

AMERICAN ATHEIST

A Journal of Atheist News and Thought



This is the single magazine in the history of the United States which has ever dared to openly title itself as an atheist journal. The name is the game. The inside contents reflect and reinforce that. This is an atheist journal, edited by Atheists, written by Atheists, printed by an Atheist organization, read by Atheists and reflecting atheist concerns. And, we are proud of it.

The magazine is in its 24th year of publication, being openly and avowedly honest in its advocacy of an Atheist life style every inch of the way down that long time corridor.

The "American Atheist" is published monthly. It contains no advertising. It relies on the generosity of members of the society of American Atheists to finance it. In any ordinary magazine you purchase there are three pages of advertising for every page of text. Here, your sensibilities are not offended with such trash. It would take a 100 page "Time," or "U. S. News and World Report" to give you as much reading material as in 25 pages of the American Atheist. And, it would be a bargain at any price since you cannot obtain in our nation any magazine which comes even close to this one in boldness of cartooning, vigor of thoughtful presentations, or frankness of general content.

With a magazine like this, you can take pride in being an Atheist — whereas heretofore you have been fearful to even state your Atheism openly in the atmosphere of rampant religious fundamentalism in our country today, now you can take pride in your stand. You can learn more of the history and personalities of Atheism in our nation and in the world. You can hear many voices of reason speak to you as you read, from both the present and from the past. You will thrill to read that great Atheists have always been in our nation: Thomas Edison, Mark Twain, Margaret Sanger, Clarence Darrow, Albert Einstein, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Henry Ford, Susan B. Anthony, Luther Burbank, Frances Wright,

Andrew Carnegie, James Lick who built Lick Observatory, James Smithson who built the Smithsonian Institute. The culture of our country owes much to the Atheists. There were and are millions of them — in the United States.

Usually the journal is 40-pages. If something important is happening on the state/church separation front, it has been known to go up to 48 pages. And, when funding is slow, it has dropped to 28. No matter how many pages there are: you will love it. And, it is there, month after month — a beacon of sanity in a land of religious insanity. It is a breath of fresh air, frank, bold and honest. It is exactly what you have been waiting for, what you have been hoping for.

The editor is Madalyn Murray O'Hair. That name speaks for itself. You have heard her on radio, seen her on television or read about her in your newspapers constantly since 1959 when she started the suit *Murray v. Curlett* which eventually got to the United States Supreme Court. It was that case which stopped bible reading/prayer recitation in our public schools when the Supreme Court decision finally was issued in June, 1963.

Do you know there is million dollar American Atheist Center in Austin, Texas? Do you know that there is an American Atheist Museum in Petersburg, Indiana? Do you know that Atheists are trying to protect prisoners who are suffocated with religion in our penal institutions and that the organization for that is P.A.L.A. (Prison Atheist League of America)? Have a problem with alcohol? You no longer need to go to the christian ridden Alcoholics Anonymous for now A.A.A.R.G. (the American Atheist Alcoholics Recovery Group) is here — headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Atheists even have their own cemetery in Grottoes, Virginia. And, annual national conventions, too. It's all covered in the *American Atheist*.



What You Are Missing

What on Earth Is An Atheist

Madalyn Murray O'Hair June, 1968
"No god ever gave any man anything, nor ever answered any prayer at any time — nor ever will. Religion has caused more misery to all humankind in every stage of human history than any other single idea."

Speech

Sen. Lowell Weicker January, 1983
"I have come to believe with Mark Twain that established religion 'means death to human liberty and paralysis to human thought.' . . . prayer in school has the potential for doing real damage — to children and the families . . . and to the ideal of separation of church and state our founders embraced."

The Lord and The Intellectuals

Christopher Hitchens January, 1983
(a reprint from *Harper's magazine*)
"Gibbon said of the many religions in the declining Roman empire that they 'were all considered by the people as equally true; by the philosophers as equally false; and by the magistrates as equally useful.' Today's policy intellectuals or philosopher-magistrates hold the last two views simultaneously."

Remarks of The President of the United States

Ronald Reagan May, 1983
"We know there is sin in the world. And we are enjoined by scripture and the lord Jesus to oppose it with all our might."

The Big Bang Cosmogony

G. Stanley Brown March, 1983
"Believers are often seen grasping at the physical world of science to support their cherished values. They will use science where it helps them and ignore science where it goes against them."

Birth Control or Abortion

Margaret Sanger September, 1982
"The question, then, is not whether family limitation should be practiced. It is being practiced; it has long been practiced; and it will always be practiced. The question now is whether it is to be attained by normal, scientific Birth Control methods or by the abnormal, often dangerous, surgical operation. That is the question which the church, the state, the moralist, and most of all, the woman herself, must face. . . He who would combat abortion and at the same time combat contraceptive measures may be likened to the person who would fight contagious diseases and forbid disinfection."

Our Twentieth Anniversary

Jon Murray May, 1983
"The American Atheist movement has nowhere to go but up, nowhere to reach but out and nothing to conquer but the world. And, we're ready for it."

The Existence of A God Can Be Tested

John W. Patterson May, 1983
"Thus supernatural concepts . . . are rejected by scientists not because science is helpless to evaluate them, but because . . . they have already had their day in court, and they have proved themselves to be utterly sterile, totally vacuous concepts."

Betting on A Hereafter

Merrill Holste January, 1983
"If the temporary stopping of the brain function due to anesthetics can cause such complete mental blackout, loss of memory and feeling, we Atheists bet that the total irrevocable physical disintegration produced by death will cause an equally complete blackout of every nervous faculty constituting human personality or 'soul,' thus eliminating every possibility of 'life after death.'"

Notes on The Phenomenon of Publishing

Fred Woodworth January, 1983
"A visit to Tucson several years ago by Dr. Madalyn Murray O'Hair which the papers were compelled to report (in, of course, a snide and unfriendly manner), was followed by over six weeks of rejoinders and hostile observations as the newspaper utilized the unavoidable fact of a news story to manipulate second-hand editorials in the letters column, all the while maintaining the customary pose of impartiality and objectivity. . . Plainly, a letter-to-the-editor is nothing more than an opportunity for manipulation on the part of those in charge of publishing."

Christian Propaganda

Jeff Frankel May, 1983
"It is my opinion that the distribution of such twisted literature to children is child abuse. It is a practice which should be denounced by civilized people everywhere. Sadly, many minds, once indoctrinated with propaganda of this nature, are never free again."

To Be — or Not To Be

Gerald Tholen December, 1982
"No living thing comes with a set of instructions or values. In fact, no living thing has any presupposed purpose at all. Being alive is its own purpose and any subsequent 'plan' must be established by the individual."

Yes, I want to subscribe to *The American Atheist* for 1 year. \$25.00 is enclosed.

Make checks/money orders payable to: AMERICAN ATHEISTS, PO Box 2117, Austin, TX 78768

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