

THE ATHEIST VOICE

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS
NOVEMBER 2007, VOLUME 5, NUMBER 5

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Nontheist billboard goes up

FFRF

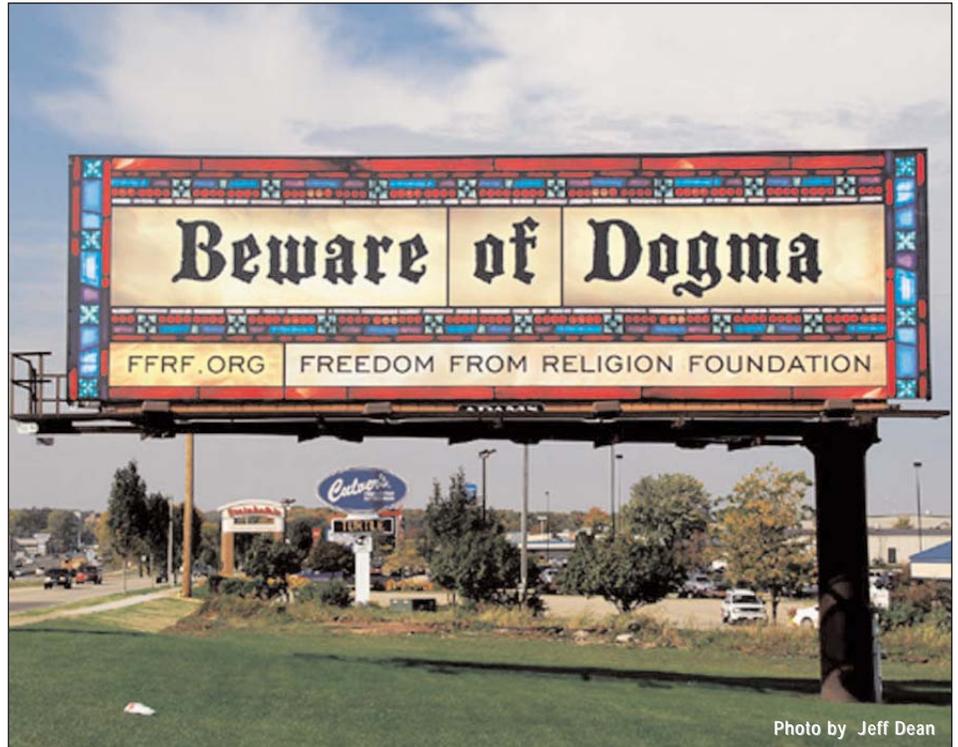
The Freedom From Religion Foundation, which is the nation's largest association of atheists and agnostics, is unveiling what is believed to be one of the first non-theistic billboards on Tuesday, Oct. 2 in Madison, Wis.

The whimsical full-color 48-foot billboard mimics a stained-glass window and warns, "Beware of Dogma." The only other wording is the Freedom From Religion Foundation's name and its website, ffrf.org.

"We are launching a campaign to place freethought billboards up around the country, wherever an irreverent billboard is needed--which is practically everywhere!" says Annie Laurie Gaylor, Foundation spokeswoman.

"We don't go to Mass, but we want to reach the masses," adds Dan Barker, Foundation co-president. "We think it is time for the rest of us to use the mass media to counter the ubiquity of religious messages on roadsides everywhere!"

(Madison locals can look for it on the feeder road off the West Beltline next to Culver's Restaurant, facing west.)



The Foundation will also be erecting another billboard next week to greet attendees of its 30th national convention, meeting on Oct. 12-13 in Madison. A smaller billboard on East Johnson Street by Fordem

Avenue (passed by nearly everyone coming in from the airport) will carry the "Beware of Dogma" message on one side, while the other side will sport the stained-glass motif and the words "Imagine No Religion."

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Emmy Awards cave to religion police

Flashline

AMERICAN ATHEIST

An Atheist civil rights group is calling for a boycott of the Emmy Awards if officials censor remarks by comedienne Kathy Griffin making light of stars who "thank Jesus" for their good fortune.

The awards ceremony is scheduled for broadcast on the E! Channel on Saturday night. Ms. Griffin won a creative arts Emmy last weekend for her hit

program "My Life on the D-List." She remarked that "a lot of people come up here and thank Jesus for this award. I want you to know that no one had less to do with this award than Jesus... This award is my god now."

The Roman Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights complained however, and League president William Donohue blasted Ms. Griffin's remarks as "vulgar, in-your-face-brand of hate speech." The group called upon the TV academy to "denounce Griffin's

obscene and blasphemous comment" as well.

A statement released by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (which oversees the Emmy awards) concurred, saying that the "offensive" portions of Ms. Griffin's comments would be cut from Saturday's broadcast.

Ellen Johnson, President of American Atheists said that the League and the Academy were censoring speech by

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THE BACKSIDE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Disaster in New York

ED WALLACE

Listen carefully to this quote:

The lessons to America are clear as day. We must not again be caught napping with no adequate national intelligence organization. The several federal bureaus should be welded into one, and that one should be eternally and comprehensively vigilant.

That warning almost sounds like the discussion on creating the Office of Homeland Security, but it's not. The words were spoken by Arthur Woods, the police commissioner of the City of New York, all the way back in 1919.

No, 9/11 wasn't the first attack on New York City. In fact, when New York was first attacked 88 years ago, the explosion was so severe that it was felt in Philadelphia; shrapnel flew into the Statue of Liberty, all the windows in lower Manhattan were blown out, and it rocked the Brooklyn Bridge. And no one has ever been arrested or tried for the crime. More important, this was the event that first made the Statue of Liberty unstable.

And yet, though a ring of American flags has marked ground zero since that attack, few if any Americans know the story of one bad day on Black Tom Island.

The Great War had erupted across Europe in July of 1914, a war that easily could have been avoided. But, as noted historian Barbara Tuchman wrote in her magnificent book on the subject, the participants made so many blunders and misjudgments that it was "a constant march of folly."

When the war broke out, Her Majesty's Royal Navy successfully blockaded all of Germany's ports. The idea was not just to lock in the German navy, it was to starve Germany's citizens into extinction. More than 100 German ships, unable to go home, immediately set sail for the neutral harbors of America.

