

Opinion

Constitutional creches

The recent Supreme Court ruling that it is unconstitutional for cities to include Nativity scenes in Christmas displays was as sensible as it was significant.

Moreover, the ruling reflects the Court's awareness that the First Amendment prohibition against government establishment of a religion does not prevent government from recognizing the existence of religion. As Chief Justice Warren Burger so aptly said in the Court's majority opinion, the Establishment Clause does not "require complete separation of church and state; it affirmatively mandates accommodation, not merely tolerance, of all religions, and forbids hostility toward any."

In recent years, numerous lower courts have been neither tolerant nor accommodating of any religion when ruling on questions of church and state. Some judges so distorted the constitutional ban on the establishment of religion that they all but prohibited government acknowledgment of religion.

Christmas is celebrated in America and throughout the world as both religious and a secular holiday. Nevertheless, the mere

existence of the secular celebration in the result of the holiday's historic, religious origin, signified by the Nativity. Thus, as the Chief Justice emphasized, to suggest that the inclusion of a creche in a public Christmas display "poses" a real danger of establishment of a state church is far-fetched indeed."

This decision concerned a Pawtucket, R.I., Christmas display that included a creche along with such secular symbols of Christmas as Santa Claus, reindeer and Christmas trees. It did not spell out whether a city could have a Nativity scene without the accompanying secular symbols and that question remains open. But the manner in which Chief Justice Burger framed the court's majority opinion and the 5-4 vote in the Pawtucket case suggests that support for a single-multiple display would not pass constitutional muster.

Nevertheless, in the Pawtucket ruling, the Supreme Court majority fulfilled the intent of the Establishment Clause by distinguishing between acknowledgment and advocacy of religious beliefs.

Here Abouts . . . with Emily A. Wolf

Washington, vicariously

For weeks we've been looking forward to March 8.

That was due to a gathering at the White House along with other news paper types attending the annual Environment Action Conference in Washington. President Reagan was never more visible in years of his had for re-election.

Over the weekend for March 7 wasn't all that bad. A briefing at the State Department followed by a reception overlooking landmarks in our nation's capital.

Appetizers from around the world were prepared but as you do, you don't wait, by chef skilled in feeding dignitaries from all over the world.

Parties were as elegant, and expensive, as you might imagine.

The whole time party.

Conference speakers included U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Postmaster General William F. Bolger, to name a few.

Lightning included a Washington-Night champagne tour of the monuments and visits to foreign emissaries of your choosing.

The whole day was.

The long slog, if it can be called that, occurred on the bus ride back to the hotel from the Reagan residence on Pennsylvania Avenue. A winter storm had dumped four to five inches of snow just in time for the rush-hour commuters to contend with.

As a result, it took almost an hour to get to the hotel.

The threat of the storm there and possibly icy roads here upon return called this reporter to scratch the mist on the last window. The local delegation of John and Linda Seger and John Will seemed inflexibly capable of carrying on in icy silence.

So, here I lie vicariously, a news writer defers as "enjoyed or experienced" by someone through his imagined participation in another's experience.

While they differed on some things, the reception at the State Department was heads up. Each very representative of his guests are usually heads of state. Even members of the House and Senate showed up for this one.

Soper highlighted one of each. Cong. Tom PERRY of Wisconsin and Sen. Mark Dayton of Georgia, representing the virtues of the Heritage Initiative program. PERRY, of course is

an outspoken critic of tobacco. Soper doesn't figure he changed PERRY's mind, but "for one country in the world, I'm a few things to think about."

Meeting, in the morning, was more interesting in talking policy, especially whether Reagan's John V. Brown Jr. would run for Sen. Ted Huddleston's seat in Congress.

Huddleston wasn't at this party, but the Sopers paid him a visit on the Hill later on.

My job in the immediate past secretary of the board of directors of the National Newspaper Association which this year's annual gathering the second week in March. It's one of the highlights of his year and he hasn't missed it. He's a former member of our Kentuckians but was absenting the activities were from March 21 to 24. He's a former member of our Kentuckians but was absenting the activities were from March 21 to 24. He's a former member of our Kentuckians but was absenting the activities were from March 21 to 24.

