Production Company: Dead Zone Production Corp.

THE DEAD ZONE

"ARTICLES OF FAITH"

Production #13-4013

Written by

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Directed by

Michael Robison

Production Draft - Full Blue May 03/05 Full Pink - Repaginated May 06/05 Yellow Pgs: 1-2,7-9,12-13A,15,17,19,23-26,28,30, May 10/05 33-40,43-44,47,49,52-54,57 Green Pgs: 8,19-26,29,36-39,43-47,50-51 May 11/05 Gold Pgs: 1-2,4,11,14,17,23,25,36,41,57-58 May 12/05 2nd White: 3,59-60 May 13/05 *

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THE DEAD ZONE

"ARTICLES OF FAITH"

CAST

JOHNNY SMITH	MELISSA
BRUCE LEWIS	RASHID MAHMUD (VICTIM)
WALT BANNERMAN	SYEDA MAHMUD (RASHID'S MOTHER)
REVEREND GENE PURDY	AZIZ MAHMUD (RASHID'S FATHER)
DEPUTY ROSCOE	TAHMINA MAHMUD (RASHID'S SISTER)
	ZAHRA *
	BARTENDER BILLY
	NEWS SOUNDMAN
DANA BRIGHT	"BLITZKRIEG GAL" (V.O./HANDS ONLY)
WILLIAM COTTON	"STORMTROOP 12" (V.O./HANDS ONLY)
DARRYL COTTON/"SEATTLE KORPS"	"O.C. SKIN" (V.O./HANDS ONLY)
JOSH BLAKE	MALE NEWS ANCHOR (V.O. ONLY)

NON-SPEAKING

STUDENTS & INTERFAITH FESTIVAL ATTENDEES & ASSORTED PROTESTORS ASSISTANT EDITOR & OTHER STUDENT NEWSPAPER STAFFERS NEWS CAMERAMAN COTTON'S POSSE/POLITICAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF HARD-CORE PUNK ROCK TRIO, SKINHEADS & MOSHERS/CLUB GOERS DARRYL'S SKINHEADS & PUNK FRIENDS TWO BLACK CAR THIEVES (ONE IS VICTIM)

THE DEAD ZONE

"ARTICLES OF FAITH"

SETS

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

MATHER HOUSE (BURAKGAZI HOME STREETS (WHILE DRIVING) REUSE) DARRYL'S BEDROOM WORKSPACE SUBURBAN OFFICE PARK PUNK GIRL'S BEDROOM WORKSPACE ABANDONED WAREHOUSE ANOTHER TEEN'S BEDROOM WORKSPACE BURAKGAZI HOUSE FAITH HERITAGE CAMPUS PUNK CLUB * AUDITORIUM ALLEY PURDY'S OFFICE DESERTED DORM SHERIFF'S STATION JOSH'S DORM ROOM ADJACENT HALLWAY CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OFFICES ABANDONED WAREHOUSE SHERIFF'S STATION WALT'S OFFICE VEHICLES LOCKUP JOHNNY'S RANGE ROVER SEATTLE CHOP SHOP (DARK SPACE) WALT'S CRUISER COTTON POLITICAL HEADQUARTERS * BRUCE'S MURANO OUTER OFFICE COTTON'S OFFICE * NEWS TRUCK BURAKGAZI HOME DINING ROOM CORONER'S VAN/WAGON PUNK CLUB NONDESCRIPT SEDAN/JOSH'S CAR *

*

LATE '90S MUSTANG & OTHER "CHOPPED" CARS *

SMITH HOUSE LIVING ROOM

THE DEAD ZONE

"<u>ARTICLES OF FAITH</u>"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 ON A DRESSER: A CHILDHOOD BASEBALL TROPHY

Faint strains of death metal from computer speakers under the clacking of a keyboard and a young man's V.O.:

SEATTLE KORPS (V.O.) Anybody hear about this "colorful" little incident in LA?

The V.O. continues as we pan off the trophy to the taped handle of an ALUMINUM BAT propped beside it. We're:

2 INT. A TEEN-AGED BOY'S BEDROOM WORKSPACE - DAY

Camera continues panning across a row of books, including titles by Nietzsche and a paperback "Mein Kampf"...

SEATTLE KORPS (V.O.) A bunch of black kids shouting "Black Power" beat the crap out of two white high school geeks... and the cops refuse to classify it as a bias crime.

During which we push in tight on a COMPUTER SCREEN displaying the WEB FORUM of the "Aryan Nationalist Community." Our speaker -- "Seattle Korps" is his web handle, but we'll get to know him as DARRYL COTTON, 18 -is typing, his V.O. matching the words on the screen.

SEATTLE KORPS (V.O.) Talk about double standards.

The cursor mouses over to a "send" button and clicks it --

3

INT. ANOTHER BEDROOM WORKSPACE - DAY

Punk rock music and girlish touches here as a pair of female hands -- black nail polish and a Death's Head ring -type a response, which we see on another computer screen. (Art Note: see Addendum A for how characters' typing in Sc. 1-4 may differ from their spoken dialogue.)

> BLITZKRIEG GAL (V.O.) There ain't no justice, Seattle Korps. When are people gonna learn that racism ain't just a "white thang"? (MORE)

> > (CONTINUED)

2

1

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3 CONTINUED: BLITZKRIEG (V.O.) (CONT'D) Time to pick a side 'cause RaHoWa is coming! 4 A THIRD BEDROOM WORKSPACE - DAY - ON A MONITOR Where a loop of violent computer game action plays in one window while another male teen's typed words appear in another. STORMTROOP 12 (V.O.) Yo, yo, Seattle Korps. Where you been, dude? As we now INTERCUT between the three screens --SEATTLE KORPS (V.O.) Feels like "The Twilight Zone" but the yokels call it Maine. My Dad, in his infinite wisdom, decided to ditch the Pacific Northwest. "Make a new start." BLITZKRIEG (V.O.) Must be some local skins you can hang with. SEATTLE KORPS (V.O.) Yeah, only now he's threatening to ship me to military school. You believe it? STORMTROOP 12 (V.O.) Life's a bitch and then you die, my brother. Still, lethal skills may come in handy. Like Blitz says, the War's coming. On which disturbing note, we pre-lap a somber adult voice --MAN'S VOICE One cannot understand intolerance without understanding its roots... Dissolving from Stormtroop 12's computer screen to: 5 A TV MONITOR ON A WALL

It shows WILLIAM COTTON, 50, a smooth, charismatic speaker.

COTTON (ON TV) ...and its roots lie in fear and ignorance. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

COTTON (ON TV) (CONT'D) Nowhere is this clearer than in the chasm that the terrible events of 9/11 opened between Muslims and Christians, a chasm we've just begun to bridge.

As camera meanwhile pulls back, revealing rows of listeners seated in folding chairs in the crowded FOYER of:

6 INT. FAITH HERITAGE AUDITORIUM - DAY

Packed with students, congregants, and members of various evangelical denominations and conservative Christian interest groups -- hence the overflow crowd. Banners proclaim Faith Heritage's "Tenth Annual Interfaith Festival." As camera enters the main space, Cotton is revealed speaking from the dais at the front. (Note: for his full speech, see Addendum C.)

COTTON

It wasn't Muslims who crashed those planes, but extremists who abandoned the central tenets of their faith: peace and love -the same values we cherish.

Applause, as camera now finds Johnny, Bruce and Purdy watching from the back. Johnny claps dutifully.

JOHNNY

Who is he?

PURDY

William Cotton. A former Seattle minister who's been getting involved in local politics.

COTTON

(in background) ...There should never be another excuse for Muslims and Christians to go to war.

PURDY

(applauding) A forceful speaker with an important message: tolerance.

Johnny indicates a group of militant pro-lifers, their mouths taped, holding signs that say "Abortion = Murder".

5

6

*

JOHNNY

I'm not sure everyone's getting it.

PURDY Dialogue is the key.

Bruce nods toward a thicket of TV and print reporters.

BRUCE Not to mention press coverage.

PURDY (gratified) It's the first time the festival's enjoyed this sort of media attention. (sees an aide gesturing) I'm glad you stopped by, Johnny.

As he moves off...

BRUCE

I'd rather be bowling... enjoying my morning off instead of...

Then both his and Johnny's eyes alight on the same beguiling sight -- DANA BRIGHT, waving to them from where she stands with her TV news crew.

BRUCE Now it all makes sense.

As Johnny smiles at him and heads over...

7 WITH DANA

A cameraman and soundman are recording Cotton's speech, while a bespectacled, conservatively dressed YOUNG MAN stands nearby taking notes in a reporter's notebook.

JOHNNY

Dana.

DANA If it isn't my favorite psychic.

They hug, Dana holding it for a significant extra beat.

DANA (over his shoulder) Bruce.

BRUCE

Dana.

Johnny fingers Dana's laminated news badge, impressed.

JOHNNY "Network correspondent"?

DANA

Boston isn't exactly New York, or even Washington... but it's a start.

BRUCE How'd you get roped into covering Purdy's shindig?

DANA My bosses remembered I started out editing the student paper here.

