

THE ATHEIST VOICE

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SOCAS

High Court orders stay in San Diego 'Easter Cross'

AA News
AMERICAN ATHEISTS

The U.S. Supreme Court intervened in one of the nation's longest running cases involving the separation of church and state, and stayed - at least for now - the removal of the 43-foot-high Christian cross on Mt. Soledad, San Diego, California.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, without comment, issued the stay on a lower federal court ruling that declared the cross to be an unconstitutional endorsement of one religion over another and ordered its removal on or before August 2. If government officials did not comply, the city would have faced fines of \$5,000 per day.

Supporters of the cross were ecstatic and vowed to continue the legal fight.

Attorneys for "San Diegans for the Mount Soledad National War Memorial" said that they wished

to avoid "the destruction of a national treasure. San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders added that he hoped that Kennedy's order would lead to the high court ultimately hearing the case, which it has rejected twice. Supporters said that they have been encouraged by the addition of two new justices to the Supreme Court.

In May, U.S. District Court Judge Gordon Thompson ruled that the Mt. Soledad cross violated the state constitution's ban on establishment of one religion over another. He handed down a similar ruling in 1999, but it was delayed by appeals. In December, 1991, Thompson ruled against the presence of the cross in a decision dealing with the Mt. Soledad Christian memorial and a similar cross on Mt. Helix visible from the town of La Mesa and environs.

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SOCAS

'Pledge Protection Act' fails to get out of House Committee again

Americans United
LAUREN SMITH

The Pledge Protection Act has failed to get out of the House Judiciary Committee yet again!

In a stellar repeat performance, U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis (R- S.C.) again withheld his support from H.R 2389, a Religious Right-backed, court-stripping measure that would bar the federal courts from hearing cases involving the Pledge of Allegiance. Inglis' "no" vote created a 15-15 split, meaning the bill would not advance to the House floor with the com-

mittee's endorsement. Stunned by the outcome, Republican leaders rounded up absent members and called an emergency rehearing in the House Judiciary Committee this afternoon.

The GOP leadership needed one committee member on the prevailing side, either Inglis or ranking member U.S. Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), to raise a motion to reconsider so that seven Republicans who were absent yesterday could cast their "yea" votes and send the bill out with their endorsement.

Committee chairman Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.) gavelled the meeting to

order and opened the floor to motions. Nothing happened. There was complete silence. Inglis was standing in the room, but did not raise the motion to reconsider. In a very bold and highly unusual move, he denied the Republicans the opportunity to cast their votes.

Unfortunately, the Pledge Protection Act isn't dead yet. House leaders may still pull procedural levers and send it to the House floor for a vote, possibly as early as tomorrow.

If you haven't called your House member to register to your opposition to this unwise bill, please do so.

THE BACKSIDE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Iraq: History repeats itself?

ED WALLACE

Iraq: History repeats itself?

It had been known for centuries as Mesopotamia, and the Ottoman Empire knew that it was best to rule that country separately from its three primary provinces: Mosul, Basra and Baghdad. After all, the Turkish Empire knew that Mosul spoke for the Kurds in the North, Baghdad for the Sunni minority and Basra for the Shi'as in the south.

However, when the League of Nations gave Britain the mandate for Mesopotamia, those three provinces were merged into the modern state of Iraq: "Al-Iraq," meaning the fertile area along a river's banks.

Of course, as the conquering army and mostly benign administration in this newly formed Middle Eastern country, England had its work cut out. The basic problem was how to create a modern democracy - or, failing that, a representative form of government - that could fairly represent and serve all parts of that country's population.

At the time only 3 million people lived in Iraq. The majority were Shi'as like today, 20% were Kurdish in the north, 20% Sunni Muslim and 9% Jewish, Christian or other religious sects.

So, how was it that the minority Sunni came to power so quickly, even under enlightened British rule? Easy: The Sunnis had often been involved in governmental affairs when the Ottoman Empire ruled, so they understood administration. The Shiite Muslims in the south, lacking such experience, couldn't easily obtain positions in government - a situation that, eighty years later, still hasn't been rectified.

A couple of quick points: The Treaty of Murdos was the armistice signed between the Allies and the Ottoman Empire that ended the First World War. Because of that treaty, Turkey protested when the province of Mosul was made part of the new Iraq, claiming the British had no authority to take it. But Turkey had lost the war, and England simply ignored its claim to the



King Faisal with his handlers

northern area.

Likewise, in the south, the British had some hard battles around Basra in the opening days of war. But Basra's merchants had long traded with British commercial houses, so once the fighting was over, they quickly reestablished their old financial ties with Britons. In fact, it would be fair to say that the people of Iraq were largely happy to see the Ottoman Empire crumble and the Turks leave. But it wouldn't take long before some wanted to see the British leave the exact same way.

The first anti-British group, the Society of Islamic Revival, was formed in early 1918 in Najaf; it recruited members in that city and nearby Kabala. Most Americans had never heard of these cities, a year ago; today you can find them on a world map quicker than you can find Denver City, Texas.

The Kurds were likewise thrilled with the overthrow of the Turks in May of 1918; they even offered their country for rule by England. That didn't last long, either; just one year later, the Kurds proclaimed their country's independence.

But here's the important point: The world agreed that Middle Eastern countries should quickly have their own free and

possibly democratic societies, which is exactly what the Anglo-French Treaty of 1918 mandated. The British were simply going to stick around in Iraq to install and educate the newly made Iraqis in democracy - failing that, self rule.

Another key point: The British were by and large sincere and well intended in creating a democratic Iraq. So, here are the moves the British made. First, they cut deals with the local tribes' leaders in the south to maintain order. That's something that we've also done. They abolished the Ottoman Courts and municipal councils and moved to restore order through a few trusted political officers, police force members and wealthy notables. Yes, we've done that.

The British asked the Iraqis what type of Constitution they wanted. And proving that they were as capable as we are in handling a democracy, the British got so many different opinions from the average citizen that they quit asking.

