

ONE NATION

Under God

VINCENT M. WALES

Year One

★†★

2021

From the diary of Mary Christopher, January 19, 2021:

Tomorrow, Dad gets sworn in as President! We're going to live in the White House!

Mom will be "First Lady," so I guess I'll be "First Daughter" or something.

Washington is really different than home, though. There are lots more people. Not as many as in L.A., but still a lot.

And there's snow here! That is so cool! The only time I got to play in the snow was when we went to Lake Tahoe two years ago after Christmas. It was fun.

But it's a lot colder here than in Tahoe. Mom says it's because of the humidity. I thought that only made you sweat in the summer, but she says it makes it seem colder in winter, too.

I won't be going to school anymore. Mom says I'm going to have a tutor. I guess that'll be okay, how will I make friends?

At least I'll have the 'net. I can keep in touch with everyone back home. We can use email or chat... Dad said I couldn't have vid-vox for security reasons, and I guess I can understand that. But it'll stink that my friends won't be able to see my face or my room, or hear my voice while we chat.

Mom said I have to be very careful not to let anyone know I'm the President's daughter. She's pretty scared about the types of people you can meet online. I think she's just paranoid.

Well, I guess that's all for now. I know I'll be writing a lot in my diary this year. There'll be so much to write about!

From Paul Christopher's inaugural address, January 20, 2021:

Decade after decade, Presidents have been promising to use the powers of their office to get this nation back on its feet. And decade after decade, they have broken that promise.

Politicians are not in tune with Americans in general. They're used to the intrigues of the game and realize that giving the people what they want, or at least promising it to them, is how to get re-elected. They realize that lying on demand is essential for saving face.

George Washington was the President who could not tell a lie. Well, now there's a second President who cannot lie. I'm not a politician, as you all know. I've never gotten trapped in the messy cycle of greasing palms and knifing backs. And I won't. That's not my style.

I'm a common citizen, just like most of Americans. I know what Americans want, and what they are and are not willing to sacrifice to get it. And I'm here to help us get it.

We all want the same things, after all. We want our children to grow up in a safer world than we did. We want a return to the solid morals that our country was founded upon. We want to make this world a better place in every way.

The great thing about this is that it's not only possible to do, but we don't have to sell our souls to accomplish it. In fact, what's needed is to *save* our souls. By heeding the word of God Almighty, we can turn this country around. We can turn the world around. That is our duty to our fellow man, our duty to God.

We've been saved once, over 2000 years ago. But the sins that are being committed today are for us to atone for. We must save ourselves.

From the journals of Paul Christopher:

When will the shock wear off? Since November, I've felt like I've been watching someone else's life.

Sarah and Mary seem to be handling it better than I am. And I'm glad. Mary is utterly transfixed by nearly everything in the White House. I swear she knows more about the building by now than I do, bless her.

Sometimes I still wonder if I'm truly up to the task ahead of me. I often catch myself questioning whether I did the wise thing in following Gene's urgings to run for office.

But he is a man of God, one of the most respected, too. I must have faith in his foresight.

From the diary of Mary Christopher, January 21, 2021:

*This house is incredible! I had no idea it was so huge!
My room is fantastic! And I can do whatever I want to it!
Dad says they'll redecorate it however I want!*

And there's his bedroom, the Lincoln Bedroom. I thought that meant Abraham Lincoln was the first President to sleep there, but actually, he used it as an office. Dad says it was in that room that Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, freeing the slaves.

To think that I stood in the same room where that took place... It's awesome. It's so freaky that I'm walking the same halls as all the Presidents who've lived in this house...

I hope one day some other kid will live here and think, "Wow... Paul Christopher, the greatest President ever, lived in this house..."

I hope my dad will be thought of that way by future generations. He's the greatest guy in the world!

God has been so very good to us!



The Voice of Reason

Welcome

Welcome, dear friends, to The Voice of Reason. I'm your host and webmaster, Jefferson Paine, and this site aims to be your source for understanding what is happening to America, and why it is wrong.

This site will either be your greatest resource or your worst nightmare, depending on your inclinations.

In days to come, you'll find articles about the history of civil liberties in America, about idiotic legislation the Christopher Administration will no doubt try to pass, and general information for fighting against the fundamentalist propoganda, especially the crap put forth by the man behind Christopher's election: Reverend Gene Sisco and his group, Our Father's Family.

So please bookmark this site and come back soon. You won't be disappointed. Outraged, maybe, but not disappointed.

"Our liberty depends on freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

—Thomas Jefferson

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*This site last updated: 01/25/21
Visitors since this site was born: 906*

Letter to the editor, The Washington Post, January 31, 2021:

It should come as no surprise that our President has decided we should call upon God to save our country from its troubles. He's a religious man, after all.

