

■ *The trial of a Christian Science couple has turned the spotlight on the church's teachings.*  
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# METRO REGION

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MIKE BARNICLE

## The handicaps of playing golf

**O** THER THAN POLITICS, GOLF attracts the greatest number of cheats and liars in America. People regularly fail to tell the truth about their score, their handicap and their ability as if fibbing were as much a part of the game as swinging.

And they spend a ton of money doing it, too, because golf has never been as popular. Millions of fools spend hard-earned money on the latest clubs, the best balls and the finest shoes. Public courses are packed. Private clubs have waiting lists longer than the line of voters eager to give Dukakis a good slap.

It's hard to understand because golf is stupid. It isn't fun. It isn't even exercise because most golfers drive around in carts like drunk sailors on shore leave.

Also, next to eating greasy quarter-pounders and fudge bars, golf is the biggest cause of stress and heart attack among males aged 35 to 55 in the United States. Take a peek at any fairway and you will inevitably see someone throwing a club in frustration, screaming and generally being miserable.

I don't feel sorry for golfers, because they choose to delude themselves. Think about it: If someone suggested you could hit a Roger Clemens fastball merely by wearing a certain shoe or holding a bat with a lighter grip, would you believe it?

Of course not. But millions of simple-minded optimists take to the outdoors every day thinking they can break 100 because of a specific set of sticks or a stiff elbow.

Most of them should save their dough or enroll in a torture chamber because golf is not for everyone. Yet it's hard to convince any golfer that being anything less than horrible is hopeless, because lying is such a part of the game's mystique.

And the lying begins at the top.

For example, magazines aimed at attracting golfers lead you to believe that the purchase of this kryptonite club or that triple-dimpled ball will take 10 strokes off your score. Then, teaching pros gobble up good rates kidding nitwits who are barely coordinated enough to button their shirts into thinking that a lesson will make them play like Greg Norman.

When was the last time a club pro told some terminally inept sucker: "Look, I've seen your swing and I want you to save your money and go home to your loved ones. You will only hurt yourself or others on the golf course, and you are in serious danger of having your entire fat, out-of-shape frame covered with ticks and other creepy crawlers because you will be in the woods more than Indiana Jones. Take up napping."

Besides lying, golf is saddled with a lousy image: An elitist walk around manicured acres cut into the countryside solely for the pleasure of well-to-do white men in plaid pants and shirts with tiny gators on them who, upon admission to a private club, act like complete jerks.

It's a fact of golf life that, on many courses, the biggest handicap is the club's membership list. Leading the pack is Oyster Harbor, in Oosterville on the Cape.

A few weeks ago, a lawyer told me about a fellow who loves to golf and wanted to join Oyster Harbor. The guy has a lot of dough and has done an awful lot of splendid things for other people with his money. In other words, he is a fine member of the human race, but he was informed that there was no way he could ever — and I do mean ever — get into Oyster Harbor.

"How come?" I asked.