Gertrude Bell, Oriental Secretary to the British civilian commissioner and the Condi Rice of her day, the reactionary Shi'as of the south. Her validation of

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SOCAS

'Religious Right' powerbroker sued by Texas tribe

Americans United

JEREMY LEAMING

Ralph Reed, one of the Religious Right's most successful political organizers and fund-raisers, is having a difficult time escaping his relationship with one of the nation's most infamous lobbyists Jack Abramoff.

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas filed a federal lawsuit against Reed and Abramoff charging them with being the driving forces behind the demise of the Native American tribe's Texas gambling casino.

As it has been widely reported, Reed was hired by Abramoff to help foment a statewide effort to restrict gambling in Texas. The tribe's lawsuit alleges that Abramoff brazenly used Reed's towering status as a Religious Right powerbroker to fuel an anti-casino moral crusade in the Lone Star State. And what has also been uncovered and publicly reported is that Abramoff hired Reed at the behest of an Indian tribe in Louisiana that was seeking to protect its highly successful gambling interests.

The Texas Indian tribe's lawsuit, as reported in The New York Times today, states that, "This case chronicles Jack Abramoff and his associates' greed, corruption and deceit and their devastating impact on Texas's oldest recognized Indian tribe."

Reed has tried mightily to ignore media inquires into his association with convicted lobbyist Abramoff. A correspondent for GQ magazine, in a lengthy and devastating critique of Reed's career, wrote that Reed refuses to do interviews with publications from outside of Georgia.

GQ correspondent Sean Flynn said Reed "hasn't given an on-the-record quote of any substance to The

Atlanta Journal-Constitution in six months, and he hasn't granted a serious interview to any paper big enough to have a Nexis account [one of the world's largest depositories of media, academic and legal information]."

Yesterday, however, Reed's spokeswoman was forced to acknowledge the Indian tribe's federal lawsuit. Reed has said that he accepted money from Abramoff, but maintains that his work to spark a religious campaign against gambling in Texas was transparent and even noble.

Reed's spokeswoman, Lisa Baron, told the Times that, "As a longtime opponent of casino gambling, Ralph was happy to work with Texas pro-family citizens to close it."

The Washington Post and other media outlets have released e-mails between Abramoff and Reed showing that Abramoff was not circumspect about where the millions of dollars to pay Reed would emanate from. According to the Post, Reed received "as much as 4 million" from the Louisiana tribe. In a July 12 column for the Arizona Star Daily, Garrison Keillor notes that in one e-mail, Abramoff informs Reed that he would get compensated "as soon as the Coushattas send in the money."

Since departing TV preacher Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition in the late 1990s, Reed has run a highly successful consulting career - not only working to elect social conservatives to public office, but also to assist Microsoft, Enron and an array of other private businesses, like the Louisiana gambling casino. Reed, who has tarred gambling as a blight on American society and continues to style himself as defender of so-called "family values," is finding it more and more difficult to come clean.

Iraq – From page 2

things already put in motion lasts to this day.

But democracy is a tricky thing. One Ayatollah in Karbala issued a fatwa forbidding employment with the British administration. The Kurds' self-proclaimed independence was put down by the RAF's bombardment, which included the world's first aerial use of chemical weapons. Two other militant groups, the Independence Guard and the al-'Ahd, ran minor guerilla operations into Iraq out of Syria. And, finally, the British brought back an exiled Iraqi, Sayyid Talib al-Naqid, to help oversee the elections for the Constituent Assembly in June of 1920. But al-Naqid had only come home to take advantage of the new opportunities to make money. Let's call him the Ahmed Chalabi of his day.

Again, democracy is a tricky thing. For every Iraqi that the British aligned with, a severe critic arose from the opposition party - and not via an election, but by show of force. By June of 1920, an armed revolt was in full swing in the southern region. The British put it down within months, but not before 6,000 rebels and 500 British soldiers were killed.

By November of 1920 a new Iraqi government had formed under the careful watch of the British. Twenty-one Iraqis from all three provinces were named, not elected, as heads of different agencies. Each was assigned a British colonial officer to teach him the democratic system.

Then lo and behold, the British realized they had been a little hasty in closing down the old Ottoman Courts and municipal councils. Turns out they had actually functioned fairly efficiently. So they were all reopened; and in many cases, they were staffed by the people who had held the posts under the Turks.

So, the British had put down the revolts, reopened the old government agencies and only then realized that democracy - or, fail-

ing that, self-rule - is a tricky thing. Therefore, the British needed a single person to commit Iraq to all things international, as in doing business with England.

Also needed was a representative form of government, which could debate to its many hearts' content while representing the people of Iraq. Enter our old friend Faisal, son of Hussein of Mecca; having been a warrior with Lawrence of Arabia, he had just been removed from Syria's throne by the French for being too pro-British.

Faisal is without a doubt one of the more pragmatic Middle Easterners of the last century. He was well liked by all who met him, philosophical and rational; and Faisal knew that previous friendships with the British carried no currency when Imperial interests were at stake.

But, would the Iraqis accept a Saudi Hashemite Arab as their ruler? Sure: The British put together a bogus referendum showing that fully 96% of the population was on board for Faisal's ascendancy to King of Iraq.

More laws were passed to create a democratic state, such as the Electoral Law, in May of 1922, and so was a constitution that separated power within the government. The British drew up treaties that made themselves sound like mere assistants in helping to create this new state, but even the Iraqis knew the British were calling the shots; resentments soon started festering among large parts of the population. Even Faisal knew he was between a rock and a hard place, and he actually sided with the people against that particular treaty.

Right then and there, Iraqi Commissioner Sir Percy Cox imposed direct British rule, closed down the radical newspapers, suppressed the opposition's parties, deported opposition leaders and dropped a few more bombs on the tribes in the Euphrates Valley. Good thing Faisal was out with appendicitis. He got the message, though; and, sure enough, in September of 1922, having

seen the light, Faisal signed those British treaties. Still a few major problems: The Kurds wanted to create Kurdistan. The Shi'as of the south, finding that they liked being represented in government, used their majority to start some real payback on the Sunni minority that had oppressed them for so long.

And in December of 1925, enough things were just starting to go right that the League of Nations extended the British mandate of Iraq, to ensure that some form of democracy would last that committed the British to another 25 years in that country.

And, just nine months before that new mandate, the Iraqi Parliament and Faisal even ratified a new concession for their nation's oil ... to the Turkish Petroleum Company.

