In an important decision for freedom of speech, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Americans could trademark names even if they are “offensive” to some. It is yet to be seen, though, if the same liberty will be given for offending homosexuals. “The Court ruled unanimously in favor of an all-Asian rock band that wanted to call itself ‘The Slants.’ The case came before the Court because the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office denied the band the right to trademark its name because ‘slant’ was an ‘offensive’ term. In Lee v Tam, the band said that America’s First Amendment rights should allow the trademarking of words or phrases that some might find offensive. Indeed, the lead singer of the band insisted that his use of “slant” was an effort to ‘reclaim’ the word for his ethnicity. ... In its unanimous ruling, the Court decided that the members of the rock band were correct, the Washington Times reported. ‘Speech may not be banned on the ground that it expresses ideas that offend,’ Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. said in the ruling” (“Supreme Court Ruling,” Breitbart, Jun. 19, 2017).

The following is excerpted from “Trump Admin. Says Schools Can Be Investigated,” Christian Post, Jun. 19, 2017: “The Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights has issued an internal memo explaining that refusal by public schools or teachers to refer to a transgender student by his or her preferred pronoun or name could be grounds for an investigation. It was reported Friday that the acting assistant secretary for civil rights, Candice Jackson, issued a memo on June 6 calling on the department’s lawyers and investigators to consider complaints of discrimination by transgender students on a case-by-case basis. ... The memo lists a number of valid reasons why OCR investigators would be legally able to assert ‘subject matter jurisdiction over and open for investigation,’ such as a school’s failure to quickly and equitably resolve a transgender student’s complaint of sex discrimination or treating a student different because of his or her failure to
conform to ‘stereotyped notions of masculinity or femininity.’ Additionally, an investigation could be had if there is failure to assess whether sexual harassment or gender-based harassment of a ‘transgender student created a hostile environment.’ The memo lists certain actions that might be construed as ‘gender-based harassment.’ That list includes: ‘refusing to use a transgender student’s preferred name or pronouns when the school uses preferred names for gender-conforming students or when the refusal is motivated by animus toward people who do not conform to sex stereotypes.’

**WHEN THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT UNDERMINES THE PRESIDENT**

The U.S. government is built on the brilliant concept of “separation of powers” (brilliant, that is, for this present fallen world), and this implies division and contention in its most fundamental makeup. Even within the individual branches of the government there is contention. The U.S. Department of State is part of the executive branch and is tasked with advising the President in foreign policy issues and carrying out his decisions, but it has often gone its own way. The year 1948 is a prime example. President Harry Truman intended to recognize the state of Israel on the basis of ethical and biblical reasons, but he was resisted on pragmatic grounds by most of the influential figures in government, including George Marshall, Secretary of State, Robert Lovett, Undersecretary of State, and James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense. Forrestal said, “It is clear that in any contest, the Arabs are going to overwhelm the Jews.” Clark Clifford, Truman’s special council, later wrote, “Officials in the State Department had done everything in their power to prevent, thwart, or delay the President’s Palestine policy in 1947 and 1948. Watching them find various ways to avoid carrying out White House instructions, I sometimes felt they preferred to follow the views of the British Foreign Office rather than those of their President” (Counsel to the President, memoirs of Clark Clifford, 1991). On March 18, 1948, the State Department permitted the American delegation to the United Nations to reverse its support for partition of Palestine into Jewish and Palestinian states. This was strictly against President Truman’s wishes and was contrary to a promise that he had personally made to Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann. Truman wrote on his calendar, “The State Dept. pulled the rug from under me today. ... The first I know about it is what I see in the papers! ... I am now in the position of a liar and a double-crosser. I’ve never felt so low in my life. There are people on the third and fourth level of the State Dept. who have always wanted to cut my throat. They’ve succeeded in doing it.” Two months later Truman officially recognized the new state of Israel, but the State Department enforced a strict embargo against shipment of arms to Israel.
BLACK-MARKET BABY TRADE IN INDIA

