

Culture Wars

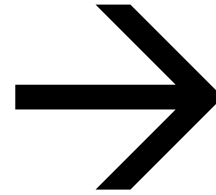
Class 3

Part 1

Women's Rights / Women's Roles



1950's



Today

Protest at the Miss America Contest, 1968



(Never Happened)

“Miss America and *Playboy's* centerfolds are sisters under the skin.”

Robin Morgan, Organizer

1977 National Women's Conference



L to R: Bella Abzug, First Lady Rosalyn Carter, Betty Ford, Lady Bird Johnson, Linda Johnson Robb, Maya Angelou, Coretta Scott King, and Judy Carter.

Equal Rights Amendment



- ERA passed the House by a vote of 354-23
- ERA passed Senate by a vote of 84-8.

Opposition to Equal Rights Amendment

Phyllis Schlafly, a conservative activist, organized opposition to the ERA.



Schlafly's Appeal to Traditional Women

- ERA threatens women's ability to be a traditional housewife.
- ERA supporters sneer at traditional housewives.



Schlafly's General Arguments Against ERA

- ERA supporters are radical women's libbers.
- ERA would require an end to separate bathrooms for women.
- ERA would end women's sport teams and women's schools.
- ERA would subject women to the military draft and combat duty.



Schlafly's Approach to Male Legislators

Schafley conducted workshops on how to debate and testify at a public hearing. She encouraged the use of femininity to win over state legislators.

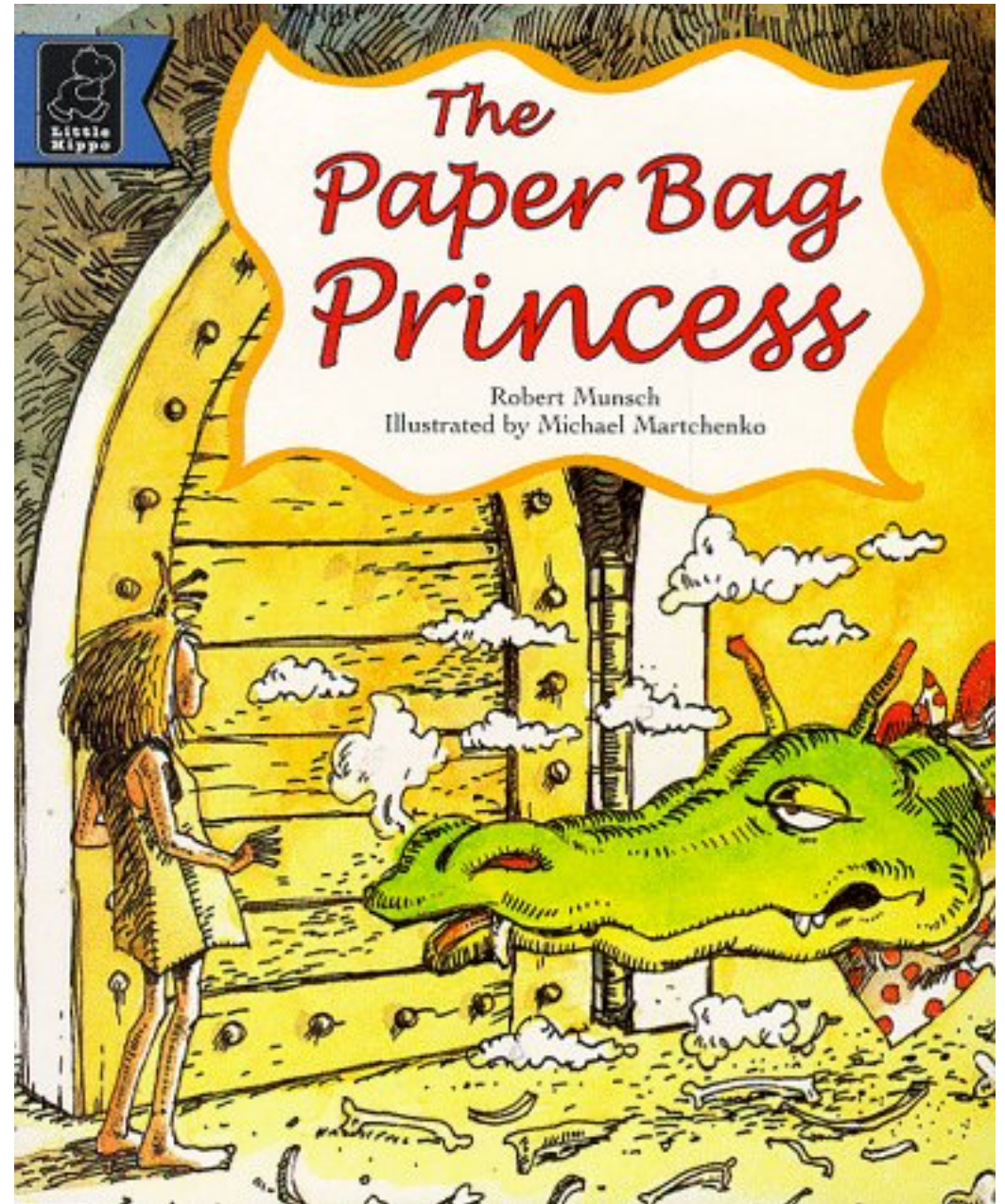
“Get Maude Rogers and that pretty young girl who had the baby and the nice looking redhead,” she told her leaders in Arkansas “to commit themselves to talk personally with ten legislators.”