Yes, neutral. In the beginning, the vast majority of Americans wanted nothing to do with this war. Wars had been going on for centuries between European countries; this was just one more, as far as we were concerned. In fact, it would never have been called a "world war" if America had-



Photo by Edward Penton

n't finally entered it. Just another European war, begun stupidly for stupid reasons.

But, in spite of our declared neutrality, there was nothing neutral about our position. American factories were building and shipping war materiel to England, France and Russia virtually nonstop, and the Germans knew it. So, on February 4, 1915, Berlin gave the order for unrestricted submarine warfare: sink any ship, under any flag, that could be running materiel to the Allies. Of course, as much as we hate the idea, under international law, the Germans were right in demanding that we cease supplying the Allies or face the consequences.

Furthermore, our government knew that Germany was within its legal rights; and that's why, even though the stakes had been raised, we didn't declare war on Germany then.

Franz von Papen was a German military attaché working in Washington. And around that same time, he had been instructed by Germany's General Staff to begin carrying out sabotage operations against any American factory or target of opportunity that was building or shipping war supplies. Fortunately for us, von Papen had never been trained in clandestine activities. He was fairly incompetent and got nothing accomplished.

Two months later, however, Captain Franz von Rintelen arrived in this country, traveling with a Swiss passport. Von Rintelen wasn't a trained saboteur, either, but he was creative about bringing the war to America.

Remember all those German ships taking refuge in New York Harbor? That's right. Within weeks of his arrival, von Rintelen had managed to enlist the aid of many of the German sailors; on shore leave, they were hanging out in the local bars. And he invented the pencil bomb - a simple cigar-shaped incendiary device that blew up many ships when they were far out at sea. But that summer he received a telegram calling him back to Berlin for consultations. Now, some historians speculate that Scotland Yard had concocted the coded communiqué; most believe that we intercepted and deciphered the message that caused von Rintelen to set sail on a Dutch steamer. Whatever its source, the British stopped the neutral ship at sea and took von Rintelen into custody, eventually sending him back for trial in the U.S.

On the other hand, the British had to let Von Papen pass when he was expelled from America in late 1915: He had diplomatic immunity.

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SOCAS

MI voters reject city hall nativity scene

Lauren Smith
AMERICANS UNITED

Religious liberty fared well in two referenda across the country yesterday. Voters in Utah easily rejected the first statewide voucher scheme, keeping tax dollars from paying for school children's religious education. It was a fantastic win for church-state separation.

Voters in a less closely watched election also rallied around religious freedom, rejecting a proposal that would have required their city to display a nativity scene on city hall property each holiday season from the Monday after Thanksgiving until January 6.

Controversy broke out over the proper place of religious symbols on public property last year when the Berkley, Mich., City Council voted 6-1 to move a crèche from city hall to houses of worship in the community. The Council was concerned the city-sponsored display of Jesus's birth would attract unnecessary and costly litigation.

Some residents of the Detroit suburb rejected the compromise, promising to amend the city's charter to require a "nativity scene, which at a minimum includes proportionally-sized figures of the infant Jesus, Mary, and Joseph...[and is not] smaller than 4 feet by 4 feet" be displayed in front of

city hall.

Others formed a group called Citizens for Religious Freedom to derail the amendment. Local clergy, government leaders, business owners and other residents came together not only to avert an expensive lawsuit, but to preserve their religious liberty, the holiday's sanctity and the community's interfaith harmony.

They were rightly concerned that the trinkets necessary to sufficiently secularize a government-sponsored display would denigrate Christmas's religious significance. Displaying a crèche on church property, however, would allow it to be arranged without government interference.

Members of the interfaith Berkley Clergy Association took issue with the idea that "the government should direct or decide where and when we mark our respective religious celebrations, and what should be displayed, and how our various religious symbols are to be used..." The group urged voters to remember that "the responsibility to teach religion and to display religious items rests with families and churches, not the government."

The Detroit News reported that CRF succeeded yesterday when the amendment was rejected 55 percent to 45 percent. Congratulations, to all Berkley's citizens for religious freedom! This is an important win.

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.

**THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT:
GRAPEVINE FIRE HALL
SOUTHWEST CORNER OF HUGHES AND MERLOT AVE,
GRAPEVINE, TX**

New York – From page 2

Unfortunately for him, his luggage didn't; seizing it, the British found it contained papers concerning certain German espionage activities on our soil.

Coded papers, found by the agents shadowing him in a briefcase that the German "commercial attaché" stupidly left in an elevated train, had given us a few clues about what the Germans were up to. But we were forced to turn over much of the investigation to the New York City Police Department. Yet, fortunately, with 2.5 million German immigrants in this country, many were already on the force in New York. Speaking perfect German, German American police officers hung out in the bars that von Rintelen had recruited in and soon busted most of those who were involved in plots against our country. But, as would soon become obvious, they didn't get them all.

A place called the Hansa Haus in Baltimore was a gathering spot for those working the docks there; it was close enough to Washington that German diplomats could attend the private meetings in the third-floor attic. Baltimore had been chosen when New York City got to be too hot to operate in. And here was Paul Hilken, who had taken von Rintelen's place as the top German agent. Hilken was doing a far better job. First he managed to get Edward Felton, head of the African American stevedores union, on board; Felton's workers hid egg bombs, carrying acid and the like, on munitions ships so they'd burn at sea. And Anton Dilger, a surgeon at John Hopkins University, signed up. Dr. Dilger isolated and grew containers of anthrax, which were used to inoculate horses and mules headed for the front in France - the first terrorist anthrax attack in history.

But, at 2:08 in the morning on Sunday, July 30, 1916, the worst happened. On a mile-long pier on Black Tom Island, on the New Jersey side of New York Harbor, rail cars filled with fuel and between 2 and 4 million pounds of ammunitions waited, ready to be loaded onto ships bound for the Allies. In the fire that was started, all that fuel blew - and all that

ammo went off. In fact, they kept exploding all night, terrifying and jarring people for a 50-mile radius; and when dawn arrived both Black Tom Pier and Black Tom Island were gone.

