

# AMERICAN ATHEISTS

2210 Hancock Drive, Austin, Texas 78756

Friend,

Thank you for writing.

I appreciate your interest.

What is happening in the United States in respect to the separation of state and church will redound on every person in this nation. That "wall of separation" which the founding fathers, and especially Thomas Jefferson, envisaged as one of the first and utmost importance to the new nation then has been shattered and the fragments strewn.

There is almost no separation of religion and government in the United States now.

The states, cities, counties and the federal government vie one with the other to see how much tax funds can be given to what church. In Utah, the Mormon church gets the hog's share. In Minnesota, the Lutherans reap the benefits. In the Bible Belt southern states, the Baptists do. But, the Roman Catholic Church, as of yore, is teaching them all how to get those tax dollars. That church just about owns Florida (with Cubans streaming in), southern Texas, (with Mexicans streaming in), New York and New Jersey (with Puerto Ricans streaming in) ... all good Roman Catholics. But it also dictates politics in Maryland, Ohio, Massachusetts, Illinois, Pennsylvania, California, Michigan and Delaware.

Tax dollars flow -- for schools, for busing, for sectarian welfare services, for sectarian institutions. The idea is that the votes of the Christians can be bought to keep in power those persons who keep giving more and more to churches -- in a vicious circle that only helps religion. Meanwhile, the courts, elected officials, leaders of the scientific and educative communities cringe before religion's power.

Well, I don't happen to think that we should be cringers. I don't believe that we should accept highly irrational (religious) ideas as life guides. The religious community is -- by and large -- out of touch with reality. I would go so far as to say the religious folks of our nation rival the looney bird in their attitude toward life.

I intend to fight them. I hope that you intend to join in that confrontation. The enclosed literature will help you toward that decision.

AMERICAN ATHEISTS

*Madalyn O'Hair*  
Madalyn Murray O'Hair,  
President

MEMO'N: eis  
enclosures.

# Aid Your Legal Fund

We may just as well admit it. We feel like kids with a new toy!

The new law firm, all three members being of the new, young generation, is willing to try just about anything. If we think we have a case, they research it at length and come back saying, "Yes." or "No." or, "You can't do that."

They sit with us and argue over interpretation of U.S. Supreme Court cases and dicta. They hit the Federal Statute books and *case search* for long hours. They are bright, hard working, theory analysts and — to a man, they all have a sense of humor. We get along and this is more than a little important when we need to live together for many years to come.

Ralph Shirley and Madalyn Murray O'Hair are the older heads, but all four of our back-bone staff are in on every decision and in every legal conference. [The "backbone four" being Jon Garth Murray, Frank Duffy, Ralph Shirley and Madalyn Murray O'Hair.]

Naturally, with a law firm which will protect our rights, we have asked them to do some housekeeping chores:

[1] Pitney-Bowes sold us an addressing machine which was a rebuilt one instead of the warranted new one. It failed us and we want damages. The law firm has said, "We'll do it."

[2] A neighbor backed into the Society's automobile and then refused to pay minor damages. The law firm has said, "We'll get the money."

[3] When we purchased the new office building, the old library building was sold, and a book storage shed was on the premises. This was personalty. Before we could move it, the new owner hauled it away for her own use. The shed is valued at \$1,000. The law firm has said, "We'll get it back."

[4] Although we had a contract for the same, somehow Ma Bell did not list us in the telephone book which came out in January. No one can find either the Atheist Center, Society of Separationists, Inc., or Madalyn Murray O'Hair in the telephone book. The law firm has said, "We will get damages."

NO ONE was ever even interested in helping before. Even when we could get money for a lawyer, we could not get anyone to adequately represent us, or represent us at all!

In addition, these three lawyers have undertaken the difficult — political — state/church cases:

[1] Should the phrase "In God We Trust" be removed from our currency and coins?

[2] Is the national motto "In God We Trust" a constitutional one?

[3] Should the city councils of Metuchen, New Jersey and of Austin, Texas, — or any city council anywhere — be opened with prayer?

[4] Does the requirement of the constitutions of Texas, Arkansas and North Carolina that all persons holding office or employment believe in god constitute an illegal theocracy?

[5] Should the Roman Catholic Church be permitted to flaunt anti-gaming laws with continuing large scale Bingo operations where state laws forbid the same?

[6] Can any political entity set up polling places in churches and pay the churches rental?

[7] May P.T.A.'s across the nation continue with prayers in the public schools? If children are forbidden prayer, should their parents be permitted to pray — both exercises being in the same building?

