

Reader's Forum

Split between science, religion not inherent

By TOM BOZEMAN

Certainly one of the most frightening things that our educators have done to our society was exhibited in Thursday's Battalion. Even the title of the article "Science vs. Religion" communicates the thought that science and religion are archenemies, vying ruthlessly for the domains of men's minds.

A sinister shift in the philosophical groundwork of our institutions of higher learning has allowed science to be pitted against religion, but in former years, such was never the case. Such a confrontation is completely fabricated by men who wish to make science the only source of truth; totally contrary to its beginnings.

At a very early age, we were all taught that science fights with facts, far superior than religion's weapon, faith (or, "believing in what you know ain't sol"). The introduction of the article itself pitted a seemingly liberal-minded free-thinking astronomer against the insipid dogmatic church, and the astronomer won; predictably the American readers say, he dealt with truth whereas the church dealt in superstition.

This blighted view which has sprung forth most militantly since Darwin published his Origin of the Species does not

bear up well under the evidence. The fathers of science were staunch Christians, and their trust in God as Creator and Sustainer of all things was their starting point scientifically and was what motivated them to develop the scientific method and systematically study the universe He lovingly entrusted to them. They did not separate science from faith, but saw them as congruous; working together to reveal truth about God.

Had they not been completely convinced that a rational and eternal personal God put together things in a logical order (as is affirmed throughout Scripture) then no meaningful answers could be formulated as to its functioning. Some specific examples of these men follow.

Galileo is championed as a free spirit who brought "religion" tumbling down with his liberal inquiry. Nothing could be further from the truth! He did labor against the Roman Catholic conception of the universe, that the earth is in the center of the universe, but this view is Aristotle's, not the Bible's. Galileo was persecuted by the Church for contradicting Aristotle's theories, which somehow had become integrated into their dogma. He was also persecuted by them for holding the Bible to be

the absolute authoritative Word of God. He wrote widely on theological concerns, as well as scientific ones, and had many works published in Geneva, one of the centers of the Reformation. A representative quote is, "The Holy Scriptures and nature are both produced by the word of God." However, it is a representation he fails to receive today.

Robert Boyle was perhaps the most influential person to the development of modern experimental science. He systematized the scientific method into the powerful means of investigation that we now know. He is called the father of modern chemistry. "Boyle's Law" is still taught exactly as he formulated it. Yet his stated purpose for scientific investigation was to demonstrate the reasonableness and harmony of Scripture and natural laws and principles. So deeply was he concerned about the Scriptures that he learned Hebrew, Aramaic and Syriac to read it in the original tongues. Far more of his writing was theological in nature rather than scientific.

Michael Faraday and James Clerk Maxwell laid the groundwork for Einstein to develop his astounding theories. Faraday linked energy and matter as well as discov-

ering electrolysis. Maxwell developed mathematics of Electromagnetism and scribed the nature of electromagnetic radiation. Maxwell had a habit of reading the Scripture with his wife and, if at home, would write to her discussing the passage of the day. Faraday was a preacher at a London church. His sermons on the doctrines of Biblical Christianity constantly affirming the existence and power of the God of the Bible. The work of Faraday's that has been published, his sermons still sit in a box, and forgotten.

A brief discussion of 5 men of science who built their scientific careers on the foundation of a God who revealed Himself definitively through both the Scripture and nature is not proof for the existence of God. But it does show that "warfare" between science and faith was unknown before the late nineteenth century. What is important to these men was not their coveries but that they had a personal relationship with the God who created the universe in a knowledgeable order and allowed them the wonder and privilege of understanding it.

Tom Bozeman is a senior biochemist major and president of the Intercollegiate Christian Fellowship



OPINION

Final Review gives feeling of joy, remorse

Final Review is just around the corner for the 1980-81 Corps of Cadets.

Another senior class will leave, another junior class will take over.

The time will be as exhilarating for the juniors as it is depressing for the seniors. Some seniors say they're excited, relieved and glad to get out of this place.