Hearing which, the Young Man glances over.

DANA Speaking of which, I'd like you to meet the current editor. Josh Blake, this is Johnny Smith and Bruce Lewis.

Josh nods to them but doesn't offer his hand; he's too busy taking notes. His voice has a sardonic edge.

> JOSH "The Miracle of Cleaves Mills." Reverend Purdy likes to drop your name in his sermons.

JOHNNY Don't believe everything you hear.

JOSH

I don't.

At which point Cotton finishes his speech to a STANDING OVATION. Josh, however, seems to scoff at the applause.

JOSH "And they will deceive every one his neighbor, and will not speak the truth."

Johnny looks at Dana, who shrugs. They turn back toward --

8 COTTON

Who's making his way up the aisle flanked by a bunch of YOUNG MEN in jackets and ties, many with short haircuts, like a kind of junior secret service retinue. People reach out to shake Cotton's hand, and as he approaches --

THE CROWD

surges toward Cotton, carrying Johnny with it, along with Josh Blake (but <u>not</u> Bruce), shoving them up against the breakwater of young men (including Darryl Cotton, who we won't recognize since we haven't seen his face yet).

Johnny reacts as he's jostled by the crush of bodies. Suddenly, there's a big WHOOSH and as we push in on --

9 JOHNNY'S FACE

His eyes close, his head tilts from vertical to horizontal, and cuts and bruises appear as we MATCH, MOVE, MORPH TO:

10 INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT - CU JOHNNY

Dressed as someone else: a murder victim. He's lying on his back. Then someone drags him out of frame. FLASH!

JOHNNY/MURDER VICTIM is propped against a wall. FLASH!

WHITE PAINT is splashed across his body. FLASH!

An OLD BRUSH paints letters on a wall. We pull back to reveal the phrase "WHITE POWER!" And, under it, another word: "RAHOWA!"

Then the brush is dropped in a puddle of white paint. Off the paint, as tendrils of blood swirl into it...

11 BACK TO SCENE

11

As Johnny finds himself left behind by the crowd surge, unable to tell who or what gave him the disturbing vision.

As he exchanges a troubled look with Bruce...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

8

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12 OMITTED

13 EXT. FAITH HERITAGE - PARKING LOT

Bruce and Johnny walk toward Johnny's car.

BRUCE No idea what triggered it?

JOHNNY The crowd was so thick, I could've gotten the vision off of anyone.

BRUCE But you're sure it was a racist killing?

JOHNNY Whoever did it painted the words "White Power". Plus another word I didn't understand. "Rahowa."

BRUCE

Ra-ho-what?

DANA (O.S.) It's an acronym...

They look up to see Dana leaning back against Johnny's Land Rover with a knowing smile.

DANA

Means "Racial Holy War." The "Jihad" every good little white supremacist hopes and prays for.

JOHNNY

Dana, I --

DANA Meant to say goodbye but got caught up in something? Sounds familiar. Mind if I tag along?

As Johnny and Bruce trade a look...

14 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY

Dana brings two cups of coffee back to a bench where She and Johnny have been sitting, waiting to see Walt.

(CONTINUED)

14

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT ONE - 5/11/05 - GREEN 8.

14 CONTINUED:

DANA

Splash of milk but no sugar, right?

Johnny takes it from her, indicates Walt's closed door.

JOHNNY Roscoe said Walt'd be another five minutes.

DANA Good ole Roscoe. (sitting) So, here we are again. The psychic and the reporter. Kinda makes you nostalgic, doesn't it?

JOHNNY

Kinda.

DANA So, how've you been?

JOHNNY Not bad, considering.

DANA "Considering"? That covers some ground.

JOHNNY

And you?

DANA

Well, with the help of copious amounts of therapy, I managed to break some bad habits. Like falling for very successful but very manipulative men.

JOHNNY

Ah.

DANA

Don't worry, you didn't qualify -- on either count.

JOHNNY

Thanks.

DANA

Anyway, I decided to give my social life a rest and focus on my career.

JOHNNY How'd that work out?

14 CONTINUED: (2)

DANA

Great, as far as the career goes. (brightening) So, a handsome tabloid hero like yourself? How come I'm not reading about you and Angelina Jolie?

JOHNNY We're keeping it on the down-low.

DANA Haven't found the right gal, huh?

JOHNNY I've found one or two.

DANA

Really?

Johnny's saved by ROSCOE, who opens Walt's door, waves them over. As Johnny stands...

JOHNNY

We're on.

Off Dana's private smile, and our sense that she still has feelings for Johnny...

15 INT. WALT'S OFFICE - DAY - ON A MONITOR

We're looking at a photo and "rap sheet" of a skinhead biker type, which is then replaced by a similar one.

WALT (O.S.) Most of my "likely suspects" either drifted out of the area, or are in jail on other charges.

REVEALING Walt, Dana and Johnny around the monitor.

DANA And there's no record of a crime like this that already happened?

WALT Not one matching Johnny's vision.

JOHNNY So it's definitely in the future. (considers) What do you know about some of the more extreme fundamentalist groups attending Purdy's festival?

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT ONE - 5/6/05 - PINK 10.

15 CONTINUED:

Walt indicates some paperwork.

WALT

Some pro-lifers filed a request to hold a protest at a local family planning clinic. But other than that, very little. Faith Heritage is its own little world. Even has its own police force.

JOHNNY Maybe we should check with them.

DANA The "campus cops"? Forget it. I've got my own sources.

16 CLOSE ON A RED PROOFING MARKER

As it passes over the "Articles of Faith" masthead, pausing to check the smaller type of an adjacent slogan: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

> JOSH (0.S.) Did you let 'em know we're running color?

WIDER, revealing we're:

INT. "ARTICLES OF FAITH" OFFICES - DAY

Josh is proofing a printout of the next day's front page, which we don't fully see. An ASSISTANT EDITOR nods, then Josh reacts to Dana entering with Johnny. Some of the other young staffers move to greet her, clearly starstruck. Josh slides a blank sheet over his front page.

17 WITH DANA AND JOHNNY

Dana is handing a young female student her card.

DANA If your clips are strong, I'd be glad to recommend you for an internship.

JOSH (0.S.) Seducing my staff to the dark side? 15

DANA

Selling your soul isn't a requirement for working in TV, though it never hurts.

Laughter from some of the other students, which irks Josh.

JOSH

C'mon people! We've got a paper to put out. (to Dana, suspicious) Bad time for a "victory lap."

DANA I'm not here to poach a story, if that's what you're worried about. We need your help.

Josh remains wary. Johnny takes the lead.

JOHNNY I know you have your doubts about me, but my visions are real. I had one this morning of a murder. A hate crime.

Josh is intrigued despite himself.

JOSH After Cotton's speech?

JOHNNY

How'd you know?

Josh considers, then leads them toward the layout table.

JOSH

No poaching, right?

He removes the blank sheet, revealing the next day's front page. It's an exposé on William Cotton, with the headline "Interfaith Speaker has Supremacist Ties," and a picture of a SOMEWHAT YOUNGER COTTON speaking at a small rally with WHITE POWER SYMBOLS on banners behind him.

JOSH

Meet William Cotton, the '90s version, with a decidedly different slant on "interfaith tolerance."

Johnny and Dana are both pretty stunned.

17 CONTINUED: (2)

JOHNNY

This the same guy?

JOSH

It took an FOI request to get the feds to cough up their surveillance photos.

Dana nods, impressed, as she eyes the photos.

DANA

For someone who lectures on tolerance, he's certainly kept some odd company.

JOHNNY Why would Purdy bring him here? Isn't he aware of his past?

JOSH

I don't know. I wanted to run the story before giving anyone in the administration a chance to spin it. But Cotton -- the new guy -- has credentials. He wrote a book on Muslim-Christian relations that made him a go-to guy on the college speaking tour.

JOHNNY What if he's genuinely turned a new leaf?

Josh leads them into a small OFFICE, where his LAPTOP is open on his desk, displaying a web page.

JOSH

The home page of the American Liberty Organization, the political party Cotton started after he moved here from Seattle. Superficially, it's clean. But scratch the surface...

Johnny meanwhile tries to angle the screen toward him. But as he does, MATCH, MOVE, MORPH around the laptop to --

18 INT. JOSH'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT - VISION

18

17

Pulling back from the same web page, to find Johnny watching as Josh works intently on his Cotton story.

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT ONE - 5/10/05 - YELLOW 13.

18 CONTINUED:

Meanwhile, his girlfriend, MELISSA, closes a comparative religion TEXTBOOK she's been highlighting on the bed, comes over and begins seductively massaging his neck.

> JOSH Don't. It'll just make us both crazy.

MELISSA (tentative) That such a bad thing?

Josh reacts to her tone, taking off his glasses as he turns to her, the better to look her in the eyes.

> JOSH Melissa, we agreed.

MELISSA We've been together four years.

JOSH And we'll always be together.

He stands, clasping her hands.

JOSH

But if we had sex now... before we're married... we'd have to use birth control, and that would be blocking God's will, right? Is that what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and make Him the Lord of our lives?

MELISSA

No, I guess not.