[8] Should Gideon Bibles continue to be distributed in the public schools?

[9] May Christian nativity scenes adorn state capital buildings, high school lawns, public parks, or other governmentally supported sites?

They are prepared now to go with any, or all, of them. We are so delighted we are scraping up all the money we can to get some of the housekeeping matters cleaned up and some of the major issues confronted.

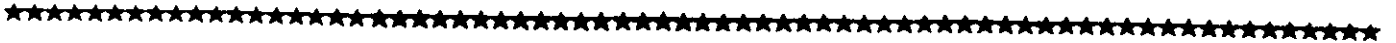
It is too good to be true . . . but let's keep it that way. Please help, this month, and every month if you can, with your and our "legal fund."

We will provide you with a special pink envelope each time — please keep us going on these issues! They all belong to all of us. Your help is needed, appreciated, and wanted.

Send your contribution to American Atheists Legal Fund, P. O. Box 2117, Austin, Texas 78768.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
VISA      MASTERCHARGE No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

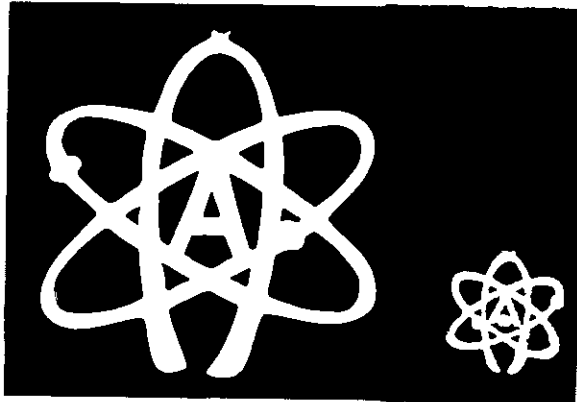
Thank you. Thank you.      Thank you. Thank you.



# Limited 4th Issue

## AMERICAN ATHEIST

Membership Medallions



(Shown actual sizes)

**Sterling Silver  
or  
14 K Gold**

This Official Issue is certain to rapidly sell out, so order yours today.

The medallion comes in a velvet-like lined gift box, with a handsome chain if you desire.

These would make great gifts. Please order early. American Atheist members have first chance at this price, but we will soon offer to the public.

Be proud of your freedom from religion and other superstitious beliefs.

Show your friends, and the world, you are not one of the brainwashed. Wearing this beautiful medallion will say, "I am a free-thinking AMERICAN ATHEIST."

This is the same medallion worn by Dr. Madalyn Murray O'Hair when she appears on television and in public. Join the unique ones!



Mail this order form to: **AMERICAN ATHEISTS, P.O. Box, 2117, Austin, Texas, 78768**

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ . Please send me

- sterling silver large size medallion at \$16.00
- 14-K gold large size medallion at \$180.00
- sterling silver small size medallion at \$12.00
- 14-K gold small size medallion at \$32.00

Enclosed  check,  money order;  cash, or charge as indicated:

to my MASTERCHARGE No: \_\_\_\_\_ to my VISA No: \_\_\_\_\_

which expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

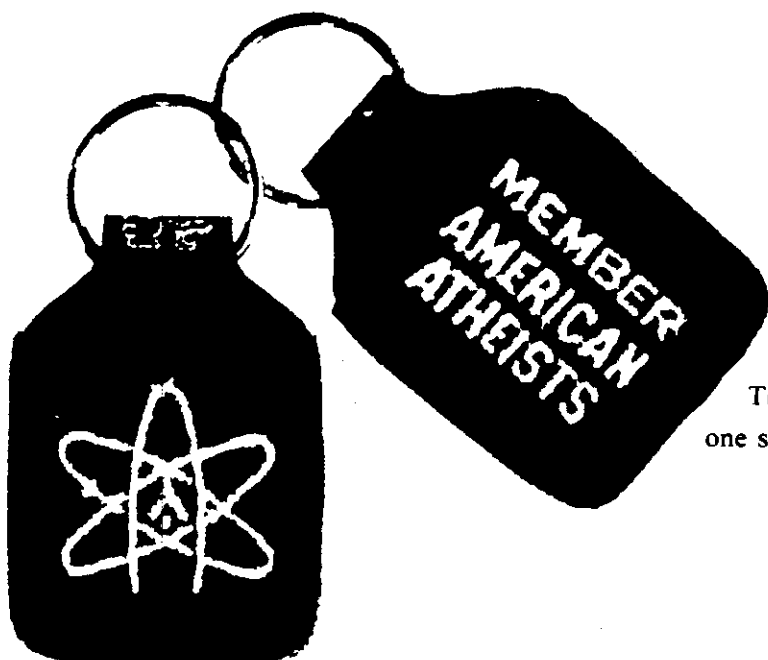


### THE AMERICAN ATHEIST 'PATCH'

A beautiful blue, gold, and white embroidered pocket patch. Great for blazer pocket, fishing cap, blue jean pockets, etc. A sure-fire way to start up a conversation at a social gathering. Exclusively designed and manufactured for American Atheists. This is not a printed iron on patch but the real thing. Yes, it is real gold thread .....