It's not hard to see why he's concerned. The world has never been a safe place, and the more our technology advances, the worse the horrors become. Children can obtain adult weapons and blow away dozens of their classmates. Crazy individuals can manufacture powerful bombs from fertilizer and diesel fuel, blowing up entire buildings and killing hundreds. Terrorists can hijack jumbo jets and ram them into skyscrapers, obliterating thousands. And those are just man-made horrors. Add to those the ones from nature. AIDS, for example. Or Ebola. Or even just diseases that strike the elderly. We're living longer, so more of us have to fear them.

And after each such incident... school shootings, bombings of public buildings, terrorist hijackings... after every one of these, there was a call for a return to faith. With every outbreak of disease, there was a call for prayer. Prayer, we were assured, would stop the next atrocity from happening.

But has it worked? Have we seen a decrease in atrocity or disease? Have we seen an increase in charity or civility? No, we have not. Has the great sky god not heard these prayers, or worse, ignored these heartfelt pleas for clemency and kindness?

No. He has not ignored them, for he does not exist, except in the minds of believers.

Doubtless this paper will be barraged with letters insulting me and defiantly proclaiming that their god is loving and does listen. But evidence does not indicate any truth to these claims.

It's time to grow up, America. It's time to quit hoping some make-believe father figure will fix things, and fix them ourselves.

*Eleanor Adams
President, Atheists USA*

From the Washington Post, February 2, 2021:

Washington—The Honorable Barry Richards announced his immediate resignation as Chief Justice of the United States. No reasons were given.

In his first major Presidential action, Paul Christopher nominated federal judge Mal Spencer for the position. It is expected that the nomination will meet with no opposition in the Senate.

Justice Richards was regarded as the last moderate on the bench, and Spencer's expected replacement of him may indicate serious problems on the horizon for some minorities.

Justice Spencer's opinions in previous cases have shown him to be no friend of the gay rights movement, for example. In the past ten years, he has voted against proposed legislature to provide civil rights to homosexuals or those living any other sort of alternative lifestyle. He has also voiced his opposition in many forums, from newspaper editorial pages to radio programs and television talk shows. He may well prove to be the most outspoken and visible Supreme Court Justice America has ever had.

From an editorial by Polly Wright, head of San Francisco based American Queers, in the February, 2021, edition of their monthly magazine, Queer and Now:

I've been asked more times than I can count how I feel about what's happening in Washington. My answer is always the same: "How do you *think* I feel?"

Let's sum it up. We've got a conservative religious nut in the White House, whose wife is active with anti-gay and anti-choice groups, and whose most trusted advisor is an even more conservative religious freak. And he's nominated a virulently homophobic bigot as Chief Justice, a man who has already done more than enough damage to our cause. And the Republicans control the House and the Senate, which will make conservative legislation frightfully easy to pass in the coming years.

In short, the situation sucks rocks.

Now, it's true that "gay pride" hasn't been this high in all the years since the Stonewall riots. But we may well be in for some nasty years ahead of us. I'm not suggesting that we all go back in the closet. But we all need to be wary.

Excerpt from television interview with Mal Spencer, 60 Minutes, March 9, 2021:

"The so-called 'wall of separation between church and state' is an erroneous inference from the text of the Constitution. While clear that government is to have no involvement in matters of religion, it is sheer speculation to say that such non-involvement is meant to be reciprocal.

"The private writings of the founders, including the infamous letter of Jefferson's to the Danbury Baptists, cannot be considered as founding documents. Privately held opinions have frequently differed from official policy. A uni-directional wall would better serve the interests of this country.

"Similarly, 'freedom of religion' is precisely that. It does not include 'freedom *from* religion.' Religious men founded America. It would be disrespectful of their memory and labors to pervert their wishes by eliminating religion from our great nation, even on the smallest scale."



The Voice of Reason

Lies Your Government Told You!

- *“Studies Prove Prayer is Good Medicine!”* Prayer can be useful for oneself, in much the same way as meditation or having a positive outlook on things is useful. But no reputable study has ever shown intercessory prayer... prayer on behalf of others... to be effective. Reports stating otherwise are based on poor testing methods, faulty interpretations of data, and occasionally, outright fudging of the facts.
- *“Ten Commandments Reduce School Violence!”* School crime in general had been dropping steadily for years before the 10 C’s were illegally mounted in school classrooms, and didn’t change a bit after they were posted. The Commandments made no difference whatsoever, except by increasing your tax burden.
- *“Homosexuality Can Be Cured!”* Homosexuality isn’t a disease. There’s nothing to “cure.” Brainwashing clinics like Sisco’s *The Camp* do not “cure” anything; they merely override natural behavior with intensive post-hypnotic suggestions, causing individuals to behave against their nature. This almost always results after a time in mild to moderate (and sometimes severe) psychoses. Almost 15% of those who “graduate” from these programs commit suicide within a decade.

“The only foes that threaten America are the enemies at home, and these are ignorance, superstition, and incompetence.”