Off Johnny, as Josh pulls her into an embrace, chastely kissing her cheek...

19 BACK TO SCENE

Johnny comes out of the odd vision feeling like a peeping Tom, almost blushes when he sees Josh staring at him.

> JOSH You still with me?

JOHNNY Yeah, I'm with you.

JOSH (re web page again) When you look deeper, literally --

And here he begins tabbing to other internet pages --

19 CONTINUED: (2)

JOSH

Cotton's site is cross-linked to all these others having to do with government conspiracies, ultra-violent video games... even some of the less virulent supremacist web forums. They're all sites frequented by young alienated teens.

DANA In other words, he's still

recruiting from the same pool.

JOHNNY I need to talk to him.

20 EXT. SUBURBAN OFFICE PARK - DAY

The Land Rover parks outside a small glass office building.

21 INT. LAND ROVER - DAY

Dana rummages in an equipment bag in the back seat as Johnny turns off the ignition, still mulling that last vision. Dana senses his distraction.

> DANA Where are you?

JOHNNY Vision I had about Josh... and his girlfriend. Made me feel like a peeping Tom.

DANA

That hot, huh?

JOHNNY Just the opposite. Didn't think kids still held out 'til they got married.

She turns holding a VIDEO CAMERA, loads a fresh cartridge.

(CONTINUED)

21

20

DANA

Well, you definitely wouldn't
call Faith Heritage a "party
school." All those bibles can
work like a cold shower. Me, I
was never much of a reader.
 (hands him the camera)
Here. You're my cameraman.
 (off his reaction as
 he handles it)
Don't tell me you have a problem
with a little bit of guile?

JOHNNY No, it's just I saw you making out with your cameraman.

DANA That was just... (realizing he's messing with her) Very funny. I forgot what a pain you can be.

She gets out.

22 INT. ALO HEADQUARTERS - OUTER OFFICE - DAY

Camera tracks past desks where a staff of young men in shirts and ties -- the same young men who flanked Cotton after his speech -- are preparing to quit for the day, approaching the door to an inner office --

23 INT. COTTON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Where Cotton is mid-interview with Dana, as Johnny films.

COTTON Our philosophy's simple: less government in people's lives. Socially, it means promoting tolerance. "Live and let live."

WITH JOHNNY

As he films, at one point backing into a credenza, then dropping one hand to steady himself. We can tell he's fishing for visions. Apparently, without luck. 22

23

DANA

You seem to be reaching out mostly to young males.

COTTON They're the future.

DANA I was hoping you'd be more revealing.

Cotton eyes Johnny, smiles.

COTTON And I was hoping you'd explain why you're using a psychic as your cameraman. Mister Smith, isn't it?

Johnny lowers the camera, busted. Dana covers --

DANA Uh, my regular guy got sick.

COTTON (not buying it) Is that right?

JOHNNY It's my fault. I should have introduced myself.

He holds out his hand but Cotton just eyes it suspiciously.

DANA There's a story running tomorrow in the Faith Heritage student newspaper. It claims you have ties to certain right-wing organizations.

Cotton sighs but surprisingly doesn't seem too upset.

COTTON My past is no state secret, Miss Bright. It's just been misconstrued by the liberal media.

JOHNNY

In what way?

23 CONTINUED: (2)

COTTON

To promote tolerance, you have to understand the roots of intolerance. I'm afraid I need to cut this short.

But as he rises to usher them out, Johnny's camera accidentally knocks over a PHOTO on his desk. A photo of Darryl Cotton. As Johnny picks it up --

24 VISION FLASH - A DARK, WAREHOUSE-LIKE SPACE - NIGHT 24

It could be the same place where Johnny saw the murder from the killer's POV, only now he seems to experience it from the victim's, as Darryl Cotton, sleeves rolled up to expose the ARYAN SYMBOLS tattooed on his forearms, advances toward us with an ALUMINUM BAT. We glimpse his expression of rage and revulsion before he swings the bat at camera. At the moment of impact, we --

25 RESUME SCENE

25

26

23

Johnny reacts slightly as he sets down the photo.

JOHNNY

Your son?

COTTON

Yes, it is.

Dana picks up on Johnny's interest.

DANA I don't suppose you'd let us talk to him? Get his perspective on his father's political career?

COTTON I'm afraid Darryl's busy packing. I'm sending him to school overseas.

DANA Too bad. Maybe next time.

26 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY (DAY 2)

Walt enters his office, Dana and Johnny trailing.

(CONTINUED)

WALT

The only thing I could find is this stolen vehicle report from Seattle. Couple years ago. Cotton reported his son's car stolen, then called back the next day to say they found it abandoned.

Dana studies the report.

DANA Not very damning, is it?

ROSCOE pokes his head in, his look grave.

ROSCOE Chief, we've got a problem.

27 INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

Johnny follows Walt through a man-sized hole in a brick wall, reacts to what he sees in the shadowy building. Crime scene photographers' flashes going off, illuminating --

Puddles of bloodied white paint.

A paint-splattered BODY slumped against a wall.

Crude letters over it, spelling "White Power."

A medical examiner studies a bruise on the victim's face -we see dark-skinned Middle Eastern features.

ON JOHNNY, as he hangs his head, realizing he's too late.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

26

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT TWO - 5/11/05 - GREEN 19.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

28 INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

28

Some time later, the CSI techs starting to wrap up. Bruce waits with Johnny and Dana as Walt approaches with an evidence baggie with a wallet and another item in it.

WALT Wallet IDs the victim as Rashid Mahmud, address in Cleaves Mills. Eighty bucks inside.

DANA So much for robbery.

Bruce nods bitterly to the white-painted words.

BRUCE They painted the motive on the wall.

Johnny gives Bruce a look... it's apparent the crime has affected him on a personal level... as Walt approaches with an evidence baggie, several items inside.

WALT

These still have to go to forensics, but if you want to touch an edge...?

Johnny reaches into the baggie, touches the edge of the wallet. Nothing. The second item is an old cross-shaped WAR MEDAL. Johnny touches an edge. We hear a WHOOSH, then he looks up.

JOHNNY It's a Victoria Cross, awarded to his grandfather in World War II.

DANA From father to son to son.

The M.E. gives Walt a nod. His team is done.

WALT

You're on, John.

Johnny hesitates for a beat -- a diver about to plunge into a forbidding pool -- then finds Bruce's reassuring hand on his shoulder. We hear a WHOOSH. Johnny looks back at his friend for a beat, nods, then goes to work.

He crouches to touch some puddled paint... some debris...

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT TWO - 5/11/05 - GREEN 20.

28 CONTINUED:

Then is drawn to the painted letters. WHOOSH --

- 29 ANOTHER CU VISION FLASH OF A BRUSH PAINTING THE LETTERS 29
- 30 RESUME - JOHNNY

Approaches Rashid's body, now being zipped into a body bag. Two CSI technicians give him room as he stares at the dead eyes staring up at him. Then his fingertips lightly touch the young man's face --

31 POV FLASHES

> Once again, Johnny is the victim, only now he's alive, dressed in Rashid's clothes, as he reels away from camera from a blow by some barely seen, club-like weapon.

> > JOHNNY/RASHID Stop! Please!

Camera rushes toward him as he throws up his hands.

JOHNNY/RASHID Why are you doing this?!

Once again the club-like weapon whooshes through frame -a final blow that sends Johnny/Rashid sprawling, dead.

32 RESUME - ON JOHNNY

> As he slowly pulls the body bag zipper past Rashid's still open eyes.

33 EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

> A run-down industrial neighborhood. WITH Johnny, Walt, Bruce and Dana as they exit the building. Rashid's body is being loaded into a CORONER'S VAN. City cops and sheriff's deputies hold back a growing CROWD.

> > BRUCE Where'd these people come from?

DANA Someone has a police scanner.

JOHNNY They heard about a hate crime. 33

32

28

31

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT TWO - 5/11/05 - GREEN 21.

33 CONTINUED:

They're all deeply troubled by what they've seen.

WALT This sort of thing doesn't happen here.

BRUCE

It does now.

JOHNNY Is there a preliminary cause of death?

WALT Blunt trauma to the head. We didn't find a weapon.

ON JOHNNY --

34 MEMORY FLASHBACKS (BLACK AND WHITE)

34

- The club-like weapon knocks Johnny/Rashid to the ground.

- Darryl Cotton swings the baseball bat at camera.

35 BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY Could it've been a baseball bat?

Walt eyes him.

WALT There something you haven't told me?

JOHNNY (a beat, then) I think Rashid knew the person who killed him.

Walt can tell Johnny's holding back.

WALT

Okay. We'll check out friends, acquaintances and family. If this <u>is</u> a hate crime, people are gonna be screaming for an arrest.

JOHNNY Exactly why I don't want to point a finger at anyone 'til I'm sure.

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT TWO - 5/11/05 - GREEN 22.

35 CONTINUED:

During their exchange, Dana's news truck pulls up. Now her cameraman and soundman hop out and wave her over.

JOHNNY You called them?