One patch for only \$1.95

Two or more patches for \$1.50 each



### THE AMERICAN ATHEIST KEY RING FOR MEMBERS

As the patch, this embroidered item was manufactured exclusively for members of American Atheists. The words "Member American Atheists" is embroidered on one side. The symbol of the association is in gold thread on the opposite side. The key ring will hold ten to twelve keys. Available only to members of American Atheists . . . . .

One key ring for only \$2.50

Two or more key rings for \$2.25 each

Please rush to me the following embroidered items:

One blue and gold embroidered patch for \$1.95

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ patches for \$1.50 each

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Yes, I am a member, please send me:

One blue and gold embroidered key ring for \$2.50

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ key rings for \$2.25 each

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check or money order payable to:  
American Atheists, P.O. Box 2117, Austin, Texas 78768.)

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge to my:

VISA

MASTER CHARGE

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Texas state residents add 5% sales tax)

# FREEDOM UNDER SIEGE

**At last, the  
truth revealed  
about organized  
religion —**

**A book by  
Dr. Madalyn Murray O'Hair**

Organized religion is working to destroy your freedom. It strives to influence your elected representatives and to write the laws under which you live, to regulate your children's schools and dictate what is taught there, to censor your entertainment and choose what you and your neighbor can see and read, and to determine for all women the right to control their lives and their bodies. And it is your money that makes this tyranny possible. The churches have their billions invested in profit-making enterprises; and their wealth grows daily from gifts, grants, rents, interest, capital gains and government subsidies. They are now financial giants, no longer dependent upon their parishioners for support. What they count on is their freedom from taxes. The church's billions are accumulated at your expense.

Shocking? Perhaps. But it is only a small part of the fascinating mountain of evidence gathered in *FREEDOM UNDER SIEGE* by attorney Dr. Madalyn Murray O'Hair and her researchers as part of their ongoing fight to preserve the First Amendment guarantee of the separation of state and church — a guarantee of not just freedom of religion but freedom from religion.

Official government and church figures prove that churches have as their membership only a minority of our citizens. This book shows the continuing pressures that this minority exerts on the lives of the majority of Americans.

Dr. O'Hair deals with politics, not religion; with separation of state and church, not Atheism. This report shows how your treasured liberties are slowly being eroded as the churches increase their power over every aspect of American life, limiting your freedom of choice and even your access to information regarding those choices.

Please send me [ ] copy (ies) of *FREEDOM UNDER SIEGE*, at \$8.95 (includes postage and handling). I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_, check or money order made payable to: **AMERICAN ATHEISTS, P. O. Box 2117, Austin, Texas 78768.** Or charge to my:

VISA

MASTERCHARGE

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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BK - 1000

(Texas state residents please add 5% sales tax.)

## FREEDOM UNDER SIEGE

dares to focus on the facts about this growing threat — a threat that our politicians and the press, radio and television have been unwilling to confront.

**Hardcover, 282 pages, only \$8.95**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

This is to certify that I am in agreement with the "Aims and Purposes" and the "Definitions" of the American Atheists, as indicated on the reverse side of this sheet.

I consider myself to be a Materialist or Non-theist (i.e. A-theist). I have, therefore, a particular interest in the separation of state and church and the American Atheists' efforts on behalf of that principle.

I usually identify myself for public purposes as: (check one)

- American Atheist     Objectivist     Agnostic     Realist
- Freethinker     Ethical Culturist     Rationalist     Secularist
- I evade any reply to a query     My own appellation as given below:

I hereby make application for membership in the American Atheists.

Signature	Date
(This application must be signed to be accepted.)	(This application must be dated by applicant.)
NAME (Last)	
NAME (First)	Mid. Initial
ADDRESS	
APT. NO.	CITY
STATE or COUNTRY	ZIP CODE

Please print or type information)

I understand that membership dues are \$15.00 per year per person, \$25.00 per couple.

Both dues and contributions are to a tax-exempt organization and I may claim these amounts as tax deductions on my income tax return.