Now, you're thinking, "How could the Iraqis cut a contract with their old nemesis, the Ottoman Empire and its Turkish Petroleum Company, when it was the British who had saved them and were tutoring them in self rule?"

Here's why. As part of the armistice that ended the war between the Allies and the Ottomans, Turkey had to give the winners that petroleum company. The real owners of the Turkish Petroleum Company were the Anglo-Persian Oil Company: Today its parts are called British Petroleum, Dutch Shell, Francaise des Petroles,

Mobil and Standard Oil.

Now, back in 1920, the British had told the Iraqi people that the oil was the property of their new government; English contracts were executed giving Baghdad 20% of the proceeds of sales. But, when the time came to get serious about drilling, England also demanded that the Iraqi government put up 20% of the costs for exploration, pipelines, storage tanks and port facilities. Of course, the Iraqis didn't have that kind of money, so they negotiated for a mere royalty payment for every ton of oil pumped out of the desert.

However, at least a semblance of self-rule

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

appeared, though it was rocky. Faisal died in office in 1933, and his son Faisal II took over. There were the ups and downs in the Middle East, problems of society and so on.

That is, until 1958, when a group of Army officers, calling themselves the Free Officers, decided that it was time to overthrow the constitutional monarchy and install a Republic. It is interesting to note that these men wanted to arrest and try for treason anyone who had ever collaborated with the so-called Imperialists.

That group, led by Abd al-Karim Qasim,

attacked Baghdad in July of 1958, seizing all the government buildings and taking over the radio station. The Free Officers forced Faisal the Second and his family out of the palace; they were executed in the street and their bodies torn apart by the mob.

Forty years of trying democracy, or at least self-rule, only to have the whole thing subverted by a military coup. But, at least they learned British administration; everyone agrees that the Iraqis are among the best record keepers in the Middle East.

Then Iraq was to be destroyed by their own army, which the British government had created, taught and supplied.

Forty-five years after that overthrow, we've come full circle back to 1918. Three provinces in Iraq that don't get along, suspicions, oil, exiles returning for profit-taking - and foreign administrators to teach them democracy, failing self-rule.

Let's hope this time the world gets it right. But, ultimately, we should remember, that even with the best of intentions, democracy is often a tricky thing.

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.

WWII & Korea:

James Hardwick (Ret), Navy

Korea:

Chris Gregory, Air Force

Iraq:

Brian McIntosh (Ret), Marines

Shawn Ruzek, Marines

Deanne Dice

Cross – From page 1

The original case was filed 17 years ago by Atheists Phil Paulson and the late Howard Kreisner with the backing of Society of Separationists, a legal arm of American Atheists.

Since then, supporters of the Mt. Soledad cross have maintained that the structure had nothing to do with sectarian religion but was merely a “war memorial” to honor veterans. During a Tuesday interview with MSNBC, a spokesperson for the Memorial Association constantly referred to the Christian cross as a war monument, and noted that a public referendum resulted in over 70% approval from voters to keep the cross standing.

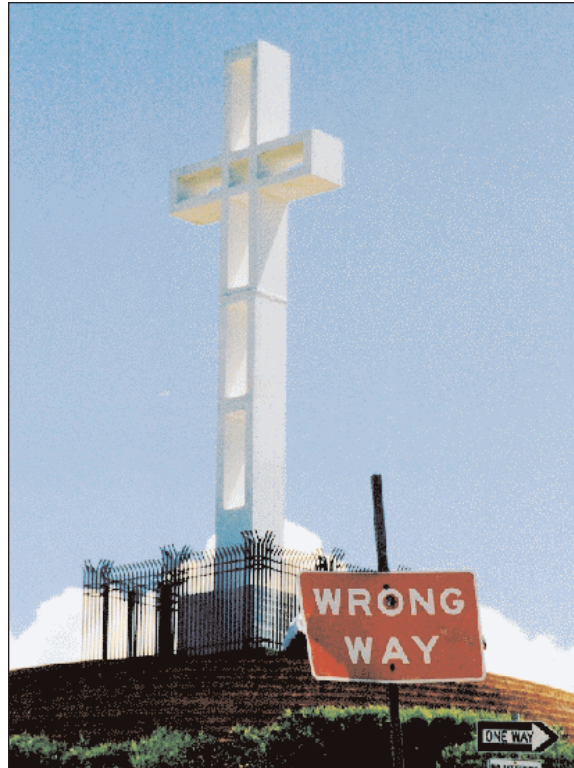
There has also been disagreement over the significance of Justice Kennedy’s decision to grant a stay of the lower court order.

City Attorney Michael Aguirre termed the move a “significant development,” especially in light of the high court’s previous reluctance to enter the case.

Charles LiMandri, attorney for the war memorial organization told the San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper, “The way I read it, that is a granting of our application.” Association chairman Phil Thalheimer concurred, saying to reporters that the ruling was a defeat for Mr. Paulson and a boost for cross preservationists.

Paulson, keeping to a long-standing policy, had no comment on the matter, but released a series of “talking points” relevant to the original suit.

Every annual publication of the Thomas Brothers Map from 1954 to 1989 presented



godless.com

a geographic legal description of the location as the “Mt. Soledad Easter Cross” after which year (cross case was filed on May 31, 1989) the name of the legal location on the map was changed to the “Mt. Soledad Memorial.”

There was no placard or marker to be found anywhere on Mt. Soledad Natural Park nor at the site of the Mt. Soledad Easter Cross to indicate that it was a veterans’ memorial until after 1992, when the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association installed such a marker with a “Veterans” memorial inscription.

Every Easter holiday sunrise since 1954 was an occasion at Mt. Soledad for local Christian worship services to celebrate the crucifixion of their concept of a deity and

messiah Jesus Christ.

The Mt. Soledad Cross was dedicated to “Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” in a dedication bulletin by the grandmother of William J. Kellogg, President of the Mt. Soledad memorial Association on Easter Sunday, 1954.

The Mt. Soledad Memorial Association made improvements to the property within Mt. Soledad Natural Park. All improvements were unwisely added while litigation proceedings were taking place. “Six concentric walls hold 3,200 black granite plaques purchased by donors and engraved with the names and photos of war veterans -- currently more than 1,700 are in place.”