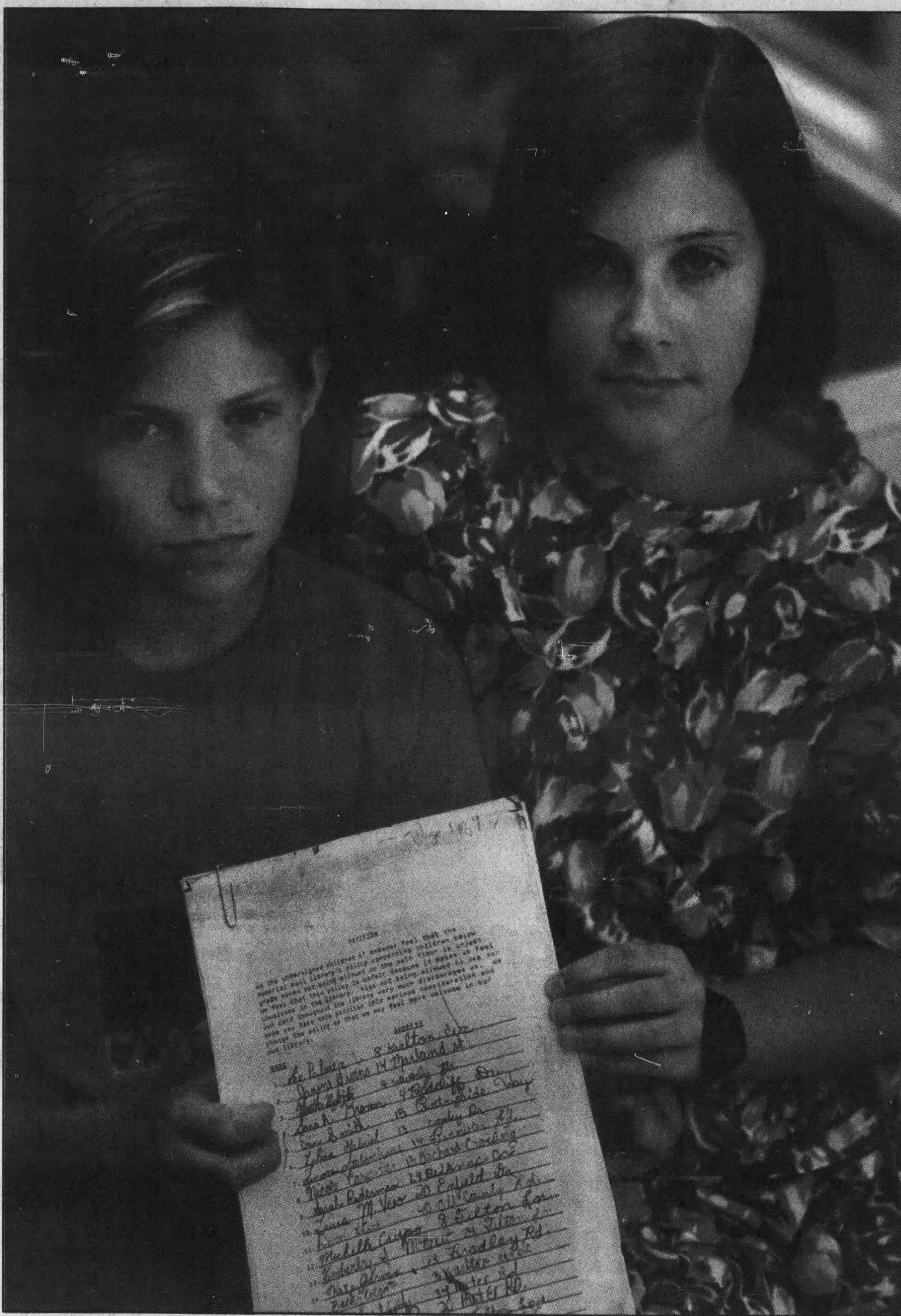
"Because he's Jewish."

So it would be nice if the state took the whole course by eminent domain and built a nuclear reactor there. However, Oyster Harbor isn't alone in its thick-with-prejudice attitude.

This past winter, when I must have been un-

*'It's a humiliating experience for the kids. I'm appalled as a librarian that children should be treated that way.'*

JEAN PALMER, mother of student



Janine Givens (left) and Lee Palmer hold a petition to remove restrictions on children's use of Andover's library.

## Library goes by the book

### Restrictions on children faulted by Andover parents

By Paul G. Allvin  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

**A**NDOVER — While the rest of the country grapples over whether the rap group 2 Live Crew is obscene, Robert Mapplethorpe's photo exhibit is pornographic and the American flag is okay to burn, this town north of Boston has its own First Amendment brouhaha, centered on whether to allow children on all floors of the public library.

Children under age 12 who venture beyond the Memorial Hall Library's children's section must be accompanied by an adult. Librarians are enforcing this policy by escorting children off the "adult" floors and into the children's section. The idea is to minimize noise and disruptions.

"You can't have a bunch of kids just taking over. Period," said Alfred L. Daniels, attorney for the town of Andover,

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## Silber defends remarks on elderly

By Peter J. Howe  
GLOBE STAFF

**WORCESTER** — Democratic gubernatorial candidate John R. Silber campaigned at a senior citizens' housing complex here yesterday in a counteroffensive to repair the political damage caused by what he called "vile attributions and deliberate distortions" of his statements last week on medical spending for the elderly.

Silber said Tuesday that "some form of rationing of medical services in this state" is inevitable to prevent ruinous state budget deficits, and set off alarms with his comment that "when you've had a long life and you're ripe, then it's time to go."

While Silber's campaign has been marked by blunt, controversial statements from the outset, his comments on the elderly, a powerful voting bloc, were widely seen as his most explosive yet and potentially deadening his campaign's momentum. Political rivals and critics accused him of abandoning sick old people and pitting them against the young.

