

FIRST COAST FREETHOUGHT SOCIETY

An organization of freethinkers and secular humanists supporting free inquiry, education, and community in the Northeast Florida area

Our Motto: "To Question is the Answer."

Post Office Box 550591 • Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591 • Phone: 904-288-6291



BALLOT FOR 2006 OFFICERS

November 5, 2005

Dear FCFS Member:

Vote for one person in each category, write in candidate if necessary. Fold in thirds, affix stamp, and return ballot to the address on reverse side. If you are reading this on line or have the Adobe version, please print the ballot and return in a stamped envelope to Earl Coggins, 9009 Western Lake Dr., Apt. 503, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

If you are NOT currently a member and would like to **VOTE**, fill out and return the application found in this newsletter, your check and the ballot. If you join now, your membership will be **good through 2006!**

Members who plan to **RENEW** for 2006, just enclose your check with the ballot! (If you rejoin, please include an application, we need it for our records.)

Thank you,
Earl Coggins
Nominating Committee Chair

DEADLINE: Ballot must be postmarked no later than DECEMBER 1, 2005

President:	_____	Carrie Renwick
	_____	_____ (write-in)
Vice President:	_____	Curtis Wolf
	_____	_____ (write-in)
Secretary:	_____	Wilhelmina Walton
	_____	_____ (write-in)
Treasurer:	_____	Susan Allen, CPA
	_____	_____ (write-in)
Parliamentarian:	_____	Herb Gerson
	_____	_____ (write-in)

Place
Stamp
Here

Earl Coggins, Nominating Committee Chair
First Coast Freethought Society
9009 Western Lake Dr., Apt. 503
Jacksonville, FL 32256

First Coast

FreeThinker



The newsletter of the First Coast Freethought Society

November 2005

Volume 3, Issue 11

Crossed up in Starke

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"[Intelligent Design proponents tell us to] choose God on the side of intelligent design or choose atheism on the side of science. What it does is to provide religious conflict into every science classroom in Dover High School."

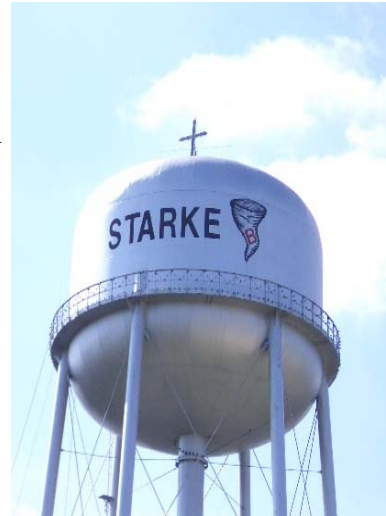
—Testimony of Brown University biologist, Ken Miller, in *Kitzmiller vs. Dover*.

Curtis Wolf

Is a cross on top of a city-owned water tower in Starke, Florida constitutional? Or does it entangle church and state so blatantly that only a court full of Scalias would decide in the city's favor? This is the question placed before a federal court in Florida in the case of American Atheists, Inc., and Lon Beville vs. City of Starke, Florida.

On Saturday October 29th, a group of us met with the main plaintiff in the case, Lon Beville. Our group consisted of Susan Allen, Ken Hurley, Bobbie Nord, and me. We met with him not only to understand the court case, but also to get to know a

man who is willing to take on a predominately Christian town that reveres its strategically placed cross in the same



way it reveres baseball, apple pie and the American way.

Lon is a large man in his sixties with grey hair and blue eyes. Due to a stroke, he moved

about with some difficulty and his hands sometimes trembled. However, his engaging personality masked his physical frailty as he spun many stories about life in Starke. As he described it, Starke was like the Wild West where everyone owned a gun and often ended an argument with fists, or worse.

Lon has lived in Starke for more than thirty years in a small house on twenty-eight acres of land, just north of the city. He is married, with grown children. He is retired now, but has worked previously as an aircraft mechanic, electrical en-

(Continued on page 7)

November 2005 Meeting

"Benefits and Hazards of Atheism"

A Round-table Discussion on Rejecting the Supernatural

Moderated by Earl Coggins, Founder, First Coast Freethought Society

Monday, November 21, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Please be on time!)

Pablo Creek Regional Jacksonville Public Library

HUMANIST BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



When: 2:00 p.m., third Sunday of each month.