That day America found that it had lost 85 freight cars; 24 three-story buildings were leveled - and 12 barges, three tugs and six piers destroyed, not to mention all the cargo. The Statue of Liberty was hit by the explosion's shrapnel. All of the windows in Lower Manhattan were shattered; tombstones toppled in cemeteries. That explosion woke up individuals as far away as Maryland.

The people of New York and across the harbor in New Jersey ran outside to see what was the largest fireball ever known to man at the time, probably affecting them like watching the towers fall on 9/11 affected us. Most surprising - and more than likely because it happened in the middle of the night - while the explosion injured hundreds, it killed only four; one was a baby, miles away, thrown violently out of his crib. And the body the captain of a barge loaded with munitions, which had been docked illegally at the mile-long pier, washed ashore six weeks later.

Attacks continued; a car factory making munitions in New Jersey and many other plants were damaged. Before we had even entered the war, it's estimated, those large-scale attacks on American industry had cost more than \$1.5 billion in today's currency.

The British sent von Rintelen back to New York to stand trial for the attack on New York harbor. But, with little actual evidence on hand, all we could try him for was attempting to start strikes on the docks to prevent munitions from being loaded onto ships. He was the only spy ever convicted of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act.

But this all-out attack on New York City had its effect. More than likely it - not the Zimmerman Telegram - was the pivotal moment in our entering the war.

It also put into motion many other events that affected America's future. After the Great War was over, we filed reparations claims against the German government for the damage done to New York and American industry. And the

backlash against all Germans because of the Black Tom Island explosion forced many to Anglicize their names, going from Schmidt to Smith and so on.

From that day in 1916, no one was allowed up the stairs into the Statue of Liberty's torch, because the explosion had made it structurally unsound. CIA historians and analysts believe that the Black Tom explosion helped lead to the rise of communism. You see, those 2 million pounds of munitions were headed to the Russian front - and it was shortages of materiel that led to Russia's leaving the war in 1916 and to the overthrow of the Czar. It's possible that if they'd had those munitions, they might have been able to turn the tide on the Eastern front.

Ultimately, the Black Tom incident also led to the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II; the attack instilled in us the fear that Japanese Americans would be as disloyal to America as some Germans had been in the first war. As he was discussing whether the internment should go forward with his Assistant Secretary of War, John J. McCloy, President Roosevelt said, "We don't want any more Black Toms."

It was the worst attack on American soil until 9/11, though the intent was not to kill people but to stop Americans' shipments of weapons and ammunition to the Allies. It was the event that wounded the Statue of Liberty almost mortally; it was one of the reasons she had to be rebuilt in the eighties. It was the event that led to the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II. And for 88 years, a circle of American flags has flown on the south end of Liberty Island - formerly Black Tom.

One last thing. Remember the reparations we demanded from the German government after the Great War? In fact, those negotiations were not settled until after World War II, in 1953. And the last restitution payments were finally paid to the victims' surviving kin and estates in 1979.

Arthur Woods, the police commissioner of New York, called for a version of Homeland Security all the way back in 1919.

We said we would never forget Black Tom, but we did. Over and over again.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Holiday hucksters: Religious Right cranks up another 'War on Christmas'

Americans United
ROB BOSTON

Your kids are queasy from eating too much candy, there's a decomposing jack o'lantern on your front stoop and the trees in your back yard are rapidly shedding leaves. Sounds like the time is right for another "War on Christmas" brought to you by the Religious Right!

That's right. These days, the Religious Right doesn't even have the decency to wait until Thanksgiving to start whining about what terms people use to describe the December holidays.

Liberty Counsel, a Religious Right legal group associated with the late Jerry Falwell, issued an alert Oct. 30 vowing to slap retailers with either a "Friend" or "Foe" label this year based on whether the word "Christmas" appears in their ads, in catalogs and on Web sites.

Focus on the Family, in an effort to be hip and trendy, has a new video short out featuring Stuart Shepard, one of its faux reporters. The cheeky Shepard explains how this year he's celebrating "Tossmass" by discarding all of the catalogs that fail to use religiously correct terminology.

Not to be outdone, the folks at World Net Daily are hawking "Christmas Defense Kits" featuring a bumper sticker that reads, "This is America! And I'm going to say it: 'Merry Christmas!'"

How charming. There's nothing like

being an obnoxious prig for the holidays.

Lately I've been researching this whole "War on Christmas" thing for a story I'm writing for December's Church & State, and I've noticed a few things. For starters, promoting the "War on Christmas" has become a cottage industry for the Religious Right. These groups make tons of money selling pro-Christmas stuff: buttons, stickers, memos that purport to explain your rights, etc. Keeping the "war" alive is crucial to the Religious Right's bottom line.

Secondly, over the past year, the Religious Right has shifted the discussion from things like battles over Nativity scenes on public property to the language, decorations and even in-store greetings offered by retailers.

Why are the legal eagles of the Religious Right focusing on what stores do instead of government? Simple. The number of battles over holiday symbols is decreasing. The courts have ruled on this matter ad nauseum, and guidelines are in place. Retailers are the new big, fat target for the Religious Right's whiny campaign. The Religious Right needs a new enemy to attack to ensure those dollars flow in and to keep its followers in a constant state of agitation and mock outrage over the latest assaults by the anti-religious fanatics who support church-state separation.

But it's the usual Religious Right con. We at Americans United really don't care what the stores are doing or saying in December.

When a unit of government takes it upon itself to celebrate the religious aspects of a holiday on everyone's behalf, we have to speak out. But the stores down at the mall aren't part of that. They aren't arms of the government. Some say "Christmas" in their ads and some don't. Who cares? The holiday will come either way. (Remember, the Grinch even stole the last can of Who Hash - yet Christmas still came.)

In fact, one could argue that all of the brouhaha at the mall is a distraction from the central message of Christmas. Does the fact that a giant corporation uses the word "Christmas" in its ads truly mean it is interested in marking the birth of Jesus? Chances are, its real goal is persuading you to bust out the credit cards and spend, spend, spend.

It's sad, really. The Religious Right's holier-than-thou brigade claims to treasure Christmas - and then drafts it as cannon fodder in its culture war, spending three months hawking offensive, in-your-face buttons and stickers that make a mockery of a season that is supposed to be dedicated to peace and love. Is that really what Jesus would do?

