

CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

The loving God who has blessed our land and made us a good and caring people should never have been expelled from our nation's classrooms.

Ronald Reagan
Globe and Mail
March 7



I suggest that God shouldn't be allowed in further than the detention room until he cleans up Love Canal and Three Mile Island, and pressure-injects a bit of decency and sense into neanderthals like Jesse Helms and James Watt (to mention just four of the 6,439,622,114 improvements which the US and Americans could use).

Seriously, though, I never could understand the prayer-in-schools issue. True, praying doesn't do any good, because God installed an unlisted number long ago to keep away pests. But if Christians want to try, why not? As an unrepentant infidel I find school prayer perfectly acceptable, providing the Christians don't spend money from taxpayers, who may be Moslem, agnostic, etc., and they don't waste the time of other students. We should allow Christians this much religious freedom, just as we should allow them to obey God's commandment to kill witches (Exodus 22:18), just as long as they don't actually hurt anybody.

But why do Christians want to pray in schools in the first place? I can't for the life of me think of a reason. One can pray anywhere one wants, with pretty much the same results. In fact, Jesus himself was clearly against praying in public places:

Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your father who is in heaven... and when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand in pray in the synagogues and

at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:1, 5-6.

For even better results, I hear that a satellite dish will do wonders.

In the January-February issue of *Alberta Motorist* there is an article on "How the truckers stay awake", about ways to avoid falling asleep at the wheel. They range from getting out of the truck and inspecting the tires (to break the monotony) or taking a short nap, to taking bennies (allegedly less prevalent than rumored) and wearing a "Sleeper-beeper" on the ear which buzzes when the head tilts more than 22 degrees.

Being a taxi-driver working long hours, I was interested in these solutions, and in fact have tried a few different methods myself, from singing songs (useless) to slapping my face (not very good, and I feel silly doing it). Naps and getting out of the car are the best methods, and I suspect the Sleeper-beeper would be pretty good, too.

Quite by accident, however, I found a method that works fairly well while you drive, and unlike the beeper, is free. The solution is to fantasize graphically about sex. Not the act itself, which is much duller to think about than to do, but the preliminaries and foreplay. Something in these anticipatory thoughts triggers an almost instant jolt of adrenalin - perhaps because sex is such a priority activity for the body.

At this point you may say, "So what? Why are you wasting space in a student newspaper telling me this?"

Well, the method has obvious uses in the classroom, where the drone of the professor is often as hypnotic as the hum of tires on asphalt. Not to mention General Faculties Council and Student Council. In such places the buzzing of a beeper would be embarrassing to the speaker, as would be going up to them and checking their tires.

Be forewarned, however: this method will soon be outlawed as a thought-crime under the new criminal code amendments on pornography. And if you try it during a church service, remember to bring along a sturdy lightning rod.

LETTERS

Peace on campus

In response to Garrett Hall's letter of March 8 discussing means "inevitable" destruction:

First of all, who said that the "Christian" point of view on this issue is that "nuclear war is all part of God's divine plan?" Look around you! How many Christian groups, on campus or off, have the attitude: "Well, let's sit back and let it happen, because that's what God wants..." Not any! Most Christian groups are active in the peace issue (on campus try Catholic or Lutheran Campus Ministries, Student Christian Movement, Inter-Varsity Fellowship) and ARE NOT looking forward to man's destruction as a "fulfillment of God's plan."

Christians believe that man was given a responsibility when he inherited the earth (read Genesis 1:26-28). Man, in his imperfection, has not been worthy of this task. The idea that people believe in religion "to justify our destruction" is absurd. I believe, as a Christian, that the only solution to our problem of "inevitable self-destruction" is a spiritual one. A solution full of "hope" and joyful salvation, not one of pessimism, that will bring lasting peace in the coming of our Lord.

Jesus is much more than a man, and He serves more than emotional needs. Read about Him and study Him and you will realize that if we could all follow His example of perfect love, this world, and man, would be rid of the problem of "inevitable destruction." Christians are not pessimists, we want to see a world safe from self-destruction just as much as anybody. Come to a Christian fellowship and see what we really believe!

Yours, in hope, and peace
Richard F.P. Matthews
Arts I

Trudeau the best

The editorial by David R. Merner was a break from the usual Gateway rhetoric and I compliment him on a mainly well written column. I feel though

that I must address it.

The Liberal Party does indeed need a new, fresh, exuberant face on Parliament Hill to carry the party to the next federal election, an election which is by no means going to be one-sided as we have seen the Tories drop from a 20 point lead to a 12 point lead since the P.C. leadership convention.

What upset me the most about Mr. Merner's article was that he would allow a few mistakes near the end of his career overshadow some of his greater accomplishments. The biggest, in direct opposite of what Mr. Merner implies is his dealings with Quebec.

Just as Merner seems to enjoy quoting people I will respond with a quote from noted *Toronto Star* columnist Anthony Westell who says that:

"Without Trudeau or some equally dynamic French-Canadian in Ottawa it's hard to see how the country could have survived the trauma of terrorism, the rise of the Parti-Quebecois or the explosive debate on the referendum on sovereignty association."

Trudeau's arrogance has kept him in the PM's chair for this long because bygones like Stanfield and Clark and even Mr. Spineless himself, Big M, have had tongue lashings that they will never forget.

The legacy Mr. Pierre Elliot Trudeau leaves behind is not only a stronger, more unified country, but a constitution and a long overdue change in the Crow. Mr. Westell settles it into one sentence by saying:

"That's his legacy to Canada, and it would be a dangerous mistake now to deny him his due because he has been less successful in other areas of policy."

I stand and salute our Prime Minister and am extremely proud to have been a Canadian throughout his term of office and wish him all the best of luck in his retirement and throughout the rest of his life. Thank you Prime Minister Trudeau.

Keith J. Aiken Business III

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

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Bear Country

by Shane Berg

