

THE ATHEIST VOICE

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS
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SOCAS

Prayer war on the hill: Hindu invocation in Senate reveals religious right rancor

Jeremy Leaming
AMERICANS UNITED

Our nation's Religious Right cabal carps constantly about a lack of religion in the public square and promotes the wildly misleading notion that the nation's Founding Fathers envisioned a government devoted to Christianity.

An incident unfolded in the U.S. Senate that provided a glimpse of the nastiness that movement has wrought. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) had invited a Hindu clergyperson to offer a prayer to open its session, and it was disrupted by angry howls from a gaggle of Religious Right protesters.

As Rajan Zed prepared to give his prayer, one protester shouted that what was about to occur was "an abomination" and a woman protester wailed something about the nation only belonging to Christ. Three individuals in all

were arrested, according to the Associated Press, for disrupting Congress. Those protesters, the news service reported, called themselves "Christians and patriots" as they were being led from the chamber.

Intolerant, uninformed and rude are more fitting descriptors. But Religious Right activists, such as the American Family Association and "Christian nation" lobbyist David Barton, have spent decades fomenting such behavior. Indeed, when they got word of Reid's invitation to Zed, they began prodding their followers to deluge the Senate with complaints about the planned prayer. The AFA's news arm reported that Barton knocked Hinduism as having few followers in America and spouted drivel about prayer to a "non-monotheistic god" as being un-American.

As the Rev. Barry W. Lynn,

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

Religious broadcasters try to get MA chairman to see the light

William McEwen
METROPLEX ATHEISTS

Metroplex Atheists chairman Terry McDonald appeared on the national radio program "Way of the Master," hosted by former standup comedian Todd Friel, and British simpleton Ray Comfort on May 17.

"Atheists have an axe to grind," Friel told his audience at the opening of the program. "And the reason they have an axe to grind is that they don't understand two things. They don't understand that god has a rule book, and they think he's capricious, just lobbing people into hell because woo-ooo that's the way he is. Second of all, they

don't understand and they can't imagine how god could send someone to an eternal hell. How could that be? Nobody could do anything that horrible. And therefore, they really are torqued at god."

He went on to say that atheists see god as a "great big cosmic weenie," getting it wrong and completely ignoring the concept of disbelief.

Comfort asked Terry about his new grandchild. "When you hold that little child in your hands, who are you gonna thank? Are you just gonna say, 'Well, thank, ugh.'"

Terry answered, "Thank you, Dede, thank you, Billy," referring to the child's

parents.

Within a few moments, Friel interjected, saying he has talked to many atheists over the years and Terry seemed different. "You sound really pleasant. What's your deal, atheist?"

Comfort soon took a more serious tone and stressed to Terry that he was destined for hell, and asked if that bothered him. Terry was clearly unfazed.

"I don't think you understand what an atheist is," Terry said. "I'm not concerned at all. God is a fictional person to me."

Comfort witnessed, preached, and

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THE BACKSIDE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Crime in America

ED WALLACE

Turn on any newscast tonight, and you'll be bombarded with stories of violent crimes, criminals who have eluded capture, and criminals caught but released by some judge over a legal technicality. It makes you dream of a simpler time, when you could sleep soundly in your bed with your front door unlocked and not fear becoming the victim of a crime in the middle of the night. It makes you long for the times when criminals were caught quickly, and justice was swiftly executed by our courts.

Today the media run story after story, highlighting how violent crime rates have been rising for decades, showing us courts made impotent by liberal Supreme Court rulings that favor the criminal at the victims' or their families' expense. The only problem is, not one of these problems is a new reality. It's safe to say that it has always been that way in our country.

Let's start with the crime issue. To illustrate our point, we'll pull a newspaper editorial from the late eighteen hundreds. To be exact, the *Charlestown News and Chronicle* from 1898. I quote from that article, "Murder and violence are the distinguishing marks of our civilization." Funny, I thought that period was known as the Gay Nineties.