—Elbert Hubbard

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*This site last updated: 03/11/21
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From the diary of Mary Christopher, March 12, 2021:

I'm not sure about my tutor. I mean, she's nice enough, but every single lesson we cover seems to somehow include religion. I didn't have this much Bible study even at Holy Grove Academy back home!

It kinda bugs me, but I don't know why.

I was doing some research on faith healing today and found a really awful website. It said that faith healing is baloney. Of course, it didn't back up this claim with any proof.

I looked at this site's "archives" and found articles that really upset me. They were very mean toward my dad and Uncle Gene.

What makes people so mean? It's not like my dad ever did anything to them! Sure, he's passed laws that not everyone will agree with, but that's tough! There's no sense getting upset about it. It's not like it'll change anything.

I swear I will never understand atheists.

Maybe I should do my own site. I don't know what I'd put on it, but it could be fun.

From a proclamation by Eleanor Adams, President of Atheists USA, March 13, 2021:

Our esteemed Chief Justice has shown himself to be quite an ignoramus. Jefferson's letter to the Danbury Baptists was not a personal missive. It was an official Presidential statement, approved by Levi Lincoln, the Attorney General. While not a "founding document" *per se*, it is most certainly not to be dismissed as being irrelevant. And to turn Jefferson's "wall of separation" into a "one-way" wall is not only utterly inaccurate, but it completely undermines religious freedom in this country.

If any religion can freely influence the government (which it has been doing for centuries, but rarely as blatantly as today), then all citizens are subject to the desires of that religion, whether or not they happen to subscribe to that particular belief system.

Justice Spencer seems to have forgotten that not everyone holds the same religious beliefs, and that millions of Americans hold no religious beliefs at all. Perhaps he doesn't care about these particular citizens. Or worse, perhaps he agrees with former President George Bush (the first one), who stated that he wasn't even sure that atheists should be considered citizens.

Anyone who cares about liberty and justice for all should denounce his statements, not to mention the biased administration that appointed him. I urge all Americans to contact their local chapter of the ACLU, who are planning a legal challenge if the civil rights of even one citizen are trampled if (when) these views find their way into a court ruling.

Freedom of religion *must* include freedom *from* religion, or it has no meaning whatsoever. Anyone not blinded by prejudice can see this, which apparently says a lot about our Chief Justice.

Selected headlines from around the country in the following weeks:

FIRST AMENDMENT FIRST TO GO?

FREEDOM OF RELIGION...TO DO WHAT?

**WILL SUPREME COURT PULL A JERICHO
ON WALL OF SEPARATION?**

OUR FOUNDERING FATHERS



The Voice of Reason

HUAC, McCarthy and Reds. (Oh, my!)

During the 1950s, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. (look it up) were the two biggest military powers on the planet. Each had its own ideologies, and both “knew” they were diametrically opposed to one another. As you can imagine, they were afraid of each other to the point of paranoia.

Senator Joseph McCarthy was quite vocal about the “Red Menace,” as the threat of Communism was called. (Communism was the ideology considered insidious and dangerous to paranoid folks in the U.S.) He was also heavily involved with the House Un-American Activities Committee, a Congressional Committee put together to flush out any Communists in America, using antics not unlike the witch hunts of much older times.

Here’s a quote from Committee Chairman, J. Parnell Thomas: *“The rights you have are the rights given you by this Committee. We will determine what rights you have and what rights you have not got.”* (Makes you want to go to *that* party, doesn’t it?) Because of McCarthy’s vocal role in it, this witch hunt mentality was dubbed “McCarthyism.” The HUAC hearings destroyed the lives and careers of many innocent people. It was an egregious abuse of Congressional power, and remains one of the darkest hours of our political history.

In fact, there was a virulent anti-Communist mentality after the First World War, too, possibly just as strong as after the Second. It could be that the lingering memory of this earlier “Red Scare” in many people helped fan the flames of the hysteria three decades later.

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The Voice of Reason

America: Christian Just to be Different

Because America was so insane with fear and hatred of the Soviets in the 50s, people felt we had to distinguish ourselves as being as *unlike* them as possible. One fairly easy way to do this was for us to have opposite ideologies.

As it happens, the “official religion” of the USSR was atheism. (Never mind that atheism isn’t a religion, nor that it doesn’t matter diddly what the “official” anything is of a country. People will believe what they want.) And while Americans were under the mistaken impression that all Soviets were atheists, the Russian Orthodox Church kept growing and growing. It was, and still is, one of the largest Christian denominations in the world.

So, since *they* had atheism as their official stance, *we* had to have some sort of theism as ours. Yes, the Constitution forbade such a thing, but Americans are clever. To get around our own founding document, lawmakers did little things, like insert the words “under God” into the Pledge of Allegiance, and make “In God We Trust” our new national motto, replacing the Latin “*E Pluribus Unum.*” It didn’t matter that large numbers of Americans didn’t even believe in a god, let alone put their trust in one. The phrase was printed on our currency, and minted onto our coins. Actually, it had been on and off the coins sporadically for quite a while, but after McCarthy’s day, it was there to stay.