DANA

(apologetic)
The media's going to be all over
this. I might as well get a head
start.
 (moving closer, sotto)
What's between us stays between us.

But despite her assurance, Johnny watches uneasily as she moves to meet her crew.

MALE ANCHOR'S VOICE The day after an apparent racemotivated murder, the aftershocks roil a small Maine community.

36 OMITTED

37 EXT. MAHMUD HOME - DAY

A neat, two-story suburban home at the end of a cul-desac. The media is laying siege.

> MALE ANCHOR'S VOICE Dana Bright was the first to report from the scene and now comes to us live from Cleaves Mills. Dana?

Finding Dana doing her stand-up.

DANA

Dan, I'm standing outside the home of Rashid Mahmud, the young man whose bludgeoned body was found last night only a few miles from here. News of the crime prompted reactions ranging from shock to sorrowful introspection in this small-town community, which this week played host to a religious conference sponsored by Reverend Gene Purdy's Faith Heritage Alliance. 35

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT TWO - 5/12/05 - GOLD 23.

38 INT. FAITH HERITAGE AUDITORIUM - DAY

Shot of Purdy leading a prayer in the packed hall.

DANA (V.O.) I spoke with Reverend Purdy after an afternoon prayer service.

39 EXT. FAITH HERITAGE AUDITORIUM - LATER - ON PURDY

PURDY

Every day brings us news of some terrible but distant crime. But when a crime raises the specter of intolerance, we're forced to stop and take stock, question our own prejudices.

DANA (O.S.) Has this changed your attitude about Cleaves Mills and Maine?

PURDY I believe this is an aberration. Cleaves Mills is a God-fearing community.

40 EXT. MAHMUD HOME - DAY - ON DANA

DANA

Others might question that statement, among them Josh Blake, editor of the Faith Heritage student newspaper, which today reported that a local speaker at Purdy's conference -- William Cotton -- has white supremacist ties.

41 INT. "ARTICLES OF FAITH" OFFICES - DAY - ON JOSH BLAKE 41

11

DANA (O.S.) Do you feel there could be a connection with this crime?

JOSH That's not for me to say. The fact that Cotton's building a political organization here scares me. 40

39

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT TWO - 5/11/05 - GREEN 24.

42 EXT. MAHMUD HOME - DAY - BACK ON DANA

As she notices Walt and Johnny entering the house.

DANA "Scared" is how most people here feel. Scared about the end of one small town's innocence.

CLICK! A woman's hand turns off a TV on which the broadcast was playing. Reveal we're:

43 INT. MAHMUD HOME - DAY

SYEDA MAHMUD, 40, Rashid's mother, looks up apologetically at Walt and Johnny. Her husband AZIZ, late 40s, stands nearby. Their daughter TAHMINA sits at a dining table, disconsolately leafing through a family PHOTO ALBUM. The Burakgazis are Pakistani immigrants and their house displays many decorative touches of their home country.

> SYEDA I don't know why I keep it on. I keep hoping for some kind of explanation... something that...

She can't finish her thought. Her husband holds her, leads her to the table to sit.

AZIZ It's all right, Syeda. Let me speak with them.

She sits, letting her daughter comfort her, tears coming as she sees the photos in the album. Aziz eyes Walt.

> AZIZ You have news about my son's murderer?

WALT We have information that suggests your son may have known his attacker. Did Rashid have any enemies?

AZIZ Enemies? No. He was a kind boy, very shy.

JOHNNY You can't think of anyone who might want to hurt him?

Aziz's eyes go to Johnny. He doesn't recognize him.

43

WALT

This is Johnny Smith. He's helped us in the past.

JOHNNY I'm very sorry for your loss.

He takes a small envelope from his shirt pocket, empties it into his hand. Aziz reacts to his father's MEDAL, then, filled with emotion, reaches for it. As the medal connects their hands --

44 VISION - PAST - EVENING

Johnny finds himself sitting next to Rashid at the dining room table. The family is gathered for a meal, along with an attractive and self-assured young Pakistani woman, ZAHRA, 19, who's seated on Rashid's other side.

> ZAHRA We called it the "Fast-a-thon." More than 150 colleges participated. The idea was to give non-Muslim students a "taste" for the meaning of Ramadan, and for what it's like for the poor

Aziz nods enthusiastically. We realize this is an arranged date for Rashid, who shyly studies his food.

AZIZ See, Rashid. A college girl who's also observant.

SYEDA

to go hungry.

Faith and good works. The path to salvation, as the Koran says.

ZAHRA

I hear you're applying to college, Rashid. What are your top choices?

But as she smiles at him innocently, her hand secretly finds his thigh under the table. Johnny notices, then notices Rashid react uncomfortably and brush her hand away.

RASHID

I was hoping to find a school close to home.

He shares a pained private look with his sister.

43

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT TWO - 5/11/05 - GREEN 26.

44 CONTINUED:

AZIZ

Not too close, I hope. The way he eats, we can't afford him.

The table laughs. Rashid tries to muster a grin. Off Johnny, observing his unease...

45 BACK TO PRESENT

As Johnny reacts, as puzzled by this vision as he was of the one he had of Josh Blake. Meanwhile, Aziz clutches the medal, quietly overwhelmed.

> WALT Mister Mahmud. We'll find who did this. I promise.

But it's a promise that ultimately offers little solace to this grief-stricken family.

46 EXT. MAHMUD HOME - DAY

Johnny approaches Bruce, who waits by his car.

BRUCE Learn anything new?

JOHNNY Nothing that helps us.

Dana saunters up with a disarming smile.

DANA Hey, my car just died. Can you handsome young men give me a lift?

Annoyed with her, even if she's just been doing her job, Johnny starts to get into the Murano.

> DANA Even if I've got a tip where we might find Darryl Cotton?

> > JOHNNY?

"We?"

DANA Mm-hmm. But "we" might want to pick up some earplugs first. 44

47 INT. PUNK CLUB - NIGHT

A hard-core POWER TRIO thrashes out a song on a cramped stage while a bunch of young punks and skinhead types MOSH in the pit. Finding Johnny, Bruce and Dana making their way through the crowd. Bruce shouts over the din.

BRUCE

Man, do I feel old!

JOHNNY

You're cold?

BRUCE Old. I feel <u>old</u>!

Johnny nods as they approach a PUNK COUPLE drinking beers and making out. Meanwhile, Dana continues on to the bar.

> JOHNNY Hi! You guys know a kid named Darryl? Darryl Cotton?

The couple shrug, give Johnny's clothes a disdainful onceover, then go back to twining their tongues. Bruce taps Johnny's shoulder, indicates Dana, who's waving them over to the bar, where she's been conferring with the tattooed and goateed bartender, BILLY. Johnny and Bruce head over.

> DANA This is Billy. He knows Darryl.

JOHNNY Is he here tonight?

BILLY Was. Had to throw him out. (re mosh pit) He and his friends were getting a little too aggressive.

Johnny and Bruce eye the moshers, who appear to be engaged in an Ultimate Fighting free-for-all. "Too aggressive"?

> BILLY Those skinheads don't get it. The music's not about violence. It's about <u>energy</u>. (re a side door) Try the alley.

As he moves off to deal with some clamoring patrons...

48 EXT. PUNK CLUB - ALLEY - NIGHT

Johnny, Bruce and Dana exit the club, Johnny leading them through a throng of smoking teens and twenty-somethings. He reacts as he finally sees --

DARRYL COTTON rough-housing with a bunch of skinheads and punks, most a bit older than him.

JOHNNY

That's him.

DANA

So. How do you normally handle a situation like this? "Hi, my name's Johnny Smith. I'm a psychic and I'd like to shake your hand to see if you're guilty of murder."

Johnny looks at Bruce...

BRUCE Okay, but you stay close.

He approaches the skins, Johnny and Dana trailing.

BRUCE Hey, you guys see a kid with a blue mohawk run by? He just jacked my stereo.

Darryl gives him a sneering once-over.

DARRYL Sure you don't have that backwards, <u>bro</u>?

BRUCE

Sorry?

DARRYL

Where I come from it's guys like you who jack stereos. Jack cars. Anything that's not nailed down.

His friends laugh, ad lib: "That's cold." "Tell the brother." Bruce tenses, instantly fired up, but Johnny puts a restraining hand on his shoulder.

JOHNNY

Darryl Cotton?

DARRYL Who wants to know?

JOHNNY

My name's Johnny Smith. I'm a psychic, and I'd like to shake your hand.

He extends his own. Darryl eyes it suspiciously.

DARRYL

Why?

JOHNNY To see if you killed Rashid Mahmud.

The laughter stops cold. Dana and Bruce are as surprised as Darryl and his posse.

DARRYL

What makes you think I snuffed that raghead?

JOHNNY

Darryl's pals are enjoying this. They encourage him: "Go ahead." "Do it, man." "C'mon Darryl, we'll still love ya." But Darryl just eyes Johnny coldly.

DARRYL

Get lost.

JOHNNY

Not yet.