Begin my membership as of: \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

I also desire to subscribe to the *American Atheist* magazine. This is NOT included in membership.  
I also enclose     \$15.00 for one year     \$25.00 for two years

Enclosed is my check or money order made payable to: **AMERICAN ATHEISTS**; or    
Charge to my BANKAMERICARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Charge to my MASTERCARGE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Upon your acceptance into membership you will receive a membership card. Keep it for reference; you will need to identify yourself with it when you vote on matters concerned with American Atheists.

You are entitled to the American Atheist "Insider's" Newsletter as an incident of your membership. The newsletter is issued monthly.

Thank you for your interest,  
**AMERICAN ATHEISTS**

## AMERICAN ATHEISTS

### "Aims and Purposes"

1. To stimulate and promote freedom of thought and inquiry concerning religious beliefs, creeds, dogmas, tenets, rituals and practices.
2. To collect and disseminate information, data and literature on all religions and promote a more thorough understanding of them, their origins and histories.
3. To advocate, labor for, and promote in all lawful ways, the complete and absolute separation of state and church; and the establishment and maintenance of a thoroughly secular system of education available to all.
4. To encourage the development and public acceptance of a humane ethical system, stressing the mutual sympathy, understanding and interdependence of all people and the corresponding responsibility of each, individually, in relation to society.
5. To develop and propagate a social philosophy in which man is the central figure who alone must be the source of strength, progress and ideals for the well-being and happiness of humanity.
6. To promote the study of the arts and sciences and of all problems affecting the maintenance, perpetuation and enrichment of human (and other) life.
7. To engage in such social, educational, legal and cultural activity as will be useful and beneficial to members of American Atheists and to society as a whole.

### "Definitions"

1. Atheism is the life philosophy (*Weltanschauung*) of persons who are *free from* theism. It is predicated on the ancient Greek philosophy of Materialism.
2. American Atheism may be defined as the mental attitude which unreservedly accepts the supremacy of reason and aims at establishing a system of philosophy and ethics verifiable by experience, independent of all arbitrary assumptions of authority or creeds.
3. The Materialist philosophy declares that the cosmos is devoid of immanent conscious purpose; that it is governed by its own inherent, immutable and impersonal law; that there is no supernatural interference in human life; that man — finding his resources within himself — can and must create his own destiny; and that his potential for good and higher development is for all practical purposes unlimited.



American Atheists is a non-political, non-profit, educational, tax-exempt organization. Contributions to American Atheists are tax deductible for you. Our primary function is as an educational "watch dog" organization to preserve the precious and viable principle of separation of state and church. Membership is open to those who are in accord with our "Aims and Purposes" as stated above. Membership dues is \$15.00 per person per year. An incident of membership is a monthly copy of "American Atheists Insider's Newsletter". We are currently forming local chapters, and membership in the National organization automatically gives you entrance to your local chapter.

# The American Atheist

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF DISTINCTION  
FOR BRAVE HEARTS AND INQUIRING MINDS

This is where it will happen: in this journal, the new intellectuals, American Atheists, will hammer out the philosophy of living and the moral/ethical values of our nation – for now and for the future.

The churches, now totally corrupt, and religion revealed as the mental excrement of primitive man, can no longer set standards for modern living. We must carve out our own viable, relevant, criteria. The new *weltanschauung* will be a comprehensive conception of our world.

How do we get from here to there? By working at it intelligently, of course. We need to use our minds instead of our knees. We stand up to life and find our answers there rather than kneel to ancient

irrational precepts no longer applicable.

The American Atheist is 32 pages in format of which 16 pages speak to the concept of state/church separation – a premise upon which our nation was founded and from which organized religion and vote hungry politicians have caused it to stray. There are articles from new writers, poems, book reviews, and an exciting 'Letters to the Editor' section for real exchange of ideas.

You don't want to miss this road into tomorrow. You will want to be a part of the decision making. This is a magazine in which you participate – not one you just read. This is the magazine planning, now, for a decent life today as well as in all of the future.

(Clip and mail coupon to:)

AMERICAN ATHEISTS  
P. O. Box 2117  
Austin, Texas 78768

I want to subscribe to the all new  
AMERICAN ATHEIST magazine.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed find [ ] \$15.00 for one year.  
[ ] \$25.00 for two years.

Or charge to my:

VISA

MASTERCARGE

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# NEW FROM AMERICAN ATHEISTS Atheist Cassette Tapes

These cassette tapes are ideal for home listening. Use them to start discussions at parties or local chapter get-togethers.