The Mt. Soledad Memorial Association claims that the site for the Veterans’ Memorial on Mt. Soledad Natural Park was dedicated on Easter holiday to commemorate and memorialize those who died during the Korean War era, but the cross

clearly shows preference and discrimination only for Christian veterans. The Mt. Soledad Easter Cross is not a sacred symbol for non-Christian veterans, and it may be cogently argued that the presence of the Mt. Soledad Easter Cross demeans them with second-class citizenship status in their own country. The symbol arrogantly proclaims that “Jesus Rules San Diego.”

The order by Justice Kennedy leaves the case in tact. James McElroy, attorney for Mr. Paulson characterized the Supreme Court order as a “hold-in-place” measure.

“Its practical effect is not much,” McElroy told reporters. “It’s like he’s saying, ‘We’ve got your legal briefs, you will be hearing from us.’”

Are you searching for Atheists on the internet?

Join in the discussions at the DFW Atheist Talk group.

groups.yahoo.com/group/DFWAtheistTalk/

COLUMN

Just another Salem

CHUCK, NADIA, NICOLE, CZESLAW AND
BRIDGETTE SMALKOWSKI

The bailiff took the piece of paper from the foreman of the jury and handed it to the Judge. He opened the paper and while staring at it he nodded. The courtroom was silent and the jury stared straight ahead.

I have been in many situations where my life or limb were on the line but I was still in the game and had a hand to play. But not here, here I just sat waiting for the verdict.

Though I worried about being sent away for five years on bogus charges, my dread was the Christian mob. They knew I must be found guilty in order to slow or stop the civil case being filed in Federal court. Since the start of my daughter's stand against the public schools disregard for the law of the land, it was imperative to run us out of the county to make any civil action non valid. With me in jail for five years running my family out would be a whole lot easier, or so they might have thought.

The courtroom was packed for it is the Bible belt. There was no love in this courtroom.

The loving Christians brought their children to hear the verdict. They brought the town. They brought ministers. I even saw another Judge in the back of the room. The Judge who in an earlier hearing while slapping an inch thick stack of papers on his bench saying: with a list of witnesses this big you had better be a good boy. It was lies then, it was lies now and the DA knew it! (She was later forced to hand over a written statement she denied for over a year existed!) People prayed openly for a conviction. Many holding their bibles. During the trial the Prosecutions side of the courtroom was packed. Only my son and Edwin Kagin's wife, Helen sat behind me, but now there was not enough room in the whole courtroom.

Yet now the so-called victim, the 325 lbs victim, the ex Marine, hurrahs, was nowhere to be found. Neither was the woman assistant district attorney anywhere to be found. Whose vindictive, bogus case this was from the start.

What sort of place is this?

Well this is not the place for a little debate in a coffee shop with the sweet salt air rolling up from San Francisco bay. This is a place where the children write on their schoolbooks the south will rise again. This is a place where they say that black people caused slavery! Where they burn rock CD's. Mormons are the tools of Satan. That my daughter is gay cause only homosexuals vote for Kerry and Christians vote for Bush. Atheists worship Satan! Where religious fanaticism is fused with political rhetoric and political leaders pander to this madness. This place has a sickness, a malignant disease and it is spreading. Edwin saw it first hand.

There has not been many a trial with a Not Guilty verdict in this county for years. The head DA is good friends with the self-righteous in the courtroom and greets them all by name. You know the type.

Many old women in the courtroom are taking notes. Others have been taking notes at every hearing for the past year and a half! They strain to listen not wanting to miss one juicy word. With the pens and pads they write continuously. The pads shaking with every push of the pen. Even writing down what my children spoke amongst themselves.

Blue gray haired old Christian spinsters bitter for wasting all those fruitful years now just waiting for those pearly gates. These are truly the wicked. You have seen them before. With their bogus self-righteousness they strut and sneer. How far we have not come.

Others had walked out into the hall and warned a police witness saying that justice must be served, that justice better be served. The judge called a hearing on the threat.

He warned the crowd that if it happens one more time he would have no choice but to throw out the case. He was between a rock and a hard place. He knows my lawyers are watching and the loving Christians are out for my blood, and they are watching too. The law, elections and politics were all in play. The Judge left the court for his chambers and stayed away for a quite awhile.

The Christians, the loving Christians! Praying to a God whose wings are dripping in the blood of innocent men, woman and children down through the ages. Truly hypocrisy is one of their commandments and the blood of the innocence one of their sacraments!

Christian against Christian, Christian against Moslem, Christian against Mormon. Basically Christian against anyone or anything that challenges their pathetic little fairy tale.

Go to any Indian reservation and see the lies and broken promises by a country with "Under God" in their pledge.

I assume I need not have to explain about the loving hymns sung in church on Sunday and beatings of black slaves on Monday. But on Monday night the good old Master has a little tippy toe over to slave huts for a little brown sugar. While the queen of the manor is in the master bedroom past out on an opium tonic. Praise the Lord!

Well that was then but now the court was about to hear the verdict. There was a feeding frenzy about to begin with the dirty little atheist and his family put in their place with him in jail and the family run out of town. Like the teacher told my daughter "This is a Christian country and if you don't like it get out!"

I could hear my heart beat in my ears and I dreaded the cheers from the righteous mob that were about to begin. The pain of having my family being in the front row to witness this swirling cesspool of hatred come to its inevitable end with my head on a pike, sucked the air right out of my lungs.

It was truly just another Salem. Different time and place. Same characters with new names. Oh, no gallows or big oak tree this time. But if they could they surely would. How far we have not come. I know, I already said that but do you really understand what a tragedy it means? The whole universe is ours if we want it but instead we must gravel in the dirt having to debate the obvious.

I have been standing against injustice most of my life. It is my nature. I am a

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Salem – From page 7

child of the 60's and proud of it. But what of my poor family? They stood so proud and strong. They are tougher than I will ever be. I had told them do not cry. Do not give these bastards any satisfaction. I told my wife if I see you cry I will surely loose it. I said it is in the Federal courts we will set things right and send that wall higher than it has ever been. On the wall behind us was a painting of the signing of the Declaration.