He grabs Darryl's arm. MATCH, MOVE, MORPH TO:

49 INT. COTTON HOUSE (MAHMUD HOUSE RE-USE) - DAY

49

Now it's Darryl's father who grips his son's arm, incensed, as he shoves a Bangor Daily News front page in his face (all we can see clearly is a headline, which screams: "Police Seek Hate Killer"). Camera pivots to show Johnny watching.

> COTTON Tell me you didn't do this!

But Darryl stubbornly refuses to deny it.

(CONTINUED)

DARRYL

I thought you'd be proud of me. (re his tats) It's what we stand for, isn't it? Or doesn't that matter anymore?

As he jerks his arm away, we again MATCH, MOVE, MORPH --

50 BACK TO SCENE

50

51

49

As Darryl jerks his arm away from Johnny --

DARRYL Get off me, freak!

He SHOVES him hard. And now BRUCE loses it, shoving Darryl into another skin and sending them both sprawling, precipitating a BRAWL. Bruce takes hits, along with Johnny, who tries to protect him. DANA steps back.

NEW ANGLE

As other bystanders try to pull the combatants apart. Suddenly the action FREEZES with a CLICK. Then UNFREEZES. Three more clicks, three more freeze-frames, the last one showing Bruce getting clocked from behind.

Pull back to reveal Josh Blake standing behind a corner. As he lowers a DIGITAL CAMERA to check the image...

51 INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dana rises anxiously from a couch as Johnny, a bit bruised and roughed up, enters from the foyer. He nods, indicating the upstairs.

> JOHNNY I put a couple of butterfly bandaids on his cut, got him to lie down for a bit.

> > DANA

And you?

Johnny holds up an ice pack.

JOHNNY My injuries are less serious.

DANA But no less deserving of attention. (taking the ice pack) Sit.

Johnny does. She gingerly applies the ice to a bruise.

DANA Bruce takes his job pretty seriously, doesn't he?

JOHNNY

His job?

DANA Looking out for you.

JOHNNY Yeah, I guess he does.

DANA I seem to remember putting in for it myself once.

Johnny smiles, takes her hand. But at that moment, her cell phone rings. A distinctive melodic tone.

DANA

My producer.

She reluctantly fishes her cell from her purse, answers.

DANA Yes, Gary, I know I've been off the clock but --(beat, listens) No. I didn't know that --(another beat) I'll get right on it.

She hangs up, turns to Johnny, troubled.

DANA

The Articles of Faith web site just posted a story saying that the police have a suspect -- Darryl Cotton -- and that <u>you</u> led them to him.

JOHNNY

What?

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT TWO - 5/6/05 - PINK 32.

51 CONTINUED: (2)

DANA

They have pictures. Blake must've followed us, little creep.

JOHNNY

It's not true.

DANA

Doesn't matter. Blake's made it a story, and the way my bosses see it, I've been scooped twice by a student newspaper.

She brushes his cheek with her fingers as she rises.

DANA I may have to call you later. For a quote.

Off Johnny as she exits...

52 EXT./INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY (DAY 3)

Tracking with Johnny and Bruce, Bruce carrying a MAG-LIGHT, as they enter the dark building, ducking under police tape. Bruce has a small bandage on one temple.

BRUCE I can't believe I lost it like that last night.

JOHNNY It's understandable.

BRUCE Well, yeah, he provoked me.

JOHNNY

I meant because of what happened that night you turned 17. Your Dad let you borrow his car... (off Bruce's look) I saw it here the other day, when you put your hand on my shoulder.

BRUCE Saw me getting pulled over and beat up by those rednecks? For dating a white girl? 52

JOHNNY

(nods)
I'm guessing that wasn't the only
time you had to deal with racism.

BRUCE

I'm <u>still</u> dealing with it. The convenience store clerk checking his surveillance mirror when I'm in the back. Or some middle-aged lady who "casually" crosses the street when she sees me coming. Makes me think a punk like Cotton's just vocalizing stuff that's in everyone's subconscious.

Johnny looks around at the former crime scene.

JOHNNY Maybe, but everyone isn't killing people, covering them with white paint, and writing racist slogans on walls.

BRUCE

Which is why I want us to nail
him.
 (looking around too)
Thing is, you've already touched
just about everything there is to
touch.

He has indeed. As Johnny surveys the surroundings --

53 MEMORY FLASH (BLACK AND WHITE) - JOHNNY AS THE VICTIM 53 REELS BACK FROM A CLUBBING BLOW

54 BACK TO SCENE

Bruce the place where

54

Johnny orients himself, indicates to Bruce the place where he, as the victim, was standing in the vision.

JOHNNY Stand there and face away from me, okay?

Bruce does. Johnny adjusts his own position behind him.

JOHNNY The killer would've stood here.

Camera tilts down to his feet as he shifts them. Bruce glances back, observing this...

BRUCE

You think "standing in his footsteps" could trigger a vision?

JOHNNY Maybe if I could find them. (an idea) Give me your flashlight.

Bruce hands him the heavy metal MAG-LIGHT. Johnny grips it by the base... we see his feet shift again, a wider stance... then we tilt up as he raises it high. WHOOSH --

55 CU: THE MAG-LIGHT HAS SUDDENLY BECOME A CLUB-LIKE 55 STEERING WHEEL LOCK (LIKE "THE CLUB"). AS IT SWINGS DOWN OUT OF FRAME...

BRUCE (V.O.)

Whoa!

55A BACK TO SCENE

Bruce has turned just in time to catch Johnny's downward swinging arm (his turn would coincide with the victim's turn just as he gets hit with the first blow). They both take a breath.

> JOHNNY It wasn't a baseball bat. (beat) Darryl Cotton isn't the killer.

Off which...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

54

55A

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT THREE - 5/10/05 - YELLOW 35.

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

56 INT. "ARTICLES OF FAITH" OFFICES - DAY

56

Purdy's doing spin control, quieting a hubbub of shouted questions from reporters, as Josh and his staff stand by.

PURDY

Mister Blake has done us a service by pointing out William Cotton's ties to certain extreme elements. <u>Past</u> ties we were unaware of.

More shouted questions: "What about Cotton's son?" "Darryl Cotton?" "The murder?" "Hate crime." Etc.

PURDY

Mister Cotton may have made a break with his past. But his son's involvement with this crime reminds us that our failure to openly confess and atone for our sins is what dooms them to be repeated.

JOHNNY (O.S.) Nice sermon, Gene.

Heads turn to see Johnny in the back, holding up a NEWSPAPER headline declaring: "Cotton's Son a Suspect."

JOHNNY There's just one problem. The story isn't true.

As the reporters react to this --

JOSH The paper stands by every word.

Johnny sees a well-thumbed BIBLE on Josh's desk.

JOHNNY Would you swear to that? On this --

But as he picks up the bible, WHOOSH --

57 INT. JOSH'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT - VISION

57

Josh holds the bible open and prays aloud, clearly upset. Widen to reveal Johnny observing once again...

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

"For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people."

57A BACK TO SCENE

57A

58

57

Johnny's puzzlement at this vision causes him to miss a beat before stammering --

JOHNNY Darryl Cotton is <u>not</u> a suspect.

Again the reporters react, again Purdy gets their ear --

PURDY

I've been assured that the Sheriff's department is seeking him as we speak.

On Johnny as he reacts, Purdy meanwhile continuing...

PURDY (O.S.) Tonight I'll lead a candle-lit vigil, followed tomorrow by a march in memory of Rashid Mahmud.

58 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY

Johnny and Bruce trail Roscoe through the busy station.

ROSCOE We've got a witness who put the Cotton kid with the victim on the night of the murder.

JOHNNY

A witness?

ROSCOE

(nods)
The news stories must've spooked
him. Sheriff's got everyone out
shaking the trees.

He stops at a desk to hand a clerk some paperwork.

ROSCOE If you came to us sooner, we could've brought him in quietly.

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

I didn't want to implicate him until I was sure.

ROSCOE

And now you're sure he's innocent?

JOHNNY

I had a vision that he was involved in an assault, but I don't think it's this one. I need to talk to your witness.

Off Roscoe's indecision...

59 EXT. PUNK CLUB - DAY - ESTABLISHING

60 INT. PUNK CLUB - DAY

A quieter, barfly crowd. A soundman setting up some amps on the empty stage. Bartender Billy sets down some beers.

> BILLY I already told the cops everything.

Revealing Johnny and Bruce at the bar.

JOHNNY Why'd you wait to come forward?

BILLY Didn't know the kid was a suspect until I heard it on the news.

As Johnny and Bruce exchange a look --

BILLY Hey. All I know is that they left together. (points to a stool) The other kid sat right there.

As Johnny touches the bar stool... MATCH, MOVE, MORPH --

61 INT. PUNK CLUB - NIGHT - VISION

Once again in full swing, the house band wailing. It's the night of the murder. Johnny watches Rashid sitting alone and looking out of place as he sips a soft drink. Rashid checks his watch, looks relieved, and heads for the side door...

... just as Darryl Cotton crosses from the mosh pit.

(CONTINUED)

59

58

60

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT THREE - 5/11/05 - GREEN 38.

