

For many, beliefs provide little comfort

Murray said he has thought about both sides. He has thought about the family and about the government's role. And ultimately, he said, until he has been in the room with Schiavo, until he has met her and seen her condition with his own eyes, certainty will remain elusive.

"People are always revising their beliefs based on what they know at the time," Shusterman said.

So black and white melt to gray.