**Freedom – Stories & Illustrations**

**The First Amendment’s guarantee of free speech does not apply to advertisements on the Internet, a federal judge ruled. The decision means that search engines such as those run by Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft did not have to carry advertisements they deem to be false or objectionable. The case centered on ads submitted to the search engines that charged North Carolina officials with corruption and accused the Chinese government of committing atrocities. *(The Week magazine, March 9, 2007)***

**The prehistoric ancestor of “free” was a term of affection uniting the members of a family in a common bond, and implicitly excluding their servants or slaves -- those who were not “free.” *(John Ayto, in Arcade Dictionary of Word Origins)*  
Did you go out on your own at age 17? That’s the average. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In 2003 President Bush promised unprecedented anti-AIDS funding – with a catch. His five-year $15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief included a clause requiring that any organization receiving U.S. money “must have a policy explicitly opposing prostitution and sex trafficking.” The clause, which applies to overseas groups (and arguably to domestic organizations working in foreign lands), set off a furious debate on free speech that came to a head this year. In May the Brazilian government, rejecting the controversial clause, turned down $40 million in American AIDS funding. And in August a nonprofit group filed a lawsuit against the government, saying it is “coercing speech” from private organizations. *(Discover magazine, January, 2006)***

**Remember, it is possible, without alcohol, to have the two absolute requirements for mental health that alcohol seems to give you at first: a sense of your own worth and the ability to relate freely and to communicate comfortably with other people. In other words, you can know who you are and feel okay about yourself, and you can break out of loneliness to feel socially adequate. Your first drink was a poisonous bit of information. It told you how to get what you longed for, but in an inevitably destructive way, leading to alcoholism. Your recovery from this disease through treatment will address all the things about your life related to drinking. First you must eliminate alcohol before the benefits of psychosocial therapy can begin to take hold. Treatment works. And you will discover that the goal of addition and the goal of treatment are similar: to feel “normal.” But, in recovery, the rewards are permanent and are accompanied by an ever-increasing sense of freedom. *(James W. West, in The Betty Ford Center Book of Answers)***

**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. *(First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution)***

**The First Amendment’s guarantee of religious freedom has two parts, and the second one has been getting some long-deserved attention lately. In brief, the government cannot favor one religion over another; that’s the establishment clause. And second, it can’t favor secular over religious beliefs; that’s the free exercise clause. Last summer, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in a Cleveland school-voucher case that parents could not be excluded from the program because they wanted to use their vouchers at religious schools. Now it has agreed to hear a Washington state case involving a law that denies merit scholarships to students who decide to study theology. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled in favor of the student whose scholarship was rescinded; 14 other states have similar laws. There aren’t that many people majoring in theology these days, but the Washington case offers the court a further opportunity to teach the lesson that the Constitution does not take sides in religious matters. *(Rocky Mountain News, May 22, 2003)***

**Welcome Freedom: What’s new at the Denver Zoo? A giant anteater, Camilo, which is Latin for “child born to freedom.” Camilo was born to Monita and Freedom on May 13. It is the first birth for Monita. Camilo and Monita may be viewed between 9 to 11 a.m. daily at the new Primate Panorama. *(Rocky Mountain News, July 21, 2006)***

**Our only two elective federal officials not chosen by direct ballot of the people are the president and vice-president. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A homeless man in New Rockelle, New York, claimed a victory for “free speech” after being arrested for panhandling. Eric Hoffstead was arrested for loitering after asking a police officer for a dollar. Hoffstead’s lawyer was able to get the loitering charge dismissed on the grounds that his First Amendment rights were being violated – the judge agreed that begging for money falls under the category of free speech. Hoffstead remained incarcerated, however, due to another charge – possession of a crack pipe. *(Kelly Cadieux, in Tidbits)***

