## The Merkel Mail



Danny Riggan (22) flips up a shot during Saturday's $59-57$ win over lake the championship game of in overtime t Tournament. Riggan was named the tourna ment's most valuable player. (Staff p.oto by
Drew Mawson)

## Local ministry group sets community

 wide Thanksgiving serviceThe annual community wide Thanksgiving
Service has been set for Wednesday night at 7 p.m. at the First Methodist Church in Merkel. The event is held annually and is sponsored by
the Merkel Ministrial Alliance. he Merkel Ministrial Alliance. Participating in the Service this year are: Our
Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, Father Lee zimmerman; The First Methodist Church of
Basketball starts off right,
Thanksgiving, I knew Kristen shot JR
> y Cloy A. Richards
> The Merkel basketball teams started off the season on the right foot thig weekend with
tournament victories. To make things even nicer hey won their own tournament and on top of win the tournament. The girls won a close final game with Hamlin,
who is expected to offer Merkel's main who is expected to offer Merkel's main
competition in the 8-AA district race this year. competition in the 8-AA district race
The boys came back from an 11 point deficit to take the final game over Jim Ned and that has to be encouraging.
> Last week's note in this column abou upcoming Anniversary Celebrations drew some
nthusiastic comments about Merkel's 100th Anniversary of it's founding, as well as the city' 5 th Anniversary of it's incorporation If local interest is that great toward an anniversary celebration, it is time for the city
council to form a centennial celebration committee and the Chamber of Commerce here as well.
Abilene will be going hog wild in March, April
and May concerning their celcbration of 100 years since their foundin
> The Mail is still planning what type of
approach to take for a special edition surrounding next summer's celebration, an since this type of event happens only once in a
lifetime, we need your ideas and inputs ifetime, we need your ideas and inputs
concerning what type of stories, articles and historical information should be included in that special edition.
If you have

> The U.S. Census Bureau has had a rough go of tommerces and all other council's Chamber of are hopping mad concerning their counts thi year. Merkel's population count of 2416 shows 13 percent gain in population, but shows a If Merkel is to continue to grow, housing will not all that eas
> With interest rates soaring again, another housing start decline can be a deterrent to
continued growth. Judging from phone calls to continued growth. Judging from phone calls the
our Classified section, seems to me someone could make a killing if they constructed a

Merkel, Ray Elmore, Pastor; The First Baptist Church of Merkel, David Bugg, Pastor; Calvary Baptist Church, Joe Davis, Pastor; First The First Presbyterian Church
The message will be delivered by Joe Davis All special music will be provided by Roy Davis. and the public is cordially invited to attend.

## How about the Dow Jones average going ov

 1,000 for the first time in four years?The "Reagan Rally" on Wall Street continues and that rally has to indicate at least optimism for the future.
We definately hope that trend continues, because this country has seen enough hard times
lately to deserve another period of prosperity

The most common statement all across the Kristen that shot J.R
If everyone knew or had said all along it was Kristen, why did last Friday's episode of Dallas
draw the largest audience in history and draw the largest audience in history and why
could CBS sell advertising spots at the rate of a half a million dollars per minute?

## Thanksgiving

You may pick a different way to celebrate this holiday each year, but most of us, if only for true American spirit of being thankful for all life's pleasures, whether they thankful for all erkel Ministiral Alliance is sponsoring community-wide Thanksgiving service Wednes
day at the Merkel Methodist Church. The servic will pot started at 7 p.m.

This writer usually diets a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving in order to be physically
ready for the holiday's feas ready for the holiday's feast.
We started a little early this and I had the opportunity to meet with my mother's clan in Temple.
Kids everywhere, men watching football games and women either cooking or chatting
with relatives are scenes that will be repeated all over the country and we hope your get-togethers will be as pleasant.
Could you please pass the dressing and while gravy...and.
The Mail would like to remind everyone that
there will be no paper the week following Christmas
The Mail takes that one week a year for the employees here to have vacation time and there will be no paper printed the week of Jan. 1.
All material for the Christmas issue will have a noon Dec. 22nd deadline.