Where: Borders Books, 8801 Southside Blvd., 519-6500,
books are usually in stock.

What: Books/magazines planned for discussion:

- November 20 — *The Happy Heretic* by Judith Hayes
- December 18 — *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason* by Sam Harris

The End of Faith: Religion, Terror and the Future of Reason by Sam Harris is a genuinely frightening book about terrorism, and the central role played by religion in justifying and rewarding it. Others blame “extremists” who “distort” the “true” message of religion. Harris goes to the root of the problem: religion itself. Even moderate religion is a menace because it leads people to respect and “cherish the idea that certain fantastic propositions can be believed without evidence.” Why do men like Bin Laden commit their hideous cruelties? The answer is that they “actually believe what they say they believe.” Read Sam Harris and wake up.

—Richard Dawkins, *The Guardian*

For more information, contact moderator Jewell Kross at 996-1553.



First Coast FreeThinker

The *First Coast FreeThinker* is published for members of the First Coast Freethought Society, other freethinkers, and potential freethinkers. We exchange newsletters with other freethought groups and obtain information from many diverse sources.

Readers are invited and encouraged to reprint our original materials provided they give credit to this publication.

The officials of the FCFS are not responsible for opinions or other statements expressed in this newsletter. It is intended to convey ideas to stimulate discussion on a variety of subjects.

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We welcome submissions. Deadlines are the end of the **THIRD** week of the month for the following month. Submit contributions by e-mail to Hugo (see above), or mail to Hugo Borresen, 8831 Taurus Circle South, Jacksonville, FL 32222. Submit Web site contributions by e-mail to Carrie Renwick, carrieren@att.net.

Monkeys in Vegas - A Model of Why People Believe in Pseudoscience?

Curtis Wolf

Do gambling monkeys provide the key to understanding mankind's fascination with pseudoscience?

According to Duke University, monkeys preferred living on the edge rather than playing it safe. In the experiment, two rhesus monkeys were expected to look at one of two target lights that both rewarded them with juice. However, the "safe" light gave the monkey the same amount of juice every time. The "risky" light gave them a varying amount of juice. Sometimes, you got a little. Sometimes, you got a lot. Despite these differences, the average juice delivered to the monkeys was the same for both lights. In the long run, there was no advantage to looking at the "risky" light vs. the "safe" light.

What light do you think that the monkeys preferred? If you guess the "risky" light, you are right. These monkeys were ready to head to Vegas! This preference for risk over safety held firm regardless of how variable the "risky" light reward was or whether the average juice reward was made higher for the "safe" light over the same for the "risky" light, i.e. you made out better by selecting the "safe" light. What is even more telling is that even when the monkeys were subjected to a string of losses, i.e. small amounts of juice, a win in the form of a large amount of juice was enough to keep the monkeys selecting the

"risky" light.

(<http://dukemednews.duke.edu/news/article.php?id=9209>)

After reading this news story, I saw similarities between the behavior of the gambling monkeys and believers in pseudoscience which led me to the idea that belief in pseudoscience may be a form of risk taking. Since science leads to a predictable set of natural laws, this is the "safe" choice. Throw a ball in the air and gravity will bring it down to the ground every time. In other words, you get the same amount of juice every time.

Pseudoscience's payoff comes from its absence of familiarity.

On the other hand, pseudoscience is the "risky" choice. It is outside of everyday experience and therefore represents an extraordinary encounter with forces and entities unknown to science. For example, you do not meet ghosts every day. You do not leave your body and float towards a bright light except as a result of a rare near death experience. Aliens from outer space do not ordinarily move in next door or sit next to you on the subway. Pseudoscience's payoff comes from its absence of familiarity. Who wouldn't want to encounter an entity or phenomenon that defies all rational explanation? Who wouldn't en-

joy the power to manipulate ordinary experience with magical rituals? A large payoff in juice may not be a regular occurrence, but it is a heck of a rush when it happens.



Even more interesting is the willingness of monkeys to continue gambling despite a string of bad luck as long as they get a big payoff from time to time. This reminds me of psychics like John Edwards who use cold reading to mesmerize his audience. Cold reading will result in a lot of wrong guesses. However, if you get one right guess, the audience forgets about the wrong guess and focuses on the right guess as if it were a miracle. In the same way, the high that the gambler gets from laying down a royal flush makes up for all the worthless hands that he got previously.