This should’ve been a sign of what was to come. But we Americans have never been the most observant people.

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Excerpt from the Presidential Press Conference, May 10, 2021:

For too many years, the liberal media have been free to run roughshod over factual reporting, to put whatever spin they like on matters they have no business doctoring. We have watched as the press has slandered fine Presidents such as Reagan and both Bushes, and defended morally bankrupt Presidents such as Clinton. No longer will the excesses of the media be tolerated.

“Freedom of the Press” was never meant to provide the media with the ability to potentially destroy our nation’s leaders. And no longer will they have this ability. A bill is now before the House of Representatives. It proposes that all media sources be monitored closely for any such un-American behavior. Guidelines have been drawn up that will pertain to the major media outlets and may be seen on the U.S. Government Internet website.

The House votes on this bill tomorrow, at which point it will move to the Senate. I expect little opposition.

From the New York Times, July 9, 2021:

Philadelphia—Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* resumed publication Monday, three weeks after a court order commanded the paper to stop its presses.

The paper had printed a harsh editorial in June, following the passage of the “Press Bill” by Congress. The editorial criticized not only President Christopher, but also Reverend Gene Sisco. As such, it violated the terms of the new law’s restrictions on the press. Rev. Sisco’s organization, Our Father’s Family, immediately called for a boycott of the paper, resulting in tremendous numbers of cancellations by angry readers.

Many publications contained criticism of the new restrictions. Papers around the country featured letters to the editor labeling them unconstitutional. Professors of history insisted that freedom of the press, as guaranteed by the First Amendment, was designed to do exactly what our current administration claims it was not designed to do. Many are of the opinion that the *Inquirer* was used as an example to others.

Frank Carver, publisher of the *Inquirer*, estimates it will be years before the paper again reaches its circulation prior to the shutdown, and possibly several years more before it recoups lost revenue.

Excerpt from transcript of interview with Eleanor Adams, President of Atheists USA, for National Public Radio, but never aired:

NPR: Eleanor, you've been editorializing about Paul Christopher ever since he was given the Republican nomination. You've been particularly harsh when it comes to his vision for America. What do you think President Christopher means by a return to "family values"?

EA: "Family values" is a term that has been bandied about by the ultra-conservative set for ages. It's a desperate cry for a return to that old world, the world where unwholesome things were kept hidden, not flaunted, nor put on display as art. It was a world where every other marriage didn't end in divorce, where people stayed married because of the children, and where one income was sufficient to support them all.

NPR: A return to the "good old days," so to speak.

EA: Well, I don't know. My experience has shown that the "good old days" weren't all that good. My grandparents used to talk about them all the time, and as near as I can figure it, they were referring to the 1950s. And when you mention the 50s today, what do you think of?

NPR: Elvis Presley. Black and white sitcoms.

EA: Right. But as you probably know, it wasn't all Ozzie and Harriet. In addition to the fear and paranoia of the Cold War, there was rampant racism and sexism, as well as Eisenhower's orgy of inflicting religion on the masses.

NPR: You're referring to the national motto?

EA: Yes, changing it to In God We Trust, making it mandatory on our currency and coinage, and having "under God" inserted into the Pledge of Allegiance. He knew it made the Pledge into a prayer, thus violating the First Amendment. In fact, at the time, he said, "From this day forward, the millions of our schoolchildren will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and every rural schoolhouse, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty."

NPR: Would you say that this decade, then, is when everything started to “go wrong,” in your view?

EA: Well, I would say that it took a great leap in the wrong direction at that time, but things have not gotten much better since then.

NPR: But the 1960s, by contrast, were very liberal, free-spirited, and some would say, favorable to the atheist.

EA: Right. The decade when God was “thrown out” of public schools. The abolition of spoken prayer in public schools was definitely a step back in the right direction, but it was only a temporary one. Things quickly got worse.

NPR: Which isn’t to say that the 60s were all that good.

EA: Oh, absolutely. Despite the “summer of love” thing that people even today seem to conjure up when they think of the 60s, the decade was rife with heinous things, too. Race riots. “Police actions.” Political assassinations.

NPR: Then came the 70s. And Watergate.

EA: Exactly. Watergate established as fact what many people had long suspected, that you can’t even trust the guy at the top. This was a cold, impersonal decade, possibly as a result of this. The 80s gave us Reagan and Bush the elder, both of whom were devoted to making religion a staple of American life. A bit later, Bush the younger did more to inject religion into government than anyone since Eisenhower. And it’s just gone on from there.

NPR: And now we have President Christopher. I know you’re not a political analyst, but how do you think he won? This was a man who’d never held any political office before.

EA: Oh, come on. Americans haven’t cared about real qualifications for well over a century. He may not have had political experience, but he had other things that drew voters to him.

NPR: Such as?

