



News-Journal/MARK PEARLMAN

Court TV anchor Catherine Crier discusses legal issues Saturday with her audience at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach. The forum will be broadcast Friday on WNDB from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Court TV anchor Crier offers her own verdicts

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**DAYTONA BEACH** — The Texas mother accused of drowning her five children is a "Froot Loop" who should not be executed if found guilty.

So says Catherine Crier, former Texas judge and the signature anchor on Court TV, who was the guest at a town hall forum Saturday sponsored by WNDB radio.

Crier, 47, also a former anchor on the CNN and Fox News cable networks as well as an Emmy-winning reporter for ABC's "20-20," was direct in answering a number of questions posed by radio host Marc Bernier and several of the 250 people in the audience at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Asked about O.J. Simpson, whom she has met and interviewed, she responded emphatically, "Of course, he did it."

Regarding the unending interest in Gary Condit and Jon-Benet Ramsey, Crier said, "We love mysteries and scandals."

As for the Texas woman, Andrea Yates, whose trial is being aired by Court TV, Crier said she believes the jury will find her guilty and sentence her to life in prison. Personally, she said, she believes Yates is insane and should be sent to a psychiatric hospital instead of prison.

Crier, the host of Court TV's "Catherine Crier Live," said she doesn't believe there will be a trial for John Walker Lindh, the 20-year-old American captured in Afghanistan while fighting

alongside the Taliban and al-Qaida forces when he was captured.

"There's certainly enough evidence for a plea deal and he'll probably get 10 years," she said. "I think the government is very uncomfortable with putting an American on trial."

Profiling on the basis of race or religion is appropriate in the case of national security, she said, as long as a criteria is followed. "It would be stupid not to check out student pilots wanting to train how to fly an airplane," but she added, profiling where a whole class of people are simply targeted is wrong.

One audience member asked about the appropriateness of a judge sealing the autopsy photos of NASCAR racing champion Dale Earnhardt, killed on the last lap of the 2001 Daytona 500, and later legislation approved by state officials that prohibits the public from viewing or copying autopsy photos, which had been the right of Floridians.

There were chuckles in the audience when Bernier pointed out that Circuit Judge Joseph Will, who ruled that the Earnhardt photos be sealed, was in the audience. Also in attendance were Circuit Judges William C. Johnson Jr., S. James Foxman, J. David Walsh and County Court Judge Steve deLaroche.

"It should be left with the medical and legal fields," Crier said. "That's where it belongs."

The forum with Crier will be broadcast from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday on WNDB.