(<http://www.randi.org/library/coldreading/>)

Of course, this is only a hypothesis and should be treated as such until it is validated by research. The hypothesis could be wrong in a lot of ways. The gambling tendencies of rhesus monkeys may not be mirrored in human behavior in the same way. The Duke experiment may reflect the boredom of captive monkeys looking for a little excitement in their otherwise tedious lives rather than the gambling tendencies of monkeys.

Finally, the similarities between monkey gambling and belief in pseudoscience may be superficial and therefore require different explanations.

One way to verify the hypothesis is to look for a brain re-

sponse to psychic readings that is similar to the brain response found in the gambling monkeys. In the Duke experiment, the firing sequences of neurons in the posterior cingulate cortex (a part of the brain involved in assessing risk) paralleled the behavior

of the gambling monkey. If the same firing sequences are found in people receiving a psychic reading, this could support my hypothesis. Any psychologists out there willing to test this hypothesis?



You and your Guests are Cordially Invited to a Special
ACLU of Greater Jacksonville Annual Membership and Supporters Meeting

◆
Keynote Speaker

Robert K. Cromwell, Special Agent in Charge, FBI, Jacksonville Division

“How the FBI has changed since 9/11” ◆ Q&A too!

Radisson Riverwalk Hotel

St. John's Ballroom
1515 Prudential Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207

◆
November 30, 2005 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

◆
Live Piano Music ◆ Hors d'oeuvres ◆ Cash Bar ◆ Lively Discussions ◆ And YOU!

◆
Please join us for a fun, informative, ACLU evening. To help us plan, please RSVP (ASAP) to (904) 396-5242 (Leave a message with the number in your party.)

Hey freethinkers, can you feel the love?

and 11 a.m., All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion and special music. (904) 744-5333.

CHURCH BULLETIN DAY: Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair, 510 Fairgrounds Place, 9 a.m., doors open; free admission with church bulletin. (904) 353-0535 or www.jacksonvillefair.com.

BIBLE STUDY: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1423 Eighth Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach, 9:45-10:45 a.m., for adults in disciple hall; college students in upper

This advertisement for the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair recently appeared in the *Florida Times-Union*. Strange, a copy of the *First Coast Freethinker* does not get us free access to the fair. Huh, imagine that. If you would like to complain about this questionable partiality towards

Christians, you can e-mail the fair promoters at jaxfair@bellsouth.net or call 904-353-0535. Even if no law were broken or there were no constitutional violation, businesses playing favorites with Christians is unfair to loyal customers who do not believe in the majority religion.



Death: The High Cost of Living

Fred W. Hill

Death is the one universal factor among all complex living things. One-celled organisms that reproduce by splitting themselves in half may, in a sense, be nearly immortal, and certain trees may survive for thousands of years. Eventually, however, death will claim all that live. Naturally, this disturbs many people. We grieve for those we love who have died, whether lovers, friends, close relatives, favorite pets or even those we never knew but had heard or read about. Many of us also fear the prospect of our own death. What happens to us after we die, aside from the decay and jostling around of our physical remains? Theists have proposed a great variety of answers, requiring skeptical examination by those of us who don't blindly accept pious blandishments, however comforting or threatening.

Reincarnation as another person or another creature is one answer, held in particular by various Hindu sects and their offshoots, including Buddhism. A variant option to the endless cycle of rebirth is to achieve Nirvana, briefly described as the extinction of desire and individual consciousness and thereby a ticket to the void – to cease to exist, in other words.

The ancient Greco-Roman culture held that a dreary afterlife in the abode of Hades was the best a dead soul could hope for unless it had been Julius

Caesar or an Emperor with sense enough to claim a deity among his ancestors, in which case if he wasn't too unpopular among the elite when he died, the Roman Senate would elect him to godhood and he could find a place in the Olympian home of the gods. On the other hand, any mortal base enough to have offended a deity could expect a grimly amusing punishment upon arrival in the underworld. Such as the fate of Sisyphus, reputed to have put Death in chains, among other crimes, and sentenced to spend eternity pushing a rock up a mountain,

Yet, for all the fussing and fighting over who will get to Heaven, concepts about the place remain vague.

aware that every time he reached the summit the rock would roll down the mountain and he would have to follow it down and push it up again. A reminder that the gods don't appreciate mortals attempting to control death.