**They're buying them like they buy bread. They say they're buying freedom. *(Mohammed al-Mulla, who works in a Baghdad electronics store, discussing the soaring demand for satellite dishes since the fall of Saddam Hussein. (Associated Press)***

**The poet Coleridge was visited by an admirer one day. During the conversation the subject got around to children. “I believe,” said the visitor, “that children should be given a free rein to think and act and thus learn at an early age to make their own decisions. This is the only way they can grow into their full potential.” “Come see my flower garden,” said Coleridge, leading the man outside. The visitor took one look and exclaimed, “Why that's nothing but a yard full of weeds!” “It used to be filled with roses,” said Coleridge, “but this year I thought I'd let the garden grow as it willed without tending to it. This is the result.” *(Martin Buxbaum)***

**We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms -- to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way. *(Viktor Frankl, psychiatrist and author)***

**First man: “Colorado used to be a place where a man could breathe free, now we’re just another part of the nanny state. You can’t even enjoy a smoke where you want to. Now you have to go outside, pretty soon there won’t be any freedoms left. I’ll be right back. Watch my gun for me, will you, pal?” Second man: “I swear, I don’t know whether to laugh or cry.” *(Ed Stein, in Denver Square comic strip)***

**Why is questioning and asking about change deemed equal to heresy? It is akin to being against the war in Iraq and being labeled anti-American. This country was formed by a group of dissenters who believed strongly in freedom of speech and religion. Unquestioned, blind followership has had many a bad result historically – the Crusades and Hitler to name a few examples. Jesus Christ Himself was a dissenter. He objected to the behavior of those who observed the minutiae of the law, while ignoring its spirit. Saint Paul too was a dissenter amongst the apostles. Saint Paul made a strong distinction between the letter and the spirit of the law. Were Christ and Paul labeled as insurgents? Absolutely – and ultimately they were put to death for their beliefs. *(Katherine M. Knight, in Liberty magazine)***

**A Persian army general offered condemned prisoners a choice -- a firing squad or what lay behind a door. None knew what existed behind the door, yet most chose the firing squad. The fear of prolonged, unimaginable torture moved them to face the known, rather than the unknown. When a reporter asked what was behind the door, the general responded, “Freedom, and I've met very few brave enough to try it.” *(Jan Brunette, in Portals of Prayer)***

**Are soldiers still dying for freedom? For most Americans, Memorial Day simply marks the beginning of summer, said Andrew Bacevich. That’s what the holiday meant to me, too – until three years ago, when my son was killed fighting in Iraq. Now, when I visit his gravesite, I’m haunted by “uncomfortable questions” about why he and so many other brave Americans have died in the service of the country. We like to tell ourselves that “the fallen gave their lives so we might enjoy freedom,” and certainly that was true of those killed in the battle of Gettysburg or on Omaha Beach. But in recent decades, from Vietnam to Bosnia to Iraq to Afghanistan, “the connection between American military intervention and American freedom has become ever more tenuous.” In playing world policeman, the U.S. repeatedly has become “engaged in never-ending wars that we cannot win and cannot afford.” It’s easy to blame politicians for sending young men like my son to die in another nation’s civil war, fighting for goals no one can define. But as citizens of a democracy, we all bear some responsibility. Perhaps that’s worth thinking about, as we light up our barbecues and head to the beach. *(The Week magazine, June 11, 2010)***

**Earth, abundant with life, has an atmosphere composed of an unstable mixture of gases. If you bottled a sample of Earth’s atmosphere for a million years, the mingled gases would react with one another. But strangely, if the mixture is left outside the bottle, it stays reasonably stable because life forms absorb some of the gases and replenish others. *(Oliver Morton, in Discover magazine)***

**Zoo elephants don’t live as long as those in the wild, according to a study in the journal Science. Researchers compared the life spans of elephants in European zoos with those living in Amboseli National Park in Kenya. 16.9 years is the median life span for African elephants in European zoos. 56 years is the median life span for the elephants who died of natural causes in Kenya’s park land. But, adding in those elephants killed by people in Africa lowered the median life span to 35.9 years. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, December 12, 2008)***