For those in the Religious Right who genuinely are offended because the newspaper ad from Best Buy fails to include the word "Christmas" and the temporary clerk at the Sears dares to say "Happy Holidays," I have some advice: This Christmas, ask Santa Claus to bring you a life.



TEMPTED?
www.metroplexatheists.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The believers: An atheist interacts with servants of the almighty

On October 4, Metroplex Atheists press secretary William McEwen gave a speech to the Freethinkers of University of Texas/Arlington. Below is a transcript.

Hello. Tonight I will be reading a few select passages from the bible. Therefore, if you are under the age of 18, please leave the room now.

We atheists are surrounded by Christians. I was married to a Christian for 20 years. I have two rebellious daughters. They're Methodists. And how we would raise them did come up in one discussion. My wife said "I plan to raise them as Christians."

I said OK, I saw no harm in that.

Christians will act very open minded. They will say, "I'll take my kids to church and they can decide for themselves."

Well, church is not a weekly, mind-opening lecture about world religions. It is indoctrination into a single religion.

I was naïve. Religion is harmful, and I'm troubled by the messages of Christianity.

As my little daughters got a little older, they stopped listening to Barney the Dinosaur music. They started listening to Christian rock. The first band they liked was Jump5. Jump5 was a band of clean cut kids who had some good music. When they performed live, they lived up to their name. It was 50 percent singing and 50 percent calisthenics.

Another band they liked was Zoe Girl. Zoe Girl is actually three girls. Chrissy Conway, Alisa Girard, and Kristin Swinford. One afternoon I was half listening from the next room while my daughters were listening to Zoe Girl. After the CD was done, a hidden track appeared. One of the girls said

"Admit that you are a sinner and that you need a savior. B: Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is lord. C: Confess your sins and commit your life to him. D: Don't wait until tomorrow."

I was horrified. I went into the living room and told them they were not sinners.

What does a 10 year old or a 12 year old have to confess?

What kind of religion is Christianity that it tells youngsters they are terrible people?

I am here to tell you that my teenage

daughters are great kids. Their religion, however, tells you, and them, that they are terrible people. They are hopeless without the invisible guy with the grey beard.

I was horrified when I heard the Zoe Girl crap. This is product geared toward little girls, and look what they are telling them! I told my girls, "You are NOT sinners. You are great kids, and I'm proud of you, and I always brag about you to my friends."

But the damage was done. "We are sinners," they insisted. "Every time we argue, or turn in our homework late, we have sinned."

I insist they aren't sinners. Their mother insists they are. Who loves them more?

The Methodist says they are sinners because of something that happened thousands of years ago. We've all heard the story. There's this talking snake. And he tells this naked chick to eat an apple from a forbidden tree. It all went bad from there.

But then, there's god. He's bugging people throughout the Old Testament, but he's invisible now. John 3:16 is many Christian's favorite bible verse. It says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Here's the story. Mankind is an awful bunch. Man, who was created by god, that is. So god sends his son down to get the snot kicked out of him. God loves man so much that he did that. That's supposed to be a loving act. OK. In this country, people who murder their children are sent to jail.

MEL GIBSON MOVIE

This was all covered in a movie by Mel Gibson. Called "The Passion of the Christ." A slasher film in the tradition of the Halloween movies and the Freddie Kruger movies.

But this was the story of Christ, so it had to be profound. Christians said it was the best movie of all time. And millions of parents took their small children to see it.

That was an epiphany for me. Has the world gone nuts? That's when I sought other atheists and found comfort from their company.

HELL HOUSE

A local Christian church provides violent entertainment every fall. There are parallels with the Mel Gibson slasher film.

It's called Hell House. Trinity Church of Cedar Hill has been providing this every Halloween season for almost 20 years now. It's lame.

Hell House is adult entertainment. It's an annual fundraiser for the church that brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars to the church. You pay 10 bucks, and spend the next 40 minutes inside a trailer, watching short plays enacted by kids. You see a classroom of kids get shot by a crazed gunman. You see a young teen get an abortion. You get to see hell.

It makes me crazy that thousands of kids are let in. But parents think they're doing a great thing.

I've gone through hell house several times over the years and written about the experience in the Metroplex Atheists newsletter.

The first time, I was frustrated. I was in the back of a big group of people, and I could barely see what was going on.

I was able to sort of see a classroom of first graders get shot by a nutjob. Then we were let into a room where we were about to see a young teen sacrifice herself to Satan.

Groups are escorted through Hell House by ghouls. I complained to one of the ghouls that I could barely see, because the crowd in front of me was so big.

She yelled, "KNEEL DOWN IN FRONT! PEOPLE IN FRONT GET DOWN!"

That was the first and only time I jumped at Hell House. Wow, she was loud.

I got a big kick out of this. I told her, "Wow, you're the scariest person here!" 'SHUT UP!' she yelled at me.

I couldn't believe she just told me to shut up. "What?" I asked.

"I said 'shut up.'"

I was shocked. You don't tell paying customers to shut up.

"What's your name?" I asked her.

She told me several times, but I couldn't understand her. I told her I wanted her

name so I knew who to complain about.

Have you seen cartoons, where the character, a mouse, or a cat, or a baby, burst into tears? Thousands of tears are shooting off in all directions? Well, that's just what happened. The ghoul burst into tears and ran off.

I felt terrible.

A few minutes later, a man who works there pulled me aside. He told me there were complaints that I was smoking and being rude to the staff. Rude? Maybe. Smoking? Definitely not. You can't trust a ghoul at Hell House.

He apologized and said, "It's been a tough day for them. A lot of people have been giving them a bad time tonight."

I wasn't surprised. The script and the acting is lame.

CALLS TO PRAYER LINES

In churches across America, sixth graders are given bibles. Church members are ignorant about what they're giving to youngsters. There are a lot of verses that are never uttered from the pulpit on Sundays.

And that's exactly how I had fun a few years ago. All the preachers on television have telephone numbers you can call, where people are waiting to pray with you.

I thought I'd educate them about the content of their beloved bible.

I called 1-800-NEED-HIM, which is advertised on the radio. I spoke with a woman named Connie. I innocently told her that I didn't have my bible handy, and was hoping she would read a couple of my favorite verses to me.