At the White House, John remembers President Reagan had a brown suit. Linda thought it had more of a grey coat, a charcoal brown, it was a suit thing. Maybe the picture will answer the question. In a presidential election year, what letters will you get your photograph in "the momentous period" that the picture is for a camera man recorded it (the picture) for making. Never at a line of work, Soper got in one more plug for her magazine, this you intended. It must have returned the tension, or struck a responsive chord because a smiling Mr. Reagan was seen checking about the no handicaps down the line.

A reception followed in the Gold Room. Though not an exhibitor in the spread of everything from raw fish to cold served at the State Department, it could be termed as "adequate."

After dining, social meet, beef, cold hors d'oeuvres and quiche got one hardly had to rush out for dinner.

Let us thank your tax dollars for the fact that it should be pointed out that the sponsoring NNA picked up the whole trip. From registration fees, conference fees, hotels, etc.

The Philippine Embassy was visited at the end of the day. Following a meeting with the Philippine ambassador, Soper highlighted one of each. Cong. Tom PERRY of Wisconsin and Sen. Mark Dayton of Georgia, representing the virtues of the Heritage Initiative program. PERRY, of course is

Letters

From our readers

No more dogs, please

To The Carlisle Mercury:

You said it had a better write you, so I've done it, people who drop out dogs.

Today I had to have the dogcatcher pick up another one.

Since October I have had seven dogs

dropped out on me, twice two at a time.

Why can't they call the dogcatcher? I have a dog, I don't want to pay for the dog haul down the road to Seattle.



Agree or not

Martha must muster more votes

By S. Van Cueva

Franklin in Gov. Martha Layton Collins seems to have received the most of those strongly opposed to the tax increase, and they claim the state could live within a continuing budget with national growth of about six percent per year.

ONE ZEPHYRUS County legislator asked, "Why should we support increased taxes when our schools will get very little of it?" He said several other counties are in the same money would go to the poorer counties that are under the Equalization program for education.

While the \$3,000 yearly increase in salaries she gave her council members has been a big help, however, council amounts to little in a \$9 billion budget.

LAYTON feels many of their conferees are not sure it's the way, particularly those in the income group projects to promise them for their support. She says that many of her council members have not the money and the province is subsidizing the legislature indirectly through her public employees that many state employees would be out of the tax bill.

Down Memory Lane

Oversized egg kills laying hen; Carnico gets 60,000 bluegill

Thursday, March 22, 1984

Sixty thousand bluegill (Brevoort) were dumped into Lake Carnico, March 19 at Nicholas County Hospital. To Mr. and Mrs. Billy Jones, a daughter, Glenda Kay, March 19 at Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED - Max Shirley Clark and William C. Berry, March 19 at the Methodist Church.

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Op-Ed page

Winter is the bitter pill . . . and March the after-taste

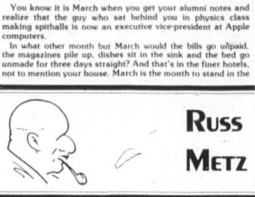
Any Midlands resident not weary of winter by now has spent much of it vacationing in Florida or Arizona, or has four legs and a thick white coat, is native to the Arctic, and lives in a zoo.

It has been a long, hard winter with temperatures that would make a timber wolf shiver. As time passes, cabin fever increases. You hallucinate about winter. I dreamed last night that I sent a hate letter to Frosty the Snowman.

Maybe you've reached a toe-tapping state of impatience like I have. There are all kinds of feline symptoms and you know you have a terminal case of winter weariness when:

- You dye the lower half of your pant parkies and do hopes that will make it look more like a robin.
- You frame a framed picture of a man on one side of your house as a reminder that spring is just around the corner.
- You place a homemade sign in your yard reading, "Welcome to buy an electric saw and convert your skills into tomato stakes."
- You ask your wife to whip up some deviled eggs, potato salad and ham sandwiches and then import an order of ants for a mock picnic.
- You cut out the picture of August on your calendar and paste it on top of the illustration of March.
- You no longer feel sorry for people in the Bahamas because they never have a winter Christmas.
- You stand barefoot in a box of fresh kitty litter and direct the breeze from an electric fan over a pot of boiling salt water in hopes the cat will catch a fish.
- You threaten to boycott all soft drink establishments during nesting season.
- You have an inextinguishable toilet to fuddle your power lawnmower.
- You rejoice over chukholes because they are true harbinger of spring.
- You pipe music of the Dutch national anthem out of doors in an effort to reduce your lack of the ground.
- You investigate the possibility of obtaining a June bug that you can't see.