**On November 12, 1954, Ellis Island, the gateway to America, shut its doors after processing more than 12 million immigrants since opening in 1892. Today, an estimated 40 percent of all Americans can trace their roots through Ellis Island. *(MOMENTS IN TIME, The History Channel)***

**A live fish in the open sea never stops growing. (*L. M. Boyd)*During the astonishing events in East Germany last November, tennis star Steffi Graf tried for three days to phone a friend in West Berlin, only to be greeted by his answering machine: Sorry, I’m not here. I’m out partying and won’t be home for a while.” Steffi sounded wistful as she related the incident, as if there could be a better place to be that week than playing a championship tournament in Madison Square Garden. “I would love to have been part of that moment,” she says. More than a third of the mail to Graf’s home in Bruhl, West Germany, had been from East Germans. One letter, she remembers, came from a teenage player who wanted badly to compete in West Germany. “She asked me if I could help her in any way,” Graf relates. “She also said that, for once in her life, she would like to be able to see me play somewhere.” Now, maybe she can. *(Michael Janofsky, in New York Times, as it appeared in Reader’s Digest, March, 1990)***

**How to get in touch with Artemis (Greek goddess of independence):**

**Learn to establish boundaries. Practice saying no without feeling guilty. Choose to spend time with positive people who increase your energy rather than with people who deplete it. In all your activities, be clear about your purpose and do not be swayed by others’ opinions. Acknowledge to yourself the things you do well. Remember that you possess all the inner resources to achieve what you set out to do. Make a list of your short-term and long-term goals and read it out loud. (Hearing your own voice can have a deeper impact than reading in silence.) Envision your life as you wish it to be. Allow your imagination free rein. Take direct action to promote your physical well-being. Become aware of what helps you maintain an optimum level of energy. Leave the city behind, letting nature infuse your spirit. Take walks in the park or hikes in the woods. *(Agapi Stassinopoulos, in Conversations with Goddesses: Revealing the Divine Power Within You)***

**This is the first of July. The Sunday before Independence Day; the 214th Independence Day that America has celebrated. In Canada, they celebrate the first of July and call it Canada Day, and in France they celebrate the 12th of July and call it Bastille Day. Every country sets aside a day in which to celebrate their independence because freedom is one of Man's most prized possessions. *(Foster McClellan, at Unity Village Chapel, on July 1st, 1990)***

**For 35 years . . . Saddam fought our religion and traditions. Now we can smell the democracy and freedom all around us. We want good relations with the United States, but we don’t want them to interfere in our domestic affairs. *(Mohsen al-Kuriyshi, Shiite spokesman for the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.) (Associated Press, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, October 15, 2003)***

**Thomas Jefferson was the author of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, a doctrine that spread throughout the United States. He is the father of our religious freedom. It is, next to the words of our independence, his greatest gift, save only perhaps our commitment to universal education, which also comes to us via Jefferson. *(Stephen E. Ambrose, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Jesus triumphed over physical forces and Death, the enemy of mankind, which can only destroy physical man. He rose with a spiritual body, the new Adam, free from all weaknesses and limitations which bind the body. His body was transfigured. Now he could pass through a closed door or move to another location without hindrance. Previously he was subject to hunger and thirst like ourselves but he never made such attempts. Now he has victoriously risen with a glorious body. *(George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 157)***

**Two nations celebrate their independence on July 4: the United States and the Philippines. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 states unequivocally: “Everyone has the right to leave any country including his own and to return to that country.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Liberia, which means “land of the free,” was founded in 1820 by freed slaves from the United States. The country, in West Africa, was declared an independent nation in 1847. Its Independence Day is July 26. By 1867, the American Colonization Society had sent 13,000 black emigrants to Liberia. *(CIA World Factbook 2002, Afro-American Almanac)***