Now if we travel back even further in time we find this editorial from *Leslie's Weekly*, one of the nation's most popular magazines in the mid-eighteen hundreds. This from an issue published in 1868. "Each day we see ghastly records of crime ... murder seems to have run riot and each citizen asks, 'Who is safe?'" Of course, many people would say that America was expanding into our frontiers back in the mid-1800s, and that reason alone would lead one to believe that a person out in the Western frontier would be prone to have an act of violence committed against them. But that's not really where most of the nation's crime increases came from. Matt Dillon killed more people in one month's worth of Gunsmoke episodes than were killed in a

year in the real Dodge City. No, violent crime then, as now, was a function of the big city.

In 1857 George Templeton Strong of New York wrote in his diary, "Most of my friends are investing in revolvers and carry them about at night." Strong added that nocturnal fear of assault was a city tradition. Wood's *Illustrated Handbook of New York* in 1872 warned visitors to the city not to "walk alone at night, and if you should want to go to a local dance hall, walk escorted with a police officer."

Long before the days of Al Capone, Chicago was known as the crime capital of the world. In the period of 1870 to 1890 murder rates in the Windy City quadrupled. In fact, Chicago's murder rate was eight times that of Paris for the same period. In 1893 alone Chicago police arrested one out of every 11 citizens for some type of crime. Today we'd have to arrest close to 370,000 people right here in the Metroplex to achieve that statistic.

In fact, contrary to what you believe today, the period of 1850 to 1910 gave our country the highest increases in crime that it's ever known. History experts believe that the national crime rate grew more than twice as fast as our population during that period.

On the other side of that coin, and contrary to what the media tells you, crime has been going down in this country for the past forty years. Oh, it's true: You see, since 1960 our population in America has nearly doubled, but this time the crime rates haven't even kept up with the population increase. Sure, as numbers, a statistic out of context, crime has gone up, but not nearly as fast as the population at large. Therefore, as a percentage of total Americans, crime has gone down, way down. We just don't see it that way because it is now constantly reported.

Of course, maybe another reason we think crime is way up is the career criminal. You know the one, the guy that commits crime after crime and once caught, gets his case thrown out of court on some legal technicality. Maybe we didn't read

them their rights, maybe the search and seizure was illegally performed. But, as it turns out, these aren't new court rulings from the sixties, like *Miranda* or *Escobedo*. Those cases were simply reaffirming what our courts had been doing for decades.

Here's one for you. A few weeks back we did the story of the Black Legion. Looking back, sure enough we find that there were many arrests of their members, most of those cases thrown out of court. On what basis, you ask? Illegal search and seizure of their automobiles during a routine traffic stop, therefore making the guns and bombs found in a Black Legion member's car evidence inadmissible in court. See, you thought that was a modern ruling by our courts, but the story I just told you was from the thirties.

Complaints about our court system can be traced all the way back to the 1880s. One journalist wrote then, "No one respects the law, no one respects the court, and the courts don't respect themselves." It was also written just before 1900 that our courts would never convict a rich man, and that the rich could and did get away with murder. Shades of OJ.

Other judges ran a racket that literally made them rich. In many major cities, two judges would partner up; one would take money to issue Certificates of Insanity to criminals coming up for trial. Then the other judge would throw out the case because the person was insane at the time of the crime, and the two judges would pocket the money. Again, an insanity defense in court is not new; that judicial racket was quite common in the 1880s.

Here's a quote you know well from today's coverage of criminal court cases: "The law so favors the criminal that trials are more of a game of chance." Know which president said that? William Howard Taft, at the turn of the last century.

Here's another, "Everybody knows full well that court procedures unduly favor the criminal. In our desire to be merciful the pendulum has swung in favor of the prisoner and far away from the protection

METROPLEX ATHEISTS

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About

Metroplex Atheists is affiliated with both American Atheists and Atheist Alliance International and is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

of society.” That could have been any quote from any law enforcement official last night, but it wasn't. That was Herbert Hoover in 1929.

One of the reasons that lynchings were so prevalent in the South from the end of the Civil War through the 1950s is because so many Southern citizens believed that our courts were completely incapable of getting convictions. After all, if the court would convict someone, there'd be no need to haul anybody out of jail and string him up in the middle of the night.

Oh sure, many lynchings were based on racial hatred; many happened when a group of Klansmen wanted to instill in their local African-American community fear and terror, but not all of them. Additionally, a great number of those lynched were white, and some were women.

