

by Scott McCullar

O'Hair questions decision

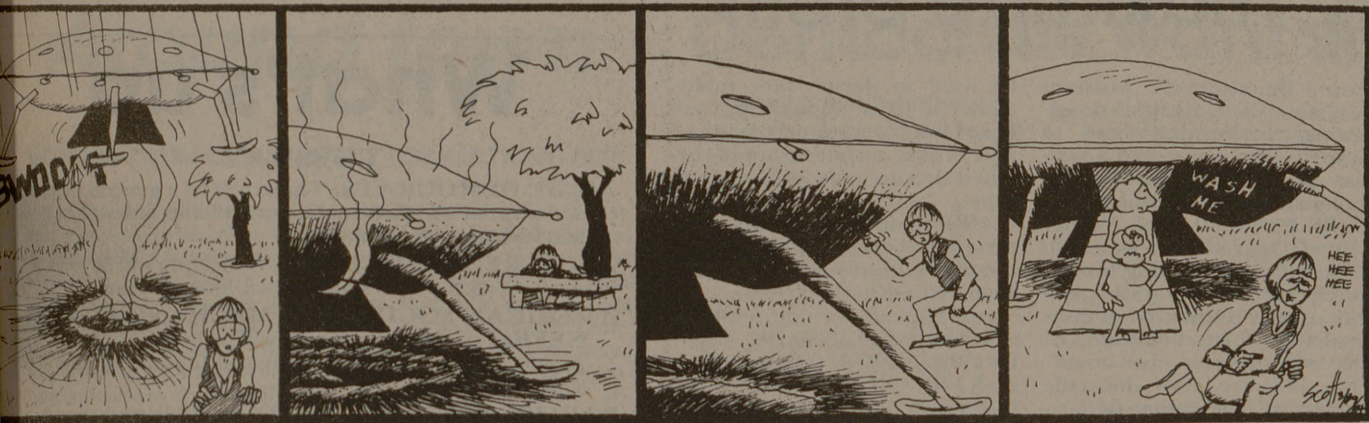
United Press International

AUSTIN — Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair said Monday she would appeal a federal district court ruling upholding the Texas constitution's requirement that all public officials declare a belief in God.

O'Hair filed suit against the state in 1977 seeking to overturn a section of the Texas constitution's bill of rights that mandates anyone who holds public office or a position of public trust to "acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being."

A federal district court in Austin last week upheld the constitutional provision. It based its decision on recent U.S. supreme Court rulings upholding the Nebraska Legislature's practice of opening sessions with prayers and permitting the display of a Christmas nativity scene on public property in Rhode Island.

O'Hair said the recent ruling inferred "agnostics and atheists are unacceptable in the state of Texas."



Emergencies

Assistance can be hindered if victim is combative

SONDRA HOSTETLER
Reporter

Emergency Medical Technicians are trained to administer life support to victims of accidents, but assistance can be hindered if the victim is combative.

David Phillips, chief ambulance operations for Texas A&M, said many incidents involving combative victims occur. The Emergency Medical Service, a division of the Emer-

gency Care Team, sponsors special workshops to teach EMTs and Emergency Care Assistants how to handle a belligerent victim, Phillips said.

Injuries received by a victim because of movement after an accident can be as critical for the victim as the initial injury, so it is important for the EMS members to learn how to control a combative patient quickly, he said.

Some of the techniques

taught in the seminars demonstrate to the EMTs and ECAs how to modify their basic stabilization equipment — splints and bandages — to secure a combative patient and protect him from further injury, Phillips said.

The workshop also includes lectures from a psychologist to familiarize EMTs and ECAs with calming phrases and techniques to soothe a disruptive victim.

The workshops for the EMTs

and ECAs supplement the basic training they receive in bandaging, splinting, taking vital signs, and assessing victims for injuries. EMTs and ECAs are also trained to administer oxygen.

Phillips said instances where a victim is most likely to be combative include internal head injuries, drug and alcohol related instances or mental disturbances.

Students doing research for academic credit

By ERIN PYLE
Reporter

Each year, the undergraduate fellows program at Texas A&M offers qualified students opportunity to conduct independent research for academic credit.

Nick Pace, coordinator of the University Undergraduate Fellows program, says the purpose of the program is to give students a chance to do serious research, discuss their projects with other students and faculty members in the program, and in the United States papers that summarize findings at the program's annual symposium in mid-March. The program is two semesters long in order to give stu-

dents adequate time to complete their research. Pace said some students become so interested in their projects that they spend far more than the required time on them.

To be accepted as an undergraduate fellow, the student must be classified as a senior when the program begins, have a grade point ratio above 3.3 and submit to the University Honors Program Committee a research proposal that has been endorsed by the student's faculty adviser, department head and the college dean.

Applicants must submit proposals during the spring of their junior year. The research proposal should be six pages or less and include a summary of the project, the research meth-

ods the student will use and a budget for equipment and other expenses. Acceptance to the program allows seniors to substitute six credit hours of 485H courses for other courses in their curriculums. Pace said almost any research proposal can be accepted except those dealing with religious topics.

The undergraduate fellows program has 58 participants this year. Students who successfully complete the fellows program are recognized at commencement ceremonies, in their official transcripts and by a certificate. Pace said completion of the program is of great value to students when they seek employment or acceptance to graduate or professional schools.

Waste sites discussed

United Press International

MARILLO — The size of proposed nuclear waste disposal sites in Deaf Smith and other counties have been released in a report to be released Friday, officials said.

The Department of Energy scheduled a 4 p.m. news conference at the downtown Marillo library to discuss sites in two of nine sites being studied as possible locations for the national repository.

The other sites are in Washington, Nevada, Utah, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The repository would store waste from American nuclear power plants and is slated to start operating in 1998.

Eileen Lalham, spokeswoman for the Battelle Institute of Columbus, Ohio, announced the news

conference. The DOE hired Battelle to prepare reports and recommendations on the proposed sites.

Lalham said DOE and Battelle officials also would be in Hereford and Tulia from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday to answer questions from the public.

"They have the same status as far as the other seven sites. The difference is instead of being hundreds of square miles they're much smaller — down to 9 square miles," Lalham said of the revisions in the Panhandle sites.

DOE officials have said the Panhandle locations were selected because of thick salt beds that could be used to store the waste. Opponents of the West Texas sites argue nuclear waste

sites might contaminate an already scarce water supply.

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District based in Lubbock and state Agriculture Secretary Jim Hightower oppose putting the disposal site in the Panhandle.

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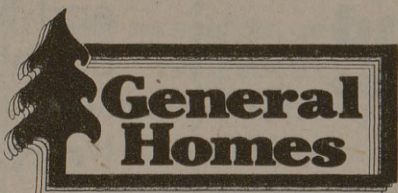
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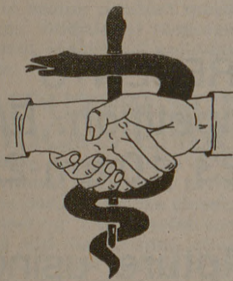
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