Council adopts landfill ordinance for fees penalties for misuse
The Merkel City Council voted Tuesday night to
adopt an ordinance setting fees for use of Merkel's sanitary landfill.
The ordinance
The ordinance sets fees as well as rules
concerning use of the landfill It also provides fines ranging from $\$ 5$ to $\$ 200$ for misuse of the landfill.
Included in the ordinance are fees for commercial and non commercial waste left at
the landfill by non-Merkel residents. The city will the landfill by non-Merkel residents. The city will
charge $\$ 2$ for less than 2 cubic yards, $\$ 4$ for 2 to 4 charge $\$ 2$ for less than 2 cubic yards, $\$ 4$ for 2 to 4
cubic yards, $\$ 6$ for 4 to 10 cubic yards, $\$ 10$ for 10 to 20 cubic yards, $\$ 14$ for 20 to 30 cubic yards and Vehicles hauling tires or
charged three times the abover rate, as well as charged hree times the above rate, as well as
vehicles hauling animal body wastes, offal and other deleterious materials, Perosns hauling dead animals
the residency.
The fees will be payed by use of coupons that
will be on sale at Merkel City Hall and on a will be on sale at Merkel City Hall and on a The ordinance also prohibits scavenging, tresspassing and provides for closing the landfill
during inclimate weather. The landfill will be open from 7 am until noon and from 1 pm untile 4 pm Tuesday through Saturday. The landfill will
be closed Sunday, Monday and holidays. In other action, council voted to spend $\$ 1,400$
for 16 people to attend the Emergency Medical for 16 people to attend the Emergency Medical
Care Attendant Course, a prerequisite for Emergency Medical Technician Training. The city also held a public hearing, which
noone attended to noone attended, to consider public opinion on use
of federal funds the city is applying for to perform various city improvement projects including paving and water-sewer lines.
In other action, council decided to look in to
refurbished garbage trucks for purchase, heard that WTU had appealed their rate increase denial to the Public Utility Commission, took over
posession of city radio equipment that had been acquired through federal and state grants, and decided to give city employees Thursday and Friday off for the Thanksgiving Holiday, City
Hall will be closed Friday, the landfill will be open.
Council's next session is scheduled for
December 8 at 7 pm at City Hall.

Snow, mud slow cotton harvest
Last week's snow storm has definately had an
effect on the cotton ginning and stripping as the 1980-81 cotton harvest is at a standstill. Red Shafer at Planter's Gin in Trent said they
have ginned 737 bales so far and have no cotton on the yard to gin. Shafer said his crew was doing
a little maintenance work in the gin. Shafer said a little maintenance work in the gin. Shafer said
the weather was not helping to dry out cotton the weather was not helping to dry out cotton
fields. He said the cotton price was still good, the problem was, most didn't make enough cotton this year to take advantage of the higher price.
Finley Barnett, manager of the Stith Gin, said
they have gined 380 bales so far and also had no At the Merkel Gin, they have turned out 780 bales and had no cotton on the yard. They also
reported they were doing maintenance work around the gin
Monday's weather forecast called for a winter
storm watch according to storm watch according to the National Weather
Service. Although at press time the weather conditions were dry, the NWS said if the storm does not materialize, it will remain cloudy until
Prasarn, Click, Frazier lead girls past Hamlin


Sarah Prasarn (13) moves the ball upcour during the girls two point win over Hamlin in the
finals of the Merkel Basketball Tourney here this weekend. Prasarn was named to the all-tourna
ment team. (Staff photo by Drew Mawson)


FFA leadership contest results



The 1980 FFA Radio team consists of (left to
right) Greg Arnwine, D. W. Best and Mike Pape Staff photo by Drew Mawson
Reynold's have visitor $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Mr. and Mrs. Dou- } & \text { with his grandmother, } \\ \text { glas Watkins, of Sny- } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Mrs. O.J. Reynolds }\end{array} \\ \text { der, spent Saturday } & \text { and Bob. }\end{array}$

