

Romney's religion

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They say that the Christmas season is a time for miracles. I have one I'd like to report.

On Dec. 10, in the opinion section of this newspaper, Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer said something I agree with ("Huckabee's religion card," Commentary): He said that religious affiliation has nothing to do with one's qualifications to be president.

The catalyst for his observation, which we progressive/liberal types hold to be constitutionally obvious, was Mitt Romney's recent and highly publicized defense of his being a Mormon. Romney's appearance at Texas A&M to assuage religious bigotry recalled a similar act by John F. Kennedy nearly 50 years ago. In both cases, the audience being appealed to was the same: Christian fundamentalists.

I suspect that Romney's speech had as much to do with politics as it did with personal conviction. As one of the Republican presidential candidates, he has been overtaken in the Iowa polls by Mike Huckabee, a man who unabashedly appeals to Christian conservatives by constantly reminding them that he is a "Christian leader." To which Krauthammer (and every liberal I know) has said: "So what?"

One could reasonably hope that in 50 years we might have evolved to a point where defending one's religious beliefs in order to run for office was unthinkable. But then that would require an evolution of thinking among a religious bloc that doesn't believe in evolution.

I hope all the Romney supporters out there can find solace in the irony.

Tom Liston
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