Here's something about mob rule you probably didn't know: From the end of the Civil War until 1893, more white people were lynched in the South than blacks. And it was during that period that the Klan's violence was at its peak. Yet today's history books never show a picture of a dead white person hanging from a tree after a midnight necktie party. Nor do our history books explain that the reason lynchings were so common was that the average person firmly believed that our court system had failed to work.

So, how many people were lynched in the South? The total figure no one knows. But we do know the number for a specific period of time: from

1882 to 1903, 3,337 people judged by their peers, found guilty and hung without benefit of a trial. And I should point out again that many lynchings were simply the work of evil people doing harm to innocent blacks - but before 1893, they weren't the majority.

Still, here we are today, thinking that our courts are totally screwed up and crime is everywhere. That may be true, but it turns out it has always been that way. However, once you understand that crime and a deep-seated distrust of our court system have always been a part of the American landscape, then you realize we're actually living in the “good old days” as far as being safe from criminals is concerned.

History has a tendency to mute the harsh realities of the past, to highlight only the successes. History also leads you to believe that the only things that happened in the past were good things - or else they were bad circumstances that we as a nation managed to overcome. Still, in our history, we never go backward, only forward and upward, a historical misrepresentation of the American condition that has also been a constant.

Maybe this entire story can best be summed up by something Abraham Lincoln once said: “The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present.” Stormy present? Forgetting the dogmas of our past? Seems that statement is as true today as it was when Lincoln said it in 1862. But you won't hear that on the news tonight either.

Metroplex Atheists New Business Meeting Time

METROPLEX ATHEISTS HAS MOVED THE TIME OF ITS REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING TO 1:00 P.M. THE MEETINGS ARE STILL HELD ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT HUMANIST HALL.

**HUMANIST HALL IS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT:
7100 BOULEVARD 26 (GRAPEVINE HIGHWAY), SUITE 304,
RICHLAND HILLS, TX**

Nuts in the news

Paris Hilton finds God

First Paris Hilton drove drunk, then she drove with a suspended license. Finally, a Los Angeles Judge said "Enough!" and sentenced the hotel heiress to jail.

It took only hours for Paris to find god in the slammer. On June 10, calling collect from prison, Paris told Barbara Walters she is a new person.

"I'm not the same person I was," she told Walters. "I used to act dumb. It was an act. I am 26 years old, and that act is no longer cute. It is not who I am, nor do I want to be that person for the young girls who looked up to me. I know now that I can make a difference, that I have the power to do that. I have been thinking that I want to do different things when I am out of here. I have become much more spiritual. God has given me this new chance."

Paris has made a career out of being stupid. A million prayers to her newly found god will not summon even five ounces of brains for that empty skull. But go ahead and give it a try, Paris.

Metroplex Atheists members might be interested in knowing that Paris almost didn't inherit millions. Her family riches came from her great grandfather, hotel magnate Conrad Hilton. When Conrad died in 1979, he left almost all of his money to the Catholic Church, and none to his family. Paris's grandfather, Barron, contested the will and prevailed in 1988.

Graduating Senior

Jeremy Jerschina is this year's valedictorian of Bayonne High School in Bayonne, New Jersey. He was slated to speak at the school's June 19 graduation ceremony, and the Christian teen wanted to include a prayer in his speech.

Principal Richard Baccarella and the local school board told the youth that including a prayer would violate church and state separation. So instead of giving a speech without a prayer, the youth decided not to speak at all.

"God and Christ are the reason I did how I did in high school, and are what I stand for most," Jerschina told the Jersey Journal.

One of Jerschina's most vocal supporters was Dallas radio talk show host Mike Gallagher. He and his faithful KSKY listeners praised Jerschina on the morning of June 26. They praised him for standing up for his beliefs.

I'd like to suggest Jerschina has a tough road ahead if he hasn't learned to respect authority, abide by the rules, and be willing to compromise.

Why is the Christian god so narcissistic that his believers must constantly thank him for being nice?

This reporter asks, why doesn't Gallagher pray regularly on air during his show? Why doesn't the KSKY news anchor Jerry Overton pray during his newscasts? Do they have less Christian integrity than the New Jersey teen?

