

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



EARLE
11-12-80

"I've often wondered what would happen at the gate if a book wasn't properly checked out."

Reagan, courts causing fears about church-state separation

By DAVID E. ANDERSON
United Press International

Recent trends in federal court decisions on church-state issues are causing some anxious moments for believers in the strict separation of church and state.

The outcome of the November election did nothing to ease those fears.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, in a report compiled before the election, said it saw the "high wall of separation" being "breached with increasing frequency."

And the success of Republican Ronald Reagan as well as election of a number of conservative Republicans to the Senate is likely to increase legislative efforts aimed at restoring prayer to the public schools, banning abortion and aiding non-public schools — all issues vital to the separationists.

According to the ADL survey, separation of church and state is being weakened both by court rulings and by local government actions.

Kenneth J. Bialkin, chairman of the ADL's national executive committee, said the survey showed "a disturbing trend of officially instituted religious activity in the nation's public schools which violates the constitutional rights of persons who do not wish to participate in such religious practices."

Religion is treated in two parts of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Those two parts prohibit Congress from making any law which would establish a religion or which would prohibit the free exercise of religion.

According to the ADL survey, both the Establishment clause and the Free Exercise clause are under attack.

Establishment issues are focused particularly around the nation's public schools and Bialkin said the encroachment of religious activities in the school was caused by the growth of more conservative attitudes in the public at large as well as the well-organized efforts by some Christian evangelicals to inject religious practices into public institutions.

At the local level, according to the survey, some judges appear to be willing to accommodate perceived community desires on such issues as school prayer "even though constitutional principles may be eroded in the process."

He said "voluntary" school prayer legislation has been introduced in several states, including Florida, Ohio, Kentucky and Arizona.

Other areas of concern involving the establishment clause, he said, include:

—A U.S. court ruling upholding the practice of religious holidays, including Christmas, at public schools.

—The increasing use of Bible courses, which the ADL said were often veiled teachings of Christian doctrine.

—The Supreme Court and other opening the door to public funding of parochial schools by permitting direct aid and legislation for parents of parochial school children.

In the free exercise area, the ADL said most of the pressure on church-state action involved the rights of Sabbatarians who observe the Sabbath on Saturdays.

It singled out Fairfax County, Va., refused, with court concurrence, to accommodate two Jewish girls, both valedictorians, who were unable to attend their high school graduation on a Saturday because their observance forbade it.

The survey noted a growing understanding of the nation of an "insensitivity of the government towards those whose religious beliefs — beliefs — differ from their own" and the ADL "uneasy" about the future.

Overeating compulsion confronted with OA

I am happy and very glad to be alive. My days are not always this high, but they usually are this hopeful. This is a direct result of my involvement with Overeater's Anonymous.

I came to OA, like a lot of people, because I was overweight and nothing seemed to be working anymore. My weight, my eating, the way I looked had become an obsession. I was living in the myth of the magic number — that when I reached my goal weight, life would have meaning and I would feel worthwhile.

Through childhood I had always felt "not right" about the way I looked. I always felt "fat" even though, I can see in pictures now, that I really wasn't. But looking back I discovered that I might not have had a weight problem then, but I certainly had an eating problem which eventually drove me to become a compulsive overeater.

Food meant more to me than to my peers. Even then I was equating food to happiness. Then it was my candy that I connived from my playmate and stashed for a later time. (I was not a good stasher because just knowing that it was around eventually drove me to gobble it down as if someone would take it away from me.)

I gave food power. It "made" me happy, acceptable and durable. It was my ace in the hole when times were bad. It was my companion when I was lonely. It made my good times better.

But somewhere during that love affair with food and eating, I lost control and the affair became a compulsion.

I had normal days after that — days when I was not consciously aware that I was controlled by food. I was even able to diet and deny myself the "goodies" for weeks and even months. During these times I would feel in control. I felt good about myself. I looked and acted like a "normie." And then it would hit again. Like a preying lion, it would sometimes pounce and I would step off the scale, pleased with my effort, and immediately head for the kitchen to "reward" myself.