The following is excerpted from “Black-market Baby,” UPI, Jun. 20, 2017: Kanon Sarkar, 27, gave birth to her second daughter in July 2014 at a nursing home in rural West Bengal, a state in eastern India. But six hours after delivery at the home, which functions as a small health clinic, the doctor told Sarkar her baby had an unexplained heart problem and had to be taken to Kolkata, the bustling capital, for urgent treatment. The mother and child went to Kolkata as instructed, but the next day, without proper explanation, the baby was declared dead. The staff at the hospital gave Sarkar a corpse, wrapped in white with only the eyes visible, so the family could submerge the body in a river that runs through their village, in accordance with Hindu tradition. ... Despite a lack of evidence that medical tests had been carried out, the family ‘had to accept what the doctor said was the truth,’ Sarkar’s husband, Ashish, said. But when a major baby-trafficking racket was uncovered last November in North-24 Paraganas--where the family lives--Ashish Sarkar recognized the name of one of the doctors who had been arrested when he read about it in a local newspaper. It was the same man who had delivered his baby daughter. He suspected his baby had not, in fact, died of a heart condition; he guessed she’d been trafficked for adoption and they’d put the wrong body in the river. ... West Bengal, with its porous border with Bangladesh and Nepal, records the highest number of women and children trafficked compared to other states across the country. Last year, government data indicate, 19,223 women and children were trafficked, compared with 15,448 in 2015. But the real number is unknown.”

MIND THE GAP

The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 8, 2017: “‘Mind the gap’ is the refrain constantly heard on the London Underground, warning people to be careful not to step into the gap between the platform and the train. But ‘mind the gap’ would also be a good refrain for students of the Bible! There are some who suggest that there was a gap between Genesis chapter 1 verses 1 and 2. Some even suggest that this gap could have lasted for millions, or billions of years, during which Lucifer fell from heaven, pre-Adamic hominids lived, alongside other animals, including dinosaurs. And eventually, God destroyed the world in a so-called Luciferian Flood, leading into verse 2. This idea dates back, before the theory of evolution, to the early deep-time geologists, such as James Hutton. Some theologians became convinced that a long age for the Earth had been proven, so they tried to accommodate the supposed millions of years by this idea. There is neither Scriptural nor scientific warrant for this so-called Gap Theory. Indeed, the Bible states the opposite. In Exodus 20:11, God states, as a reason for the Fourth Commandment, that He created the heavens and the earth in six days. This means that Genesis 1:1--the creation of the heavens and the earth--is part of the six days. Therefore, there can be no gap between the first and second verses of the Bible.”
TEXAS COUPLE FOUND INNOCENT OF OPERATING A SATANIC CULT

A Texas couple who was convicted of operating a satanic cult at a day care center and spent 21 years in prison were declared innocent this month. Dan and Fran Keller were convicted in 1992 of performing subversive sexual acts and satanic rituals on children, including dismembering babies, videotaping orgies, and torturing pets, and sentenced to 48 years each. The “evidence” was testimony provided by therapists who helped children recover “repressed memories” with no corroborating evidence by law enforcement agencies. An inexperienced emergency room physician who thought he saw internal lacerations on one child recanted his testimony in 2013 and the Kellers were released from prison on bond, but by then, Dan was 72 and in poor health and they were destitute. Finally, this month they were fully exonerated, but their lives were ruined by bogus pop psychology. They are not alone. Many others have been wrongly imprisoned, reputations have been destroyed, victims have committed suicide, and families have been ripped apart by this therapy which has been called “the most dangerous idea in mental health” (Pacific Standard, Nov. 3, 2014).

Recovered memory therapy (RMT) is based on the concept that memories of tragic events can be buried in the “subconscious” and recovered through techniques such as hypnosis, guided imagery, and drugs. Its heyday was in the 1990s, but it has not been sufficiently renounced and the repercussions continue. Some victims have successfully sued RMT practitioners. O Timothy magazine, volume 13, issue 3, 1996 was devoted to the recovered memory phenomenon. The lead article was “Witch Hunt in Wenatchee,” which described false accusations against Robert and Connie Roberson, a Pentecostal pastor and his wife, in Wenatchee, Washington. We lived in Washington at the time, and I followed the case closely and discussed the matter personally with Roberson. They were charged with operating a child-swapping sex ring and conducting orgies in their church, but there was never any evidence. After being abused by out-of-control state agencies, jailed, separated from their children, and suffering a terrible blight on their reputation for over a year and a half, they were finally acquitted of all charges by a jury in December 1995. Part of the “evidence” against the Robersons was obtained by RMT.

Dan and Fran Keller