## Fortnightly club has meeting

 participated by having a book marker contest.The winning book markers were displayed for all
the students to see. The following students were
the winners Kindergarten: Miss Moore's Room-
1st place. Alisha Hobbs, Honorable Mention-
Randy Cubrrel Mrs. McFall's Room- 1st Place Randy Cubrrel. Mrs. McFall's Room- Rent Place
and Overall for Kindergarten- Cliff Owen and Overall for Kindergarten- Cliff Owen
Honorable Mention-Calab Kelso; Mrs. Hudman's Room-1st Place-Tammy Graham, Honorable
Mention-Trisha Evans; First Grade-Mrs. Pur Mley's Room-1st Place-Criswell Whisenhunt Honorable Mention, Dayna Doan; Mrs. Henderson's Room-1st Place-Mandy Barnet Room-1st Place and overall for ist grade- Shayla Miller, Honorable Mention-Tanya Beasley and Danielle Langlinois; Second Grade-Mrs. Wade's Room-1st Place and overall for 2nd Grade- Miss
Jones, Honorable Mention-Lupe Quintero; Mrs Jondusky's Room- 1st Place- April Griffith, Honorable Mention-Todd Steward; Third Grade Mrs. Wilson's Room- 1st Place- Joyce Roberts,
Honorable Mention- Marie Wojcih; Mrs. Stegmollonorable Mention- Marie Wojcih; Mrs. Stegmol
ler's Room- 1st Place- Micheiie VeraCruz Honorable Mention- Amy Coleman; Mrs. Brau ne's Room- 1st Place and overall winner for 3r tephen Jacobs and Steve Bauer; Fourth Grade Mrs. Neff's Room- 1st Place- Michelle Dudley Honorable Mention- Bridgett Vaughn; Mrs oozier's Room- 1st Place and overall winner for
Grade- Michelle Barnett, Honorable Mention John Paul Dudley; Mrs. Seymore's Room- Is Place- Glyn Ann Rutledge, Honorable Mention Krista Johnson; Fifth Grade- Mrs. Reed's Room-
Place and overall winner for 5 th Grade- Janna

National Book Week is observed the second
week in November. Merkel Elementary student

Pettit, Honorable Mention- Kim Graham; Mrs. Rister's Room- 18t Place- Shelle Doan, Honorable Mention- April Duncan; Mrs. Robert's Room- 1 s .
Plark Aldrete, Honorable Mention- Staci
Howard Tarvin,83

| r- | Mildred McCarty Feb. |
| :---: | :---: |
| vin, 83, of Fort Davis, | 1949 in Mertzon. He |
| died Saturday morn- |  |
| ing in a Big Spring |  |
| hospital following | He is survived by his |
| lengthy illness. Ser- | wife; three sons, A.C., |
| vices were at 10:30 | George and Charles, |
| a.m. Tuesday at the | all of California; two |
| Starbuck Funeral | daughter |
| Home Chapel with | vertson and Inez |
| Larry Gill, minister of | lips, both of Calif |
| the Merkel Church | nia; a stepdaught |
| Christ, officiating. Bu- | Donna Hartley |
| rial was in Compere | ska ; a brother, E.C. of |
| Cemetery | Barnhart; two sis |
| Born Feb. 12 | Alta Howard |
| Collin County, he was | tion and Nora |
| reared in Jones Coun- | sco; and |
| ty and had lived in | grandchildre |
|  | great-grandch |

## Walter Isreal, 53

| Walter We | ty. He had lived in |
| :---: | :---: |
| 53, of Merkel, died | erkel the past |
| 12:30 p.m. Saturday | ars. He serve |
| at Hendrick Medica | Army during |
| Center after a sudden | World War II. |
| illness. Services were | He is survi |
| at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday | brother, Joe of |
| at the Starbuck Fun- | phenville; two |
| eral Home Chapel w | Jeanette Hatch |
| the Rev. Joe Dav | Dennis, and Jo |
| pastor of the Mer | Mae Mageson |
| alvary |  |
| Church, officiating | Pallbearers Melburne Jowers, |
| Burial was in Rose | Melburne Jowers, |
| Hill Cemetery in Mer- | bert Jowers, Johnn |
|  | Montgomery, Ro |
| He was born Dec. 27, |  |
| 926 in Johnson Coun | and Bill Williams. |