She explained that the purpose of 1-800-NEED-HIM was to help people accept Christ. But, she was willing to oblige me as long as it didn't take too much of her time.

I asked her to read Luke 14:26 and she did:

Jesus said, "If any man come to me and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my dis-

ciple."

I was hoping Connie would react, but she didn't. Here was her beloved Jesus, with a message of hate, but she didn't say anything.

So I gave her the full guns. I asked her to read Ezekiel 23:20. It says, "There she lusted after her lovers, whose genitals were like those of donkeys, and whose emission was like that of horses."

Connie started reading. She stopped right before the word genitals and wouldn't continue.

She said, "I don't know that that's great of a bible verse."

I acted surprised. "It's the word of god," I said.

"Yeah."

"So, can you read it to me?"

"No, I think I'd rather not."

This is the bible that your local church gives to sixth graders.

Another call was to the 700 Club. That's the huge broadcasting empire owned by Pat Robertson. A woman named Nancy answered. This time I said I was feeling low, and I needed someone to pray with. She was all for it.

I unleashed Ezekiel 4: 12-13 on her. I read:

"And thou shall eat it as barley cakes, and thou shall bake it with dung that cometh out of man, in their sight. And the lord said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, wither I will drive them."

Silence. On the same theme, I continued with II Kings 18:27:

But Rabshakeh said unto them, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? Hath he not sent me to the men which sit on the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?"

Nancy had had enough. "Good night!" she exclaimed. "What version is that in?"

"King James," I said.

"What in the world would they put that in the word for?"

I love a captive audience. I unleashed

another.

"How about this?"

I read her Kings 6: 28-29:

"And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, "This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow. So we boiled my son, and did eat him. And I said unto her the next day, Give thy son that we may eat him, and she hath hid her son."

Nancy said, "No wonder you're not feeling well. To be reading that kind of stuff would even make you sick."

She launched into a prayer.

"Father god, we do greet you in the name of the lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth by his shed blood. God in heaven, we thank you for your word. Oh, god, oh, certainly there is nothing to compare with it but I don't certainly understand or just wonder why that would ever be in there."

When we quote disturbing bible content to Christians, they invariably charge us with stating things out of context. When that happens, simply hand them a bible and say, "OK, put it in context." It's a lost cause. The bible is a mess.

ETERNAL COVENANT MINISTRIES

My friends will tell you that I'm a person who enjoys dropping a pebble in the pond to see what kind of ripples will show up.

A couple of years ago, I created a fictitious church in Arlington called Eternal Covenant Ministries. Here is the inspiration for the name of the church, from Genesis 17: verses 10-14:

"This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring.

Are you searching for Atheists on the internet?

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

Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

I wrote letters, on behalf of Eternal Covenant Ministries, using the pen name Luke Reynolds, to religious radio stations. I asked technical questions about a radio show my church was producing, and whether we could air it on their station.

And I added this:

“The subject of our first program is the requirement for men to be circumcised to enter god's holy kingdom. We want to be as helpful to our listeners as possible. Might you have a list of physicians, nationwide, who routinely perform circumcisions on adults? If not, do you have the resources to put together a list?”

I sent this letter to several Christian radio stations.

The only reply came from 90.3 FM, Family Life Radio, Your Christian Connection, in Phoenix.

The general manager, Alan Cook, answered the technical questions. And he added:

“Considering the topic of your first program, we probably have some serious theological issues that we disagree on.”

A diplomatic response. Apparently Alan Cook doesn't believe in god's everlasting covenant.

Also, under the auspices of Eternal Covenant Ministries, I wrote to all of the famous television preachers and asked for an autographed picture to hang in the church office.

Only one replied. Jan and Paul Crouch of the Trinity Broadcasting Network. Kind of funny when you consider these are the two ugliest people on TV. If you look at the picture, Jan's signature and Paul's signature

were obviously made by the same person. And I'll bet five bucks that it was neither Jan or Paul.

ATTENDING CHURCH

To quote Col. Blake from the TV show MASH, “I avoid church religiously.”

That's not to say I never go to church.

When my daughters used to sing in the children's choir, I attended church whenever they performed. At their Methodist church in Arlington, they used to have a minister named Billy Strayhorn. He's moved on to the Methodist Church in Joshua, Texas, and I do miss his preaching. He is a smart man and a normal guy.

He also has a goatee. I can't confirm it, but I believe the Methodists require all ministers to wear goatees. In fact, if you're out in public, and you see a man with a goatee, ask him if he's a Methodist minister. Twelve percent will probably say yes.

The minister at my daughters's church is now a man named Steve Langford. Steve looks a little like a cleaned up Charles Manson. And he has a goatee, of course. His sermons are awful. He quickly makes his point, and he continues to make the same point again and again.

I attended Christmas Eve services in 2005. Christmas Eve services are usually enjoyable. Little preaching, and a lot of Christmas carols. Even atheists can appreciate the beauty of Silent Night, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and Jingle Bells.

Well, Langford's sermon ticked me off, and it proved the failings of Christianity. His message was that we should embrace things and not try to understand them.

He complained, “We westerners are always trying to understand things.”

Trying to understand things is evil, according to Langford.

My youngest daughter has a T-shirt that says “Not seeing is believing, Hebrews 11:1.” That verse says, “Faith makes us

sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.”

That's just nuts! Saying faith and belief is proof is just nuts.

Like Mark Twain said, “Faith is believing what you know ain't true.”

Believing what isn't true is NOT a virtue. John 8: 31-32

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

That's wrong. We get to the truth by inquiry. And for hundreds of years, science, not religion, has been getting at the truth.

I think it is our mission as atheists, to plant the seed of truth.

My most recent church visit was to a Methodist Church in Fort Worth, accompanied by six other members of Metroplex Atheists. We were invited to speak to an adult Sunday School class.

We were in a classroom, waiting for the class to start. I heard the church service being held downstairs. I faintly heard a piano playing, “How Great Thou Art.”

I was sitting next to James Hardwick. I asked him if he heard it, and he replied, “No. Sometimes there's an advantage to not being able to hear very good.”

The Methodist church members in attendance were polite and respectful.

