

Opinion

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O&E Monday, June 10, 1985

Readers mixed on school prayer

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers: How do you feel about a constitutional amendment allowing prayer in school? How do you feel about the recent court decision?

Freedom of religion means just that. If they have a moment of silence, they can either pray or meditate or whatever they wish. There is nothing wrong with a moment of silence at schools.

I am glad. Why destroy something we worked so hard to earn?

Talk about censorship. Now even the suggestion of prayer is illegal. Hell will freeze over before I vote for an increase in any school millages ever.

I think that legalizing prayer in school or mandating that they should have a moment of silence could be a very dangerous thing. Children who are in the minority, religion-wise or lack of religion-wise, could be ridiculed. There is no place for it in school. If people want to pray, they can pray in their house. They don't need to do it in school and pressure other people.

I think the Supreme Court acted with great fairness in the way they ruled. Prayer has no place in a public school. If the schools would spend more time educating the children the 3 R's, it would be one hell of a better country.

The schools are state institutions and as such should not promote any religion. Realistically, we all know the religion of the majority would end up being promoted if religion is allowed in the schools. Those of other religions or denominations would feel different and left out.

This would open the door for all those self righteous extreme conservatives who think it is their duty to force religion upon others.

oral quarrel

I grew up in Alabama and I can tell you that though it seems harmless on paper, the answer should be no, no, no.

Did you ever notice that when they talk about religion and the schools, they only seem to be talking about Christianity?

Both of our children attended parochial school where prayer was the order of the day. We have made a great financial commitment to parochial education, however, this does not apply to public school and we are not in favor of prayers in public schools.

Yes, I think tampering with the Constitution for special interest purposes is wrong. They can only start more special interest changes in the Constitution. Prayer in school is unnecessary. A moment of meditation is proper. Most kids pray regularly anyway. They pray that the teacher won't call on them, they pray that they will pass the test, they pray for the class to end and they pray for recess.

I feel prayer should be allowed in school for the mere fact that everybody needs to know that God is in our life and they don't know it enough now in society. So in school the children get a chance to know that Jesus did die on the cross to save our souls.

I think the decision of the court not to have the prayers silent. I think we should be allowed to have a prayer. It never hurt me. If anybody does not want to take part in it,

they can just sit. Do whatever they want but I think we should be allowed to have it.

We agree with the Supreme Court decision and keep prayer out of the schools. My wife and I agree.

The reason I believe we should have prayer in school is because I have heard too many children say that they were taught in school that they were so important. Well they are only important because they were created in God's image, a being higher than themselves. Also because their capability and potential far surpass other creatures on the earth. We should have a prayer to God. They might also add to their prayers, AMGD, which means All For the Glory of God.

In the case that there would be children of different religions, we do not want to take away their freedom of their religion, therefore a silent prayer should be enforced and this would allow them to pray to the deity in which they believe.

Prayer in school would not only benefit the children, it would also help the teachers to realize that there is an authority higher than themselves and they should follow this higher deity when they are doing their job also.

I don't think it would matter which way kids prayed or not but I think they should do it at home before coming to school. I am not an atheist but what would the atheist or Jews do while Christian children and others are praying?

As time often proves, father does know best

FATHER MAY KNOW BEST, but it's a puzzlement knowing what's best for father.

We may scratch our heads over what gift will bring a smile to Dad on his day next Sunday, but he probably doesn't much care about the ties, socks, golf balls or reading material.

Father probably just wants to know that his progeny care and value him. If you doubt that, then listen.

Recently, at an area school, graduating seniors were asked who was the most influential person in their lives. Though several named their mothers, none designated their fathers, which may indicate some fathers need to work on relationships.

A FEW years ago, we asked fifth graders their feelings about their fathers. None of the youngsters mentioned dad's good looks or how much money he had.

Instead they praised their dads for sharing time with them, understanding them, and even for disciplining them when necessary. Here a few of the comments:

"Fathers are special because we love them, and we love them because they're special."

"Without a father you don't have a family, and that's the truth."

"Fathers show kids the good and bad side of the world."

The youngsters who volunteered these thoughts are in their middle teens today.

Hopefully their positive attitudes about Dad remain intact, because most said their dad was the best, the smart-

est, a good "fixer," and the only father they would pick, given a choice.

A FATHER'S the guy who teaches you right from wrong, and also how to field, bat and pitch a baseball, the kids agreed. He lets you know you're important to him by always making time for you, too.

Square one is where the kids put it. They need to know that Dad is there for them, that he cares.

ON SUNDAY, we'll all be showing our dads and granddads too, how much they mean to us. If we're lucky, we can do it one on one. But many will be sending their affection over Sprint, MCI or through the U.S. mails.

A few years ago, I shared a unique experience with my father. We took off together from our workplaces in Southfield for a visit to Poland, where he and my mother started out.

For him it was a backward glance at his origins. For me it was a look at the shetl (village) I had heard stories about all my life. For complex reasons, neither of us could make such a visit without a look at three Polish concentration camps, a heart-rending experience to share.

IT WAS the first time in my life I had ever spent 16 uninterrupted days with my father. And though ours has always been a love affair, our days in Poland, nostalgic and difficult, gave me new insights into the man.

Sometimes, when I was very young, my dad was working too hard and long to share time like the fathers of those fifth graders. But he taught me a lot — to love the Tigers, to respect education and to care about other people.

Father really does know best. There's not much I can give him after all.



Shirlee Rose Iden

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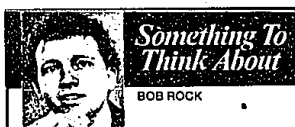
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Something To Think About

BOB ROCK

YOUR INSURANCE BENEFICIARIES

It might be a good idea to check over your insurance policy beneficiaries to make sure they don't conflict with the beneficiaries listed in your will. Don't let your heirs get short-changed through your inadvertent oversight. Remember: the insurance money must be paid to the beneficiaries as noted on the policy, not as listed in the will. If you've had reason to revise your will, you would have to make separate arrangements to update your insurance. Another matter where the insurance policy is as stringent as a will is with regard to particular settlement options — that is, the manner in which insurance proceeds are to be distributed to your beneficiary. Stipulations which you might have set down to protect a minor child, for instance, should probably be changed as children reach maturity. In general, you don't want to have such stringent requirements that your survivor's interests are jeopardized by changing circumstances.

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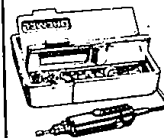
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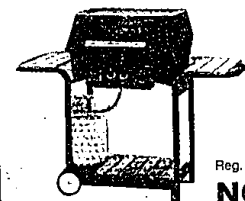
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