## Russell named



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HORMEL HOT CHILI $150298^{\circ}$

OREO COOKIES $1902{ }^{5} 1^{49}$
town talk
BROWN N SERVE ROLLS
PKG $69^{\circ}$
COCA COLA MR PIBB SEVEN UP TAB

RITZ CRACKERS ив вох $98^{\circ}$
NILLA WAFERS
$79^{\circ}$
PRESSED HAM
premium
CRACKERS וєв вох 79

THE MERKEL MAIL
For Sale

 Fhtu or ot, sili.joelt
bs at Merkel Counrty


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 aq available. To set
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Calahan County Calahan County. Pe
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are buying or selling,
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cal Ronnie Hardy a
and Century 21, or stop in
Abilene, 182 South
WHis $673-4535$ or 846 -

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Rose

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call call $923-8038$. rent a leaserkel. If
required plus deposit.
She禺

Notices

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marriar decree dissolving the
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you, including the termination of the rent-child relationshi
ren and the appointmen of a conservator with
authority to consent to the children's adop tion. his citation is no served within ninety
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its issuance, it shall be its issuance, it shall be
returned unserved. The officer execut prompty werve she same according to re-
sairements of law quirements of law, and the mandates hereof,
and make due return and make due retur
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the seal of said Court under my hand and
the seal of said Court
at Abilen, Texas, his
the 12th day of Novem. the 12 th day
ber, 1980 .
 326th District Court,
Taylor County Texas
By Johnie Todard, Johnnie Woodard,
Deputy

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## Cotton quality checking system


#### Abstract

marketing of cotton, is reproduced on cards that can be read by machine as well as can be read by machine as well as by eye. The Abilene office expects to class only 250,000 ales of cotton this year, compared to 926,000 bales last year, because the drouth reduced this year's crop, Manley explained. Of the 31 counties served by counties are major users 5 counties are major users of the classing service. They are Baylor, Fisher, Glasscock Haskell, Howard, Jones, Knox, Martin, Mitchell, olan, Runnels, Scurry, Stonewall, Taylor and The equi locations in addition to the Abilene office. These are Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Harlingen and Lubbock, Texas; Bakersfield and Fresno, California and Phoenix, Arizona. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture P.R. Smith said quality data on about 56 percent of the said quality data on about 56 percent of the 11.7 be recorded on the new system. The new system speeds up marketing by as much as two days and saves the cotton industry 7 to 10 cents per bale--time and monty spent when cotton firms manually punch the classification into their own automated systems said Smith. The cotton industry has urged the use of electronic recording in all classing facilities, he electr said.

First installation phase of a new electronic ystem for recording cotton quality data has been system for recording cotton quality data has been completed in the Abilene cotton marketing services office, U.S. Department of Agriculture, This new electronic system is designed to speed up service to cotton growers and traders in the cotion marketing services office, USDA's As,ricultural Marketing Service, according Borden B. Manley, its director Samples from bales of cotton office by gins in the area. Then USDA cotton classers determine the grade of the cottonstaple and fiber fineness. each bele and thene quality characteristics for ginners and growers who use it to get the best price for their cotton," Manley explained. Traditionally, cotton classers work as a team staples to the recorder The classer calls out grades and information on the farmer's classification card and office records. works alone entering thic system, each class computerized terminal informanon at a smaf


## Guide, tips on home buying

The Department of Housing and Urban Development today announced the publication of
a comprehensive but practical guide to buying and maintaining a home. Entitled the "Homebuyer's Information Pack-age--A Guidebook for Buying and Owning a
Home", the 97 page publication was prepared by the HUD Office of Policy Development and Research.
"The processes of purchasing and operating a,
home have become costly and often complex," said Donna Shalala, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research. "AT a time of high interest rates and rising operating expenses, have the best possible information available on how to buy wisely and how to make sound decisions in maintaining the home The information package, a loose leaf note information: to buy or not to buy, the search for a house, purchase contracts, financing the house, he closing process, money management, used in homebuying. Shalala noted that, if studied carefully, the package will be found to be the equivalent of an academic course in homebuying and manage careful, unemotional scrutiny of the house
offered for sale and the financing options