Their reaction was similar to a group I spoke to this spring.

I spoke to Chi Delta Mu, the religious fraternity at Texas Christian University. I did my best to make it clear that we atheists value our lives and each other, and try to lead productive and good lives.

I was polite and respectful. For example, instead of giving a list of where the believers are dead wrong, I called it “Eight ways to annoy an atheist.”

When I was finished, during the question and answer portion, a professor stated that we seem to be moral and good. So then,

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No fire and
brimstone required*

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why aren't we Christians?

He just couldn't get it through his head that good moral people could exist who turn their backs on religion.

Many don't realize that we atheists don't choose to disbelieve, the way we choose between orange juice and coffee at breakfast.

Pascal's wager says it is sensible to choose to believe because of the potential reward. If we were wrong, no big deal, it was worth the risk.

But to that, I apply what I call McEwen's test. Let's say I place four \$100 bills in front of you. I tell you that if you believe there are five \$100 bills, I'll give them to you. You can't. Belief is not a choice.

Religion has messed up minds to the point where people can't use reason.

My sister tells me that my daughters are so bright they will probably become atheists. That is reassuring, but also a surprise, because my sister is a Christian.

CONCLUSION

I've turned a corner in the last few years since I got involved in atheism.

A contrast to 10 years ago when I was packing my bags for a flight from Florida

back to Texas. I'd been reading the book "Why I am not a Christian" by Bertrand Russell.

I was enjoying the book. I wasn't sure if I should take the book on the flight with me or pack it in my suitcase. I decided to pack it. I didn't want to risk offending anyone.

I boarded the flight. It had been Spring Break across America. I was flying alone, and surrounded by a church group who had been in Africa doing missionary work.

The young teen I sat next to had shorts that didn't cover much, including her lavender panties from Victoria's Secret.

At that time, I was happy I didn't bring the book.

Today, I would have been happy to have the book with me.

It's sad that so many atheists have to hide. Christians don't hide.

In June, I bought Christopher Hitchens's new book at the Barnes and Noble on Copeland Road. I set it on the counter. The clerk read the title out loud - "God is not great - how religion poisons everything."

She gave a loud disapproving "HMMM!" Christians don't approve of us.

But they think it's in poor taste if we don't

approve of them.

The hold religion has on people across the globe is alarming. We are plunging into darkness, with science regularly discarded in favor of feel-good religion.

I long for a world that embraces knowledge and searches for the truth.

It won't happen in our lifetime.

We won't convert people any easier than they could convert us.

If we tell them how silly their religion is, they will get defensive and close their minds.

With most Christians, a nagging seed of doubt exists.

By politely extolling the virtues of science, we can give some nourishing water to those seeds of doubt.

By throwing a little fertilizer on those seeds, we can nourish those seeds of doubt. Reading absurd bible passages is one way to do that.

And by being moral, polite people, we can set a good example.

Let me close with one request.

If you see my daughters, Erin and Lindsay, let them know what great kids they are.

Thank you.



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.

SOCAS

GA Governor's prayer for precipitation flouts founders' aims

Lauren Smith
AMERICANS UNITED

"It's raining, it's pouring, the old man is snoring. Bumped his head as he went to bed and couldn't get up in the morning!"

Oh, how Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue wishes he were the old man in that nursery rhyme, falling asleep to the pitter-patter of raindrops on his window! On Tuesday, Perdue gathered three Protestant ministers, a gospel choir and a crowd of nearly 250 citizens on the steps of the state capitol building to pray for rain.

Georgia is indeed experiencing a devastating drought, but merging religion and government isn't going to fix it. Government prayer proclamations are bad in general, but this one was particularly egregious because of its overwhelming Christian nature.

The Los Angeles Times reports that Gov. Perdue first led the group in prayer, begging for forgiveness for "our wastefulness" and pledging the "provider of water and land...that we will do better."

Three Protestant ministers followed Perdue, and a choir led the crowd in "Amazing Grace," a classic Christian hymn about salvation.

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison must be rolling in their graves. Both founding fathers abhorred government officials directing religious exercises. As president, Jefferson refused to declare days of prayer and fasting. In 1803, he wrote, "I do not

believe it is for the interest of religion to invite the civil magistrate to direct its exercises, its discipline, or its doctrines; nor of the religious societies that the general government should be invested with the power of affecting any uniformity of time or matter among them...."

Many people may not see the harm in a governor publicly praying for rain. The state is in desperate need of precipitation; what's a little prayer to bring people together?

Jefferson knew that any government-sanctioned religious exercise, even if merely recommended, would endanger citizens' rights.

In the same 1803 missive, he wrote, "But it is only proposed that I should recommend, not prescribe a day of fasting & prayer. That is, that I should indirectly assume to the U.S. an authority over religious exercises which the Constitution has directly precluded them from. It must be meant too that this recommendation is to carry some authority, and to be sanctioned by some penalty on those who disregard it; not indeed of fine and imprisonment, but of some degree of proscription perhaps in public opinion."

Madison also tried to avoid government

meddling in religion. Although he acquiesced to Congress' requests for prayer proclamations during the War of 1812, he expressed sincere regret after leaving office.

Prayer proclamations, he wrote in his Detached Memoranda, "seem to imply and certainly nourish the erroneous idea of a national religion....The last & not the least objection is the liability of the practice to a subserviency to political views; to the scandal of religion, as well as the increase of party animosities."

Two of our greatest founders struggled with government-led prayers over 200 years ago. They came down firmly on the side of church-state separation in order to preserve government's secular duties and citizens' religious liberties. It's ridiculous,

really, that our leaders aren't doing the same today.

On a side note, areas across northern Georgia did receive a half-inch of rain last night. Coincidence? I think so. Local weather reports predicted a 10 to 20 percent chance of rain in the days immediately after the event.

That begs the question, though - what if it doesn't rain?

"I should indirectly assume to the U.S. an authority over religious exercises which the Constitution has directly precluded them from."

Thomas Jefferson
PRESIDENT
UNITED STATES

EVOLVE
www.metroplexatheists.org



BOOK REVIEW

Sante D'Orazio: Katlik School

William McEwen
METROPLEX ATHEISTS

Sante D'Orazio is a famous fashion photographer and portraitist who has published many books. His recent "Katlik School" contains 130 photographs of a model in various stages of dress and undress, pretending to be a young Catholic schoolgirl.