Fire and Burluson

You have to love passionate, idealistic youths. Except some of the Christian ones - they can be dangerous. Two teens from Fort Worth and one from Burluson tried to blow up a Burluson Assemblies of God church that was still under construction.

A church deacon caught Dayton Calaway and Michael Plaisted trying to ignite a homemade explosive at the church on July 4.

The third youth, Jered Ragon, was making a getaway. He tried to destroy evidence - more explosives - by pouring gasoline on them and lighting a match. He was treated for burns.

The teens are part of a bible study group that believes there are too many denominations, and that churches fail in their role to glorify god.

Perhaps taking a cue from Calaway, Plaisted, and Ragon, Pope Benedict XVI declared July 10 that only Catholicism

counts, and that Protestant churches are not proper churches.

Ex-Catholics

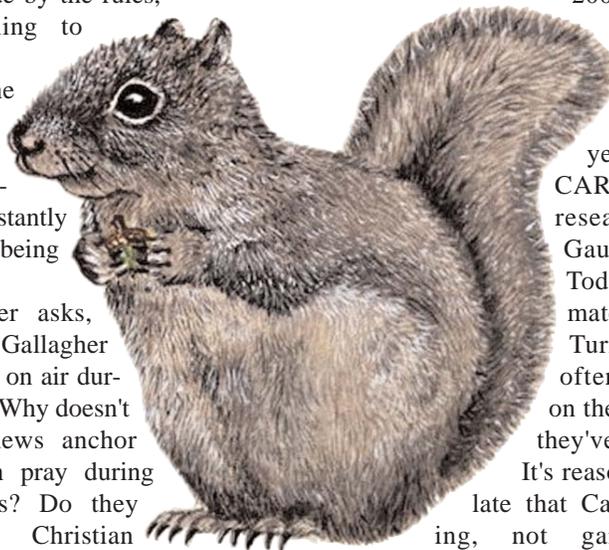
On June 25, USA Today reported the findings of the Washington D.C. based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. The firm counted Catholics in 2006, and came up with 64.4 million. That's a half million more than the year before. But CARA's senior researcher Mary Gautier told USA Today that the estimate might be high. Turns out churches often keep people on the rolls long after they've made an exit.

It's reasonable to speculate that Catholics are losing, not gaining ground. Looking back to a 2001 survey by the American Religious Identification Survey, 9.5 million Americans call themselves ex-Catholics. Where did they go when they left the church? Twenty eight percent say no religion. That's the biggest group. The next biggest group is Christian at 17 percent. Judging from the number of former Catholics who are now members of Metroplex Atheists, Catholicism can be a great impetus toward non-belief.

But the Catholic Church tells us that our ex-catholic members such as Terry McDonald and John Hattan are still claimed by the almighty, or at least by the Pope. Monsignor Michael Servinsky of Pennsylvania told USA Today, "You may not practice, you may not believe. You may not belong to a parish. But technically, you're always a Catholic."

Hey, don't complain to me, tell it to the pope. Here is his address:

*His Holiness the Pope
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City, Europe*



Letters to the Editor

The following letter was also submitted to the Ft. Worth Star Telegram and published June 26, 2007.

Every time I read a creationist's statement that evolution is unproven and that the Bible has been proven to be factual, I am amazed because the truth is so overwhelmingly the opposite. Evolution continues to be supported by increasingly convincing evidence by every branch of science that can possibly shed light on the subject, from archeology to zoology. The evidence to support Bible stories is infinitesimal in comparison, if any exists at all.

If one wants to believe in the supernatural, that's fine. But to obstruct the study of science by insisting that ancient non-scientific stories should be put on the same level as scientific discovery is to damage the future of scientific progress, the rank of the U. S. in our competitive world, and the future of young students who will have to live in that world.

Our commanding lead in scientific progress has slipped away and continues to slide as we turn our backs on the kinds of inquiry that gave us that lead to begin with. Science is the best way to understand how everything in the universe works, whether we believe God created it or not. Let's use reason and allow our students to develop into the kinds of scientists that can lead us back to the prominence we once enjoyed. We may learn something from reading the Bible but it won't contribute to our knowledge of how the world works.

