

Ben Thompson writes letter to American people

Under the guise of religion, this country is blitzed with a political fervor that threatens the very freedoms for which Americans have fought and died during the past 250 years. With the expertise of the most professional genius in the communication business, religious zealots who make their living off paranoia are moving into the political arena with ever increasing speed and urgency. Having captured a wide following and amassed billions of simplistic answers and simple slogans, they smell an even more lucrative bonanza in power politics and are relentlessly zeroing in on their victims, the American people.

They say that return to God, as defined by them, is the solution to all the world's ills. They use such slogans as pro-family, pro-life, pro-morality, and pro-America. They have divided all causes into two simple categories, right or wrong, good or bad, theirs or everybody else's. As one raised in the Christian faith, and as much as I respect the teachings of the Bible, I still shudder at the bumper sticker I once saw that said, "The Bible says it; I believe it; and that's the end of that." Even more scary to me is the prominent Baptist leader who stated that "God doesn't hear the prayers of Jews and other non-Christians." These people offer no room for logic nor alternatives, but like the auctioneer at a flea market, say "take it like it is." For those who have seen totalitarian rule and agonized over the holocaust of the 1940's,

these are frightening signs. In these complex times when our survival depends on logical and profound thinking, many Americans have simply "tuned out" and turned to the simple solutions of the evangelist who offers to think for them. The process of thinking for oneself is often tiresome and time consuming, but the rewards of self-sufficiency make it all worthwhile. Beware of those who claim to have the total truth. Truth is a process that has yet to reach totality.

Galileo, Martin Luther King, Copernicus, Jesus Christ, Karl Marx, Susan Anthony. . . all challenged the truths of their day and changed the course of history. If you wonder what theistic governments are like, take a look at European history and discover how the Dark Ages came about. For a more recent example, watch the developments in Iran under Khomeini and the Mullahs. The spectre of "Big Brotherism" is slavery of the mind, no matter what

name is used to justify it; Moral Majority, Ku Klux Klan, John Birch Society, or religion. Take heed Americans. Today your vote, tomorrow your minds. Start now if you haven't done so already. Study the issues realistically. Dig out the facts. Weigh the options. Consider the alternatives and their consequences. Then go the polls, vote intelligently, and feel proud that you did it yourself.
Ben Thompson
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Maytown fire report for month of September

Maytown Fire Chief Charles Shaffner, at last week's fire company meeting, reported seven emergency fire calls during the month of September. In addition, the fire company had two public service calls and two work details.

Fire company equipment was in service 33 hours, and a total of 137 fire people responded on the September calls. No injuries were reported.

Several new members were accepted by the fire company. They are: John Scheuing, Robert Fackler, and Michael Dean Bashore, all of Maytown; and Sharon Hair, Elizabethtown.

Members of the fire company would like to thank the members of the May-

town American Legion Auxiliary and their president, Sara Gutshall, for the gift of the fire hose and the American flag.

The fire company would also like to thank the many residents who contributed to this year's Fund Drive. The fire company now has free "Tot and Invalid" stickers available. Contact any fire company or ambulance crew member for information.

Membership dues for 1981 can be paid during the months of November and December. The next scheduled fire company meeting will be November 10 at 7:00 pm. Final nomination of 1981 officers will take place at the November meeting, and election will be held at the December meeting.

BPW breakfast meeting

Members of the Mount Joy Business and Professional Women's Club held a breakfast meeting Sunday, October 19, as a kick-off for National Business Women's Week. Mrs. Marlin Musser, a district manager for Princess House Products, spoke at the breakfast held at the Colonial Inn, Marietta.

The subject of the presentation was "Attitude Makes for Altitude." Mrs. Musser told how the correct

attitudes in all areas make for a joyful life. "We can bring life or death to others by the fragrance of our disposition," she said. "Before you can do something you must become something." Mrs. Musser also presented a vocal solo.

The invocation was offered by Mrs. Lester Koder. Alice Marie Nissley, chairperson of the Public Relations Committee, extended greetings and introduced the speaker.

Columbia Hospital aux.

Members of the Marietta Auxiliary to the Columbia Hospital met at the home of Miss Ruth Wisman for their October session. Mrs. Sylvia Henry was co-hostess.

Mrs. Herbert Sarver conducted the business session and plans were completed for the public pinochle party to be held Wednesday, October 22, at 8 pm in the Marietta Community House. Refreshments and chances on groceries will be available at the card party

which was arranged by Mrs. George Houseal and Mrs. William Heisey. Proceeds will be contributed to the Columbia Hospital.

Plans are also underway for the annual Christmas luncheon to be held at the home of Mrs. Sarver, Rheems, on December 1 at 12:30 pm.

The November meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. George Houseal, West Market Street, Marietta, at 1:30 pm November 10.

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