EA: He's tall, handsome, charismatic, well groomed, and loudly Christian. He's got a photogenic family, with his lovely wife with her long blonde hair and their cute little eleven year-old daughter. He's in his mid-forties and in great shape. The touch of gray at the temples appeals to the older crowd, and his youthful physique draws the under-fifty folk to him. He's friendly, well spoken and an excellent debater. Of course, what comes out of his mouth is idiotic half the time and misinformed the other half. He's promised to return America to its religious roots, instill "family values" everywhere, and other lofty notions. No wonder he had a landslide victory. Of course, it helped that he has the backing of the country's largest Christian organization, Our Father's Family.

NPR: "Family values" again. We've come full circle. So you're asserting that these "family values" of Christopher's are founded in religious teachings?

EA: More accurately, he thinks "family values" can *only* be founded in religious teachings, and specifically in *his* religion's teachings. But as millions of Americans will attest, we don't believe that things such as racism, sexism, homophobia, and other views supported by these religious teachings, should be considered "family values."

NPR: You've done a great deal of digging into Christopher's background. We know he was born in Los Angeles...

EA: On the day Richard Nixon resigned in disgrace.

NPR: Really? I didn't realize that. Interesting. So tell us about his religious background.

EA: Paul Christopher was raised Presbyterian by his parents, but by the time he was a teenager, he sought out more fundamentalist faiths. He attended Bob Jones University in South Carolina.

NPR: That university was destroyed in a fire several years ago. Wasn't it known for its racist views for most of its existence?

EA: Absolutely. Up until early in 2000, they forbade any interracial dating among the student body. In 1983, they even lost their tax-exempt status due to this policy.

NPR: So what was his major?

EA: His records were destroyed in the fire, and he's evidently never spoken publicly about his education. But there's no indication he was pursuing a career in politics. In fact, after his graduation he toured the country visiting many of the nation's most prominent evangelists, including Billy Graham, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Benny Hinn, and others.

NPR: I understand he also worked for the Institute for Creation Research.

EA: Yes. He even convinced his high school alma mater to drop evolution from its curriculum.

NPR: It was during his years with ICR that he met his wife.

EA: Right. He met Sarah Schell at a revival meeting. Reverend Gene Sisco's revival meeting.

NPR: Now, Sisco's organization, Our Father's Family, was undergoing its growth spurt in those days, largely due to the collapse of the Christian Coalition.

EA: Yes. During the decade after Pat Robertson stepped down as head of the organization, its members began to look for another group to join. Our Father's Family was it, for many of them. Sisco had a large organization and a popular show, *The Family Hour*.

NPR: They now boast a membership of over 150 million in America alone.

EA: Could be true. Could be creative tabulating. We'll probably never know for sure.

NPR: Either way, it's a huge and powerful organization, probably the most powerful Christian group in history.

EA: Unquestionably. OFF was responsible for completing the task the Christian Coalition started: re-instituting mandatory prayer in public schools.

NPR: But their first real coup was the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*.

EA: Indeed. And the establishment of Big Brother was another.

NPR: What? Big Brother?

EA: It was key members of Our Father's Family who were able to pull strings within the government in order to make this nightmare a reality.

NPR: Interesting. Now, rumor has it that it was Sisco who planted the idea in Christopher's head to run for President.

EA: I haven't been able to verify this, but it seems highly probable. Sisco's no dummy. He knew Christopher would be a shoe-in.

NPR: But why did the Republican Party?

EA: Well, I don't know that they necessarily did. I think Sisco and his group used their considerable sneakiness to get behind Christopher without the pols catching on, then blew in from nowhere to win the early primaries. The pols never recovered. A friend of mine summed it up well: "When the runaway train comes through, you don't stand in the way." And I think the already conservative Republican Party saw the train and decided to hop on board.

NPR: Can you blame them?

EA: Are you kidding? Paul Christopher is a religious conservative's wet dream. The Republican Party would have been insane not to nominate him. The people love the guy. And some of them, it almost seems, practically worship him.

From the Boston Globe, August 12, 2021:

Washington—The role of Big Brother, the government’s special task force regulating the Internet, including the computer of the same name, has been expanded. The Internet will now be required to adhere to the same restrictions placed on conventional media.

Big Brother has been given the additional command to seek out and destroy any site that is considered “treasonous.” That is, sites containing rhetoric that slanders the government or its actions.

Elwood Nutt, head programmer for the Big Brother computer, stated, “Fruit flies will have longer life-spans than targeted sites, now.”

Nutt, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the creator of the specialized “worm” programs used by Big Brother. His work has been on the cutting edge of computer technology for years.

Date: August 12, 2021
To: nutt@ohs.bigbrother.gov
From: wormlogger@host.ohs.gov
Subject: Failure Notice

Worm deployment date: 08/12/21
Target site: www.voice_of_reason.com
Attempt number: 32

Worm admitted: No
Worm detected: Yes
Worm destroyed: Yes
Anti-Virus Software: Unidentified
Additional information: Message: “Woody, you dork.
Don’t you know the Early Bird always gets the worm?”

