**NOPE, NEVER WRONG**

**I thought that was a great speech. However, he did not delve into the difficult area of trying to explain:**

**Why are these people so mentally fucked up?**

**This is where psychologists, philosophers, and neuroscientists need to work together to try to figure out what the hell is wrong with the Conservative/Religious mind.**

**We've all experienced the utter frustration that results from defeating an opponent's argument with irrefutable evidence only to have them cross their arms and reply "Nope, ain't buyin' it."**

**When they lose, and all of their logical fallacies, distraction techniques, and lies have been exposed or demolished, they simply retreat to the ego defense mechanism of denial.**

**Unlike a chess tournament, they aren't forced to play by the rules. They have one rule and one rule only: never, ever, under any circumstances ... admit defeat.**

**They believe that as long as they refuse to surrender that they are still alive. To them, truth is meaningless. The *only* thing that matters is winning (or being right).**

**To say it is ego is fairly accurate, but too vague. What is it about their egos that prevents them from admitting defeat?**

**These people truly have a severe mental illness. They may be, and quite often are, well-educated. But there is something really, really wrong with their cerebral wiring. That is not to say that it is necessarily in their hardware (genes) but may be in their software (environment and experience). Most likely it is a combination of both.**

**This defect may arise from a primordial form of aggression to dominate and not-be-dominated. Over time humans have developed both healthy and unhealthy ego defense mechanisms to help them cope with the demands of living in a society. Denial is considered to be a pathological ego defense mechanism.**

**Religion is obviously one way to screw up any decent brain; political ideology is another. This mental illness has spread like a cancer through the vast majority of humanity, and helps explain why we live in a world dominated by war, murder, stealing, lying, etc. So, what can we do about it?**

**It can't be ignored because the effects of this illness destroys the lives of countless humans. No matter what the odds, we have no choice but to fight back. But how?**

**If I knew the answer to that one ... we could all go home.**

**In the meantime, we have to hit them from every angle, and with everything we have. That means using all means of attack from accommodation and compassion, to using a sledgehammer. There is no magic, one-answer-fits-all solution. We don't know what will work on whom, so we go in with the army, navy, air force, and marines.**

**Even hard cases sometimes crack. Two of the most influential hosts on The Atheist Experience cable TV show are Tracie Harris and Matt Dillahunty. Tracy was a proselytizing evangelical and Matt actually studied in seminary. Now both are very logical, dedicated warriors for reason.**

**Quitting is not an option ... and neither is delay.**