**One medieval map of reality held that Earth was God's chosen sphere, upon which was the only potential for life or value. Ptolemy's map of the universe placed a stationary Earth at the center of the universe, with the Sun and all the planets and stars revolving around it. When Copernicus published his theory of planetary motion, which accurately placed the sun at the center of the solar system, Earth was demoted to the status of an insignificant bit player in an infinite universal cast. The result of this shift in the map of reality was profound. Copernicus was beyond the reach of Rome, but Galileo, who provided data that backed up Copernicus, was put under house arrest, and was forced to recant under pressure of being burned at the stake, which was the fate of another Italian, Giordano Bruno. With the destruction of the Ptolemeic map, man was freed from being a slave-puppet in a rigid cosmic script, to a free-will, creative being. *(Gregory Barrette)***

**Romare: “Maureen, are you sure you really want to marry Clayton?” Maureen: “Yes, Romare. When you meet Clayton, you'll see why.” Romare: “I don't understand a guy who would let you go out with me on a date!” Maureen: “He couldn't make it and suggested that I go in his place! He's a Pastor. The job keeps him busy.” Romare: “If I had a woman like you, I wouldn't let you out of my sight! I'd keep you all to myself! Are you sure you've made the right decision?” Maureen: “Positive.” *(Robb Armstrong, in Jump Start comic strip)***

**At the 49th annual Grammy Awards this week, “the Dixie Chicks got the last laugh,” said J. Freedom du Lac of The Washington Post. Natalie Maines, Emily Robison, and Martie Maguire won all five of the awards they were nominated for, including Album of the Year for Taking the Long Way and Song of the Year for “Not Ready to Make Nice.” The wins vindicated the Texas trio in its battle with the country-music establishment. After Maines made an anti-Bush comment at a concert in 2003, country radio refused to play Chicks songs. But Maines and her band mates didn’t back down – “Not Ready to Make Nice” is a defiant power ballad about freedom of speech. (*The Week magazine, February 23, 2007)***

**August Wilson, the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, often does his best work amid the clatter and clutter of a packed New York City coffee shop: I write on napkins. One time a waitress says to me, “Do you write on napkins because it doesn't count?" Bingo! That's exactly why I do it! When you're jotting things down on a napkin, you're not committing yourself. It's only a napkin, right? You can throw it away. You'd be surprised. It loosens you up -- it frees you. Some of the best stuff I've ever written has been done on napkins, and I never knew why. She hit it all nicely. *(Russell Miller, in New York Times)***

**Gold medalist Katarina Witt became the darling of the East German sports system and a prisoner of its protocols when she took the women’s figure-skating title at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics. Then last fall the two Germanys became one, and everything in her life changed. For the first time, Witt could keep her own passport, earn her own money, go where she pleased. “Freedom. A whole new world opened to me,” she says. “I had a lot of possibilities after the Olympics, but I wasn’t able to do them. It was like being in a box, knocking on the walls, screaming ‘Let me out!’ Now people come to me and ask me what I want to do.” Still new to the thrills of capitalism, Witt has launched several business ventures. “What’s so great about now,” she muses, “is that I know if I fall on my butt doing one thing, I can try another.” *(Michael Janofsky, in New York Times)***

**The people of Eastern Europe were looking for freedom -- not nobility -- when they took to the streets. That freedom includes the freedom to be ordinary -- to live and love, raise families and go to work, grow flowers and read novels -- to do all the things that people choose to do when they are left alone to choose. Human life and human longings are precious. And, contrary to the caricature of capitalism retailed on the nation's opinion pages, those longings include more than the desire for blue jeans and consumer electronics. Religion, art and science flourish best in a free society. *(Virginia I. Postrel, in Reason)***