End auto-report.

From "George Orwell is Spinning in His Grave," printed in the August, 2021, edition of Wired magazine:

In 2001, the Office of Homeland Security was created as a result of the terrorist attacks perpetrated on America that September. Ostensibly, its purpose was to safeguard the home front against future terrorism. Of course, not all terrorism is from foreign sources, and before long, the OHS was turning its eye on Americans themselves.

By 2010, the OHS had assembled the ultimate computer surveillance technology: Big Brother. It was an expansion of Cyber Knight, the notorious FBI program that spawned such computer snooping efforts as Carnivore and Magic Lantern a decade earlier. The tremendous leaps in computer technology over the ensuing ten years made it possible to track virtually everything in cyberspace. And eventually, the OHS was able to take over computers and satellites previously used by the CIA and various military branches, making the Big Brother operation staggering in its abilities.

Whenever a new Internet domain is registered, Big Brother's computers are alerted. Using sophisticated search techniques, they scan all web sites for key words, looking for anything offensive or dangerous. What qualifies as dangerous? Quite a lot. The ever-vilified pornography, of course. Excessive profanity. Anti-government sentiments. Anti-religious sentiments. Anything supportive of homosexuality or other alternative lifestyles. All of these, by their very nature, are subjective, but it doesn't matter. All protests have been ignored.

If the targeted site is located outside the US, the host's Internet Service Provider is ordered to make the site unavailable to computers within the States. If they refuse, they suddenly find their servers crashing over and over again. But if it is within the US, computer viruses known as "worms" are sent to destroy all data in the files. Simultaneously, the site owner is identified, and the ISP is alerted to the illegal site. The owner's name is added to a database, and if he/she registers any domains elsewhere with illegal content, they are arrested. If the previously notified ISP actually allows the party to put up another illegal site, the ISP is shut down.

Even more than sixty years after the publication of George Orwell's classic novel *1984*, people were appalled that the government would even consider naming something "Big Brother." Today, what's truly appalling is that we're coming closer and closer to making that mythical hell a reality.

Internal government memo anonymously submitted to the Washington Post (previously unpublished):

Date: 08/22/21
To: T. Bannister, CO BB Proj.
From: E. Nutt, CP BB Proj.
Subject: Trouble

No doubt you have heard rumors about a site that Big Brother has been unable to shut down. Here are the facts:

- On 10 April, BB detected a site (www.voice_of_reason.com) which contained inappropriate material. It was assigned a medium-level priority.
- Attempts to contact the host provider were fruitless.
- Our hacking program has repeatedly failed, producing an automatically generated reply with insulting verbiage.
- Attempts to view source code result in a page reading, "Life is more interesting with a little mystery, don't you think?"
- The site appears to be hosted on a non-commercial computer tied directly into the Internet. Further, a random URL director is apparently scripted into the site's code, throwing the visitor to any of a hundred different "mirror" hosts.
- Attempts to shut down these mirror host ISPs have proven to be wastes of time. Whenever one is shut down, the site automatically routes to another. It is likely that the webmaster is adding new mirrors regularly.

Whoever scripted this site is a smart cookie. Not of my caliber, of course, but very bright. Possibly with a host of psychological maladies, but I shan't speculate on those.

I am certain I can shut the site down, given enough time. However, this will limit my available time for upgrades to BB itself. I await your recommendation.

I see nothing serious to worry about. The site is mindless babble aimed at the Christopher Administration. Irritating, I'm sure, but hardly dangerous.

I suggest keeping a lid on this site's existence. If given the green light, I can use more direct actions and have this site shut down before 'net lists can catalog it for search engines.

From the New York Times, September 11, 2021:

New York—President Christopher was on hand for Patriot Day. Joining New York City Mayor Ellen Bond and Governor John Larsen, he led thousands of people gathered in prayer.

The service was held in Memorial Park, in front of the World Trade Center memorial, erected in memory of the thousands of people who died during the destruction of the New York landmark, which was leveled in terrorist attacks twenty years ago today.

President Christopher refused to answer any questions on the “War on Terrorism” declared by President George W. Bush after the terrorist attacks, a war that is still being fought today.

From the diary of Mary Christopher, September 12, 2021:

What a day! Mom and I are still in New York, but Dad had to go back to DC last night.

We're having a blast! We went to the top of the Empire State Building and took a boat out to the Statue of Liberty.

It would be more fun without the Secret Service goons. I feel really weird about them always being around, but I guess I'll have to get used to it. But it seems silly. Who would want to hurt us, anyway?

Tomorrow we're going to see a Broadway show. And then we'll fly back to Washington tomorrow night.

