

Madalyn O'Hair

Champion of the atheist

By LORRAINE MCCLAIN

Madalyn Murray O'Hair, biggest in the lowest which removed Bible reading and prayer recitation from the public schools, was in Detroit this week to file suit against a common sense judge who spent the evening as guest speaker for the Society of Separationists in Farmington's Birmingham Temple.

The women who champion the atheist cause and the guarantee of "not just freedom of religion, but freedom from religion," is founder of the society.

The suit enjoined Judge Frederick Byrne from using his court room for religious services in Detroit's City-County Building.

IN HER EVENING talk, the articulate and mince-no-words Ms. O'Hair was armed with facts and figures. She banged away at organized religion and its billions of dollars invested in profit making enterprises. This coupled with churches which,

that grows with gifts, grants, rents, interest, capital gains and government subsidies demonstrates her belief that slowly but certainly "churches in the United States are acquiring a stranglehold on our economy."

IN A RECITATION of events in American history which started with "the McCarthy witch hunts" in 1950, she denounced the phrase "we help me God" added to oaths taken by government officials, prayer breakfasts initiated by President Dwight Eisenhower and his "constant referring to us as a Christian country."

Eisenhower got more backing under her verbal ax for adding the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance, subsidizing religious readings and changing the national motto to "In God We Trust."

IT IS THESE instances, she believes, that cause Americans to think in terms of Christian-capitalist-good-guy-white-hat and atheist-communist-bad-guy-black-hat.

And in turn, such thinking, she said, "would eventually if it isn't now, be accepted as our foreign policy."

Yet, "if this is so," she asks, "how come it is all the Catholic countries that are the ones who are turning communist today?"

She described the Society of Separationists, based in Texas, as "an educational, nonpolitical, nonprofit organization of atheists, dedicated to preserve the First Amendment guarantee of the separation of church and state."

The members and their philosophy she described as "free of dogma, free of dream and free of creeds of all brands."

Its name will be changed, however, shortly to American Atheists, Inc. It will be listed as a tax-exempt educational agency.

SHE BELIEVES that 25 per cent of the American people are atheists, though many are afraid of admitting it and others are hiding under euphemisms.

Her hope is that the world "all stop believing in miracles and stand up and fight."

Her own fight came about, she said, because nothing in history "has caused more wars, more personal pain, fear and guilt, and has denied more persons freedom of choice than organized religion."

Her personal philosophy on man and his tenure on earth is that each man must create his own destiny, that the goal of every man must be to use his body and mind to his highest potential, and that it is every one's duty to stimulate freedom of thought.

She believes man should face death as a part of life, "and when he does this, he will know that what we have here is very, very precious."

Persons writing information on the Society of Separationists may address inquiries to the organization in care of P. O. Box 34286, Detroit, 48236.

Elks honor 'Teens of the Month'

By LORRAINE MCCLAIN

The Farmington Elks celebrated National Youth Week by naming six local high school seniors teen-agers of the month.

A dinner and reception for the six youths and their parents given in the club on Orchard Lake this week was the first of what the club believes will turn into annual recognition rights for outstanding young persons in the area.

All recipients were selected by their high school principal.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL teen-agers of the month are Monica Bednarczyk and Peter Sittnick.

Miss Bednarczyk is a top scholar who since March 1973 has been involved in the school's cooperative education work study program. She works as a general office clerk at Dow Lumber Company, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She lives at 2118 Elmwood.

Sittnick, of 3301 Macomb, is active in cross country, track and band. During the summer of 1974 he participated in the All-State High School Band, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

His ambition is demonstrated by his pursuit of an individual approach to the fourth year Spanish by attending class instead of having a lunch period.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL, award went to David Fletcher and Karen Passiak.

Fletcher, of 2818 Harwich, is senior class president, a member of the National Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa. In his junior year he served as a representative to boys state.

Miss Passiak lives at 2781 Bye Drive West and is vice-president of her class. She was a girls' state representative during her junior year, is active in athletics and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL chose Mary Jewell and James Scheiman for the award.

Miss Jewell has earned a \$35 honor point average over the past four years. Last year she was selected to attend girls state and was elected governor. She has been active in debate, forensics, swimming, volleyball and track, and lives at 3807 Fernhill.

Scheiman is a Phi Beta Kappa member who has earned a 4.0 honor point average over the past four years. He has been accepted at University of Michigan's law program, which permits talented students to complete premedical and medical course requirements for a degree in six years, instead of the usual eight. He is one of only 40 Michigan students admitted to the program. He lives at 3815 Windchapel.

The dinner was under the chairmanship

of Ron Enders who is youth activities chairman for the Elks Club. Exalted Ruler Gene Anderson served as master of cere-

monies for the evening. Guests at the dinner were Supt. Marlin Van Ameyde, and Mrs. Van Ameyde, and

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Dickson. Dickson is assistant principal of North Farmington High School.



Farmington Elks Exalted Ruler Gene Anderson (top left) congratulates the area's six high school seniors named teen-agers of the month. The award winners are Peter Sittnick,

at Anderson's right, Jim Scheiman and David Fletcher. In front from left, Karen Passiak, Mary Jewell and Monica Bednarczyk. (Photo by Cyd Abatt)

Skills workshop set for students

A summer skills workshop for children from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade will be available during June and July in the Henry Ford Commemorial Library, 1691 Michigan, between Greenfield and Southfield, Dearborn. Cost is \$60 per session.