The publication points out that many purchases visual stimuli-fancy wallpaper or carpeting paneled recreation room, and appliances-rather than on such fundamental consi leration, an having enough space.
Worksheets and a
prospective buyers make an intelligent appraisa of the homes they examine.
The section on money managernent tells the new owner how to deal with initial problems and defects, set up a homeownership budget and
manage it, resolve money problems, and get manage it, resolve money problems, and ge
counseling help if it is needed. Budget worksheets are included The section on maintenance, a subject often
overlooked in homebuying treatises, offers overlooked in homebuying treatises, offers
practical tips for caring for the home, making simple repairs and improvements The information package, complete with work forms, checklists, and samples of pertinent legal documents, can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing
Office. Det. 32 H , Washington, Office, Dept. 32H, Washington, D C., 20402, fo VISA or Mastercard credit card account number and expiration date, and specify GPO Stock No
$023-000-00508-5$ A free leafle the package also is avini pointers taken from Pointers, HUD USER, P.O. Box 280, German
town, Md, Meat-a mainstay of the American diet. com-
mands a large portion of the food dollar so focus on your meat dollar to cut food costs, advises Marilyn Haggard, a foods and nutrition
specialist A key in buying meat is the "cost per serving"
she says. Ms. Haggard is on the home economics A key in buying meat is the cost per serving,
she says. Ms. Haggard is on the home economics
staff of the Texas Agricultural Extension staff of the Texas Agricultural Extension
Service, The Texas A\&M University System. Service, The Texas A\&M University System.
Because some cuts of meat have more bone Because some cuts of meat have more
and fat waste than others, "price per pound" is
not a true guide to the cost per serving," she not a true guide to the cost per serving," sh
explains. explains.
Remembe
Remember, three ounces of lean, cooked meat
is considered a standard adult serving. is considered a standard adult serving
COST PER SERVING
Different cuts of meat yield different numbers
of servings. so you must have some "basic of servings. so you must have
yields" in mind when you shop
In other words, you must know how man servings a pound of a particular cut of meat wil yield. Dnce you know that, then look at the pric
per pound. Only THEN will you know the price per pound. Only THEN will you know the price It may so
simple once you complicated, but it's all ver Here are some examples to illustrate how First, look at a pound of ground meat. Tha particular cut (ground meat) yields four serving per pound. If the ground meat costs one dolla
per pound, then each of the four servings will cos 25 cents.
Now look at ribs-ribs only yield one and a half servings per pound.
What if they only
What if they only cost 75 cents per pound? They
seem cheaper than ground meat, since the price seem cheaper than ground meat, since the price
is lower per pound, don't they? But remember they only provide one and a half serfings for each pound you buy--so the price per serving is abou
50 cents.

Can you still afford your credit cards?
Credit-card terms, conditions and costs have
undergone major surgery in 1980, says undergone major surgery in 1980 , says Nancy
Granovsky, a family resource managemen specialist.
No
No longer are credit cards merely "convenience devices." No longer can every card use
who pays a bill in full automatically whance charge. And the cards are no longer free in some states, the specialist says. Mrs. Granovsky is on the home economics staff of the Texas Agricultural Exten
Texas A\&M University System.
Texas A\&M University System.
take a second look at your bank credit cards to determine how or if you wish to continue to use For example, the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for bank credit cards is subject to state
law. Texas, the APR ceiling is 18 percent.
In Texas, the APR ceiling is 18 percent.
Some states charge 22 percent, while others