Excerpt from a commentary by Michael Lee, Political Director of the national office of the Libertarian Party, September 12, 2021:

It is no surprise that Christopher avoided questions regarding the War on Terrorism. Every President since Bush has avoided such questions whenever possible. The fact of the matter is that this “war” was designed from the start to be a perpetual struggle, allowing government to feed more and more money into the military and the industries that support the military. It has given “justification” for the sacrifice of individual liberties by all citizens, in the name of “national security.”

William Proxmire said, “Power always has to be kept in check; power exercised in secret, especially under the cloak of *national security*, is doubly dangerous.” Were he alive today, he’d be very, very critical of what’s going on.

The Patriot Act, instituted during the Bush years, has been used (again, unsurprisingly) to designate many domestic activist groups as “terrorists.” Any group that even gives the impression of trying to “influence the policy of government by intimidation or coercion” can be so labeled. Many groups, such as Greenpeace, were not terrorists, except according to this definitely un-patriotic Act, which ultimately led to their disintegration.

I had hoped, two decades ago, that the American people would rise up in protest of the sweeping abuses of power that would certainly occur as a result of the Patriot Act. But such a protest has never happened. It seems, I must admit sadly, that we have become so used to being spied upon, so used to being without certain rights of privacy, that we think little of their absence.

It was complacency such as this that permitted the success of the September 11 attacks in the first place. I wonder what atrocities this current complacency will permit to occur.

Excerpt from interview with Eleanor Adams, President of Atheists USA, aired on National Public Radio, September 19, 2021:

NPR: Ms. Adams, you have a Doctorate in History from the University of Pennsylvania, is that correct?

EA: Yes, that's right.

NPR: The infamous website, *The Voice of Reason*, is run by an individual going by the name of "Jefferson Paine." Are we correct in assuming the name is a combination of Thomas Jefferson, our third President, and Thomas Paine?

EA: I think that's quite obvious, yes, and incredibly appropriate as a pseudonym for the person running this site. Jefferson gave us the terminology of "a wall of separation between church and state." He explained in a letter to the Danbury Baptists, who were concerned about the First Amendment, that its purpose was to keep government out of religion and religion out of government.

NPR: Jefferson also wrote the Declaration of Independence, of course.

EA: He is credited with doing so, although there are some who believe the Declaration is actually the work of Thomas Paine. Or at least heavily influenced by him.

NPR: Interesting. So tell us about Thomas Paine.

EA: Gladly, as he's one of my personal heroes. Paine was a contemporary of Jefferson's, and was greatly admired in his day by many, including Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and others. He gave our country its name, The United States of America. But due to his unkind criticism of the Bible, his name has not enjoyed the same recognition as his co-founders.

NPR: Didn't President Teddy Roosevelt refer to him as a "filthy little atheist?"

EA: Sadly, yes. Paine was a truly great patriot and very influential in his time, if not exactly known for being the picture of personal hygiene. The ironic part of Roosevelt's condemnation of him, though, is that Paine wasn't an atheist, but a Deist.

NPR: And what is that, exactly?

EA: A Deist believes in “nature’s God,” as opposed to the Biblical God. A Deist believes this deity created the earth and all natural laws, but does not believe anything can be known about it, and does not believe in any “holy” documents such as the Bible. Many of our country’s founders were privately Deists, including our first six Presidents, though some, like Washington, put on an outward image of going to church in order to appease the masses.

NPR: Paine was a writer, as well.

EA: Yes. He wrote and published many short pieces on liberty that were very well-received. His most popular work was titled “Common Sense.” It sold over half a million copies, which was utterly remarkable for the time, considering the small population of our country. He was possibly the most audible voice in the fight for independence.

NPR: Pretty big names our Internet personality has adopted for himself. Pretentious, do you think?

EA: Perhaps. But it’ll be fun watching to see what he has to say. I know I’m looking forward to it!

From the Washington Post, September 21, 2021:

Washington—President Paul Christopher announced today that new federal guidelines from the Department of Education would require all public schools to teach classes in morality to their students, effective next year. Schools have until May 30, 2022, to submit their proposed course outlines to officials at the state level. No course may be taught without approval of the outlines, including textbook selection. Private schools are exempt from this new legislation.



The Voice of Reason

Undermining the Family

I'll state the obvious: Any course proposal for the new "morality classes" that does not incorporate Biblical teachings, or does so much as hint that things such as such as abortion or homosexuality are anything other than abominable, will never pass. The government is dictating the morals to be taught.

But teaching morality isn't like teaching multiplication. Multiplication has no gray areas. Two times two is four, always. And though morality is almost exclusively gray areas, the new lessons will be taught in black and white, since America loves the "quick fix" solution.

But complex problems require complex solutions. In Christopher's schools, there will be no discussion on such things as killing in self-defense, or to ensure a greater good. Inquisitive kids will ask their parents about some matter of morality. The parents will, of course, offer their views. And a million voices will cry out, "That's not what they taught us in school!"