Phyllis Schlafly Debates ERA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq7xmXd4vyl&list=PLZAr4t8zknTgVEkdpXO-DIAGBrtaYJPC&index=1>



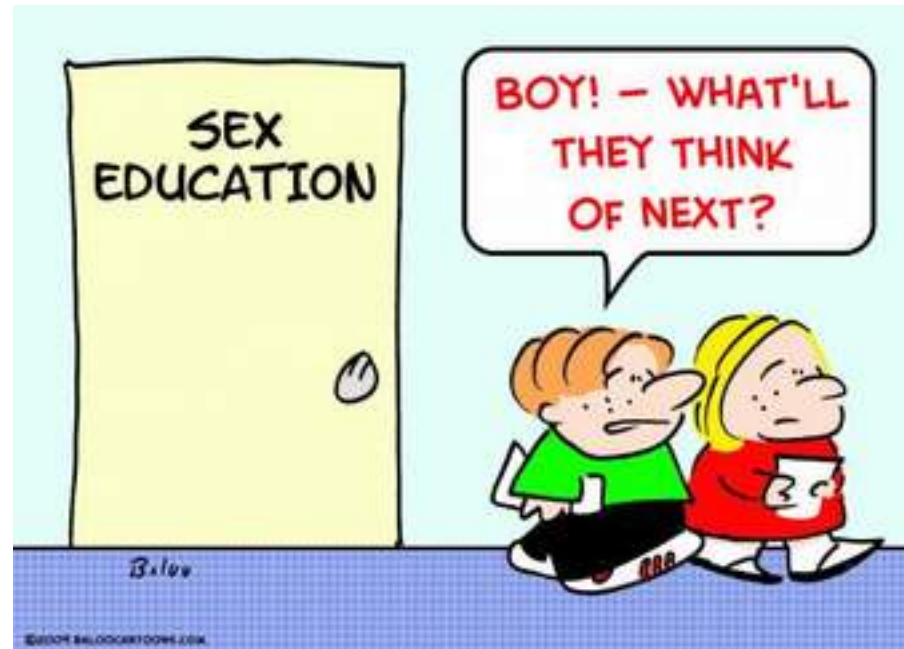
<http://robertmunsch.com/book/the-paper-bag-princess>



Culture Wars in the Schools



Hot Button Issues



Billy Graham



“The schools got into trouble when they took God out and put sex in.”