TERRY McDONALD, METROPLEX ATHEIST
CHAIRMAN

ASK-THE-ATHEISTS

Do most atheists become non-believers because they have experienced some trauma in their life where their prayers to God didn't help them?

The question itself is poorly phrased, because it contradicts itself. Anger at something by default presupposes belief in that something. In order for a person to be angry at something, be it a god who drowns people with hurricanes or the microwave oven that just burned one's popcorn, that person must necessarily believe in the existence of that something.

Such a question belies a double-standard. If someone stated "I am angry at microwave ovens because they burn popcorn, therefore I no longer believe in their existence", you would rightly think that their logic is fatally flawed. To state that microwave ovens burn popcorn requires acceptance of the existence of microwave ovens.

And this applies to a person who hates a god. If a person hates a god, then he necessarily believes in a god. Thus such a person could not be an atheist. Atheists reject belief in a god for the same reason that believers reject belief in the deities of other religions – because the evidence presented for the existence of those deities is unconvincing.

Furthermore, if a god does exist, then it is the evidence that is relevant, not the motivation. If a person stated that he disbelieved in microwave ovens, the "why" is unimportant because a trip to the appliance section of any department store will clearly show that a-microwaveist belief is unfounded.

When it comes to believers positing existence of their gods, though, the motivation for unbelief becomes what is important rather than the evidence. Since believers don't have an equivalent of the appliance section to dispel disbelief in gods, it becomes important to change the subject to motivation.

Attention DFW area Atheists and Agnostics!



DFW Ethical Fellowship has scheduled
services held every Sunday,
from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Humanist Hall
7100 Grapevine Highway, Suite 304
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

www.dfwfellowship.org





William McEwen

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Metroplex Atheists recently joined the numerous photos on the walls at our weekly haunt, J. Gilligan's. The photo was shot by Terry McDonald and framed by Shawn Ruzek. It took only a few days for a clandestine, presumably religious objector to make his mark, shattering the glass. Clark Vinson reframed the photo under unbreakable plexiglass.

Hindu – From page 1

Americans United executive director, noted to the AP, the disruption and complaints from the Religious Right revealed their intolerance and the fact that the only religion they want paraded around in the public square is their own.

This flare-up over prayer in the Senate is also a clear example of why neither chamber of Congress should be praying on the public's dime in the first place. Congress is not a house of worship, regardless of what the Religious Right pushes or hopes for. Before they engage in debate or deliberation, lawmakers can pray in their offices or visit the numerous places of worship surrounding the Capitol if and when they desire religious sustenance.

Regarding the Religious Right's claim that the nation's founders wanted a government devoted to God, one should look at the work of James Madison, often dubbed the "Father of the Constitution."

In his "Detached Memoranda," Madison asks "Is the appointment of Chaplains to the two Houses of Congress consistent with the Constitution, and with the pure principle of religious freedom?"

"In strictness," Madison wrote, "the answer on both points must be in the negative. The Constitution of the U.S. forbids everything like an establishment of a national religion. The law appointing Chaplains establishes a religious worship for the national representatives, to be performed by Ministers of religion, elected by a majority of them; and these are to be paid out of the national taxes."

"The establishment of the chaplainship to Congress," he continued, "is a palpable violation of equal rights, as well as of Constitutional principles...."

Madison warned that clergy from religious minorities are unlikely to be chosen as chaplains. He railed against the "evil" doctrine that "religious truth is to be tested by numbers, or that the major sects have a right to govern the minor."

The Religious Right has spent years working to re-write American history, and they've unfortunately influenced some people and inflamed others. The movement as today's religious squabble in the Senate chambers shows is a divisive one. It promotes religious conformity, not religious liberty. Far removed from the nation's constitutional principles, the Religious Right movement remains hostile to liberty for all.

"In strictness, the answer on both points must be in the negative. The Constitution of the U.S. forbids everything like an establishment of a national religion. The law appointing Chaplains establishes a religious worship for the national representatives, to be performed by Ministers of religion, elected by a majority of them; and these are to be paid out of the national taxes.