The judge handed the verdict to the clerk. The only sound was the paper. The paper in the clerk's hands with the hand written words that spelled my doom, my family's fate and the inevitable cheers from the Christian mob.

With my guts in my throat and no air to breathe. The court clerk read the decision of the jury.

We the jury find the defendant:

On the charge of Aggravated Assault and Battery: Not Guilty!

On the charge of Assault and Battery: Not Guilty!

On the charge of Assault: Not Guilty!

On the charge of Battery: Not Guilty!

Not a word, not a sound. The lynching had been cancelled. I took my first free breath in almost two years. I looked at the jury and mouth the words thank you. I gazed at the floor as floodgates opened, I dared not move my head that others might see. Charley don't cry, but free air has its effects.

With all their praying, lies, crooked cops, warning that justice better be done, packing the courthouse with their followers, Even a teacher on the jury who had taught at the Hardesty School. (Our motion to take her off the jury denied.) Not guilty was still the outcome. The evidence was obvious. This was a bad case. And 12 men and women had the guts.

From the start of this legal fight my lawyers said Atheism must be kept out. That it was a no go in the Bible belt. I was just adamant that Atheism be brought in. For it is the reason. It was the motive for all the lies and hate. I felt it was about time that this dirty little secret of hate, persecution, Christian madness and hypocrisy is brought out into the light of day. When I told my lawyers this they all gave me the

same bewildered stare.

So one by one, I dropped one lawyer then two. Then I had a hard time in finding another one. My third lawyer was still trying to convince me to keep my atheism out even up till the day of the trial. I still said no. Somewhere along the line I talk to the ACLU out of San Francisco. Who let me know my first civil lawyer was not telling me the whole story. I was advised by them and many others to complain to the Bar about him.

You see he never told me that the prayer in itself is illegal. That the schools in this area were not following the state and federal funding guidelines. When I asked him after finding out from the ACLU. He said yes it is against the law.

I told him I want to have it stopped. He told me he would not for he was a Christian and he believed there should be school prayer. His statement floored me for it bordered on madness. I said what you believe and what you do for a client is two different things and that you took an oath. He still refused.

It did not matter to him that I had already given him \$10,000 dollars. He knows we are not rich. So I wrote a letter to him to complain about his refusing to take my daughters civil case where it should have gone from the start. And I asked for my money back. He sent me a bill for another \$5000 saying it was the charge for reading my letter and wasting his time.

In my search for a civil attorney it became clear that no one would touch this case. In all of Oklahoma I could not find an attorney. My criminal attorney said he would look at it but only after I paid him his \$15000 for the criminal case. He sent me a letter that the funds for the criminal were coming too slow and suggested that I seek other counsel for the civil matter. But even after he got his \$15000 he would only take it if I paid him more. (Now that I have won the criminal case he wants on the civil. Suffice to say he is off the civil!)

Eventually I contacted the American Atheist, which was referred to me by Edward Tabash, who was referred to me by a Mr. Robert Tierman. I told them my problem in finding an attorney willing to

take church and state case in which the people are blatantly breaking the law. Yet no one will take it. American Atheist, being out of another state, could not refer me to anyone. But they said they would try to help. The ACLU out of Oklahoma City refused. They sent me some standard letter. It really hurt that I did not even rate a return call or a reason. I felt betrayed, lost and confused.

Was this the United States? Where freedom reigns?

The whole family was under constant stress. Police trying to get search warrants to the property by having employees file false statements. Other cops trying to hire ex-cons to beat me up.

The whole town knows of it!

The Sheriff trying to have my bond pulled by the bail bondsman when there was no legal way to do it. My kids have been out of school since November. Principal's son saying should he get a gun when he sees my daughter and my son. DA has yet to reply to our concerns. The Department of Human Services comes to my place saying they received a complaint that I starve my kids. It was even obvious to them the charge was bogus.

We have become very good at using back roads. The police follow us around. Traffic tickets that when challenged were dropped in court. Not to mention the stares and whispers, the betrayal from employees, one of my healthy dogs dying. Brush fires starting up upwind.

An FBI agent even said, "You aren't kidding". When it was obvious someone followed us and was watching our meeting out in the middle of nowhere. I was told about a few things. All I can say is that some of the crooks out here now charged with crimes wore badges and guns! But he could not help my family and me. Not without witnesses willing to come for-

*The judge handed
the verdict to the
clerk. The only
sound was
the paper.
The paper in the
clerk's hands with
the hand written
words that spelled
my doom, my
family's fate and
the inevitable
cheers from the
Christian mob.*

ward. One scared witness left the state. The last words she spoke to me were, Chuck I don't want to end up dead in a ditch!

Just what you would expect life to be like out here in the Bible belt!

The roller coaster of emotions we went through every minute, every day. It was truly a hell. There were days we spoke little. Other days we spoke late into the night. You get to a point you become numb, but it doesn't last. For it is all aboard and you are on the roller coaster again.

My poor family. They were standing tall. But they would not even be in this place if it were not for me and my bright idea about centralizing our business. We all missed the desert. The free open Mojave Desert. My family did not ask for this. They deserved better. I saw them all suffering.

Many a night I would sit in the barn alone with a pint of scotch and look at the high beams and the rope on the wall.

Then out of the blue my wife received a call from Ellen Johnson who said they had a lawyer that can help us, an Edwin Kagin who is their legal director. Well I called him up, and our civil case is up and running.

Edwin Kagin also by my request came to my criminal case for the two cases are obviously interrelated. There were also other reasons.

Simply stated without Edwin Kagin, Ellen Johnson and American Atheist I would be in jail now, or worse. Without them, we would have no federal case on separation of church and state. The only group, the only lawyer that would stand with my family and me to protect the wall and not cringe at me wanting to put atheism as part of my defense.

In Edwin's opening statement American Atheist magazine was shown. The crowd almost rioted. He explained that Atheism was not a dirty word and that it was a conclusion. That my family and I are not devil worshippers. We just have no Gods. It was the basis of the case. It was the danger. It was the truth. Yet the only lawyer to go there freely was Edwin Kagin.