Sometimes it was subtle — a good time on Saturday, but rigorously back in control on Sunday or nervous nibbling days on "free" vegetables. But regardless of how it started, it progressed and ended the same way — bingeing, feelings of guilt, followed by more bingeing, followed by days of promising myself to "start Tomorrow," followed by hopelessness, followed by more bingeing until I reached the point where I couldn't take it any more and I went back on a diet, and the cycle began again.

I came to OA looking for a diet. I'm still in it

Reader's Forum

after three years because it is teaching me how to live without my compulsion, one day at a time. I am the happiest than I can remember. And, yes, I am thin.

There are no scales, no dues, or fees in OA. The program is based on AA's 12 steps of recovery. The 12 steps give me direction, but it's up to me to make them a part of my daily living. I learn to do this by listening and sharing with others. At the meetings, I am free to say what I really feel without fear of being kicked out.

I'm not given advice, rather the others share how they might have worked out my particular difficulty and I am allowed and encouraged to take what I can use and let go of the rest.

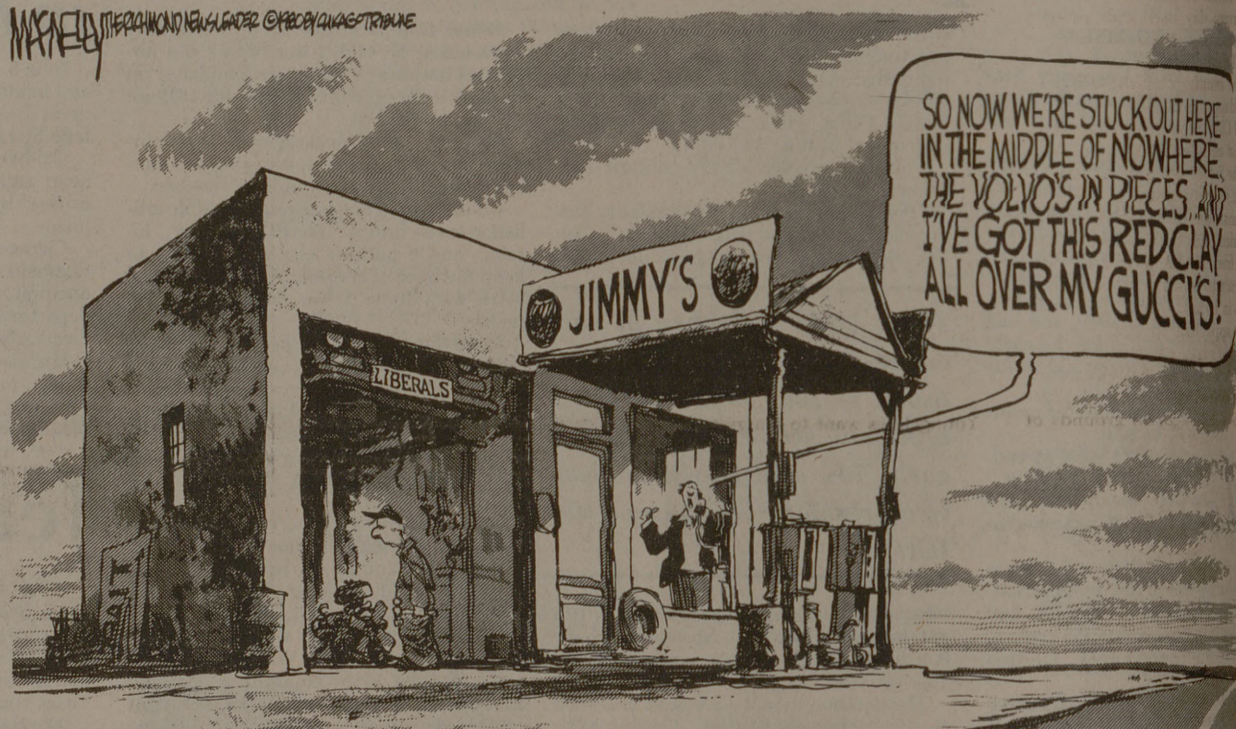
I can laugh or cry, speak or remain quiet. Because of anonymity, I can let go of the fear that the part of me that emerged during the meeting, will not be gossiped about in or out of the program. Principles before personalities is the 12th tradition.