61 CONTINUED:

He throws a sweaty arm around the young man's shoulders, pulling him close in a menacing, taunting way. Rashid's shoulder bangs into the door frame as Darryl laughs. Johnny notes the bartender observing what indeed could look like the pair exiting together --

62 INTERCUT: JOHNNY - PRESENT

As he gets off his bar stool, heads to the side door --

BRUCE

John?

- 63 IN THE VISION... JOHNNY ALSO APPROACHES THE DOOR, MOVING 63 THROUGH THE CROWDED NIGHT-TIME BAR...
- 64 IN REALITY... JOHNNY PAUSES AT THE DOOR, TOUCHES THE 64 FRAME WHERE RASHID'S SHOULDER BRUSHED IT --
- 65 SUDDENLY, THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN, DAY BECOMES NIGHT AGAIN, 65 AND RASHID AND DARRYL ARE EXITING TOGETHER INTO --
- 66 EXT. PUNK CLUB ALLEY NIGHT CONTINUOUS

As Johnny follows them out, sees Rashid -- now out of sight of the bartender -- pull away from Darryl, who joins his skinhead friends. Johnny turns to look after Rashid, who is heading toward the end of the alley.

67 SUDDENLY, THE BACKGROUND BECOMES FOREGROUND AS JOHNNY 67 FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ALLEY

Where he watches Rashid approach the passenger side of a nondescript SEDAN at the curb, as the unseen driver pushes open the door for him. Off Johnny, reacting to this --

68 BACK TO PRESENT - EXT. PUNK CLUB - ALLEY - DAY 68

As Bruce comes out the side door to join Johnny, who's still looking toward the street.

JOHNNY It only looked like they left together... 61

62

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT THREE - 5/11/05 - GREEN 39.

69 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - WALT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

69

Johnny's continuing his explanation to Walt, Bruce by his side.

JOHNNY

... Rashid went around back and got into a car.

For some reason, Walt looks dubious...

JOHNNY I'm telling you, Walt, Darryl didn't do it.

WALT John... there have been some developments while you were out.

BRUCE

Developments?

69A A SHORT TIME LATER - ON DANA DOING ANOTHER STAND-UP

69A

DANA

This is Dana Bright reporting live with a WPKV exclusive. Darryl Cotton, sought by police in connection with the murder of a local teen-ager, has surrendered and agreed to make a public statement. Darryl?

As she holds the microphone, we reveal Darryl standing beside her, looking slightly nervous.

DARRYL I've been accused of murder. They're calling it a "hate crime." Well, if it's hate to stand up for what you believe in, then I plead guilty.

Reactions as Johnny, Bruce and Walt realize that Darryl is apparently <u>confessing</u> on live television. Nor are they the only people reacting as we cut to:

70 INT. PUNK CLUB - NIGHT

70

Bartender Billy and patrons watch a set above the bar (it's still too early for the band but the club is slightly more crowded) --

DARRYL (ON TV) They say the "victim" of my hate was a Pakistani kid, an immigrant. But I don't hate immigrants. How could I? I'm descended from immigrants.

71 INT. FAITH HERITAGE AUDITORIUM FOYER - NIGHT - PURDY 71 WATCHES

> DARRYL (ON TV) But my ancestors -- white Protestant Europeans -- built this country. Made it what it is, or at least what it was.

72 INT. "ARTICLES OF FAITH" OFFICES - NIGHT - JOSH BLAKE 72 WATCHES ALONG WITH THE OTHER REPORTERS AND EDITORS

> DARRYL (ON TV) Now the people we call "immigrants" --Asians, Arabs, Mexicans -- don't come here to build but to exploit, to grab what they can for themselves.

> > JOSH

Unbelievable.

But we sense a deeper sense of surprise, and puzzlement, in his private reaction...

73 INT. COTTON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Darryl's father watches, stunned at what he's hearing: the sound of his nascent political career unraveling.

> DARRYL (ON TV) Just like the blacks and the Jews and all the other minorities that only care about tearing this country down. So do I feel hatred? Yes...

COTTON

Sonuvabitch!

74 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT

Bruce and Walt reacting, jaws clenching.

74

73

DARRYL

Hatred for them, and for anyone who'd turn a blind eye while they drag us all down into the muck they came from.

And now he stares at the camera, nervousness gone, almost fierce in his determination.

DARRYL My father taught me that this is war. You choose a side, or die.

Dana, like everyone else in the station, is too stunned to realize he's finished. Finally, Walt nods to a deputy --

WALT

Cuff him.

The room erupts with noise, ringing phones. Walt grabs the cuffed Darryl, leads him by a shaken Johnny --

WALT Whaddaya think, John? He still sound innocent?

Johnny just shakes his head. But as Walt roughly leads Darryl away, Darryl's shoulder brushes Johnny. WHOOSH --

75 EXT. SHERIFF'S STATION - PARKING LOT - DAY - VISION 75

Starting close on Darryl Cotton's peaceful, recumbent face, eyes closed as though he's sleeping. Then a sheet is pulled over it and we pull back to reveal Johnny watching as Darryl's dead body is loaded into a coroner's wagon. (Note: we should <u>not</u> see any bloodstains or anything else that might indicate what caused his death.)

76 BACK TO SCENE

76

Off Johnny, his shock at Darryl's confession now compounded by this vision of his imminent death...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/6/05 - PINK 42.

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

77 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT - A SHORT TIME LATER

77

Tumult still. Johnny and Bruce trail Walt, as Dana's crew breaks down.

WALT Whaddaya want from me, John? The kid confessed. Hell, he's <u>proud</u> of it.

JOHNNY Something's wrong here.

WALT Look, you said he was involved in an assault. Maybe your visions just mixed up the particulars.

JOHNNY I know what I saw... and what I <u>didn't</u> see.

DANA (approaching) What are we disagreeing about?

Johnny reacts curtly.

JOHNNY I don't have time, Dana.

DANA

Darryl found me, Johnny. He <u>asked</u> to make that statement.

But Johnny still feels burned; he can't bring himself to trust her.

JOHNNY

Excuse me.

He goes after Walt who's moving off...

JOHNNY I had another vision. I saw Darryl being taken out of here dead.

WALT

Dead? How?

JOHNNY

I don't know.

WALT

I'll keep him isolated, post a suicide watch. He won't be arraigned until Monday. He should be safe till then.

JOHNNY

Thank you. (to Bruce) Let's go.

As they move off, Dana watching him in the b.g....

BRUCE If Darryl's innocent, why'd he cop to it?

JOHNNY Good question. Right now I'm more worried about finding the real killer.

BRUCE Where do we start?

Off Johnny's look...

78 OMITTED

79 INT. MAHMUD HOME - DAY (DAY 4)

Starting close on more PHOTOS of Rashid, alone, with his sister and with his family. Revealing Tahmina, Johnny and Bruce in the dining room. She's been adding to an album... apologizes for the slight mess...

> TAHMINA My father is a photographer. I keep finding more pictures of Rashid.

Johnny studies some of the loose photos. There's one that shows Tahmina and Rashid as toddlers posed together.

78

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/11/05 - GREEN 44.

79 CONTINUED:

A more recent shot shows them together on a hike.

JOHNNY You two were very close.

TAHMINA

(nods) When we came to America, neither of us spoke English. We only had each other.

JOHNNY So he'd never keep something from you?

Tahmina is immediately uneasy...

JOHNNY

Tahmina, I'm a psychic. When I was here before, I had a "vision"... of what I think was a date your parents arranged for Rashid. The girl was very smart and attractive, but he didn't seem too interested. Then he looked at you...

Silence.

JOHNNY

Tahmina, was there anything you didn't tell the police about your brother? A girlfriend he didn't want anyone to know about?

A beat, then she shakes her head.

TAHMINA Rashid didn't have a girlfriend...

Something about her tone causes Johnny to realize...

JOHNNY Tahmina, was your brother gay?

Tahmina nods.

TAHMINA

Our parents would never understand. But he was going to tell them anyway.

BRUCE Did Rashid have someone he was close to?

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/11/05 - GREEN 45.

79 CONTINUED: (2)

Tahmina nods again.

TAHMINA They met on the Internet. He never said his name, but I saw an email. It was signed "J".

JOHNNY Jay? J-A-Y?

TAHMINA Just the initial.

On Johnny as another realization hits him --

80 OMITTED

81 MEMORY FLASHES (BLACK & WHITE)

- Dana introducing Josh Blake --

DANA Josh Blake, this is Johnny Smith...

- Josh Blake lecturing his girlfriend in his dorm room.

- Josh praying over his bible --

JOSH & JOHNNY'S VOICE "For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations...

82 RESUME

JOHNNY ...even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people."

Bruce eyes him...

BRUCE Leviticus, chapter 18. It's a passage the fundamentalists use to demonize gays.

JOHNNY

I think I know who it was. And why he wouldn't want his boyfriend to come out... (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

82

79

80

JOHNNY (CONT'D) (to Tahmina) Do you have something your brother touched?

Tahmina takes off her EARRINGS...

TAHMINA He gave me these for my birthday.

As Johnny takes them... WHOOSH!

