State-church separation needed

moral perspectives

Rabbi Irwin Groner

President Reagan has recently reaffirmed his view that prayer should be introduced in the public schools. Even though the Supreme Court has issued rulings several times in recent years declaring that this is unconstitutional, the president and others who share his view persist in presenting this issue before the American people.

It is important, therefore, to restate now fundamental truths. American's greatness rests on the protection of the individual's freedom and his rights by legal guarantees.

In order to safeguard these values, the Constitution prohibited the establishment of any religion by the state or its publicly supported institutions.

Religious freedom is directly endangered when the state usurps the role of the church by mandating or presiding over religious observance. What more universal form of religious observance is there than prayer.

SOMETIMES the supporters of school prayers argue that those would be non-denominational. This is either a deception or an illusion. Since established religions have never agreed on the acceptability of non-denominational observance, the creation of such rituals would give to the school authorities religious powers which belong to the church. Such attempts would, in effect, politicize prayer.

The prohibition of prayer in public schools was never intended to deprive a single child of the rights to pray — at home and in church or synagogue or mosque — in keeping with each family's faith.

The separation of the mission of church and public school is as natural and fundamental as the separation of church and state itself.

THE EXPERIENCE of history, moreover, shows that non-denominational observances tend to turn into imposition of the rituals, texts, and doctrines subscribed to by the local majority.

Thus, the prevailling religious beliefs and doctrines in any school district would shape and define the nature of the prayers (and undoubtedly other observances) that would be introduced into the public school, despite the presence of minorities who are loyal to other faiths and follow other doctrines.

IN THE PAST, our country witnessed painful divisions and injurious conflicts when religious groups sought to use the public schools as instruments of indoctrination. To return to such battles now, no matter how sincere the motive, would constitute an assault on both religious and civil liberties.

The future of our nation depends on the religious education we give our children — an education that will take root as home and church or synagogue or mosque, in full and free loyalty to the word of God, provide instruction by living faith, vital example, and voluntary, rather than state-imposed commitment.

Strong literary aptitude is shown

graphology

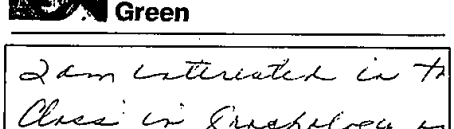
Lorene Green

Dear Mrs. Green:

Involved as I am in personnel work, I am exposed to a wide variety of handwriting and printing styles. This has piqued my interest in graphology and in your column.

I would be interested in knowing what my handwriting reveals about *me.*

N.G. Farmington Hills



Dear N.G.:

Your fast, fluent handwriting with its short cuts, quickly paints the picture of one capable lady with a very facile mind. Letters and words that decrease in size coupled with garland-like connections between letters tell me that you are able to ingratiate yourself to others.

Charisma is definitely a part of your personality. And there is a tad of intuition here to enhance. But let no one be fooled by your charms. Behind them is one who can be direct and say it like it is when the need is there.

You are time aware and do not choose to spend yours on things that you consider unimportant to the job at hand. While you know the importance of details, you do not waste much time on them. Let's move to the bottom line, right?

Large, deftly executed numbers, considered with the total picture of your handwriting, tell me that you can comprehend and deal with numbers and budgets.

Responsibility you can handle. In fact you seek it. This has a way of enhancing your self-esteem. You are also blessed with vitality and give a great deal of yourself to your activities.

It is not always easy for you to keep an open mind to the thinking and ideas of others. And often like to have your own way. Conceivably, these could be limiting traits for you.

Stong literary aptitude and imagination to augment it is revealed bythe combination of g's that resembles figure 8s and stick t's.

Intra-family relationships in the formative years were not without some emotional scars. To your credit, you have turned them into positive motivational experiences that have made you the successful person you are.

At this time you appear to be turning a deaf ear to something that someone is trying to tell you. You find it difficult to talk about things that are bothering you. Possibly someone with a stronger will may be trying to control you. I can see a problem here because you too have a need to control. Sarcasm is a coping mechanism you probably use at times like this.

If you have a question about your handwriting, write to Lorene Collett Green, a certified graphologist, in care of this newspaper. Please use a full sheet of white, unlined paper writing in the first person singular. Age and handedness are also helpful. Use your full signature even though I use only your initials in the column. Feedback is always welcome.

gerontology

A. Jolayne Farrell

Mother needs help in taking medicine

Dear Jo:

I am worried about my mother. She is 76 years old, a widow and has lived alone for several years. She has several health problems for which her doctor has prescribed certain medications. Her problem is that she doesn't know what pill is for what condition — and half the time she forgets to take them. How can I help her.