Yet mixed with the joy is at least a slight twinge of regret at the prospect of leaving.

For those who haven't been to a Final Review, it's an experience. It's a celebration, not only for the new commanders just gaining their responsibilities, but also for the seniors who have worked for four years.

Most of all, it's a celebration of the Corps. The sense of continuity, of preserving traditions, somehow overshadows the ceremony.

If the spirit of the Corps could speak, it would no doubt say, with a sense of finality, "I'm still here ... you're leaving."

— Dillard Stone

Carter keeping tradition of political refugee aid

President Carter is to be commended for deciding to admit up to 3,500 of the 10,800 Cubans who have jammed the Peruvian Embassy grounds in Havana seeking asylum and resettlement abroad.

That this rubs salt in the sensitivities of the Fidel Castro dictatorship is just that much of a bonus. But the United States should always stand ready to admit political refugees. The nation's record with political refugees as valuable, hard-working additions to the citizenry has been quite good, especially the 800,000 who have fled Castro's Cuba since 1959.

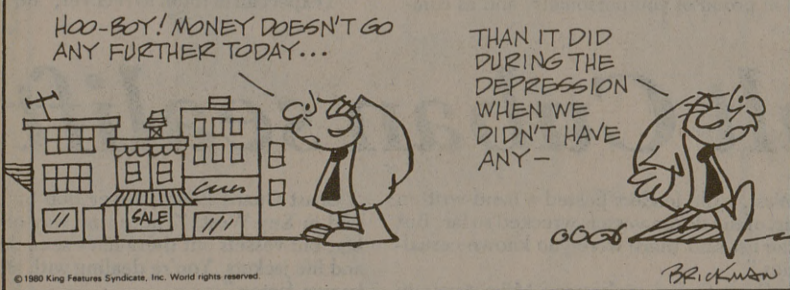
Certainly the incident is a most severe black eye for the Castro "paradise on earth." Angered that the Peruvian Embassy was harboring some Cubans, Castro decided to teach Peru a lesson. He removed Cuban guards from the embassy compound and announced the refugees were free to leave Cuba if they could obtain foreign entry visas.

But the lesson backfired. Within a few hours 10,500 people crowded into the embassy grounds before Castro slammed shut the gate. Reporters found that many had economic reasons. Despite \$8 million a day in Soviet aid, economic crises bring constant deprivation for the ordinary Cuban family.

Concern for those seeking political refuge is in the best American tradition.

the small society

by Brickman



Window

Lobby's ratings based on morals, not politics

By STEVE GERSTEL

WASHINGTON — That ever-increasingly popular game in the nation's capital — rating the members of Congress — has finally reached its extreme.

A national political lobby, claiming to represent the Christian community, has anointed itself as the arbiter of congressional morals.

Not morals in the accepted sense of the word. Rather morality based on selected votes during the 1979 session.

This organization calls itself "Christian Voice."

Its legislative director, Gary L. Jarmin, grandly proclaims, "With this rating, Christians will for the first time now have the opportunity to judge the voting performances of their elected representatives on important moral issues."

Although "Christian Voice" claims to represent the Christian community, it is rather evidently an undisguised conserva-

tive lobby, with some indications that it might be on the right fringes.

Americans for Constitutional Action, which prides itself on conservatism, almost certainly would come up with similar ratings.

For instance, the senators with perfect scores — William Armstrong, Paul Laxalt, Gordon Humphreys and Jesse Helms — are among the most conservative in Congress.

Those with zeros — too many to list — are all liberals.

The ratings are based on all issues — abortion, balanced budget, busing, school prayer, and "forced unionization" among others — on which ideologue conservatives brook no dissent.

"Christian Lobby" also has a unique concept of what constitutes a moral vote, as opposed to an immoral or amoral ballot.

According to this organization, it was moral to vote for an amendment to commit the United States to defend Taiwan, no

matter what, and it was equally moral to vote for ending sanctions against Rhodesia.