83 OMITTED

AND 84 AND 84

85

86

83

85 EXT. PUNK CLUB - ALLEY - NIGHT - VISION

Once again, Johnny watches Rashid approach the car, only now as the passenger door is pushed open, camera tracks in, revealing Josh in the driver's seat, welcoming Rashid with a smile. Suddenly, the camera angle flips and we're --

86 INT. JOSH'S CAR - NIGHT - VISION - CONTINUOUS

Vision-Johnny visible in the b.g. as Josh takes a clublike steering wheel lock off the passenger seat, tosses it in back as Rashid climbs in. Rashid leans forward, as if to kiss him, but Josh puts a hand on his chest --

JOSH

Not here.

FLASH TO...

- 86A OMITTED
- 87 INT. JOSH'S CAR NIGHT VISION OUTSIDE ABANDONED 87 WAREHOUSE

Johnny sits in the back, observing Rashid and Josh. Rashid is arguing quietly, his conviction overcoming his shyness.

> RASHID I don't care what the Koran says, anymore than you should care what the Bible says.

> > (CONTINUED)

82

86A

> JOSH How can you say that?

> > RASHID

Because I know what we feel isn't wrong.

(when Josh looks away) Josh, look at me. I'm going to do this. I'm going to tell my parents that we've been seeing each other. If you can't handle that...?

JOSH (a beat, then) Let's qo inside. One last time.

Rashid nods, turns to open his door... as Josh's gaze goes to the Club in the back seat. RRIPPP! Now we're:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT - SERIES OF VISION 88 88 FLASHES

TRACKING ANGLE - Rashid walks just ahead of Josh, turns -and Josh smashes him with the club! FLASH TO:

JOSH stands over Rashid's body, reacts with shock and panic to the bloody club in his hand. Then his eyes go to an old pile of paint cans and brushes... FLASH TO:

89 EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT - VISION - ON JOSH'S CAR 89 TRUNK

As the bloody club, the paint can and brush -- all wrapped in an old transparent plastic drop cloth -- are tossed inside. The trunk lid slams shut, then we FLASH OUT TO --

RESUME: INT. MAHMUD HOME - DAY 89A 89A

As Johnny reacts, eyeing the earrings in his hand, then the pictures of the smiling Rashid...

90 OMITTED

91 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - WALT'S OFFICE - DAY 91 Walt shuts his office door, turns to Johnny and Bruce --

(CONTINUED)

87

91

WALT Blake's not in his dorm or at the newspaper. I've got an APB out on his car.

BRUCE What're the odds the murder weapon's still in his trunk?

But Johnny's mind is on something else.

JOHNNY It still doesn't explain why Darryl would confess to a murder he didn't

commit.

He eyes a baggie holding KEYS, a butterfly KNIFE, and a nylon WALLET with a white power SYMBOL stitched on it.

JOHNNY

Are those his?

WALT

(nods)
Grab a touch if you like. They're
not evidence.

Johnny takes out the wallet... WHOOSH --

92 EXT. SHERIFF'S STATION - PARKING LOT - DAY

Another flash of a bloody, sheet-covered covered body being loaded into the coroner's wagon.

93 BACK TO SCENE

JOHNNY I'm still seeing Darryl dead.

WALT

I've got a deputy outside his cell. Nothing's gonna happen here.

JOHNNY It'll happen... somehow... unless I figure out how or why.

He sees Dana, working at a computer in the main office.

JOHNNY Why's she still here? 93

WALT

She's been cross-checking our records on the Cottons.

Johnny crosses to her. An awkward beat.

JOHNNY

Found anything?

DANA

You said you had a vision of Darryl Cotton attacking someone with a baseball bat? (when he nods...) The night William Look at this. Cotton reported his son's car stolen in Seattle, there were three murders. Two were by qunshot. The other cause of death was blunt trauma. (flips to an autopsy report) The autopsy found flakes of aluminum in the wounds, indicating the weapon could've been a baseball bat.

She calls up a new screen: a Seattle driver's license photo of an 18-year-old black teen.

JOHNNY

The victim?

DANA

(nods)
A black teenager, and the murder
remains unsolved. Police suspect
a feud between two gangs of car
thieves.

JOHNNY

Car thieves... a stolen car.

Off Johnny, mind working...

94 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - LOCK-UP - DAY

94

Darryl Cotton sits up on his bunk as Roscoe leads Johnny in, then nods to deputy who's been sitting outside the cell, reading. The deputy rises, exits.

> ROSCOE We'll be right outside.

> > (CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/11/05 - GREEN 50.

94 CONTINUED:

Johnny looks through the bars at Darryl, who glares back.

DARRYL I confessed. Isn't that enough for you?

But his bark has lost some of its menace; he's acting his part now, covering the turmoil in his feelings.

JOHNNY I know who killed Rashid. Right now I'm more worried what may happen to you.

DARRYL

Me?

He approaches, nods scornfully to the door Roscoe's waiting behind.

DARRYL They got me on a suicide watch. You think I'm suicidal?

JOHNNY Why else would you confess to a capital crime? Unless you wanted to punish yourself. Or someone else? Your father maybe?

Johnny's words cut through Darryl's defenses. A beat.

DARRYL I've said all I have to say.

But Johnny can see he's wavering.

JOHNNY That's the beauty of it.

He loosely grips the bars...

JOHNNY You don't have to <u>say</u> anything.

Johnny grabs him. Darryl is caught off-guard. WHOOSH!

95 INT. SEATTLE GARAGE/CHOP SHOP - NIGHT

95

94

Johnny crouches near two black teens -- the young CAR THIEF from the license photo and a friend -- who are stripping a late-90s Mustang when A HALF DOZEN WHITE GUYS in stocking masks, armed with bats and clubs, burst in.

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/11/05 - GREEN 51.

95 CONTINUED:

The friend drops a tool and runs, jumping up on a car and wriggling out a small window (or just escaping through a back exit) before one of the white guys can grab him. But the car thief trips over a jack, falls and twists his ankle. He groans, clutching it, as a few of the masked men start to advance. But their leader holds up a hand --

MASKED MAN

No!

He peels off mask; it's William Cotton. The others peel off their masks, and we see that one of them is Darryl (looking slightly younger). His father hands him a bat. When Darryl hesitates --

COTTON

Do it.

Darryl takes the bat, starts to advance slowly. A ROARING fills his head -- a mix of "hatecore" music and supremacist chants, the word "RaHoWa" a repeated refrain.

Finally, his face a frightening mix of revulsion and anger, Darryl raises the bat and screams as he swings it down!

ANGLE - VISION JOHNNY

Wincing at the sight and sounds of several O.S. blows.

NEW ANGLE

As Darryl backs away with that same horrified, almost disbelieving expression we saw on Josh's face after he murdered Rashid. Cotton steps up to his son, taking the bat from him and putting a hand on his shoulder.

> COTTON It's a war, son. You choose sides or you die.

Off Johnny...

96 RESUME: INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - LOCK-UP - DAY

96

95

JOHNNY Choose sides or you die.

Darryl pulls himself away, his expression once again stricken...

DARRYL

I hated him for that. I hated myself. And now he wants to send me away, like none of it ever happened?

JOHNNY

Then make it right.

Darryl looks at him, helpless and vulnerable for the first time... as Roscoe enters with William Cotton and a lawyer.

COTTON Get away from my son!

Roscoe unlocks the cell.

JOHNNY What's going on?

ROSCOE He's being released to his father. (re Cotton) He got a court order dismissing Darryl's confession as "coerced."

JOHNNY (to Cotton) You can't take him out of here.

COTTON The hell I can't. Get out of my way.

As Darryl throws him a last look before being led out...

97 INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY

Johnny wanders in looking a little dazed. Bruce and Dana cross to him...

DANA What happened?

JOHNNY His father got him released. They're taking him out now.

BRUCE Good luck getting him out of here. Purdy decided to end his march outside. 97

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/10/05 - YELLOW 53.

97 CONTINUED:

Johnny sees the baggie of Darryl's possessions, apparently left behind. He quickly reaches for the keys... WHOOSH --

- 98 POV VISION FLASH DARRYL TURNS AS HE'S BEING CONDUCTED 98 THROUGH A THICK CROWD... AS HE'S SUDDENLY HIT BY TWO BULLETS
- 99 RESUME JOHNNY GRABS BRUCE

JOHNNY

C'mon!

100 EXT. SHERIFF'S STATION - PARKING LOT - DAY

Roscoe conducts the Cottons and their lawyer through the CROWD of students, congregants, and townspeople filling the parking lot. Many hold BIBLES, others SIGNS with the word "Hate" in a circle with a slash through it. But the peaceful attitude is marred by random shouts of "murderer!" and "racist!" as Darryl is led past.

101 JOHNNY AND BRUCE

Exit the building. Johnny scans the crowd, sees Darryl halfway across the lot, and starts after him --

ALTERNATING TRACKING AND POV SHOTS

as Johnny shoulders his way through the crowd, which seems to be growing more hostile, meanwhile trying to keep his eye on Darryl. Bruce follows in his wake.

> JOHNNY Excuse me... Sorry...

