

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"When I stay in bed and take care of myself, I get jumped for cutting class! Now I ask you, are we committed to conserving energy or are we just giving lip service to it?"

Smuggling Bibles behind Iron Curtain

By DAVID E. ANDERSON
United Press International

The severe but not quite total repression of religion in the Soviet Union and other Iron Curtain countries has created a profitable but controversial new business — Bible smuggling.

For many people, engaging in or contributing to Bible smuggling and Bible smuggling groups serves a two-fold purpose: It aids defenders of the faith behind the Iron Curtain and strikes a blow at atheistic communism.

Opponents of the practice, however, claim that the effort hurts the legitimate cause of the church, distorts the role of religion in communist nations and may even bring harm to believers in those lands.

Norman Jameson of Baptist Press, the news agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, recently took a long look at the two sides of the issue.

His conclusion: "It is apparent that while religious oppression in communist countries is a fact, potential contributors to Bible smuggling groups would do well to look beyond the cloak and dagger accounts before committing their money or support."

Jameson estimated that the three largest Bible smuggling groups raised more than \$21 million for their efforts last year, yet most of the groups provide few statistics on how many Bibles or New Testaments they actually illegally distributed in the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe.

One group, Underground Evangelism, said it distributed 281,384 Bibles last year.

At the root of the dispute is the issue of the availability of Bibles in communist nations.

The United Bible Societies, the international Bible printing and distributing agencies, says that it distributed some 13,273,137 Bibles and New Testaments in Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1980.

That figure does not include the estimated hundreds of thousands of Bibles printed within the targeted nations on materials supplied by the United Bible Societies on presses operating legally within the state.

Jameson quotes Alexei Bichow, general secretary of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians — Baptists, the officially recognized Baptist group in the Soviet Union, as saying that every registered Baptist family in Russia has a Bible.

It is impossible to buy a Bible in the Soviet Union because, according to Bichow, they are given freely through the registered churches.

Hungary is another area where the two sides dispute availability.

A 1979 Time magazine report said that the name of anyone who purchases a Bible goes into a government dossier — an assertion disputed by Alice Ball, general secretary of the national division of the American Bible Society.

According to Miss Ball, not only are names not registered but thousands of Bibles are printed in Hungary every year and there is even a Bible store in the middle of Bucharest that offers mail order service.

"We've found over the years by distributing Bibles through proper channels, in the long run it's more successful and we don't jeopardize our position in other parts of the world," she said.

Lutherans are another mainline group that differ with the smugglers.

Paul Hansen, European secretary for the Lutheran World Federation, which includes large numbers of Lutherans in Eastern Europe, said that "anyone in the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia who really wants a Bible can get one."

"To 'smuggle' Bibles into these countries is a demonstration, not a necessity," he said.

N. Viets escalated, not U.S.

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part Guest column giving one man's views of U.S. strategy and costs during the Vietnam War.

By RICHARD S. LE VIEUX

Running through military journals (to say nothing of the civilian sector) are morbid thoughts about the Vietnam War. Even a Marine senior officer such as BGen V.J. Blaz USMC (Ret) refers to this war as one "we failed to win." And recently, Lady Bird Johnson justified the 30,343 Americans killed during her husband's administration as being preferable to the use of nuclear weapons. These kind of thoughts continue to fester, crippling the American Spirit.

This Vietnam morbidity numbs the mind to the realization that every war has two basic and opposed objectives. For the defender: To keep what he has without losing the farm. For the aggressor: To get as much as he can of the other fellow's farm. In 1961, President J.F. Kennedy proclaimed the

Guest

Column

American policy to be preventing Southeast Asia from falling under Communist domination, thereby explicitly accepting the defender's role (as the surrogate of Southeast Asia) with all that it implies.

It should be self-evident that the means employed by the U.S. to effect this policy during the 1961-64 period were successful. Southeast Asia did not fall. In that sense the means were adequate; but they were not efficient (or, in the language of defense analysts, they were not cost-effective.) Now the North Vietnamese had to face facts: quit or escalate. Their decision to escalate

caused us to respond with the insertion of U.S. combat troops to maintain the U.S. commitment. And each time the escalation, the U.S. responded to that escalation. Contrary to popular belief, they the escalating, not us. Given these conditions by the North Vietnamese and the limited responses decreed by policy in Washington, cost proved horrendous in lives and money. The cost in lives and injury (summarized in the table below) confused the American public and initiated the morbid thoughts mentioned above.

Analysis of wars shows that the criteria winning or losing a war are the military war objectives of the parties involved. North Vietnam had failed to achieve its objectives, while we had achieved ours — Asia had not fallen to Communist domination. However, the enemy reasoned that their inexhaustible source of expanding supplies from the Soviet Bloc would pressure them to continue the war until their objectives could be achieved.