James Madison
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Star-Telegram profiles MA
Chairman in 'Religion' Section

Fort Worth Star-Telegram gives balanced presentation

Terry McDonald was profiled in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram religious section on June 30. "Atheists defy easy stereotypes," written by reporter Mark Agee, was a balanced attempt to educate the general public, and not a desperate offensive to convert non-believers.

The article traced Terry's path from active Catholic to non-believer, and dispelled myths about atheists being devil worshippers and immoral, or wanting to rid believers of their religions.

"All we want is a place at the table - not to be excluded from American society," Terry told the Star-Telegram. "All the people in our group are nice, moral people. We don't think morality comes from religion."

Terry also made an appeal to other atheists. "There is a steep cost for a lot of people who come out of the closet. People pay a price with their families, at their jobs. I want those people who are non-believers to know that they are not alone." The entire story may be read online at:

www.star-telegram.com/religion/story/154225.html

SOCAS

Ruling blocks courthouse door
for some 'faith-based' lawsuits

AMERICANS UNITED

Today's Supreme Court ruling narrowing the right of taxpayers to sue over violations of church-state separation is disappointing but it won't affect most legal challenges to the "faith-based" initiative, says Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The high court, ruling 5-4, rejected a case challenging Bush administration spending to promote the "faith-based" initiative using money from a White House discretionary fund. The court majority ruled in *Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation* that taxpayers have no right to challenge discretionary spending by the executive branch.

"This is a disappointing decision that blocks the courthouse door for Americans with legitimate church-

state grievances," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "Taxpayers should be allowed to challenge public funding of religion, whether the money is allocated by Congress or the White House."

"However," Lynn continued, "it is important to note that this ruling applies to only a few situations. Most church-state lawsuits, including those that challenge congressional appropriations for faith-based programs, will not be affected."

Americans United filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the Supreme Court, arguing that taxpayers should have access to the courts to challenge government expenditures on religion. An array of Religious Right organizations sided with the Bush administration.

WWII & Korea:

James Hardwick (Ret), Navy

Korea:

Chris Gregory, Air Force

Iraq:

Brian McIntosh (Ret), Marines

Shawn Ruzek, Marines

Deanne Dice

To the 'Atheists in foxholes'
proudly serving the United States:

Thank you for your unselfish
sacrifice so that we may
all live in a safer world.

www.atheistfoxholes.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Speaking tour begins: Putting a face on Atheism

William McEwen
METROPLEX ATHEISTS

It was an unlikely activity for seven members of Metroplex Atheists. We drove through pouring rain on the dark morning of Sunday June 3 to go to church.

Members of Metroplex Atheists were invited to meet with the Covenant Sunday school class at Meadowbrook United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. Metroplex members in attendance were: Chairman Terry McDonald, Amanda Gereau, Pete Gilcrease, James Hardwick, Kevin Metcalf, Randy Word, and your correspondent, William McEwen.

As we waited for the meeting to start, I heard the church service beginning, and a once familiar sound breezing in from down the hall.

I was sitting next to James Hardwick. "Hear that?" I asked.

"What?" he said.

"Church has started. The congregation is singing 'How Great Thou Art.'"

"No," James replied. "Sometimes there's an advantage to not being able to hear very good."

Church member Angela Osmundson, who had arranged our visit, introduced us to the 18 Methodists in attendance. Angela was bright, curious, and open minded, possibly because her mother and brother-in-law were atheists.

"Every group has its nuts," she offered. "Often those are the ones you see on television. We don't like the nuts who say they represent us, and we're sure you don't like the nuts who say they represent you," she said.

Angela said she looked forward to meeting the more normal representatives of atheism, and she hoped we atheists would benefit from meeting more normal Christians.



William McEwen

Meadowbrook United Methodist Church member Angela Osmundson chats with Metroplex Atheists chairman Terry McDonald after meeting with her adult Sunday school class, June 3, 2007.

In turn, each of us introduced ourselves and told our stories of becoming unbelievers.

Madelyn Murray O'Hair's legend lives on. Some church members referred to her abrasive personality as turning them against atheists. We pointed out that this is the era of Ellen Johnson, who is a nice person.

We were given the floor almost the entire time, and church members listened with interest.