**Pope John Paul II encouraged such dissidents as Poland’s Lech Walesa and Czechoslovakia’s Vaclav Havel to live “as if” they were free, undermining the elaborate system of lies that the communist system  depended upon to survive. Once the pretenses were stripped away, more and more people realized they weren’t alone with their dissident thoughts and began to act upon them. In talking about Europe’s common spiritual genealogy, the pope was, in his own way, signaling that the Iron Curtain had to come down. *(Andrew Nagorski, in Newsweek, April 11, 2005, p. 47)***

**A Texas high school student was ejected from her graduation ceremony for pumping her fist in jubilation. Samantha Medina of Warren High School in San Antonio also allegedly waved to the crowd, thereby violating a school-district policy against graduating students “raising their hands above their waists for any reasons other than receiving the diplomas or shaking hands." District spokesman Pascual Gonzalez underscored the seriousness of the offense. “She was twirling in the line," said Gonzalez. “She was waving. She was not acting like she was instructed to." *(The Week Magazine, June 16, 2006)***

**Rabies is more common in cats than dogs because more cats run free. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Vatican City, the world’s smallest independent state, isn’t allowed to sign the United Nations’ Declaration of Human Rights because it doesn’t have freedom of religion. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The largest free-flowing river left in the 48 contiguous states is the 671-mile Yellowstone. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The human rights group Freedom House has appropriately moved Russia onto its list of countries that are “not free” for the first time since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union. The group cites the Kremlin’s restriction of human rights, control over the media, flouting of the rule of law, and President Vladimir Putin’s recent heavy-handed meddling in neighboring countries, such as Ukraine. *(Rocky Mountain News, December 22, 2004)*   
Wild sheep don’t bear wool. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 104)***

**When I signed the Declaration of Independence I had in view not only our independence from England but the toleration of all sects. *(Charles Carrol, last surviving signer of the Declaration, in a letter to G. W. Parke Custis)***

**The last state to officially abolish slavery was Mississippi – and it wasn’t until 1995 that it happened. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**The first U.S. Chief Justice, John Jay, bought slaves in order to free them. Signing a memorial to Congress for the abolition of slavery was the last public act of Benjamin Franklin. (*Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 138 and 141)***

**Pop art sculptors Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen created Cleveland’s 48-foot-long rubber stamp with the word “free,” in backward letters. Dedicated in 1991, the stamp lies on its side, as though it tumbled over, in Willard Park, Ohio. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Today we should pause and share with one another those special things for which we are thankful. Like say . . . freedom of speech. *(Johnny Hart, in BC comic strip)***

**If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought – not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate. *(Joseph Pulitzer, newspaper publisher, 1910)***

**“AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE!”**

**Fearlessly we live: Resting in the Lord, Expressing His joy and peace. Enfolded in His sheltering love, Doing His will, Omnipresence is our home. Mind omniscient is our perfect light. This then is Freedom. *(B. L. Wolfe)***

**Were you aware that turkeys of the wild variety can fly as fast as 55 mph? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Many politicians lay it down as a self-evident proposition that no people ought to be free till they are fit to use their freedom. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story who resolved not to go into the water till he had learned to swim. *(Thomas Babington Macaulay)***

**Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are people who want crops without plowing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. *(Frederick Douglass)***

**The word “Freedom” needs to always have a special ring to us, as it literally means “free dominion,” or “dom” a condition of Being. Every “New Thought” minister hears the term “free Spirit” often! *(Rev. Andy Kress)***

**When Dad was my age, he was looking for a job and didn’t have a dime. He has worked in a factory all his life, 40 hours a week. I work, sometimes more than 40 hours, but I have freedom. I do this for myself. *(Ron Gazija, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Independence days around the world:**

**Brazil -- Independence Day is September 7**

**Costa Rica -- September 15**

**Ecuador -- August 10**

**Finland -- December 6**

**Greece -- March 25**

**Kenya -- December 12**

**Nigeria -- October 1**

**Panama -- November 3. *(The World Factbook -- CIA 2003)***

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