

You can pass out condoms in schools, but not Gideon Bibles

The Supreme Court has ruled again to the detriment of the American people and to the gain of the godless left. Your report of the ruling against Gideon Bible distribution in the May 18 news article "Justices bar Bible handouts in school" is another painful reminder that our courts are systematically creating an atheistic, humanistic and amoral code for the country, with little opportunity for rebuttal from the American people.

The Supreme Court began with the ruling against school prayer in 1963 and has chipped away at the foundation of our nation in small and not-so-small pieces ever since.

In this instance, the oft-misquoted mantra of "separation of church and state" is again the basis for denying the distribution of New Testaments to any students who desired to have a copy.

In this case, as in so many others, there was not a departure from the protections envisioned by the Founding Fathers; there was no establishment of a state church, no forced worship and no public endorsement of a particular religion or denomination. This was simply the offer of a Gideon-provided New Testament to any child who desired to have one.

The appeals court in this case relied on the incredible Supreme Court decision of last year that prohibits certain school prayer at graduations. The courts believe, incorrectly, the distribution of

New Testaments by Gideon Society volunteers is tantamount to public education on religion.

I still have the Gideon New Testament I received in 1964 as a third-grader at La Marque Elementary School in Texas. I vividly remember the occasion when it was presented to me, nearly 30 years ago.

I was not a Christian, rarely attended church, and had, sadly, been labeled as an "atheist" by a student in my class. I will never forget the elation I felt when someone cared enough to give me my own Bible. To this day, I remember every detail: the room, the teacher, the gift, the ridicule — and the joy. I also remember that no religion was endorsed and that I freely accepted my testament from a volunteer, not the school.

I read and treasured that little red book, and have kept it with me

ever since. It took me a decade to fully appreciate the words of wisdom in that gift. Like a seed that sprouted, grew and bore fruit, that testament was with me when I accepted Christ as my savior 11 years later at Rice University.

The same little red testament rode with me in my survival vest for nearly 4,000 hours of military flying, including Desert Shield. It traveled to hundreds of air bases and served as reference material for many witnessing and counseling opportunities. In summary, I am a better man for having received my Gideon New Testament.

Surely, history — and God — will severely judge the society that restricted Bibles but gave away condoms, clean needles and abortions.

AUSTIN W. BOYD
Woodbridge

Born too late

The 1787 "Potemkin Village" Georgie Anne Geyer described as full of blissful peasants dancing and "quoting Pushkin as the gratefully thanked their monarch" ("Fidel fashions a Potemkin village," Commentary May 13) may have fooled Catherine the Great. The well-read empress would have wondered, however, who this guy Pushkin was.

She certainly would not have recognized his poetry. No one would have in 1787. The poet Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin was not born until 12 years later.

May we expect a Georgie Anne Geyer column in the near future on the administration's responsibility for the poor state of American education in world literature?

BRUCE HARDCASTLE
Stafford

We welcome your opinions on any topic. Letters should be signed originals. Every letter will be considered for publication, but we prefer those of fewer than 250 words, typed double-spaced. All letters may be edited for clarity and length. Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Send your opinion to:

Letters to the Editor,
The Washington Times
3600 New York Ave. NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

je Editor

entary

t Large

exual is
exuals.
saying
exuals

ations
berta
and
Fran-

she
from
ops in
fused
Scout-

man of
ibes a
called
refers
eregulation.
behavioral.
high
loading
d sink
know
are
r that

re is-
ques-
min-
ancy
hten-
ailed
t fed-
ctiv-
le is,