Careful examination of this large book allows us to extrapolate its genesis. Below is what is most likely how this book came about, told in e-mail messages between the publisher and photographer.

DAY ONE

PHOTOGRAPHER: I have a great idea for a book. The young woman in a Catholic school uniform has become an erotic, sexualized icon in our society. I want to find a teen model, photograph her in uniform, in her underwear, and nude. It'll be a powerful book.

PUBLISHER: Sounds great! We'll advance \$1 million. A cashier's check will arrive at your New York studio by special courier this afternoon. Try to get the pictures done quickly.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Thanks, dude! I'll find a model and get started. I will need to add a few props to my expense list. A backpack, a Bic pen, and a composition notebook.

PUBLISHER: OK. But don't spend more than \$50. Do you want to do the book in black and white or in color?

PHOTOGRAPHER: Not sure yet. I'll shoot some of both, and we'll decide later.

THREE DAYS PASS...

PHOTOGRAPHER: OK, we shot a few test things. I shot most with a regular camera, but also did a few pictures outside in color with a Holga. Some interesting light leak here and there, and some nice cherry blossoms in bloom.

PUBLISHER: Excellent. Keep up the good work.

ANOTHER THREE DAYS PASS...

PUBLISHER: Sante? How is the book coming?

NO RESPONSE. ANOTHER WEEK PASSES...

PUBLISHER: Sante? Are you OK? How is the book coming along? We are concerned.

PHOTOGRAPHER: OK, I need to con-

us our \$1 million back.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Um, I already spent it. Mortgages on mansions aren't cheap, you know.

PUBLISHER: @#O(&(! How many pictures did you shoot?

PHOTOGRAPHER: We only shot for about two hours. There are only a hundred or so pictures. 130, actually.

PUBLISHER: That's enough for a book.

PHOTOGRAPHER: But you don't understand. Most of the pictures are just teeny tiny, infinitesimal variations of each other. And some are just color versions of the black and white shots.

PUBLISHER: We'll run them all anyway. It'll be a sexy book, it'll sell. Plus we're using an excellent printer, so the book will be very well printed.

PHOTOGRAPHER: I need to warn you about something. The model has very small breasts. This is 21st century America. This might not fly.

PUBLISHER: Oh, no. Does she have tattoos?

PHOTOGRAPHER: Just one, a silly star/moon thing on the small of her back.

PUBLISHER: OK, that'll help it look modern.

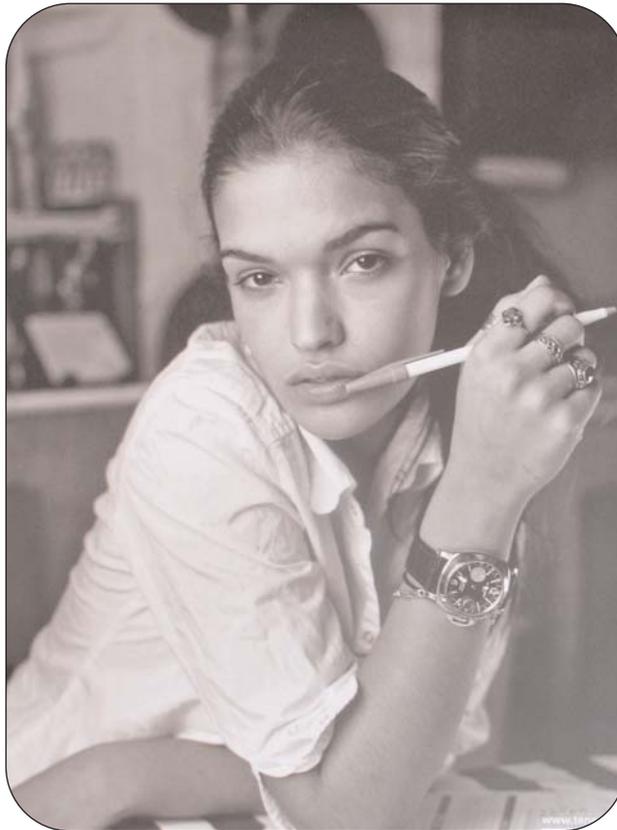
PHOTOGRAPHER: Oh, and you'll love this. In some of the pictures, she's wearing panties that show

the cartoon character Snoopy. Wild, man, just wild.

PUBLISHER: Great. We're on. We'll get Glenn O'Brien to write an essay. He wrote a good one for Rolling Stone about a million years ago, praising Nastassja Kinski. We'll run the text large, and double space it. That'll make the book a little longer.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Works for me. And by the way, I shot a cool picture of me dressed as a priest to use as the author photo.

PUBLISHER: Wild, dude, just wild.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

PBS program features Dover creationism battle

Lauren Smith
AMERICANS UNITED

The town of Dover, Pa., gained new and unfortunate recognition when, in late fall of 2004, its school board became the first in the country to introduce "intelligent design" (ID) into the public school biology curriculum. Students were to be read a four-paragraph statement which questioned the validity of evolution and directed students who wanted to learn more about ID to a creationist textbook in the school's library.

Parents and teachers concerned for students' education and religious liberties were predictably upset. Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the ACLU of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia law firm of Pepper Hamilton sued to stop the district from inserting religion into the science curriculum.

The trial and tribulations that ensued are the subjects of a new documentary "Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial," which aired on most PBS stations last night.

The documentary, which was produced by the nature and science program "NOVA," recreated scenes from the six-week trial and interviewed many of the scientists, scholars and lawyers involved. It is a magnificent behind-the-scenes portrayal of the case that became *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School Board*.

"Judgment Day" focuses largely on whether ID was actually science. Scientists explain in the documentary and on NOVA's fantastic interactive Web site that ID is not science, but a religious

proposition that an "intelligent agent" (i.e., God) spontaneously created organisms (especially humans) in their present form.