Pagan Scandinavians had somewhat more opportunity to escape eternity in the icy grip of Hel, goddess of their underworld, namely by dying heroically in battle, thereby earning a seat in Valhalla to eat, drink and be violently merry with Odin while honing battle skills in preparation for Ragnarok, the final war between the gods and

all the evil creatures of the world. The concepts of heavenly reward for a "heroic" death and of a final battle between good and evil are echoed to this day among modern Muslims and Christians.



The ancient Egyptians and Persians are the earliest known to have adopted the idea of judgment after death. In the Egyptian myths, dead souls were put on trial before Osiris – souls found to be too sinful were fed to the ravenous creature Ammit, which ended their existence; more virtuous souls would be allowed to be transformed into a variety of different animals.

Jewish conceptions of the afterlife underwent considerable changes over the centuries, as they were influenced by their Babylonian and Persian neighbors. As detailed by Alice K. Turner in *The History of Hell* (1993, Harcourt Brace and Company), all the dead went to yet another dark and dusty realm. Later Jewish thought, in the time of Isaiah, circa 300 BCE, held that Yahweh would bring his people back to life while leaving all others eternally dead. By the time of the writing of the Book of Daniel, 165 BCE, the resurrection and final judgment concept had been fully adopted, at least among the faction of Jews called the Pharisees, who

held all the dead would be awakened and granted either eternal life or “everlasting contempt” (Dan. 12.2-3).

Among the Pharisees was a man named Saul, who would change his name to Paul and become a leader of that offshoot of Judaism known as Christianity, which would further develop the idea of divine reward and punishment for the dead over the next two millennia. Competing strains among the early Christians differed over whether the wages of sin would result in merely annihilation or eternal damnation. In either case, eventually the proposal was made and violently enforced, that the only sure ticket to Heaven was belief in Jesus Christ as the son of God and as God Himself and as his own Holy Ghost all in a three-in-one package.

Of course, as Christianity splintered again and again and again over the next 20 centuries, each new sect would often claim specific means to get to Heaven and condemn to Hell all others who did not adhere to their formula. Then there were the Muslims who claimed the Christian trinity god was all bunk and that you had to believe that God is only Godb and you’d have to perform various rituals regularly or at least kill an infidel for Allah in order to make it

to Heaven.

Yet, for all the fussing and fighting over who will get to Heaven, concepts about the place remain vague and contradictory. A Muslim version depicts a Heaven where an infidel-killing martyred male gets to make out with 72 virgins and eat and drink to his heart’s delight. A typical American cartoon version of Heaven is of a gated community on a bank of clouds where everyone has wings and halos



*“I’m sorry, you’ll have to wait....
Our computer is down.”*

and plays harps. Dreamy visions hold that we’ll meet all our previously deceased loved ones there, though no mention is made of those we might have truly disliked but who weren’t quite bad enough to be damned. Another Heavenly activity is singing the praises of God, though for all but the most sycophantic faithful that should be-

come dreadfully tedious after the first few years, never mind all of eternity. But then I’m cynical enough to suspect that the only way Heaven could exist without any conflict whatsoever is if everyone was lobotomized upon entry. Of course, according to Milton, among other chroniclers of the life and times of God and his cohorts, Heaven was once the scene of major conflict when his most senior angel decided he would rather rule himself than continue to serve.

My own personal view is that every bit of it is bunk. Sure, it’d be comforting to think that when someone I love dies, we will eventually meet again in some great beyond where we’ll just know all the answers and everything will be wonderful forever after. But I know it’s not so. There is no afterlife, boring, horrid or cheerful, and our personalities will never awaken aware of being in some alien body. The concept of the void is perhaps the closest to reality. The only place where the dead truly live on is in the memories of the living. We can honor in remembrance those we loved who have died and through kindness and decency towards others earn honor for ourselves before our own deaths by thereby bringing at least a touch of heavenly comfort to this oft-troubled Earth.



Religion does not necessarily improve societal health or ameliorate social problems according to a study in the *Journal of Religion and Society*.