If you are a reader and not a listener they make extremely good (tax-deductible) gifts to local or university libraries that have record and tape departments.

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All tapes are guaranteed from defects for 30 days.



## Available cassette tapes

### Why I Am An Atheist

This is the original sound track of the two LP record set produced by Dr. Madalyn Murray O'Hair in 1965. The records are no longer available but they are reproduced in their entirety on these cassette tapes. The subject matter deals with the total effort to remove prayer from public schools in the United States as well as Dr. O'Hair's personal philosophy of Atheism.

Two (2) hours listening time ..... \$14.95

### AMERICAN ATHEIST RADIO SERIES

Each set of tapes contains four (4) 15-minute programs by Dr. Madalyn Murray O'Hair as they are broadcast on radio stations nationwide. The sets presently available are:

### SET 1

#### PROGRAMS:

- 424—Bishop's Bluff
- 425—What Makes Easter Move?
- 426—The Churches And IRS
- 427—Freethought in Early United States
- 1 Hour ..... \$10.00

### SET 2

#### PROGRAMS:

- 428—The Freethought Press in Early United States
- 429—Freethought Organizations in Early United States
- 430—Freethought Theory in Early United States
- 431—Freethought Debates in Early United States
- 1 Hour ..... \$10.00

### SET 3

#### PROGRAMS:

- 436—Joseph Lewis on Robert G. Ingersoll
- 437—Ingersoll on The Holy Bible, Part I
- 438—Ingersoll on The Holy Bible, Part II
- 439—Ingersoll on The Holy Bible, Part III
- 1 Hour ..... \$10.00

### SET 4

#### PROGRAMS:

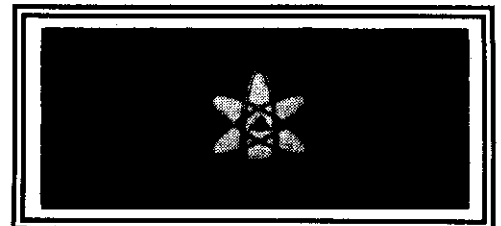
- 440—Ingersoll on The Holy Bible, Part IV
- 441—Ingersoll on The Holy Bible, Part V
- 442—Ingersoll on The Holy Bible, Part VI
- 443—Robert G. Ingersoll on Superstition
- 1 Hour ..... \$10.00

## American Atheist Lapel Pin

The American Atheist Lapel Pin finished in brushed golden tint is ideal for members of American Atheists and subscribers to the American Atheist magazine. It is the symbol of the organization and the logo of the magazine. Men's version is a lapel pin, women's version has a clasp.

- Men's Lapel Pin ..... \$10.95
- Women's Pin with clasp ..... \$11.95

actual size



***WHAT ON EARTH  
IS  
AN ATHEIST***

**?**

by

**D. A. RICKARDS**

**WHAT ON EARTH IS AN ATHEIST?**  
**TAKE THIS TEST** and find out in 20 questions.  
Mark **ONLY** those with which you agree.

**DO YOU THINK THIS IS TRUE?**

1. God is a myth. Man's future is in his own hands. True
2. Prayers are what you say to yourself. Success in life depends on human effort and human help. True
3. Man is a part of Nature and has developed in it. If life has a purpose, it is man made. True
4. When a man dies, his life is over for ever. Only his ideas can survive. True
5. The church and the clergy are in business for themselves. They have no more special knowledge about life than the average man. True
6. The churches and clergy beg for a living and grow fat. They should be made to account for every penny which they receive and pay tax like everybody else. True
7. Birth control information should be available to all who seek it. True
8. Blessings and medals are useless protection against trouble of any kind. True
9. Man is responsible for what he does. Crimes (sins) cannot be forgiven by religious rites, holy water or doing penance. True
10. The time to live is now, the place to live is here and the way to be happy is to make others happy. True

**DO YOU THINK THIS IS FALSE?**

1. In God we trust. Man's future is in God's hands. False
2. Prayers are heard by God. Success in life depends on divine help. False
3. Man was created by a Creator. His main purpose is to please God. False
4. When a man dies, his soul goes to Heaven or hell and stays there forever. False
5. The Church and the Clergy represent God on earth. They know what is best for you and have special powers. False
6. The money collected by churches and clergy belongs to God. It is tax free and should not have to be accounted for. False
7. Birth is an Act of God. The bigger the family, the better. False
8. Blessings and medals are most helpful to avoid trouble and prevent accidents. False
9. All crimes (sins) can be forgiven by God or one of his earthly representatives. False
10. Things may be bad in this world but the next will be better. False

(over)

