Secularism is like a religion

To the Editor,

I should like to make a few comments on the relations between the church in America. There are those who believe that the separation of church and state, as expressed in the First Amendment, mandates an absolute divorce between any governmental authority and any person, organization, or object representing any religious creed. In short they maintain that the state must be officially established as a secular body.

Secularism, according to Webster's Dictionary, is "a view of life based on the premise that religion and religious considerations should be ignored." Secularism is then a way of looking at religion and God. It is that philosophy of life that teaches that God, his existence or lack thereof, and all other religious concerns are irrelevant to life.

Secularism, therefore, while not an organized religion per se, is a religious philosophy. Like all other religious philosophies secularism teaches certain doctrines to its believers. Principally, it teaches that God, if there is a God, is not relevant to modern life.

MTG story was incomplete

To the Editor:

As a member of the Musical Theatre Guild and former executive board member, I was quite surprised to see that MTG had made the Tech its best. "MTG cancels this year's Tech Show" (April 13), especially since that activity "...seems to indicate the Guild is a rapidly sinking ship (...seriously in trouble)."

I leave to the MTG president and board its responsibility to its readers. This is by no means an "official" reply to your story or its allegations; any clearing up of the facts does this action represent a policy of avoiding the teachings of any one or more religions or religious philosophies as the official creed of the state? If it is a clear affirmative response cannot be given to the question when posed regarding a specific action, then that action is permissible under the US Constitution.

The question arises then to whether the erection and maintenance of a Nativity scene constitutes, on the one hand, the acceptance of a certain religious dogma, or, on the other, a mere declaration of goodwill.

It is true that the employment of a Christian symbol does not necessarily imply the acceptance of the Christian faith. A red cross, for example, demonstrates not a belief in Christ, but a dedication to the oathless representation of the symbol by the Christian symbol.

In the same way, the birth of a baby and the gifts of wise men represent, not the acceptance of the child's Godhood, but rather, goodwill, joy, and love of mankind. In building its Nativity scene, then, the city of Pawtucket does not declare its Christianity, but rather the high esteem in which it holds mankind.

Anthony F. Polito "A"

Secularism, the religious philosophy preaching the irrelevance of God, will have become the established church of that state. The US Constitution, however, forbids such an establishment. Thus, neither the United States, nor any state, may if they are to remain true to the Constitution, embrace any form of secularism.

This raises a seeming contradiction. The state must not embrace secularism; but at the same time it must not bear any other religious or religious philosophies either. How, then, is one to judge whether any particular action is a violation of the first or fourteenth amendments on the part of a governmental body? The criterion ought to be this: It is not a belief in Christ, but a dedication to the oathless representation of the symbol by the Christian symbol.

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Financing a Nativity scene constitutes, on the other hand, the acceptance of a certain religious dogma, or, on the other, a mere declaration of goodwill.

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Above, the Nativity scene, the city of Pawtucket does not declare its Christianity, but rather the high esteem in which it holds mankind.

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