That translates another way-the ribs cost twice as much per serving as the ground bee
even though the price "per pound" is lower. Remember, it all depends on how much you get from each pound-so be sure to figure the "cos per serving
Here are and their yields.
ar a rew cuts of meat 1.) Boneless meats generally yield three to four
servings per pound. These include servings per pound. These include ground beef flank Meats with the bone in generally yield two to three servings per pound. These include mos roasts and steaks
3.) Meats with considerable bone and fat
provide only one to two servings per pound provide only one to two servings per pound
These include spare ribs, short ribs, porterhous steaks and T-bone steaks.
MORE COST-CUTTING IDEAS

Here are some other cost-cutting ideas
Here are some other cost-cutting ideas:
BUY SPECIALS-These can be great bargains
if you have the freezer space to store them if you have the freezer space to store them
properly. properly.
Meats
Meats can be stored in the freezer in
original packaging for original packaging for up to several weeks.
For long storage, overwrap in moisture-va resistant plastic or paper to prevent moisture and flavor loss.
USE LESS-TENDER, LIGHT-DEMAND CUTS These are cuts that people don't care to buy a often as other cuts.
These are usually These are usually lower in cost, but they offer good nutrition and great flavor.
Remember, long, slow cooking will tenderiz any cut. 'QUICK SALE' CUTS-Cuts marked down for "quick sale" a are a good investment. These cuts will generally have a brown color.
This does not affect the flavor or safety of the This does not affect the flavor or safety of the
meat. Use these cuts quickly-or freeze them
immediately for use later.

## Credit cards costing too much?

because you live in Texas, your bank credit costs
are 18 percent.
The rate of your card depends on the state from
which your card was issued. Some banks have which your card was issued. Some banks have
moved their entire credit-card service operations to states where they can charge higher interest. used to compute finance charge by eliminating used to compute finance charge by eliminating
the "free float" period. It used to be that if you paid your bill in full each month, no finance charge was assessed.
Now you may be a Now you may be assessed a finance charge
from the day charges are posted to your account. Still other banks assess annual fees, most
typically $\$ 12$ per bank credit card However typically $\$ 12$ per bank credit card. However, nany banks still offer the cards at no annual charge. Others
Adjust your attitude regarding the use of
monting fer
Adedit Man of credit. Many of us have become so accustomed to we wince when we must bear the costs of credit

## The Book That Put Pueblo, Colorado On The Map.

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## Writer says room for religion in politics

by Ken Masugi
Mr. Masugi is Science at is St. Martin's College, Olympia
Washington (c) Public