Indeed, the textbook the statement referred to says "intelligent design means that various forms of life began abruptly through an intelligent agency, with their distinctive features already intact" - not at all unlike the account of creation in Genesis 1:20-27.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the documentary - carried on a science program - reveals and explains ID's scientific shortcomings in great detail, but it gives little attention to the reason ID was on trial in the first place. *Kitzmiller* is, at its heart, a case about the separation of church and state.

Judge John E. Jones' 139-page decision painstakingly details the Board's religious motives and explains why the statement unconstitutionally endorsed religion. Judge Jones tells NOVA that the "crushing weight of the evidence" led him to conclude not only that ID is not science, but "that ID cannot uncouple itself from its creationist, and thus religious, antecedents."

The Dover Area School Board had undoubtedly engaged in unconstitutional behavior by "conveying or attempting to convey a message that religion or a particular religious belief [(e.g., biblical creationism)] is favored or preferred."

Judge Jones chided the Board for creating a disclaimer that "singles out the theory of evolution for special treatment, misrepresents its status in the scientific

community... presents students with a religious alternative masquerading as a scientific theory, directs them to consult a creationist text as though it were a science resource, and instructs students to forego scientific inquiry in the public school classroom and instead to seek out religious instruction...

"[ID proponents'] presupposition is that evolutionary theory is antithetical to a belief in the existence of a supreme being and to religion in general," wrote Jones. "To be sure, Darwin's theory of evolution is imperfect. However, the fact that a scientific theory cannot yet render an explanation on every point should not be used as a pretext to thrust an untestable alternative hypothesis grounded in religion into the science classroom or to misrepresent well-established scientific propositions."

Judge Jones concludes his interview with NOVA by saying "history tells us that there is an enduring disagreement and dispute in the United States as it relates to evolution....By no means did my decision put a capstone on that, and that will proceed for generations, I suspect."

Judge Jones' decision certainly did not end the debate. It has, however, informed and influenced the debate over religion and science in the public schools with a level of intellectual clarity and authority rarely seen outside of academia.

His landmark ruling and NOVA's new documentary have given supporters of both sound science education and church-state separation invaluable tools in this ongoing struggle.

Do you know of any Church/State separation violations?

Some things to look for are the posting of the ten commandment in public (government) buildings including public school buildings, city parks, municipal buildings, and libraries.

To voice your concerns, please email the Metroplex Atheist Director:

director@metroplexatheists.org

SOCAS

Atheists support student protests of "God Pledge"

Flashline

AMERICAN ATHEIST

An Atheist civil rights group announced its support today for Boulder, Colorado high school students who are protesting the inclusion of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Students gathered on Thursday for a rally as the Pledge was read over their school's public address system. Members of the Student Worker Club want school officials to hold the pledge in the school auditorium during lunch periods. Protesters also intend to recite their own version which omits the reference to a god, and includes mention of constitutional rights.

The phrase "under God" was not part of the original pledge. It was added in 1954 through an Act of Congress.

Ellen Johnson, President of American Atheists expressed support for the students.

"The 'god' reference in our Pledge of Allegiance excludes millions of Atheists and other non-believers, and sends the message that they are not part of the American way of life," said Johnson. "It is a religious declaration and has no place in a society which values individual freedom and the right of conscience."

Dave Silverman, Communications Director for American Atheists, said that the 2004 Colorado law that requires schools to recite the pledge does not require students to participate.

"The students are on firm legal ground here, and the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that no one may be required to participate in the pledge ceremony," said Silverman. "But requiring certain students, including Atheists to simply remain silent while others recite the pledge isn't an appropriate solution."

Silverman added that those who choose not to participate risk being singled out and made victims of peer pressure, disapproval and even violence.

Emmy – From page 1

Atheists. Ms. Griffin has described herself as a "militant Atheist."

"It's permissible to make religious comments at the Emmy Awards and other public events as long as they do not criticize or threaten the self-appointed 'Religion Police,'" said Johnson.

"Celebrities can go on national television to 'thank' Jesus, or Allah, or Scientology for their success, but an Atheist cannot make an honest and forthright statement that their success came from developing their talents and working hard."

"Now we're going to be scrutinizing stage routines by comics for 'blasphemy'?" asked Johnson. "This is something I'd expect in a nation like Saudi Arabia or Taliban-controlled Afghanistan."

Dave Silverman, Communications Director for American Atheists, said that the decision by the Academy to "cave in" to threats was wrong.

"Say what you want about God and Jesus, as long as it's positive and thankful. But disavow Jesus, even in a joke, and you might as well be swearing, and you'll get bleeped."

"Theistic speech is welcome at the Emmy Awards, but the least bit of levity and humor about religion is not."

Mr. Silverman added that American Atheists was urging its members, and all others concerned about censorship in the media, to contact the Awards to protest the decision to censor Ms. Griffin's comment.

SOCAS

Court rules to uphold separation

Flashline

AMERICAN ATHEISTS

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled to let stand two lower court rulings upholding the First Amendment's establishment clause guaranteeing the separation of government and religion.

In *CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ALBANY v. DINALLO*, justices supported the decision of the New York State Court of Appeals that faith-based social service organizations which hire non-Catholic staffers must subsidize birth control / family planning devices as part of prescription drug coverage.

In *FAITH CENTER CHURCH v. GLOVER*, the high court let standing a 9th U.S. Circuit Court decision that while public libraries must accommodate religious meetings as they do other organizations, public facilities may not be made available for religious worship.

Ellen Johnson, President of American Atheists said she was pleasantly surprised by today's rulings.

"The high court justices got it right, and drew the legal line when it comes to providing faith-based social programs and other religious groups with special, discriminatory legal protections."

Dave Silverman, Communications Director for American Atheists, said that while today's Supreme Court decision was encouraging, the effort to protect the First Amendment's establishment clause must continue.

"Religious organizations continue to demand 'special rights' above and beyond what are provided to private individuals, business and secular groups," said Mr. Silverman.

"We say: there must be a level playing field, and that churches or other religious organizations cannot ignore anti-discrimination statutes or other laws by citing the teachings of their particular faith."

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.

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: TBA

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

WINTER SOLSTICE:

What: Meet with other local Atheists for winter merriment
Date: Mid December TBA
Time: TBA
Place: TBA; visit: www.metroplexatheists.com

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/

November 2007

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

December 2007

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

January 2008

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

***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?