In a world where superstition is the norm and those who seek another path are ridiculed or worse. Being an atheist takes guts. Freedom is never freely given. The good fight is always there.

Oh you can hide yourself in the latest sitcom or have one or two more scotch and waters but the good fight is still there. You can run to your malls and buy yourself crazy with credit card frenzy. But the good fight is still there. You can look away and deny allegiance. But the good fight is still there. These are the times that try men's

courage. You can debate till you're blue in the face. It will not change a damn thing.

Our forefathers are on our side in this fight. Trust me. From Adams to Madison to Jefferson and Paine they all knew the dangers of a Theocracy. They wrote the Constitution to assure it. And within the federal courts we can protect this nation from a Theocracy.

The wall between the church and state must stand. But the wall is being battered and cracks now appear. The Christians are at the gate attempting to breach the wall and send us back down the road to an age of darkness, bloodshed and fear. My family and myself are willing to stand and fight the good fight. If we lose some skin, so be it. We have no more else to give. We are financially done. Thanks to American Atheist, Ellen Johnson and Edwin Kagin for the first time we do not fight alone.

Please stand together with us and fight the good fight. The fight that our forefathers began. Lets make the wall so high between Church and State that they who wish to tear it down will know better and be content with staying in their churches.

For freedom has never been free! There can be no freedom for all if the wall does not stand.

The wall must stand.



TEMPTED?
www.metroplexatheists.org

COLUMN

The 'Religious Right' targets our constitution

Americans United
ROB BOSTON

Who would you pick to write your constitution - Founding Father James Madison or Family Research Council President Tony Perkins?

It doesn't seem like much of a choice. Madison is considered the father of the U.S. Constitution and helped draft the Bill of Rights. He pioneered religious liberty in Virginia and served as our nation's fourth president.

By contrast, Perkins served eight years in the Louisiana House of Representatives and lost a race for U.S. Senate, winning 10 percent of the vote. Since then, he has directed one of the nation's most extreme Religious Right groups.

Perkins' unimpressive achievements would seem a poor substitute for the wisdom of Madison - yet Perkins apparently believes he should be able to edit the latter's handiwork. As recent media accounts indicate, Perkins and a band of far-right followers are so angry over the defeat of the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) in the Senate that they are promoting a new Constitutional

Convention to give them another crack at it. Article V of the Constitution states that a Constitutional Convention shall be convened if two-thirds of the state legislatures call for one. The strategy has never been tried.

Since the language of the Constitution on the matter is open-ended, opponents say there is no way a "con-con" could be limited to a single topic. A convention supposedly convened to deal with the FMA could easily run amok and propose several amendments or even try to rewrite whole portions of the Constitution.

Nevertheless, the Religious Right is touting the strategy. Syndicated columnist Robert Novak reported recently that members of the coalition that backed the FMA have circulated a memo calling for a new convention.

Signers include Perkins, Princeton University professor Robert George and Chuck Donovan, an executive vice president at the FRC.

Wrote Novak, "The provision of the Constitution's Article V requiring such a convention if called by two-thirds of the state legislatures has never been used. Fear of throwing the

Constitution open to general amendment has overridden support for specific issues. However, key advocates of barring gay marriages think the constitutional convention strategy will keep the issue alive."

Over the years, Religious Right groups have proposed con-cons to add amendments to the Constitution protecting mandatory school prayer, banning legal abortion and other pet projects. Americans United has opposed every one, pointing out that extreme special-interest groups must not be permitted to tamper with our core freedoms.

This latest demand for a new convention may be a political stunt, but it's worth keeping an eye on. James Madison's Constitution is not a first draft to be "edited" by the likes of Tony Perkins and his pals.

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SOCAS

WV school district sued over religious display

AMERICANS UNITED

A federal lawsuit has been lodged against a public school district in West Virginia over a portrait of Jesus displayed outside the principal's office at Bridgeport High School.

Two civil liberties organizations, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the ACLU of West Virginia, filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia after Harrison County school officials refused to remove the religious picture.

"Public schools must welcome children of all religious beliefs," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, Americans United executive director. "Display of a devotional portrait of Jesus sends the unmistakable message

that Bridgeport High is endorsing Christianity. That leaves out students with other beliefs and violates the Constitution."

Both Americans United and the ACLU of West Virginia had sent letters to school officials urging them to remove the portrait in order to avoid litigation.

AU's Assistant Legal Director Richard B. Katskee, who is lead attorney in the Sklar v. Board of Education of Harrison County case, criticized Harrison County officials for running roughshod over a fundamental constitutional precept.

"School officials are flouting the First Amendment principle of church-state separation and in the process providing students a shoddy civics lesson," said Katskee. "The Constitution forbids gov-

ernment to favor one faith over others."

"The Constitution's ban on government endorsement of religion is good for both government and religion," said Andrew Schneider, executive director of the ACLU of West Virginia. "It keeps religion free and allows government to represent us all. In violating that ban, Bridgeport High School is interfering with the right of all students to freely express their religious beliefs."

The groups' lawsuit, filed on behalf of two Harrison County citizens, argues that the school's display of the picture, a well-known devotional painting of Jesus by artist Warner Sallman, amounts to an official endorsement of religion, which violates the First Amendment principle of church-state separation.

SOCAS

GOP & Religious Right launch "American Values Agenda" on Capitol Hill

American Atheist

FLASHLINE

House Republicans have begun an ambitious effort to energize their party's religious right base by resurrecting several key bills just in time for the upcoming midterm elections.

Dubbed the "American Values Agenda," the legislation includes bills to outlaw same-sex marriage, protect "unborn children," ban cloning and even discourage legal challenges to violations of the First Amendment's establishment clause.

Most of the measures were languishing in committee, and stood little chance of action until late last month when House Speaker Dennis Hastert unveiled the new program. Hastert told reporters that an upcoming series of votes would determine where legislators stood on "America's founding."

"Radical courts have attempted to gut our religious freedom and redefine the value system on which America was built," Hastert declared. "We hope to restore some of those basic values through passing this legislative agenda and renewing our country's commitment to faith, freedom and life."

