deadly school shootings at Columbine and in other cities across America, we all have become deeply concerned about school safety. As we should be. But as we seek to root out violence, our lack of tolerance must be tempered with common sense. We’ve become so spooked by the specters of mass shootings that we are quick to sacrifice children’s lives on the altar of control. A 13-year-old Texas boy recently was jailed—jailed—for five days because some parents were troubled by a horror story he wrote for English class. Two 7-year-olds in our region were kicked out of school in separate incidents because they brought nail clippers to school.

A two-year suspension for the Decatur high school students would have virtually guaranteed that they would become dropouts.

Under pressure from the Rev. Jackson, the school board has offered a compromise that makes good sense. The students will be suspended for a year, but will be allowed to attend an alternative school. With good behavior and good grades, they can return to their regular school and graduate on time. The students will be punished but given a chance to redeem themselves. It’s unfortunate that it took a national spotlight, protests and three days of school closures for the school board to find what it never should have lost in the first place: Its head.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANDY AND MARIE ANDERSON

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize two very special constituents of mine, Herman and Marie Anderson of Annandale, Virginia, who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on November 29, 1999. It is with great pride and personal interest that I congratulate them on this special occasion.

Marie Sauer Anderson was born in Baltimore, Maryland on February 26, 1919, where she attended Baltimore City schools and graduated from the Strayer Business College. Herman C. Anderson, better known as Andy, was born in Knoxville, Tennessee on June 21, 1913. He attended Knoxville City schools and graduated from the University of Tennessee. Upon graduation, Andy became a seasoned veteran of professional baseball; however, his career was ended short due to a broken ankle sustained while sliding into second base.

In 1937, Marie Anderson visited her brother George in Knoxville, Tennessee. Marie’s brother was a supervisor with the Palm Beach

Company at the time. Yet his real passion was baseball, so much so that George was the team manager of a semi-pro baseball team. Playing on this semi-professional team was a young ball player from the University of Tennessee, Andy Anderson. During the season, George would invite the players over to his house for dinner, and it was at one of these gatherings where Andy met Marie for the first time.

Soon, George and Marie’s parents moved to Knoxville to be closer to their children, allowing Andy his continued courtship of Marie. During Christmas of 1938, Andy surprised Marie with an engagement ring, and on November 29, 1939, Marie and Andy were united in marriage at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In 1941, their first daughter Marie Allene was born. Three years later in 1944, Sallie Juanita was born, and the youngest girl, Betty Jane, was born in 1950.

Also in 1941, Andy and Marie traveled to Norfolk, Virginia where Andy accepted a field assignment with the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (USCGS). In Norfolk, Andy joined the Elks Lodge No. 38 where he became an active member and officer. In 1958, the field office of the USCGS was relocated to Washington, D.C. Moving to Arlington, Virginia, Andy continued his work with the USGCS within the United States Department of Commerce and soon became involved with the formation of the Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge No. 2188. To this date, Andy has coordinated the organization of nine new Elks Lodges in Virginia.

In 1975, Andy, Marie and their family moved to Annandale, Virginia where they reside at this time. Two of their daughters, Marie Allene Green and Sallie Juanita live in Thibodaux, Louisiana and Melbourne Beach, Florida, respectively. Betty Jane lives at home in Annandale, Virginia with her parents. At present, Andy and Marie are blessed with six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Andy and Marie Anderson on their 60th wedding anniversary. November 29th marks a memorable occasion, and it is only fitting that we pay tribute to this wonderful couple and the contributions they have made to their community.

TRIBUTE TO JAN KOPPRI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize an exceptional woman. Jan Koppri was named Mancos Valley Citizen of the Year, for the year 1999. Repeatedly, Jan has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Jan is involved quite extensively in the city of Mancos, Colorado. She is in charge of the Mancos Valley visitor center. The residents and tourists are welcomed and guided daily by her thorough knowledge of the area. Jan has also turned Mancos around from losing money to making money. A jack of all trades, Jan is a reservationist, making accommodations for lodging and tours within the area, concierge,

tending to guests needs, giving directions, and advice on local attractions. Jan is also a historian. She is knowledgeable on her facts on the history of Mancos. She is famous for convincing people to stay longer in Mancos.

Besides running the visitor’s center, Jan is also involved with the chamber of commerce. Jan added several new events to the Fall Festival and developed a kid’s program. In addition to all of this, Jan has excellent management and people skills which are required to ensure volunteers feel appreciated and awarded.

She is an asset to the community with her involvement in activities and organizations. Jan has also helped out with fund raising events for the Mancos Opera House, the United Way, the library, Mancos Senior Center, the historical society, and the community center.

It is obvious why Jan Koppri was chosen as the 1999 Citizen of the Year. So, it is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I thank her for her service and dedication to the community.

RECOGNIZING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL—USA FOR ITS LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Amnesty International—USA for its foresight in establishing the Amnesty OUTFRONT Program this past year. OUTFRONT is Amnesty’s program and membership network which is focused on promoting the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people around the world.

The human rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people are violated daily, Mr. Speaker. Not only are people beaten, imprisoned, and killed by their own governments for engaging in homosexual acts, but those suspected of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender are routinely the victims of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, and violence. Many of those who speak up for lesbian and gay rights—regardless of their sexual orientation—are themselves persecuted with impunity and thus pressured to remain silent.

Mr. Speaker, the OUTFRONT Program will work with similar programs being developed in Amnesty divisions throughout the world and with Amnesty’s research department to insure that human rights violations committed against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are documented and actions are taken to combat these violations. The effort will promote human rights standards at the international and national level that recognize the basic human rights of all people. In the United States, Amnesty OUTFRONT will launch a public campaign to raise awareness of the human rights violations faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people around the world and will work to build an activist membership committed to combating these violations wherever they occur.