Issues to be Covered

- **Prayer and Bible reading in the schools**
- **Sex Education**
- **The books used in reading and literature courses**
- **How American History is taught**
- **The teaching of evolution**

Prayer and Bible Reading Constitutional Conflicts



On the one hand...



On the other hand...

“Congress (and by interpretation the States) shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.”

Constitution gives students freedom of speech and says that Congress and the States may NOT “prohibit the free exercise” of religion.

School Prayer Decision

1962 – Engel v. Vitale

Court found it unconstitutional for New York State to develop a prayer to be recited in classrooms.

New York State Official Prayer

Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country



Herblock on School Prayer



Source: Herblock, *The Washington Post*, June 18, 1963

JFK Urged Respect for Supreme Court Decision



- *“In addition, we have in this case a very easy remedy and that is to pray ourselves. And I would think that it would be a welcome reminder to every American family that we can pray a good deal more at home, we can attend our churches with a good deal more fidelity, and we can make the true meaning of prayer much more important in the lives of all of our children. That power is very much open to us. And I would hope that as a result of this decision that all American parents will intensify their efforts at home, and the rest of us will support the Constitution and the responsibility of the Supreme Court in interpreting it, which is theirs, and given to them by the Constitution*

Other Supreme Court Cases

- 1985: *Wallace v. Jaffree*: Time set aside for silent prayer or meditation



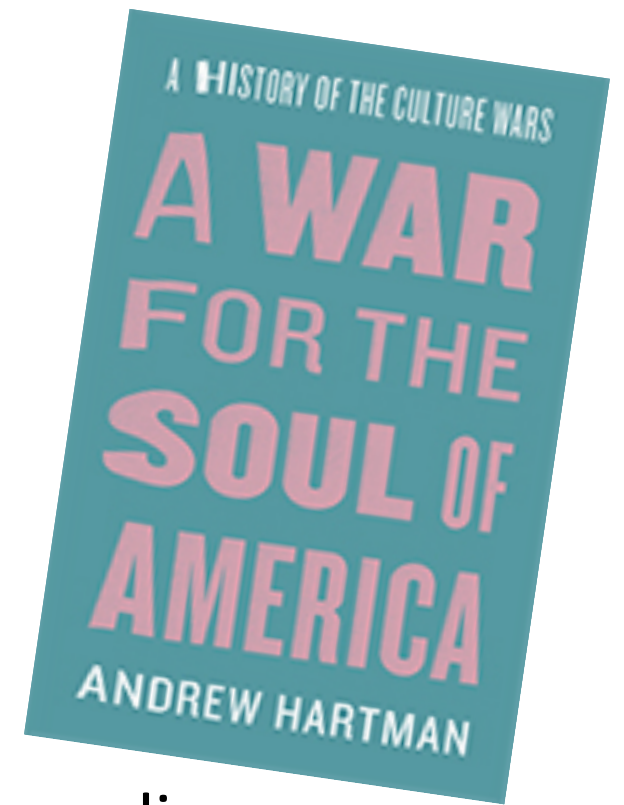
- 1992 Case of *Lee v. Weisman*: Clergy prayer at High School Graduation



- 2000: Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe: Student prayer at football game



Andrew Hartman



“In polls taken since the sixties the school-prayer and Bible reading rulings have routinely ranked as the most unpopular Supreme Court decisions, particularly among conservative Christians, many of whom consider these decisions as the beginning of American civilization’s downfall. Some members of Congress received more letters about school prayer and Bible reading than any other issue.”

Resistance to Court Rulings

- **Ignore Supreme Court Decisions**

By the end of the 60s, about 2/3 of Southern primary schools still had devotional exercises.



- **Proposed Constitutional Amendment:**

“Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or any state to participate in prayer. Neither the United States nor any state shall compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools.

- **Voluntary Prayer**

Student Initiated Religious Expression

Sometimes Upheld by Courts

- Grace before eating
- Prayer before football game
- So long as the coach doesn't initiate or participate



Sometimes Schools Can Ban Voluntary Religious Expression



Tyler Harper v. Poway
School District