Despite what we told them, one church member clearly had not been listening. She raised the tired old misconception that some tragic event turns believer to non-believer, and said that is what she heard in our tales. What she'd heard over the previous hour was clearly not an eye-opening

experience for her.

We set her straight. Terry joked, "The end of my first marriage was not a tragedy," garnering the biggest laugh of the morning.

Several of us stressed again that disbelief was a gradual process spurred by knowledge, not by tragedy.

Another church member seemed miffed at atheists tending to be liberals.

After nearly an hour of atheist talk, Randy asked the church members to tell us why they believe. One church member told us that during her tough childhood, god sent two angels from heaven to watch over her until she could take care of herself.

"I know that sounds crazy to you, but I know it's true," she told us. I was intrigued, and wanted to know more, but the clock was against us.

Looking for speakers to discuss Atheism?

To arrange a speaking engagement, please email the Metroplex Atheist Director:
director@metroplexatheists.org

Humanist Hall has Moved



Following the closing of the old Humanist Hall in Grapevine, we'll be holding our meetings at the NEW Humanist Hall in North Richland Hills. It's a good location with plenty of local eateries in reach. Also, it has a great dedicated room for the DFWEF library, which now has over 2,000 freethought-related books.

Humanist Hall:

7100 Boulevard 26 (Grapevine Highway),
Suite 304
Richland Hills, TX

Directions:

Take the Grapevine Highway exit (highway 26) from loop 820. Head south about six blocks. The building is just south of Glenview Drive on the left.

Chairman – From page 1

pleaded to Terry, and Terry listened politely.

Referring to "god's creation," Comfort remarked, "You're like a fish in the ocean, and you're saying, 'Where's the ocean?'"

"I think you're delusional," Terry said. "I've heard all this before a million times."

Friel, again hounding the sin angle, said, "This little concept, the key we just presented to you, god judging you and sending you to hell. Do you think that that would be reasonable? I know that you think that this is just a fantasy world. But if it weren't, would that be reasonable for god to send you to hell?"

"No," Terry replied.

"Ya, see, there's the issue right there," Friel concluded smugly. "That's it."

"The issue is I don't believe there is any

evidence that god exists," Terry answered, his patience now wearing thin. "That is the issue."

"You think you're a good person, like you confessed earlier," Friel said. "And you've got a conscience that speaks to you 'I'm in big trouble,' you go find history books that you like that match up with your thesis to deny the existence of god, thereby thinking, well, if he doesn't exist, if that didn't happen, I won't have to meet him on judgment day."

"Wow," Terry replied. "I know why you invited me on the program now."

"Why?" Friel asked.

"As a background for your preaching."

Comfort then piled it on. "Honestly, Terry, seriously, I wouldn't be in your shoes on judgment day for all the tea in China and that's why we're talkin' to ya, we're fearful for you. If death seize upon

(sic) you tonight, an aneurism in your sleep, man you don't want to lose your soul. Don't you love your family? Don't you care about them? Don't you want to keep them for eternity?"

"Sure," Terry said, "I'd love to, but it ain't there."

Pressed repeatedly on issues of heavenly rewards, Terry finally said, "I don't think you guys know what an atheist is."

"I know," Friel countered, "We're in a little fantasy world."

"An atheist does not believe in any of this," Terry said. "I'm sorry."

"Me, too," Friel said.

Throughout the two hours, Comfort, and to a greater extent, Friel, seemed unable to let go of the belief that atheists believe in god but ignore his rules. This despite the clear answers from an atheist on the phone line.

*Metroplex Atheists:
No fire and
brimstone required*

www.metroplexatheists.org

ATHEISTS ARE COMING TO A RESTAURANT NEAR YOU

Since you can't come to a Metroplex Atheist event, why not have Metroplex Atheist events come to you?

We now have a Metroplex Atheists Meet-up Group on www.meetup.com. Over the years we've had many folks lament that they couldn't come to a MA social event because of time/location of our normal Wednesday get together.



Why not start one of your own?

If you have a good meeting place and you're willing to show up to be somewhat of a host, then just contact Metroplex Atheists and we can put an announcement out on the web.

All it takes is for you to say, "Hey, why don't we meet at X?" and show up!