When the most religious of the developed countries, the United States, was compared to other less-religious developed countries, the U.S. was found to

be wanting in measures of social health such as infant mortality, homicide, suicide, STDs, youth pregnancy, abortion, and life expectancy.



Crossed up in Starke!

(Continued from page 1)

gineer, freelance pilot, and welder. His wife is a licensed practical nurse (LPN).

Despite being raised by a Catholic mother, Lon was never religious, even as a child. He thinks that religion is stupid and childish. This is not to say that he would impose his atheism on anyone else. He believes that everyone has the right to follow his or her religious beliefs as long as he is left alone to not believe in God.

This was not always the case in Starke. He described an incident in which he was told by local residents in no uncertain terms that he was going to attend church. This resulted in a series of physical altercations that convinced the overly enthusiastic missionaries that it would be better if they would leave him alone.

The court case centers around a cross situated on top of a city-owned water tower. While the origins of the cross are murky (one reader sent an October 20th letter to the editor of the *Bradford Telegraph* asserting that the cross was placed on the water tower by her late husband, Bill Chambers), it clearly has had the support of the city over the years. At one point, kids replaced the cross with a Brahma

bull replica that stayed on the water tower for about a year until the city removed it and placed the cross back on the water tower. The cross has been the subject of numerous requests to remove it, but these requests have been ignored by the city; that is, until the American Atheists and Lon Bevill filed suit in



the federal court to have the cross removed from the city-owned water tower. In the brief prepared by the law firm of Shooster & Kleinman, P.A., (http://www.atheists.org/legal/Starkebrief9_05.pdf), the plaintiffs asserted that the “cross has no secular purpose whatsoever and constitutes a tacit endorsement of Christianity by the City of Starke in direct violation of the establishment clause of the U.S and Florida Constitutions.” As evident in the picture on page 1, it is “easily visible to anyone

traveling on U.S. Route 301 within a mile of the water tower.”

Needless to say, Bevill’s lawsuit has not made him popular in a city in which Christianity is revered by many in the community. He noted that local atheists are careful not to advertise their lack of belief in God, fearing repercussions from the religious community in Starke. However, Lon made it clear that he is in it for the long haul despite the dangers inherent in dissent against strongly held religious beliefs. I believe that the courage of his stand in support of the First Amendment should lead us to support him in any way that we can.

I agree with others in the group that met with Lon Bevill that this case will be too costly for the city, and this will likely lead to a settlement. The wild card is whether an organization like the Thomas More Law Center may step in, provide free legal representation, and turn this case into a media circus. No matter what happens, the cross is a blatant violation of the separation of church and state and should be removed from the water tower. I doubt whether the city will convince any federal judge of the constitutionality of the cross; and it will be removed by court order, assuming that this case makes it to trial.



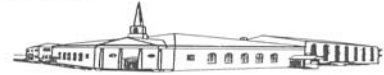
First Coast Freethought Society 2005 Events

November	21 - Monthly meeting	20 - Book discussion group	22- Social at Steak and Ale
December	19 - Human Light Party	18 - Book discussion group	27- Social at Steak and Ale
January	16 - Monthly meeting	15 - Book discussion group	24- Social at Steak and Ale

DR. CLARENCE E. HACKETT
Interim Pastor
HERB STUCKY
Minister of Music
TERRY BLAKESLEE
Minister of Media

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKE, FLORIDA

P.O. Box 1258 • Starke, FL 32091
Corner of Jefferson and Clark Streets
(904) 964-6562



Andrew & Karen Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. Cassels
Don & Ethel H. White
Gus Harris
Paul & Dorothy Bonnell
Pasa Padgett
Chara Hardy
Eric Russell
Norman
Hazel Kemp
Rasha Smith
Dora Buckley
Marla Walker
Beatrice Cray
Mike and Carolyn Hawks
Nettie Hogsdal
Wynne Cullum
Linda Berner
Joan Berner
Bill & Jewel Young
Ann Davis

Larry & Lois Blakeslee
Bobby & Marie Day
Cheryl & Darlene Cason
Graham & Joan Bryant
Sue Quinn

Ross & Cindy Leysell
October 19, 2005
Jerry M. Blanton

Ann Curwin
Martha Smith
Paul & Janet
Steph
Homer & Jeanette
Cindy Burgess
Sarah Coffer
Andy & Peggy Cunn
Ron Pearson
Georget Blady Pierce
Bobby & Jean Shennon
Frank & Celia Mitchell
Sally & Love Tenn
Wayne & Pat O'Conner
Shirley & Keith Stalling
Chad & Catherine Cramer
Susan & Philip Mitchell