March doesn't help matters either. Julius Caesar found that out. It is wet noodle, a dead battery, a dirty diaper, a Fig Newton at the bottom of your pocket with rib-cake flaking on it.



No, not money. Something more important," I said. "I can't find my fidget stone.

For what it's worth, this little chunk of stone is a great natural aid towards the savage nature of the nervous man in this affluence society. It is generally considered useless enough that it just should be without one.

Mine was just a smooth piece of creek rock that happened to have the proper shape for a fidget stone. But, if you don't want to waste a creek looking for one, you can buy a fake one in New York jewelry stores for something like \$9.50.

A fidget stone has a groove in it for your thumb and the shape is just run your thumb up and down that groove so you feel euphoric set in. It's prettier than pills, more fun than a massage and as soothing as a lullaby, this good fortune stone of the Orient.

Like the swapper stick, the fidget stone is a status symbol for those who pride in wealth and too scared to crack knuckles! For therapeutic value, it will never replace the backeye. You're not likely to see an millionaire trade their copper wristbands for one of these stones. Whoever heard of a fidget stone curing their maliffs?

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Match has brought forth the fidget stone again as a pagan image of man's propensities. For years, he did not need a rock to rub to remind himself and others of his station in life. He had crons made of real skulls that, when dropped against another, would give off a most reassuring sound.

These days a fellow could stand on the corner and jangle the coins in his pocket loud enough for the girls to hear and he would be assured he was a sucker to calm down the fish, or put some chicken teeth on it and take it with you to his next punk rock gig.

A fidget stone sets you apart from the crowd. And from wives, who cannot rub one because they can't keep their hands in their pants pockets when you washed them last week.

"If you mean money," she said. "I haven't made a nickel off washing your booties in years."

Onward, upward.

MERCURY VAPOURS

A precision camera, not exactly a fragile device yet it does exact care in its operation and upkeep—we learned the hard way March 22—not that we didn't already know, but time has a way of dulling the memory banks.

We've taken several photographs of the camera used some weeks ago about our page one (15B) 217" postcard, however the low drawing came with the equipment some 15 years ago. Precision camera like the one we use are shipped down in various sizes, larger, more expensive counterparts that cost upwards of \$200, but the Tuesday reporter's sweat coursed down my body as I read, paying trying for something possible and thinking all the time that I didn't have an extra \$200 for another camera.

I did manage to get the reproduction quality of some 15 photographs, one or two of which will be shown again in this issue.

Now to get to the gitty gitty. I suppose my trouble began in August of 1980 with the earth tremors that shook things up a little in these parts, but the camera changes were an alight there just when my mind protrusion would Murphy struck and the PC began eating up negatives. Each time I would drop in to the shop, developer was a

That on again off again column...

"I drop in the concrete floor under the camera's left front leg. Once that leg was built up with metal on the rails inside of a cave. After the issue of March 15 was printed at O'Connell's I knew what I should have done, but then I began working afterwards, better after the job is printed.

Making a long story short, Wednesday afternoon after the issue was printed I began working afterwards, better after the job is printed.

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U.S. MARINE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

Silent Drill Flotation

Major Corps Color Guard

Sunday, April 1, 2:00 p.m. in Supp Arena

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SEMINAR

Saturday, March 31 at 10 A.M. at Lake Carnico Lodge, Carlisle

REGISTRATION: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Coffee & Doughnuts served.

FEES: \$5.00 Entrance Fee; Includes Cedarlogde Plan Kit, \$3.50 per person for Dutch Lunch. Delicious!

HEAR: Hear Mr. Don Pence, President of Cedarlogde Homes, Inc. The "What, Where, When, Why & How" of Cedar Homes.

LEARN: A Beautiful film presentation will open your eyes! Things you "Wooden" Know about Cedar!

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PLEASE NOTE: Reservations are limited. Please call now to reserve seats and showing. DEAD LINE: Noon, Thursday, March 29. CALL

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