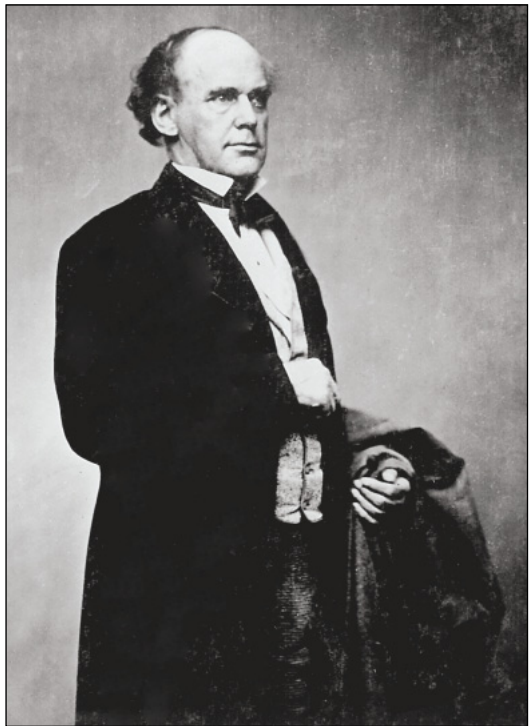


Life & Arts

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Section E



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase received letters requesting a devout inscription on currency and put 'In God We Trust' on coins in 1864.

One debate that's right on the money

'In God We Trust' has been U.S. motto for 50 years, but it's had critics for longer than that

By Dru Sefton

NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

In God We Trust. The four short words of the United States motto are long on irony:

■ In the early 1900s, President Theodore Roosevelt wanted them deleted from coinage; he felt their use was "dangerously close to sacrilege."

■ In 1970, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that they have "nothing whatsoever to do with the establishment of religion."

■ Today governments and school boards remain hesitant to post the words in public buildings and classrooms — even though they were legally adopted as the national motto 50 years ago this month.

"I don't think it'll ever really be a settled issue," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

Jacquie Sullivan, founder of the nonprofit group In God We Trust – America, said, "There was a lot of debate and searching before that became the national motto. It stands for everything good that our country is about."

The founding fathers originally favored the motto E Pluribus Unum (Out of Many, One) — taken from a salad recipe, said Brian Burrell, author of "The Words We Live By: The Creeds, Mottos, and Pledges That Have Shaped America," a volume based on his father's extensive collection.

"When you think of a melting pot, a salad bowl is another analogy," said Burrell, a mathematics lecturer at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The In God We Trust motto has its roots in a surge of religiosity during and after the Civil

See **MOTTO**, E9

INSIDE



Growing community spirit

El Jardin Alegre nurtures a neighborhood in East Austin. **Gardening corner, back page**

SUNDAY IN LIFE & ARTS

All eyes on Austin

Musicians around the nation know a move here can be very beneficial.

Bankruptcy snares your timepiece? Watch out

Q: Help!

I took my mother's gold and diamond Omega watch to Majors Jewelers to be repaired in December 2005. I was told they couldn't fix it but they would send it to New York to get an estimate. New York couldn't fix it, so they sent it to Switzerland. Finally called me with estimate of \$875 to repair, which was not acceptable, so they said they would get the watch returned to them.

I tried to call them and find that their phone has been disconnected. What's up?

How can I get my mother's watch back? Thanks for any assistance you can give.

—Carol Willingham

A: Majors Jewelers has filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 7, which allows for the sale of a debtor's nonexempt property. The proceeds are distributed to creditors.

I spoke with Jerry Zerbe, watch repairman



Jane Greig

at the Majors Jewelers, and he remembers your mother's watch as one of the few not at the store when he left. Majors Jewelers is owned by Mark Majors.

All requests for items at the store when it closed should be addressed in writing (dates, description, repairs, claim number, etc.) to Daniel Roberts, 1602 E. Cesar Chavez St., Austin, TX 78702, or by fax at 494-8712. Roberts

is the Chapter 7 trustee for Majors Jewelers.

Q: I'm curious about the commercial time during hour-long programs like "Gunsmoke" on the TV Land channel. It seems like the commercials go on forever. Are the shows edited to allow more commercial time now than when they originally aired back when we were kids?

—Mike Nunez

A: Yes — at least "Gunsmoke" is.

"TV Land edits roughly six minutes of 'Gunsmoke' per episode to accommodate modern advertising needs," says Vanessa Reyes Smith, spokeswoman for TV Land. The edits are for time, not content, and generally remove extraneous long shots as well as "other filler that do not compromise the show's plot

See **GREIG**, E4

When Austin notables enter fantasy land,
nuns rock, chancellors press olives and sheriffs rule the NBA



Don Tate II AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Daydream believers

By Andrea Ball

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

It is the night of my 20-year high-school reunion.

I am tall and thin. My hair is long and thick, a glorious chestnut mane glittering with gold and auburn highlights. My résumé is staggering: two Pulitzers, three best-selling novels, multiple appearances on Oprah, a happy marriage and two gorgeous children.

My classmates flutter around me while my high-school sweetheart — a formerly beautiful basketball player — sits scowling in the corner in too-tight jeans, his gut hanging over an obscenely large brass belt buckle bearing his name. Meanwhile, a karaoke machine appears, and I thrill the masses with my soulful rendition of "Respect" by Aretha Franklin.

I am not the same Andrea who fell down the stairs before science class in ninth grade, wore a sailor hat and leopard-print shirt for most of 10th, and tore through dozens of cans of Aqua Net hair spray in 12th. Now, I am simply fabulous.

Unfortunately, I am daydreaming. My class hasn't even had its 20-year reunion. But who

doesn't love a good old-fashioned, G-rated fantasy? The kind that whisks you away from standstill traffic, a blathering boss or a never-ending meeting?

Daydreams are the saviors of the soul. They preserve the part of us that yearns for release from lives burdened by work and responsibilities. They let us express our passions and frivolities outside the dull realm of reality.

Everybody daydreams, says Jim Van Norman, a psychiatrist and medical director for Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center.

"It's a chance to take your brain out for a walk," he said. "It's like a nice Sunday ride where you stretch your legs for a while and be somebody you're not."

Daydreams usually reflect some unfulfilled dream about our lives and who we are, Van Norman says. "Nobody daydreams 'I wish I can't pay my bills this week,'" he says. So what do people fantasize about? When we asked local notables about their daydreams, their answers were as weird, wacky and wonderful as our own, proving that everyone from janitors to justices needs a fling with fantasy now and then.

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Just call me the rockin' nun

"I've always daydreamed about playing in a country-western band. I'm in the audience at a fundraiser and Ray Benson (leader of the band, Asleep at the Wheel) sees me. He says 'We have a rock star among us and you probably wouldn't think a nun could play an ax, but she can and she happens to have hers with her. So we're going have her come up and wail us a tune.'

So I do and there's thunderous applause. Then I go back to my seat."

— Sister Joanne Vasa Nun, mission spirituality integration coordinator for Seton Family of Hospitals

MORE DREAMS, E5