But in yesterday's appearance at the 199-unit Lake Park Towers senior complex, Silber lashed out at what he called gross misinterpretations of his remarks, such as newspaper cartoons depicting him pushing elderly women in wheelchairs off cliffs and gangplanks.

Silber said his criticisms were aimed at a government-supported medical system in which terminally ill elderly people can receive thousands of dollars "to have tubes

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## Abortion issue trails + Pierce's bid

By Bruce Mohl  
GLOBE STAFF

Republican gubernatorial candidate Steven D. Pierce, who has said flatly that he would veto any measure outlawing abortion, is nevertheless a supporter of a number of pending bills restricting a woman's access to abortion.

In response to a Globe request for his positions on a number of abortion-related measures pending in the Legislature, Pierce indicated he supports a bill barring abortions after a fetus has reached "viability"; a bill banning abortions based on the

■ **William Weld says ads will link Steven Pierce to Moral Majority stances.** Page 26.

sex of the fetus; and a bill requiring wives to notify their husbands 48 hours prior to an abortion.

The overall impression Pierce leaves is that he is solidly against abortion but to  
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will encourage children to rent to the poor."

The City Council, which is ex-

from \$175,000 for a condominium to \$231,000 for a one- to three-family home, which required an annual

# Going by the book, library limits children

## LIBRARY

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who is acting as the town and library spokesman on this subject.

Some Andover children feel alienated, some parents are incensed and town officials feel they are being vilified for simply trying to prevent the library from being "used for baby-sitting."

Now the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts has jumped into the fray, saying the policy violates state law. There is talk of a lawsuit to guarantee children free and complete access to the library.

While the library policy has been an unwritten rule for decades, only recently have parents begun to challenge it.

"I think it was around the middle of March," 11-year-old Janine Givens said recently, recalling the day a librarian relegated her and her 11-year-old friend Lee Palmer to the four-floor library's ground floor, where the children's section is located.

"We were doing a report and we went upstairs to look at some of the books," Janine said. "This lady came and asked us our age. We told her we were in the fifth grade. She told us we had to leave."

So the girls, who were researching a school biography report, went one floor down to the biography section.

"The lady came after us and got real mad. She said we had to be in the children's section," Janine said. "I was scared. I didn't want to go up there anymore."

Janine's mother, Cyndi Givens, said, "I don't feel that I should have to be sitting with her or accompanying her any time she has to do a school report."

The library's director, Jean Jacobson, would not speak to the Globe, and a member of her staff said she had forbidden library employees from giving interviews on the grounds their comments could jeopardize the town's position if the case goes to court.

Daniels said the library welcomes children, most of whom are well behaved. It is the unruly exceptions that the policy targets.

"All the library wants is some sort of control," he said. "In a lot of places the library is used for baby-sitting. The kids are dumped here after school and picked up two hours later."

"You get eight little girls, if they start giggling, they could take control away from the room," Daniels said.

The giggles of a few, however, do

not provide legal grounds to evict a class of people, according to Sarah Wunsch, an attorney for the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.

Wunsch said state law requires public libraries to adopt procedures and standards established by the American Library Association, which in its Library Bill of Rights states libraries should not deny or limit access because of origin, age, background or view.

"The director indicated to us that the [library] trustees probably wouldn't discuss this problem until September," Wunsch said. "Each day that a kid doesn't get the free use of the library, it's a problem."

"They shouldn't be drawing lines on basis of age. In fact, they should encourage people of all ages to use the library."

The library was handed a similar indictment by the American Library Association.

"You don't kick kids out of a library to accommodate the adults you serve," Anne Levinson, assistant director of the association's office for intellectual freedom, said in a telephone interview from the group's Chicago headquarters.

"Children mature at various rates. They have widely varying interest levels and accomplishments. The library is there to serve all levels and to provide for all points of view."

Jean Palmer, Lee's mother, agrees. She learned of the policy from Lee who, with Janine, collected 150 petition signatures from third-, fourth- and fifth-grade classmates at South Elementary School. In the petition the youngsters called on the library trustees to rescind their restriction.

Palmer, a librarian who has worked at other local libraries, has confronted Jacobson and the trustees, but there has been no change. She met Wednesday with Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski.

The two agreed not to discuss the outcome of their meeting, Palmer said.

"It's a humiliating experience for the kids," she said before the meeting. "I'm appalled as a librarian that children should be treated that way."

Daniels said library officials are committing the policy to paper.

"They're working out the rules and regulations. They're putting them in writing," he said, adding that he hopes the rift will heal by September.

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