YEAR	KILLED	WOUNDED	STRENGTH	CUM KILLED	CUM WOUNDED
Kennedy-Johnson Administrations					
1961-4	267	1,600	23,300	267	1,600
1965	1,369	6,100	184,300	1,636	7,700
1966	5,008	29,500	385,000	6,644	37,200
1967	9,300	62,300	485,600	16,021	99,300
1968	14,589	92,800	536,100	30,610	192,100
Nixon Administration					
1969	9,414	70,200	475,200	40,024	262,300
1970	4,221	30,600	234,600	44,245	292,900
1971	1,381	9,000	156,800	45,626	301,900
1972	300	1,200	24,200	45,926	303,100

It's your turn

How much modification necessary?

Editor:

I read with amazement the letter on handicapped students. While I feel the modification of sidewalks, building entrances and toilet facilities for handicapped persons is an extremely costly but often necessary modification of university facilities, the making of wheelchair ramps is a ridiculous waste of time, manpower and money. Furthermore, with only 10-12 wheelchair students and hundreds of sidewalk intersections on campus, I cannot understand their reluctance to share the wheelchair ramps with bicyclists and skaters.

Secondly, the implication in the article was that classroom facilities and instruction should be modified so that a handicapped individual can attend or enroll in any university course. Should we then modify all chemistry labs, physics labs, engineering labs, animal science and veterinary medicine labs, ad nauseam on the theory that a handicapped student might enroll in these classes? While you may support these ivory tower ideals in theory, are you willing to pay the price in the form of increased taxes and tuition? Where does the University's government's responsibility and obligation to the individual end?

Handicapped individuals are one of many special interest groups. While I'll admit that their needs and interests should probably be of higher priority than that of farm-price supports (payments for growing weeds), or government handouts to mismanaged, inefficient companies like Lockheed, Penn Central or Chrysler, their de-

mands should be considered on a cost-effective basis if the federal budget is to be decreased.

I realize this is an extremely delicate topic and I have undoubtedly provoked the wrath of every Polly Anna, Eagle Boy Scout, Good Samaritan, Jesus Freak, and CT on campus. In case you're wondering, yes I am a "T-sip." When the Corps comes to "get me," I'll be wearing my "I love Ayatollah" t-shirt and singing "The Eyes of Texas."

Roberto Dillow Castaneda, '80

Softball season coming

Editor:

Two-percenters stand up and take notice! Feb. 27th marks the beginning of the Texas A&M women's softball season at Bee Creek Park.

All two-percenters are invited not to attend unless you want to see a real Aggie team win, and win, and win again! Why wait until the end of the season (like the yell leaders do) to show your support of the winningest team in the last three years at Texas A&M? Women's softball, you say, "I didn't even know they had womens team sports at A&M." Well, if this is what you think, then you are not alone as is evi-

denced by the poor turnout at women's basketball, volleyball, etc... (Although you may disguise yourselves as fans at basketball games which precede the men's games, as we know who you are! You show your true colors by not knowing the basketball rules time and time again!) The women can play and do play and they can win!

We were glad to see the softball team a couple of columns in last Tuesday's Battalion but unfortunately even our journalists seem to be in that notorious category previously mentioned. Not only did the picture of Irene Mach appear for the third time in a year, (just how thick are those photo-anything?) but she was again improperly identified as Nancy Sullivan.

Softball fever may be hard to catch but only takes a few exposures before you're in terminal case. Who knows, you may find yourself going on roadtrips to Killdeer, Nacogdoches for a weekend of softball camping, and good times! You could be as extravagant and come out to Bee Creek Park with a picnic basket and an ice chest filled with your favorite beverage. You might find out that the Diamond Drill aren't the only women in uniforms at athletic events.

Rusty and Lisa Rheas

THE BATTALION

MEMBER C S P S 045 360

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 350 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.50 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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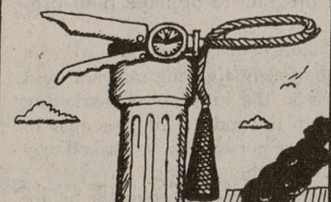
Warped

By Scott McCullar

WELL, WE'VE FINALLY DECIDED THAT WE HAVE SOME GOOD PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE, BUT WE NEED SOME MORE BESIDES THESE THINGS:

NO SMOKING WHO KNOWS WHERE IT MIGHT LEAD

SO HERE ARE SOME POSSIBLE FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION MEASURES OF THE FUTURE: ADAPPTIONS TO THE BLUE WATER TOWER...



ASBESTOS FIRE SUITS COULD BE SOLD IN THE MSC BOOKSTORE FOR STUDENTS WITH CLASSES IN BUILDINGS ABOVE THE 3RD FLOOR...



AND WE MIGHT WANT TO TAKE THE IRONY OUT OF BUILDINGS WITH THESE SIGNS ON THEM...