Critics were quick to point out, though, that the "American Values Agenda" was more about using hot-button wedge issues designed to reassure disgruntled religious conservatives, and distract public attention from a scandal-ridden Congress and troubled U.S. foreign policy. Polls show

Democrats on the verge of winning control of the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time since 1994. Worse yet for the GOP have been signals from evangelical religious leaders including the influential James Dobson, head of Focus on the Family, who say that Republicans have abandoned their social and cultural agenda.

Hastert intends to change that. Despite all of the hoopla, however, the first legislative item, a proposed measure to prohibit federal courts from intervening in cases involving the Pledge of Allegiance, failed to make it out of the House Judiciary Committee on June 28 amidst a 15-15 vote. The bill was widely criticized as another effort aimed at "court stripping," removing certain practices -- usually those involving government sponsorship of religion in the public square -- from judicial oversight.

Another AVA proposal, the Protection of Marriage Act failed in the Senate by one vote, but may be resurrected again in a similar bill.

Several factors underpin the sudden announcement of this new GOP effort.

Both parties but especially the Republicans have taken collateral damage from a series of Capitol Hill scandals including the one involving disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, once one of the most blustery advocates of "values" in Washington has now resigned due to sensational revelations of impropriety. All of this could erode the Republican's current 231-201 advantage in the House come November.

The religious right has become disgruntled over what is perceived as Republican laxity in promoting legislation concerning gay marriage, prayer and other culture war issues. A piece in today's Boston Globe by Harvard University divinity professor Harvey Cox described how religious conservatives like Pat Robertson, Ralph Reed and Jerry Falwell spent decades patiently forging links with the Republican party.

"In recent years, however, the political alliance Falwell originally stitched together has been fraying," wrote Cox. "Republicans in office have not achieved the results on abortion, school prayer, marriage, and other culture-war issues that the religious right expected. In May of this year, speaking about support for Republican congressional leaders in the midterm elections, and possibly in 2008, James Dobson grumbled, 'I think there's going to be trouble down the road if they don't get on the ball.'"

Economic uncertainty, weak spots in the Bush administration's handling of foreign policy, the FEMA bungling over Katrina and a host of other nuisance issues have steadily eroded the GOP's electoral edge. Making things worse, though, is the increasingly tarnished image of the religious right. House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) praised the "American Values Agenda", insisting that "the American people want us to act on these issues they care ago." A Zogby International poll,

Continued on page 12

*Metroplex Atheists:
No fire and
brimstone needed.*

www.metroplexatheists.org

SOCAS

VA should accommodate Wiccan symbol on memorial markers

AMERICANS UNITED

The Department of Veterans Affairs must recognize religious diversity by allowing a Wiccan symbol on the memorial marker of a soldier who died in Afghanistan, says Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

In a June 7 letter to R. James Nicholson, secretary of Veterans Affairs, and William F. Tuerk, under secretary for Memorial Affairs, AU requests that the widow of Sgt. Patrick D. Stewart be permitted to place a Wiccan pentacle on his marker and that the department extend that same right to other Wiccans.

Stewart, a Wiccan, was killed in Afghanistan on Sept. 25, 2005. The Nevada resident was a highly decorated Army soldier who was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and other honors. His widow, Roberta Stewart, has repeatedly sought to have the Wiccan pentacle placed on his marker, but Veterans Affairs officials have not responded.

The Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United, called the situation outrageous.

"A brave man died in service to his country," Lynn said. "The federal government has a duty to allow his widow

to honor his chosen faith.

"Aside from the constitutional issues raised, this is a simple matter of justice and common decency," Lynn continued. "I am hopeful the Veterans Affairs Department will do the right thing and extend full recognition to Wiccans and their families."

Wiccans have been trying for at least nine years to persuade the National Cemetery Administration to add the pentacle to its list of approved emblems for government headstones, markers, and plaques. Most recently, the Rev. Selena Fox of Circle

Continued on page 13

GOP – From page 11

however, shows that this may not be the case. Respondents ranked the economy, health care reform, terrorism and rising energy prices as the top domestic issues confronting the nation today.

JAMES DOBSON IN CHARGE?

The deployment of the "American Values Agenda" may also be a sign of failing GOP efforts to repair relations with the evangelical right. While there are a host of religious power brokers with close ties to the Republican Party, James Dobson has been leading figure keeping the GOP leadership "in line" and focused on a "godly" political agenda.

In 1999, for instance, House Republicans launched a campaign remarkably similar to the "American Values Agenda" that involved a flurry of legislative items crafted by Dobson's allies on Capitol Hill. Republican leaders formed a "Values Action Team" (VAT) which at that time operated from the offices of Tom DeLay. Today, Pennsylvania GOP Representative Joseph Pitts runs the VAT with the assistance of Rep. John Boehner and Majority Whip Roy Blunt.

Earlier this year, the group held a "Values Summit" that in cooperation with Dobson picked the legislative items being pushed in the current "American Values Agenda" campaign.

VAT was founded to "coordinate legislative strategy with conservative groups that included the Christian Coalition, Family Research Council and the National Right to Life Committee" according to a piece in the Boston Globe newspaper. Its genesis came at the behest of James Dobson, who in 1998 began a carefully orchestrated campaign of scolding then supporting Republicans in order to promote an agenda targeting "filth, blasphemy, pornography, homosexuality and partial-birth abortion."

ACTION ITEMS

Several more bills in the "American Values Agenda" laundry list are likely to be introduced in the next three weeks prior to the August congressional recess and the November elections. They include:

HR 356, the Unborn Child Awareness Act. Introduced by Rep. Chris Smith, the legislation would require doctors performing late-term abortions to lecture women seeking abortion of the alleged medical evidence that a fetus senses pain. Should the woman choose to continue with the procedure, she is to given the option of choosing anesthesia for the fetus so that the pain is, presumably, less severe.

HR 1357, Rep. D. Weldon. The measure bans human cloning and the use of stem cells derived from such a procedure.

HR 4411. The Internet Gambling Prohibition and Enforcement Act would amend

an earlier statute, the Interstate Wire Act, to prohibit gambling through internet and other new technologies and penalize financial institutions that allow credit cards, checks, fund transfers and other payment systems for such purposes. The measure is sponsored by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA.) and Rep. James Leach (R-Iowa). Debate is expected this week in the House over the measure. Suspiciously, the bill includes an exemption for betting on horse racing.