Mrs. Virginia Bialik and Mrs. Jean Sampson will direct the workshop which in-

volves individual and small group tutoring on a remedial or enrichment basis.

Subjects taught will be reading readiness, reading, spelling, math, learning skills, creative writing, reference and dictionary skills and handwriting.

All four sessions will take place Monday

through Friday. Session one will be held 9-10:30 a.m., June 21 to July 9. Session two will be from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on the same dates.

Sessions three and four will run from July 13-20. Session three goes from 9-10:30 a.m., session four from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.



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MADALYN MURRAY O'HAIR

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Farmington LIFE

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Community Calendar

ART SHOW VOCAL CONCERT

May 17-23 Art show of all media created by the students of Our Lady of Mercy High School, in the school gymnasium on Eleven Mile and Middle Belt, on weekdays from 3-8 and 7-9 p.m. on Saturday from 1-8 p.m.

THE AGING PARENT

May 17 "The Aging Parent—Beyond Guilt," lecture by Dr. Ronald Truskey, psychiatrist, in Birmingham Temple, 2811 Twelve Mile & 30 p.m. Open to the public. Donation of \$2 asked at the door.

NEEDLEPOINT

May 18 One session workshop instructing on the art of finishing belts, bags and baskets, in needpoint, from 12:30-3 p.m. in Farmington Community Center. Reservations are requested through the center.

REMEMBER THE LADIES

May 18 "Remember the Ladies" spring luncheon with program honoring the contribution women have made in American history, sponsored by Women's Association of First Presbyterian Church, in the church, 2618 Farmington Road, at noon. Babysitting services available. Tickets at \$1.75 through the church office. 674-6170

YOGA WORKSHOP

May 18 Yoga workshop for women only, concentrates on finding happiness through womanhood in Guru Ram Das Ashram, 30219 Lahar, Beverly Hills. Free registration is necessary through the ashram. 603-3324

PARENTING

May 18 "Parenting the Pre-School Child," lecture by psychiatrist Dr. Norbert Anderson in University Hills Christian Center, 28711 Farmington Road, 8 p.m. No charge.

NEEDLEPOINT

May 20 Needlepoint workshop instructing how to create a three-dimensional lecture, with Carol Koryn and Lynn Malow in Farmington Community Center at 1 p.m. Registration is necessary through the center.

WIDOW

May 20 Adult book discussion series in Farmington Community Library, 2380 Liberty Street, continues with "Widow" by Lynn Caine, at 10 a.m. No charge. Registration is not required.

CONCERT

May 20 Concert, given by the students of East Junior High School in Harrison High School auditorium, 8 p.m.

POPPY SALE

May 20-22 Poppy sales, on all major intersections in Farmington and Farmington Hills, sponsored by Groves Walker Post of American Legion.

GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

May 21-23 "Gateway to the World" in Farmington Community Center brings together food, crafts, imports and entertainment of more than 25 nationalities on Friday from 5-9 p.m.; and on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. Free shuttle bus from OCC Orchard Ridge campus parking lot to the gate. Admission at the gate, only \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children, or \$3 for a family.

May 21 Vocal concert staged by students of Warner Junior High School, in the school, 8 p.m.

AUCTION

May 22 Auction of miscellaneous household goods donated by residents in Meadowbrook Hills subdivision, sponsored by the subdivision's homeowners association in Rhoadswood playfield, north of Eight Mile, west of Halsted, begins at 1 p.m.

RUMMAGE SALE

May 22-23 Rummage sale, in St. Gerald Catholic Church, 2180 Farmington Road, between Eight and Nine mile on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

POPS CONCERT

May 22 Pops concert presented by students of Harrison High School, in the school auditorium, 2890 Twelve Mile, at Lakeside Broadway, Chd Street, Three Square and the Great White Way at 8 p.m. followed by a dance and ice cream social. Tickets at the door are \$1.25 for adults, 75 cents for students or \$3 for a family.

BEAHAN ANNIVERSARY

May 22 Anniversary celebration for Mr. Thomas Beahan marking his 88th year in the priesthood begins with 11 a.m. mass in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington, followed by luncheon in Southfield's Raleigh House at 1 p.m. Tickets at \$10 each are available in Parish Credit Union, 31118 Grand River.

BETHUNE PARTY

May 22 Bethune, a group of separated and divorced persons, invite divorced and widowed to a party in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 2815 Powers Road, 8 p.m. Donation of \$3 asked at the door.

CABARET CONCERT

May 23 Cabaret Concert featuring the Sharrette Family and continental buffet dinner in University Hills Church on Farmington Road south of Twelve Mile, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each at the door.

TURKEY DINNER

May 23 Turkey dinner sponsored by the Farmington Delmolay in Farmington Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Road, from noon to 3 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children or \$10 for a family.

FRANKENMOUTH

May 26 Bus leaves the Farmington Community Center at 8:30 a.m. for a tour of Frankenthum. Package-priced tickets include lunch in Bavarian Inn. Tickets on sale now in the center.

VOCAL POPS

May 26 Vocal pops concert presented by students of Farmington High School, in the school, at 8 p.m.

POPS CONCERT

May 26 Pops concert presented by students of North Farmington High School, in the school, 8 p.m.

ASCENSION DAY

May 27 Ascension Day Retreat in St. John Lutheran Church, 3220 Oak, featuring speaker Mary Lou Brown, pastor of Glorious Freedom Mission in Detroit, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donation of \$2 asked for lunch served in the church.