

Book banning limits freedom of thought

Hand's ruling for the removal of the textbooks was predictable. It was more or less a culmination of a conservative Christian crusade to ban the textbooks, which were in his words "promoting a different kind of religion."

The judge's motives for banning the books must be questioned. In 1983, Judge Brevard Hand upheld a law permitting silent prayer in public schools.

The Supreme Court reversed his school-prayer decision. Hand then took issue with secular humanism in public schools, and many of the defendants for school prayer then were turned plaintiffs for banning certain textbooks.

Hand's ruling for the removal of the textbooks was predictable. It decision was more or less a culmination of a conservative Christian crusade to ban the textbooks, which were in his words "promoting a different kind of religion."

His decision also calls into question the definition of secular humanism as a religion.

Though the textbooks may be imperfect in this respect, defining secular humanism as a religion is going to extremes. The absence of a theist religious perspective does not make secular humanism a "religion." If this were the case, existential philosophy and atheism could be deemed religions.

Defendants undoubtedly will challenge Hand's decision, as they should. It is our hope the ruling will be reversed, and the banning of textbooks does not become a national phenomenon.

There's a disturbing trend in Supreme Court rulings

The Supreme Court's recent tendency to narrowly define search and seizure laws has become a disturbing trend. On Monday it ruled police could use evidence in court that they seize while "acting in objectively reasonable reliance" on a law, even if the law later is declared unconstitutional.

Similarly, the court in February reversed a Maryland court's decision that ruled police evidence was inadmissible in court after authorities there had seized contraband from an apartment without a warrant.

The police had entered the wrong apartment, thinking the floor had only one dwelling. The Supreme Court ruled the police had made a legitimate mistake in entering and seizing the contraband, and the evidence was deemed admissible.

Both these rulings illustrate the Supreme Court's increasing practice of limiting the scope of the exclusionary rule — a rule protecting the rights of individuals against inadmissible evidence.

The Supreme Court currently views the exclusionary rule as a means to protect an individual from the improper conduct of police officers. But the original intent of the rule was to protect individuals from the improper actions of the government — a big difference.

The Fourth Amendment requires that search and seizure warrants particularly describe "the place to be searched, and the person or things to be seized." But the court, with these two recent rulings, has come closer to the justice department's interpretation of the law, and has given authorities freer reign in obtaining evidence, unfortunately at the expense of individual rights.



Letters

Square one

A different thing has happened in this last generation beginning in 1953, which the King James Bible refers to as the latter days — TV evangelism! Never before has preaching reached so many people, yet we're seeing the terrible results: lying and stealing.

Children drop out of school and run away from home and many of their lifeless bodies are kept in morgues awaiting identification.

The state, churches and the media have zeroed in on equality as the solution but, in fact, it "is" equality which has ruined life for all.

And with world terrorism, it's perceived inequality that causes it. The best way to end the terrorism — especially intellectual — along with the bloodsucking business monopolies and moronic brotherhoods, is to go back to square one and start over. But the government isn't about to just let slavery end.

Even though the IRS will hate it, a person can park their car and use a bicycle exclusively. It's the second step in being born again, for motor vehicle emissions are deadly: "For we die from their toxic fumes in a great number of ways, from new

life in women's wombs to a violent shortening of days."

The first and most urgent change needed is in attitude. It goes back to Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image..." But man turned it around and created God in his own image, putting long hair and a gown on Jesus. Then he created the Prince of this world by putting pants on women.

Wayne L. Johnson
San Diego, CA

China, India and other highly populated countries would be tremendous economic powers.

On a final note of significance, Mr. Cross forgot to inform us in his last letter, that Victor Perevedentsev has two patents for perpetual motion machines and that he plans on entering the America's Cup yacht race with a sail boat powered by an on-board electric fan.

Patrick Clancy
Eugene

Teaching

After reading "Good lesson" in the Emerald March 6, by Michael Cross, I have come to the conclusion that the ODE should have a yearly award for the most illogically written letter (or letters, as in Mike's case).

"Good lesson" is the latest of Mr. Cross' attempts to defend an old anti-choice argument that abortion is wrong because our economy is dependent on a population that must grow at exponential rates, otherwise we will be destined to suffer extinction.

It appears that Mr. Cross, like most religious extremists, believes if one presents an argument by quoting people with exotic names or fancy titles, then the argument is valid.

In "Good lesson" he uses terms like "negative population coefficient." Fancy stuff, but it just isn't happening enough on this planet.

If the argument that he presented by quoting Victor Perevedentsev, (and impressing us by giving significance to Mr. Perevedentsev' Russian heritage) was anything more than extreme idealism, then

Sleazy tactics

I hope that those who faithfully read the Emerald will readily recognize Ron Munion's attack on Bob Baldwin and the SPA for what it is — character assassination.

Isn't it fascinating that Ron Munion would accuse the SPA and Bob Baldwin of the sleazy political tactics characteristic of Munion and his SER cohorts?

I don't have time right now to give a statement here backed by substantiating evidence, but one is impending. However, I must affirm my support for the Steve Nelson administration and SPA. We all owe them deep appreciation for their commendable efforts to serve the myriad interests that make up the whole of this campus community.

I hope you'll take the time to discover what the SPA, Steve Nelson, and Bob Baldwin are really about. By the way I am not an SPA member, yet.

James Munyer
Magazine Journalism

Emerald owes apology

Wednesday's editorial cartoon depicting University President Paul Olum holding a handful of cash and gratuitously patting a tenured professor on the back was in poor taste and was an unfair attack.

Olum was not the only administrator to receive a pay raise. Moreover, he has worked hard on behalf of the University's faculty in an effort to secure salary increases for them as well.

We apologize for the content of the cartoon.

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