So our government is undermining the family, taking away the authority of parents and legislating matters entirely outside the government's realm. I guess the only family whose values matter is "Our Father's Family" ... right Sisco?

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This site last updated: 09/25/21
Visitors since this site was born: 6,061

Excerpt from an editorial in The New Catholic Review, October, 2021, by Father Emilio Montoya:

For those who don't know me, I run a halfway house for troubled teens in Los Angeles called The Bethlehem Inn. I also give lectures locally about the problems with religious fundamentalism. And now I have another segment to add to my lecture: to point out the flawed mentality behind President Christopher's latest edict, of forcing our public schools to teach morality.

Readers will understand, of course, that the morals being taught will be those of Reverend Sisco's literal interpretation of the Bible. And this is something our order has long fought against, as have other non-fundamentalist Christian groups.

It is this kind of mentality that caused us to break away from the Old Catholic Church in the first place. The Old Catholic mentality was fundamentalist at one time, too. This attitude caused the Church to support creationism long after evolution was indicated, and to imprison great scientists like Galileo for suggesting things that were contrary to a literal reading of the Bible.

And though the Vatican disavowed creationism years ago and is much more amenable to science today, I suspect the Pope will have little problem with literal Biblical morality being taught. We New Catholics, however, should be outraged at the very prospect.

We value free will above almost all else, and Sisco's literalism leaves very little room for free will in our nation's children. The sad fact is that I'm sure Sisco realizes this, even desires this. Evangelicals, as any student of the human mind will tell you, have a psychological *need* to control and coerce others.

I urge all New Catholics to speak out against this new law. Even if your children are in private schools, or if you have no children, think of the children of others. These lambs will not be allowed to graze in the open air of liberty, but will be raised in a box of evangelical fundamentalism, as a veal calf unable to move more than a few inches in any direction.

Our love for one another cannot allow this to occur.



The Voice of Reason

Separation Myth Information

This may be obvious, given what's going on in our country, but there are quite a few people out there (including our Chief Justice) who believe that the Constitutional separation of government and religion is a myth! Yup. They deny that it is real, focusing on the fact that those exact words don't appear in the Constitution. And when pointed to the First Amendment, or Article VI, Section III, they say, "No, that's not what that really means." These very same people, of course, will talk at length about the Constitutional right of "religious liberty," even though those exact words also do not appear in the document.

The point here is that many of the concepts we understand to be Constitutional rights are explained in verbiage that doesn't appear in the Constitution. But the concepts themselves are there, no matter what words we use today to define them.

Another related myth propagated by many is that the wall of separation was meant to be some kind of "one-way" wall, keeping the government out of religion, but not vice-versa. Some even claim Thomas Jefferson himself stated this. This is rubbish, of course. Jefferson never said any such thing, and if anyone would take but a moment to read the separate writings of our founders, one would find it very plain that actual separation in *both* directions is *exactly* what they meant.

But, sadly, very few people do this. Including, obviously, those who occupy Congress.

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This site last updated: 11/20/21
Visitors since this site was born: 8,125

Internal government memo anonymously submitted to the Washington Post (previously unpublished):

Date: 11/22/21

To: E. Nutt, CP BB Proj..

From: T. Bannister, CO BB Proj

Subject: Your lack of progress

I see that your efforts have resulted in nothing. The website we have spoken of is not only still in existence, but also gaining in popularity.

It is easily found through search engines in any number of ways. I, myself, have located it quickly on searches for such things as government, religion, abortion, homosexuality, and others.

Am I mistaken, or isn't this the exact opposite of what we were aiming for?

I trust you will correct this situation immediately.

TB



The Voice of Reason

Pissing Off the Masses... Awww...

Evidently, several people haven't been happy about the things I've been saying in this little forum of mine. For the past week, I've been getting about 20 email flames every day! Kinda fun, actually. I'm flattered. Mainly because the people I'm pissing off are the sort of people who represent everything I write against.

No, I don't actually read them all. Please. I skimmed several, though, especially the ones where the subject line said something like, "YOUR FUCKING WEBSITE," or "HEY ASSHOLE!"

Have you noticed how unoriginal these people are? It's shocking. And one flame reads just like the next. Boring.

I like getting email, though, so feel free to drop me a line.

"We hate some persons because we do not know them; and will not know them because we hate them."

—Charles Caleb Colton

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This site last updated: 12/07/21
Visitors since this site was born: 9,699

Date: December 22, 2021
To: jefferson_paine@voice_of_reason.com
From: eadams@atheistsUSA.org
Subject: Your wonderful site

Mr. "Paine":

Please accept my unabashed admiration of and gratitude for your efforts. I am amazed your site hasn't been reduced to digital dust by now, and hope this is not simply a temporary state.

I absolutely MUST speak with you privately. Please contact me as soon as possible. Please download my public key at <http://cryptkeys.org/19366/>. I'm sure your email is safe against hackers, but I don't think the same can be said for mine.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

E. Adams