I love my sisters and brothers in OA. We come from all walks of life, all ages, all sizes, and all colors. Our compulsion has driven some of us to become overweight, anorexic, or compulsive vomiters. Some of us have been involved in OA for years and some of us have just walked in the door. Regardless, we all belong. We all have tried to use food to deal with living. We are all trying to learn to live one day at a time — fully, joyfully and free from our compulsion.

There are two OA meetings in the Bryan/College Station area:
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Faith United Church of Christ
Education Building
2402 S. College Avenue
Bryan

Saturdays, 9 a.m.
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The White House
902 Jersey St.
College Station
For further information call 696-7949.

Editor's note: The Battalion does not normally accept unsigned editorial material. However, due to the nature of the material presented here, the request to withhold the writer's name was honored.



It's your turn

Moses challenge gets more workers

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Aston Hall for accepting the Moses Hall challenge. We challenged any dorm to put up a keg of beer, the winner being the dorm with the most people out cutting for bonfire Saturday and Sunday. Either the other dorms did not hear of our challenge or did not wish to accept. Anyway, the contest resulted in a big bonus for bonfire with Aston having around 100 people and Moses with 110 for the weekend.

The contest was a minor thing compared to the big push for wood to build bonfire. The weekend helped bring in wood badly needed to make a good bonfire this year. Davis Gary turned out big Saturday, loading trucks, while dorms like Dunn and Hart did not always have the larger turnouts but were able to pull their weight with the hard-assed men they brought out.

The non-reg turnout was pretty good this year doing their share in cutting for Bonfire. Although I am not familiar with the Corps units, I know that Squadron 6 really put out Saturday and Sunday, loading trucks.

With the combined efforts of the Corps and non-regs we can Build the Hell Outta Bonfire.

Kevin Cockerline
Moses Yellowpot

Photo misinterpreted

Editor:

I would like to call your attention to a possible misinterpretation in your front page photo of bicycle parking in the November 6 issue of the Battalion. If you had shown a picture of the complete entry area of Heldenfels Hall with signs on each side having arrows and access for handicapped, you would have found the designated entry area free (or nearly so) of any bicycles.

Your picture suggests that students have ignored our "Please" signs, whereas nearly all students have complied with our request to keep the specific entry way open.

Many visitors from other universities have been astounded by the spirit of cooperation of our Aggies. I think your picture has done an injustice to the vast majority of students, whose splendid cooperation is most appreciated.

Rod O'Connor

Leaving with thanks

Editor:

This is a difficult letter for me to write four years with the Texas A&M Police Department, I want to take this opportunity to my thanks to the University community cooperation and understanding that I received from the students, faculty and staff course of my duties as a Police Officer of Texas A&M Police Department. This affirms the true Aggie Spirit that makes our university outstanding.

I would like to thank each of you individually but time is so short.

I have accepted a position with a Police Department closer to my home, but I remains at Texas A&M.

Good Luck to each and every one of you.

Detective Jo Anna
Criminal Investigator
Texas A&M Police Dept.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

MEMBER

Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor Dillard Stone
Managing Editor Rhonda Watters
Asst. Managing Editor Scott Haring
City Editor Becky Swanson
Asst. City Editor Angelique Copeland
Sports Editor Richard Oliver
Asst. Sports Editor Ritchie Priddy
Focus Editor Scott K. Meyer
Asst. Focus Editor Cathy Southhoff
News Editors Lynn Blanco
Gwen Ham, Todd Woodard
Staff Writers Jennifer Afferbach, Kurt Allen,
Nancy Andersen, Marcy Boyce, Jane G. Brust,
Mike Burrichter, Pat Davidson, Cindy Gee,
Jon Heidtke, Uschi Michel-Howell, Debbie Nelson,
Liz Newlin, Rick Stolle
Cartoonist Scott McCullar
Photo Editor Pat O'Malley
Photographers George Dolan,
Jeff Kerber

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial should be directed to the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, and make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Letters must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome and subject to the same length constraints as letters. All inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished upon request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it, and reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.