

TABOO OPINIONS #46

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4-23-05 FEALTY, WHERE IS THY STING?

Republicans, supposed realists, reveal themselves as devotees of magical thinking here in Oregon, as some in the state legislature want to pass a law requiring grammar, middle, and high school students to recite (or at least listen to) the Pledge of Allegiance every day instead of weekly, as now.

The law's supporters say the daily pledge bill would teach even more citizenship, patriotism and respect for the flag than does the weekly pledge.

But they don't go far enough! I suggest each class start---and end!---with the pledge! That should produce a wonderfully obedient population of utterly loyal students who will be eager to invade any country in the world on the word of their president, and eager to die to support the goal of American hegemony over the planet!

And in line with such oath-magic thinking, I suggest each radio and TV and cable program begin with and end with the pledge! (Hey, if it works to sell cars and hard-on pills, surely it will work to build blind loyalty to T*H*E* A*M*E*R*I*C*A*N* G*O*V*E*R*N*M*E*N*T*).

I mean, look at me! I was forced to stand up, face the flag, stick out my arm palm up, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance once a week in Kenton Grammar School in north Portland, 1933-1940 from age 6 to 13, and that pledge didn't even include the words 'under God', and look how well I turned out!

END TABOO OPINIONS #46