We'd like to have a number of social groups that meet informally (because, let's face it, the business meetings are only just so much fun). The real fun lies in meeting other like minded people.

So, where do YOU want to meet up?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Business Meeting

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

What: Meeting to decide general business of the group and to discuss current events

Date: Third Sunday of the month

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Place: Humanist Hall

Social Meetings

DALLAS / PLANO ATHEIST MEETUP DAY:

What: Meet with other local Atheists to talk about your beliefs

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: TBA; For locations near you visit: atheists.meetup.com

MA ATHEIST MEETUP:

What: 'My dinner with Atheists,' social time with a bunch of heathens

Date: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, (& 5th) Wednesday

Time: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Place: J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill (Meet on the grill side)
400 E. Abram Street
Arlington, TX

MA ATHEIST MEETUP:

What: 'My dinner with Atheists,' social time with a bunch of heathens

Date: 1st Wednesday of the Month

Time: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Place: Blue Danube
2230 West Park Row
Pantego, TX

DFW ETHICAL FELLOWSHIP:

What: All the things you want in a church, without the gods

Date: First and third Sunday of the month. For information visit: www.dfwfellowship.com

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Place: Humanist Hall

DFW ETHICAL FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH:

What: Sunday brunch without the gospels

Date: Second and fourth Sunday

Time: 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Place: TBA

DFW ETHICAL FELLOWSHIP STUDY GROUP

What: Topics TBA

Date: Second and fourth Sunday

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Place: Humanist Hall

DFW ETHICAL FELLOWSHIP STITCH 'N BITCH

What: Knit, vent and dish. All levels of knitters (and other crafters) welcome

Date: Second and fourth Tuesday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Humanist Hall

HUMANIST HALL IS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT
7100 BOULEVARD 26 (GRAPEVINE HIGHWAY),
SUITE 304, RICHLAND HILLS TX

To have your events listed email:
The Atheist Voice Editor at
editor@metroplexatheists.org

Are you searching for Atheists in the metroplex?

Join in the discussions at the DFW Atheist Talk group.
groups.yahoo.com/group/DFWAtheistTalk/

July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 DFWEF	2	3 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	4 <i>Independance</i> Blue Danube	5	6	7
8 EF Brunch EF Study	9	10 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	11 J. Gilligan's	12	13	14
15 Reg. Meeting DFWEF	16	17 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	18 J. Gilligan's	19	20	21
22 EF Brunch EF Study	23	24 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	25 J. Gilligan's	26	27	28
29	30	31 D/P Atheist Meetup Day				

August 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Blue Danube	2	3	4
5 DFWEF	6	7 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	8 J. Gilligan's	9	10	11
12 EF Brunch EF Study	13	14 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	15 J. Gilligan's	16	17	18 Humanist
19 Reg. Meeting DFWEF	20	21 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	22 J. Gilligan's	23	24	25
26 EF Brunch EF Study	27	28 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	29 J. Gilligan's	30	31	1

September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 DFWEF	3 <i>Labor Day</i>	4 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	5 Blue Danube	6	7	8
9 EF Brunch EF Study	10	11 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	12 J. Gilligan's	13	14	15 Humanist
16 Reg. Meeting DFWEF	17	18 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	19 J. Gilligan's	20	21	22
23 EF Brunch EF Study	24	25 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	26 J. Gilligan's	27	28	29
30	1	2	3 J. Gilligan's	4	5	6

***THE ATHEIST VOICE* is a bi-monthly publication of Metroplex Atheists.**

For more information, please visit our website: www.metroplexatheists.org

To submit an article or letter to the editor, please email us.

The Atheist Voice Editor: editor@metroplexatheists.org

THE ATHEIST VOICE
 c/o Metroplex Atheists
 7100 Boulevard 26 , Suite 304
 Richland Hills, TX 76180

Deliver to:

'Because we must. Because we have the call. Because it is nobler to fight for rationality without winning than to give up in the face of continued defeats. Because whatever true progress humanity makes is through the rationality of the occasional individual and because any one individual we may win for the cause may do more for humanity than a hundred thousand who hug superstition to their breasts.'

– Isaac Asimov, when asked why he fights religion with no hope for victory

WHY DO WE FIGHT?