Suddenly, he sees someone else in the crowd -- <u>Josh Blake</u>. Looking nervous, holding an anti-hate sign with one hand, his other hand in a bulging coat pocket. Johnny instantly gets the picture.

> JOHNNY It's Blake. He's here to shoot

Darryl, shut him up before he can recant his confession. (a quick decision) I'll go after him, you warn Darryl.

They split up, making their separate ways through the

(CONTINUED)

97

101

99

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/10/05 - YELLOW 54.

101 CONTINUED:

singing and at times jeering crowd.

JOHNNY

Rushes up behind Josh Blake, but when he grabs his shoulder, spinning him around, it turns out to be another young man holding a sign. Johnny looks around quickly, spots Josh having moved to another vantage. He's already drawing his gun, but he's too far away for Johnny to reach. Instead he shouts to --

JOHNNY

Bruce!

BRUCE turns... sees Johnny pointing to Josh, who's leveling his gun. Bruce rushes the rest of the way toward Darryl, brushing past a surprised Roscoe, then shoving Cotton aside and tackling Darryl, shielding the surprised young racist with his body as a GUNSHOT whizzes over them...

JOSH

Still aiming, trying to draw a bead on Darryl. The moment of hesitation allows Johnny to tackle him, knocking his arm up and causing another shot to go wild. They both go down as the panicked crowd scatters. Josh struggles as Johnny pins him down --

> JOHNNY It's over Josh. I <u>know</u>.

> > DISSOLVE TO:

102 OMITTED

103 A SHORT TIME LATER

Johnny, Walt, Bruce and Purdy watch as deputies cuff Josh and take him inside. The crowd has mostly dispersed, but the press remains in force, kept back behind barriers.

> WALT You saved a life today, John. (eyes Bruce) You both did.

103

102

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

One dead boy. Two more who'll be tried for murder. I'm not sure we can call that a victory.

PURDY It's... confusing, isn't it?

The others turn to him. We see he's also deeply troubled.

PURDY

You think you recognize the face of hatred, then you look in a mirror and wonder if you see it staring back at you. (tries to explain) The thought that a young man like Josh Blake could be moved to hate and fear his own nature because of his faith, then to lash out at others...

BRUCE

Or how about Darryl Cotton, trying to be a "good" son, even if that meant hating and killing?

Purdy looks around at the scattered, stricken bystanders... the press trucks and reporters.

PURDY

This town needs to heal. It's a time for reflection... and prayer.

JOHNNY And how do you do that, Gene? How do you just "pray" that things get better?

At first Purdy thinks it's another jibe. Then he realizes Johnny's serious.

PURDY You start by asking that question.

As he moves off, Johnny turns to see Dana doing a standup not far away. The two exchange a look, then Dana turns back to her cameraman...

104 INT. SMITH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

104

Johnny comes in from the foyer, reacts to find Dana sitting on his couch, fiddling with a set of keys.

(CONTINUED)

DANA

I never did return these.

JOHNNY

Thanks.

DANA

I took a cab in case you're worried that my camera crew's lurking around the corner. (rising) We're completely off the record.

A little time has allowed Johnny some regrets.

JOHNNY I was pretty hard on you, wasn't I?

DANA You're even harder on yourself. But I forgive you. (beat) I just wanted to say goodbye.

She walks close and kisses him gently and lingeringly.

DANA

Goodbye.

She starts to walk away.

JOHNNY

Dana...? (when she turns) It was good seeing you.

Dana cocks a hip, studies him with that familiar knowing smile.

DANA Sometimes I think you're carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. If you ever want to lighten the load, you know where to reach me.

Johnny nods, then watches her exit. Off his expression, a mixture of affection and regret...

STORMTROOP 12 (V.O.) I say it's crap!

Once again we're watching --

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/12/05 - GOLD 57.

105 A SERIES OF COMPUTER SCREENS, VARIOUS HANDS TYPING

(Art note: see Addendum B for typed format of chat room dialogue in Scenes 104-105)

STORMTROOP 12 (O.S.) Now they're claiming some faggot church boy killed that raghead.

BLITZKRIEG GAL (O.S.) Don't believe the media. Just remember who owns it.

STORMTROOP 12 (O.S.) Yeah, I <u>know</u> our boy did it.

A new voice, a new pair of typing hands, joins in.

O.C. SKIN (O.S.) Pardon my jumping in but can I add my voice to the choir?

BLITZKRIEG GAL (O.S.) Welcome to the fold, O.C. How's the weather out there?

O.C. SKIN (O.S.) Sunny and warm. A perfect day to start a war.

BLITZKRIEG GAL (O.S.) Amen to that, brother man. RaHoWa!

STORMTROOP 12 (O.S.)

RaHoWa!

And as the youthful voices of hate fade...

FADE OUT.

105

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END

DEAD ZONE: "Articles of Faith" - ACT FOUR - 5/12/05 - GOLD 58.

ADDENDUM A (Typed messages for Scenes 1-4)

SEATTLE KORPS: Anybody hear about this "colorful" little incident in LA? A bunch of black kids shouting BLACK POWER beat the CRAP out of two white high school geeks... and the cops refuse to classify it as a bias crime. Talk about double standards.

BLITZKRIEG GAL: TANJ seattle korps. when r people gonna learn that racism ain't just a 'white thang'? time to pick a side cause rahowa is coming!!! :[]

STORMTROOP 12: Yo, yo Seattle Korps. Where u been dude?

SEATTLE KORPS: Feels like "The Twilight Zone" but the yokels call it Maine. My Dad, in his infinite wisdom, decided to ditch the Pacific Northwest. "Make a new start."

BLITZKRIEG GAL: must b some local skins u can hang with :)

SEATTLE KORPS: Yeah, only now he's threatening to ship me to military school. You believe it?

STORMTROOP 12: LABATYD, my brother. Still, lethal skills may come in handy. Like Blitz says, the War's coming.

ADDENDUM B

(Typed messages for Scenes 104-105)

STORMTROOP 12: I say it's CRAP!!! Now they're claiming some faggot church boy killed that raghead.

BLITZKRIEG GAL: don't believe the media. just remember who owns it.

STORMTROOP 12: Yeah, I KNOW our boy did it!

O.C. SKIN: PMJI but can I add my voice to the choir?

BLITZKRIEG GAL: :) welcome to the fold, o.c. how's the weather out there?

O.C. SKIN: Sunny and warm. A perfect day to start a war.

BLITZKRIEG GAL: amen to that brother man. rahowa!

STORMTROOP 12: RAHOWA!!!

105 CONTINUED: (2)

CINUED: (2)	105
<u>ADDENDUM C</u> (Cotton's full speech, Scenes 4-7)	*
(cotton s full speech, scenes 4 /)	
COTTON	*
One cannot understand intolerance without understanding its roots, and its roots lie in fear and ignorance. Nowhere is this clearer than in the chasm that the terrible events of 9/11 opened between Muslims and Christians, a chasm we've just begun to bridge. It	*
wasn't Muslims who crashed those planes, but extremists who abandoned the central tenets of their faith: peace and love	
the same values we cherish.	
(beat)	*
These were not men bent on a holy	*
task on behalf of a vengeful deity, but lost souls who had forgotten	*
the true dictates of their own	*
sacred text, the Koran. Just as	*
we Christians say, "thou shalt	*
not kill," so the Koran teaches	*
that God has sanctified life, and	*
that it is a sin to take it.	*
This is important, because if we can keep in mind the beliefs we	*
share, then we can learn to	*
understand our differences. And	*
with that understanding comes	*
another: There should never be	*
another excuse for Muslims and	
Christians to go to war.	4
(beat) There are those in the Muslim	*
world who would say that we in	*
the West have embarked on another	*
crusade. There are other voices	*
within our own society that would	*
argue the opposite: that it is	*
Islam that seeks to remake the	*
world in its own image, and is therefore a threat that must be	*
contained or destroyed. In both	*
cases, these are arguments born	*
of fear, a fear that in turn is	*
the result of ignorance. A general	*
will say "know your enemy"; I say	*
"know your fellow man." Know his	*
words, and the meaning of those words. A word, for example, such	*
as "Jihad."	*
(MORE)	

105

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COTTON (CONT'D) Most of you assume that it means a "holy war" against infidels. But a true Muslim scholar will argue that it refers not to an external struggle but to an inner one -- a struggle for This "holy war" enlightenment. isn't one we need to fear, but rather one we need to share in. Share in as we question the depth of our own religious convictions. Share in as we ask ourselves how far we're willing to go to banish fear and ignorance and replace them with acceptance and understanding? (beat)

"How far?" I ask you now. "How far?" you should ask yourselves, as well as your neighbors, your family, friends and loved ones. (beat)

For if in the end we can face the demons that lurk in our heart, then we can look into a stranger's heart and see not a reflection of our own fear, but instead a kindred soul, beloved of God, as we all are. I ask you, my friends, let us join our hands and bridge this chasm together. Banish the darkness that once threatened to claim us and embrace the light. (beat)

If I can leave you with one word it is this: tolerance. Let each of us embrace it. Thank you.

END OF ADDENDA