M.L.

Dear M.L.:

According to a 1982 classic article in the American Journal of Public Health by Schwartz et al, your mother is a perfect example of an older person who does not (or will not) comply with physicians' prescribed medication treatment. For a variety of reasons, persons over age 75, who live alone, are widowed or separated and have multiple health problems, have a difficult time adhering to a medication routine.

You can help your mother by taking some time (an hour or so) to discuss her health problem and their treatment with her.

She should return to her doctor to get written instructions on each medication — how, when and what to take. She must accept the responsibility for her own medication routine, knowing what each pill is for.

Suggest to your mother that she associate her pill taking with certain daily activities such as meals, teatime, bedtime, and to keep her containers in a visible spot in her home, such as on the kitchen table.

TO REINFORCE your concern for your mother's health, a home visit from a community health nurse would be invaluable as she can assess her situation and make some practical suggestions.

Most pharmacies have plastic containers for organizing pill taking. A newer one, called a dosett box calender, has several compartments that divide each day for medication dosage with room for all seven days.

Lastly, explain to your mother that she will feel physically better if she adheres to her proper medication rountine.

Dear Jo:

Help. I cannot open child-proof pill containers. The last one I got I had to go at it with a screwdriver and a hammer. I have arthritis in my hands and even the sight of those containers makes me angry. There are no young children in my home, my grandchildren are teen-agers. Whatever happen to those good, old-fashioned, easy-off-tops of yesteryear?

Miss V.

Dear Miss V.

Those good, old-fashioned, easy-off-tops of yesteryear are at your local drug store. Explain to your pharmacist what your problem is and that there are no young children in your home, then request the type of container that your can open easily. He may ask you to sign a waiver, but that is no problem.

Or you can ask your doctor to write "child-proof container not necessary" on your prescription and receive same.

Should young children ever visit you, be sure to put the containers well away from their reach.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at P.O. Box 68, Postal Station G, 1075 Queen Stree E., Toronto, Ontario.

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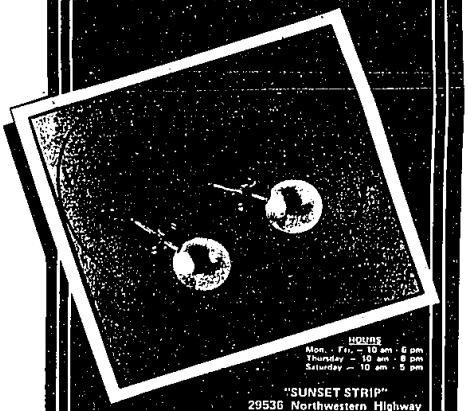
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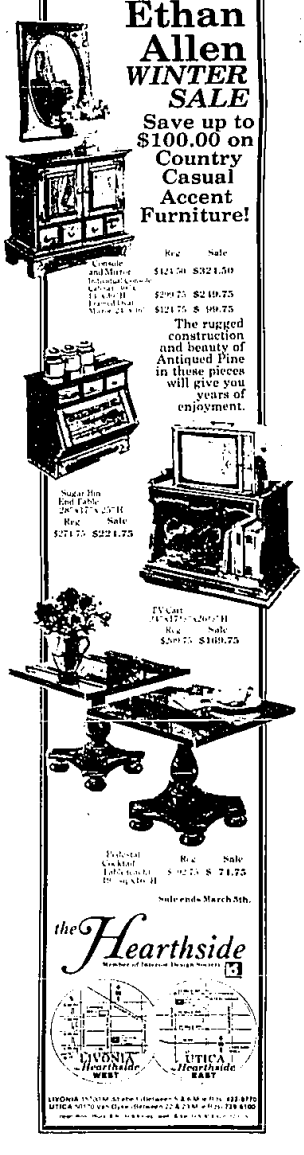
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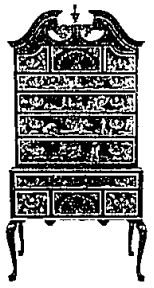
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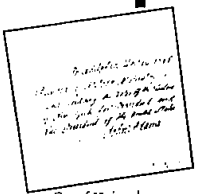
One of 32 signed documents by Presidents of the United States, from Washington to Roosevelt.

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Fritz Gartner (German 19-20th century) oil on canvas, "Erde, und Eisen," 66" square.
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