HR 2679 is perhaps the most disturbing and controversial measure found in the "American Values Agenda." The proposal would amend the U.S. Code and eliminate attorney fees in cases connected with legal cases challenging practices under the establishment clause of the First Amendment.

Other provisions in the AVA include measures not directly tied to the separation of church and state, and focus on gun ownership restrictions, reform of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) and tax relief. The core legislative items, though, are "red meat" for religious conservatives. Getting lawmakers "on the record" can provide valuable campaign fodder in the November, 2006 elections and beyond. They may play the role that same-sex marriage referendums in nearly a dozen states did in the 2004 election when religious evangelicals turned out in record numbers, and supported President Bush in the process.

Wiccan – From page 12

Sanctuary in Wisconsin filed an application in January 2006, but the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Cemetery Administration have failed to act on it. A department official refused to even provide a time-frame for issuing a decision.

“The National Cemetery Administration’s failure to recognize the Wiccan Pentacle as a valid religious symbol constitutes unconstitutional discrimination against the Wiccan faith and its adherents,” wrote Aram A. Schvey, AU litigation counsel, in the letter to Nicholson and Tuerk. “Indeed, there is absolutely no legal support for the Administration’s practice of maintaining a list of officially-approved religious symbols much less its exclusion of any religious symbol from the officially provided markers for military gravesites.”

Schvey added, “Sergeant Stewart gave his life fulfilling his oath to protect and defend the Constitution, including the First Amendment protections that have allowed him and his family the freedom to worship as they choose. It is a cruel irony that the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Cemetery Administration, rather than extending the thanks of a grateful nation to the family of a fallen soldier, are undermining the constitutional guarantees of religious freedom for which Sgt. Stewart fought and died.”

SOCAS

OH school board considering assault on evolution

AMERICANS UNITED

Some members of the Ohio Board of Education appear to be preparing for another assault on the teaching of evolution in public schools, says Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Last month, board member Colleen Grady reportedly urged the Board of Education’s Achievement Committee to consider giving 10th-grade science teachers guidance on teaching evolution and other “controversial” issues such as global warming, cloning and stem-cell research.

Grady apparently put forward a proposal that would change the language of Ohio’s existing science standards in an effort to reflect religious criticism of evolution and other scientific principles. The proposal has not been publicly released.

On July 11, Americans United filed a request under the Ohio open records law that asks for copies of the Grady proposal as well as all documents and correspondence by the Board of Education and the Department of Education relating to proposed changes to the state’s science standards.

The Rev. Barry W. Lynn, Americans United executive director, urged the Ohio board to reject any effort to reopen the

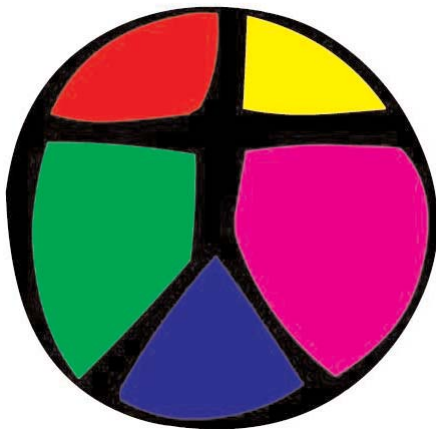
dispute over science education.

“Public school students in Ohio deserve sound science education, not religious dogma masquerading as science,” said Lynn. “It’s time for Religious Right allies on the board to drop their unwise agenda and focus on policies that will benefit all of Ohio’s students.”

The teaching of evolution has sparked an ongoing battle in Ohio. In January, the board voted 9-8 to affirm state science standards that down-played evolution. A month later, the board reversed itself and voted to drop language that singled out evolution for “critical analysis” and a lesson plan that promoted “intelligent design.”

But Americans United says Religious Right allies on the board have apparently not given up, and have now expanded their focus to encompass other issues. AU made the public information request in an effort to learn exactly what the board is trying to do.

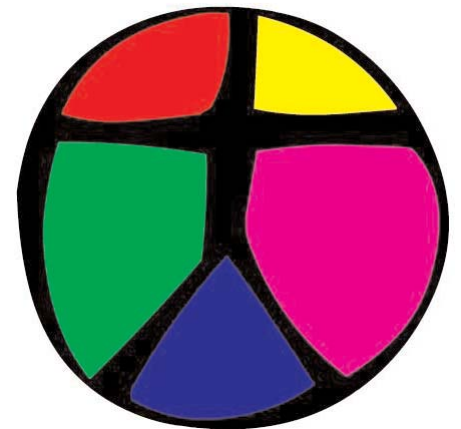
The AU letter requests copies of various documents, communications and other materials, including any contacts the board may have had with the Discovery Institute or other Religious Right organizations that seek to teach their religious perspectives in public school science classes.



*Attention DFW
area
Atheists and
Agnostics!*

DFW Ethical Fellowship has scheduled services held every first and third Sunday, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Humanist Hall
414 N. Main Street
Grapevine, TX 76051

www.dfwfellowship.org



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: 11:00 AM – 1:00 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

J. GILLIGAN'S:

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

Date: Every 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

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: Explores classical mythology

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

DFW ETHICAL FELLOWSHIP OBJECTIVIST LECTURE

What: For those interested in a better understanding of Ayn Rand's philosophy of objectivism

Date: Thursday, January 19

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Humanist Hall

HUMANIST HALL IS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 414 N. MAIN ST., GRAPEVINE, TX

To have your events listed email:

The Atheist Voice Editor at
editor@metroplexatheists.org

METROPLEX ATHEISTS

COME
JOIN
US

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

www.metroplexatheists.org

July 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 DFWEF	3	4 D/P Atheist Meetup Day	5 J. Gilligan's	6	7	8
9 EF Brunch EF Study	10	11 D/P AMD Stich	12 J. Gilligan's	13 Objectivist	14	15
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 Objectivist	28	29
30 EF Brunch EF Study	31					

August 2006

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

September 2006

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

***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
414 N. Main St., #13
Grapevine, TX 76051

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?