John & Julia Smiley

Dear Lon,
We wanted you to know that we prayed for you tonight (Wednesday), and will continue to pray for you. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Marion Fiebel
John & Anne
Marilyn
Harvey & Jo Ann Hatcher
Dorothy
Jerry E. & Elaine Kimball
John & Anne
Jim & Sandy
Samuel & Lois Worrell
Jim & Kim Young
Dore & Stacey Brighton

HOME OF WTLC 88.3 FM
"IN EVERY HOUSE ... TEACH AND PREACH JESUS CHRIST"
ACTS 5:42

It's nice that the First Baptist Church of Starke is concerned about Lon Bevill's soul. I would hope that they are just as concerned about the First Amendment.

Talk Back

Here is the response to the last Talk Back question: *Do you believe that new Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts will be an impediment to the separation of church and state and why?*

Curtis Wolf says, "No. John Roberts is replacing William

Rehnquist who likely held views on the separation of church and state that were similar to those of Roberts. This means that there will probably not be much change in court opinions on the separation of church and state due to Roberts' appointment. Instead, it is the replacement of

swing voter Sandra Day O'Connor that should concern First Amendment advocates."

This month's question:
Have you ever been discriminated against because of your atheism?



November Social - All Welcome!

WHERE: STEAK & ALE at Baymeadows and I-95 South

WHEN: Tues., November 22, Gather in Lounge at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

RSVP: CarrieRen@att.net (or 268-8826) by Mon., November 21, if you are attending!

First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 550591, Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591 • (904) 288-6291

2005 Membership application



Name		Date	
Home address	City	State	Zip Code
E-mail address	Home phone	Business phone	
Occupation	Areas of interest and/or expertise		

How did you hear about us? _____

Membership level (please select one):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (\$30/yr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl Sagan (\$50/yr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Darwin (\$200/yr.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$15/yr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bertrand Russell (\$75/yr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Ingersoll (\$500/yr.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$15/yr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Paine (\$100/yr.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (\$1,000) |

I'm interested in getting involved in the FCFS as a(n):

- General member Committee member Officer Financial supporter

Do you object to your name appearing on our membership list, which is only distributed to other members? YES

Comments: _____

First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.
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 Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591
 (904) 288-6291
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Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the First Coast Freethought Society is to serve the needs of the nonreligious of Northeast Florida, to promote freethought and secular humanism, to provide an opportunity for agnostics, atheists, skeptics and other freethinkers to exchange ideas.

Meetings

The FCFS meets the third Monday of each month at the Pablo Creek Regional Jacksonville Public Library, 13295 Beach Blvd. (between Hodges and Kernan Blvd.), Jacksonville, Florida 32246. (904) 992-7101. Meeting time: from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Atheists Get A Voice In Washington

A lobbyist will represent non-believers in the nation's capital, *USA Today* reports. Lori Lipman Brown compares atheists to homosexuals coming out of the closet in the 1970s to be accepted in the general population. Atheists, humanists, freethinkers, and such are generally ignored if not vilified today. According to Brown, there's been so much rhetoric in the past decade about how important religion is to being a good person and it's been scary for those who do not believe in God.

As executive director of the Secular Coalition for America (SCA), Brown has two goals: to keep religion out of government and win respect for a stigmatized minority. She plans to fight a culture war against policies rooted in religion, such as limits on stem cell research and access to emergency contraception; to ally with groups which oppose breaching the wall of separation between church and state, such as giving tax payer money to faith-based groups; and to eliminate some public references to God as is found in the oath of citizenship but will not touch the Pledge of Allegiance because "the courts are on our side".

The budget is \$100,000 for her yearly salary and that of a legislative assistant for half of the year, which is minuscule for a Congress that throws millions of dollars around freely and easily creates a huge national debt.

Pew Research Council reports that 1% of the population believes there is no God while 2% who are agnostics are not sure. Eleven percent have no religious preference, but believe in a "universal spirit." These 30 million people represent about 14% of the population.



Return service requested

First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.
8831 Taurus Circle South
Jacksonville, Florida 32222