Unfortunately for "Christian Voice," a majority of senators, probably assuming in their immoral way of thinking that these were foreign policy issues, voted wrong.

It was also moral to vote against creation of the Department of Education, therefore presumably immoral or amoral to vote for it.

A strong reason to oppose the department, according to "Christian Voice," was because it was backed by the National Education Association, "a national union of school teachers which espouses a radical, secular-humanist philosophy, supports forced school busing, sex education and opposes school prayer."

President Carter is probably the country's best known "born-again Christian," was not rated. But he was on the nonmoral side on at least five of the 14 votes by which members of Congress were rated.

What is most strange about these self-

proclaimed moralists is their seeming lack of interest in morals, as generally defined.

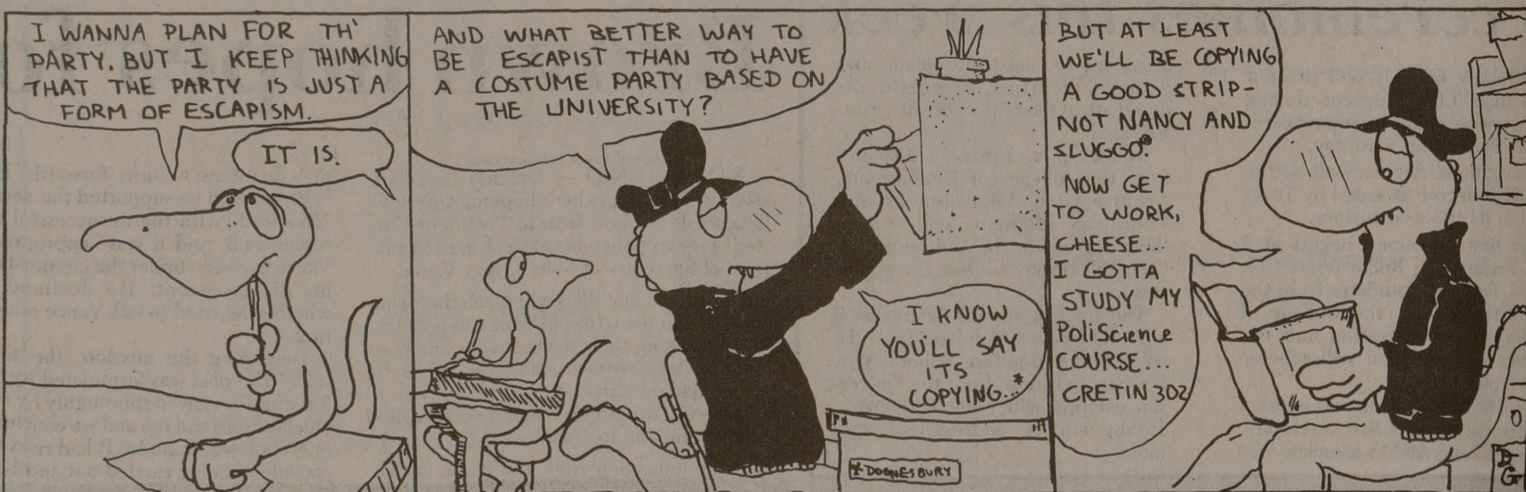
Jarmin is quoted as saying that the ratings "will have a dynamic effect toward influencing how Christians will vote in November elections."

Presumably then, "Christian Voice" wants a solid vote from the Christian community for Rep. Richard Kelly, R-Fla., who appears to be deeply involved in the Abscam scandal.

Sen. Herman Talmadge, D-Ga., who got about half the Christian vote based on his 50 percent rating although he was "demmed" by colleagues for a series of deeds, and Rep. Charles Wilson, D-Ga., who wound up with 42 percent, is also charged before the House on a series of charges.

Ratings like the "Christian Voice" are extremely dangerous because they give the impression that religion and morals are the issues — not politics, which is the case.

THOTZ



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