What is the earch, Syndicated, 1980 political life? Thace of reliticalion in American
mentalist religitious of fundamentalist religious groups made this question a
controversial issue in the 1980 political campaigns. The results of the 1980 elections are likely only to intensify the controversy.
Such zealous, well
Such zealous, well-financed religious organiza-
tions as the Reverend Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority the Reverend Jerry Falwell's Moral
mal great deal of credit for the election of the President of the United States and half a dozen or so U.S. Senators. Opponents of growing political influence on a number of grounds: the clerics intervene in areas, such as economic policy, in which their authority as They display an insufferable self-righteousness. heir theology, itself is suspect. Their rage compared
But the
made against these religious activists is that they violate the American tradition of separation of ffect, that religion is a private matter and must ee banished from the public realm. This charge The Consumer Alert
may in part be a reaction to the equally serious, that their particular of political program has divine sanction and, for that reason, should be adopted Neither claim is true. The most authoritative thought in the American political tradition has on the one hand, emphasized the politica
on tignigicance of religion and of a public resard for signigicance of religion and of a public regard for
the divine while, on the other, stressing the need the divine while, on the other, stressing the need
to be free of sectarian influences, that is, of the to be free of sectarian influences, that is, of the worship and the denial of political privileges to churches go hand in hand
are founded and accompanying restriction are founded in a non-sectarian respect for the
connection between the political and the sacred realms, as expresses in the fundamental realms, as expresses in the fundamenta
document of our political tradition, the Declara document of our political tradition, the Declara-
tion of Independence: "All men are created
equal they are endowed by equal they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.." This creed, so
succinctly affirmed by Thomas Jefferson, was succinctly affirmed by Thomas Jefferson, was
one to which all Americans--Protestant and Catholic, Christiam and Jew, believer and even
non-believer-could subscribe. It was derived non-believer-could subscribe. It was derived
from the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." According to this creed there is an essential equality between all members of the human species; man has a unique and innate worthiness
owing to his relationship to the divine above him and the beasts below him. Such a human dignity arises from man's likeness to God, as conceived in the western tradition of religion and
philosophy. The best in American beliefs and philosophy. The best in American beliefs and
political practice flows from this divenly-based doctrine of equality Perhaps we can best appreciate Jefferson's
argument by noting the fate of political life in
nations which have rejected a relationship between human equality and the divine. In Nazi Getween human equality and the divine. In Nazi
Germany there prevailed the doctrine of Aryan supremacy, which made some men gods-and others beasts. The Soviet Union uses rapidly
atheistic Marxism to justify absolute rule of one atheistic Marxism to justify absolute rule of one
class over all others. And the great democracies of today, where "enlightened"" opinion has belittled religion, offer little to those who hunger
for anything other than the necessities of life. for anything other than the necessities of life.
Sussequently these nations appear to have lost, sed, the will to defend their spiritually sed, the will to defend their spiritually
impoverished way of life. mpoverished way of life.
By contrast, the great tra politics has always understood itself in light of the highest public regard for the sacred and transcendent. To be sure, Jefferson counseled
against religious intolerance in his Notes on the against religious intolerance in his Notes on the
State of Virginia: "It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are 20 gods or no god.". By
such tolerance does not sanction public indiffe such tolerance does not sanction public indifference toward religion, for a few pages later in the
same book he could also admonish his readers "And can the liberties of a nation be thought
secure when we have removec their only firm "And can the liberties of a nation be thought
secure when we have removec their only firm
he basis. a conviction in the minds o the people that
to these liberties are of the gift of God? That they

We see the same concern for both th? and religion in the writings both toleration Washington. Even in his first term of office he could praise this nation's tolerance in a letter to the Jewish congregations of Philadelphia, New York, Charleston, and Richmond. "The liberal
sentiment towards each other which marks every sentiment towards each other which marks every
political and religious denomination of men in this country stands unrivalled in the history of nations." And it was Washington, who declared in his Farewell Address that religion and being. Indeed, "reason and experience both orbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion the religious principle," one
consistent, to be sure, with the teaching of human equality. the biblical references in his great speeches to his assassination on Good Friday, Abraham Lincoln embodies the American notion
of the relationship between religion and politics. When America had to choose between slavery or reedom as the basis of its way of life, Lincoln rededicated the nation to its ancient, faith in
equality and the world-wide significance of its equanding decision. Rooted in divine authority, he ideal of equality could spreaa and deepen its nfluence under the "new birth of freedom." The great statesmen following the founders have all
returned to this conception of human dignity based on philosophic and religious teachings of he western tradition.
To apply the teaching of our tradition to current of controversies, we see that the central
tene the national faith, the belief in human tenet of the national faith, the belief in human
equality, serves as a test to determine the justice equaldy, serves as a test to determine the justice
and decency of some of the political issues
ddressed by sectarian fundamentalists. On the one hand, for example, the state's sanctioning of Christianity as the official religion would be a
clear violation of the spirit of the Declaration, for it would elevate some above others merely on the basis of sectarian belief. On the other hand, the attack on pornography would seem to be required by the conception of human dignity implicit in the
teaching of equality. (Now of course the implementation of anti-pornography laws would implementation of anti-pornography laws would
require careful judgment which no statement of creed can specify.)
American political tradition is utterly to deny the American political tradition is utterly to deny the
truth and goodness of that tradition. Without the creed of human equality we Americans would lose our way. The politicizing clergy should be
judged solely on opinions, not on their sectarisn political opinions, not on their sectarian claims to
theological wisdom, and those who attack them in the name of an "open-mindedness", that ignores renilion solitical august and necessary place in
Ameveal simply their empty-mindedness.

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