



October 2007

Volume 5, Issue 10

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**Sigrun Buckley**

lieve in evolution, 68% do not; Democrats: 57% believe in evolution, 40% do not; Independents: 61% believe in evolution, 37% do not.)

Republican debate in August in Iowa, unbelievably, the first e-mail question from voters to be read out for



Nominating Committee Appointed for 2008 8

**T**he debate continues. I thought this issue had been resolved with the Scopes Monkey Trial. A recent Gallup Poll released in June 2007 showed that

Surprising is the fact that there are three presidential candidates

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*"This issue is not open for debate. Islam, as the final religion, has supremacy over all faiths and over every aspect of life."*

--Sheikh Salman b. Fahd al-Oadah, in *Islam and Secularism*. He is General Supervisor of the IslamToday website. Visit the link: <http://www.sa.niu.edu/msa/books/islam&secularism.pdf>.

about half of all Americans say that evolution is probably true. What surprised me were the mental acrobatics with which about two-thirds of all Americans believe in Creationism at the same time. There was no surprise about the divide along the party lines (Republicans: 30% be-

***That begs the obvious question; since a day is the time it takes for a planet to revolve around its own axis, one might ask, how did God create the universe in six days before planets existed?***

who publicly admitted to harbouring doubt about the validity of evolution.

At the first online

the candidates to answer was: Do you believe that more prayer would have averted hurricane Katrina? I was so outraged that I missed their answers.

I sent a letter to George Clooney's agents encouraging him to produce a remake of the film "Inherit the Wind," a worthwhile

*(Continued on page 3)*

### October 2007 Meeting

**David Schwam-Baird, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor, Political Science, UNF**

**"What is the future of secularism in the Middle East?"**

**Monday, October 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**(Upstairs in the Sanctuary - Doors open at 6:00)**

**Unitarian Universalist Church • 7405 Arlington Expressway • Jacksonville, FL**

## HUMANIST BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

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

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

**What:** Books/magazines planned for discussion:

- October 21, 2007 - Any book by Kurt Vonnegut
- November 18, 2007 - *The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster*, by Bobby Henderson (**Note: In November, we will meet at BARNES & NOBLE, 9282 ATLANTIC BLVD.**)



The “Flying Spaghetti Monster” is the deity of a parody religion founded in 2005 by the author. Henderson founded the church to protest the decision by the Kansas State Board of Education to require the teaching of intelligent design as an alternative to biological evolution. In a letter sent to the Board, he professed belief in a supernatural Creator which resembles spaghetti and meatballs. He suggested that his theory and intelligent design had equal validity, stating “if the Intelligent Design theory is not based on faith, but instead another scientific theory, as is claimed, then you must allow our theory to be taught, as it is also based on science, not on faith.” Copies of the book will be held behind the cash register at Barnes and Noble, under the name “Humanist.” (\$13.95)

For more information, contact moderator Jewell Kross at [JKross@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org](mailto:JKross@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org) or call 904-996-1553.

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**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.

### Newsletter Staff

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We welcome submissions. The deadline is the **FOURTH SATURDAY** of each month for the following month’s issue. Submit contributions by e-mail to Hugo (see above), or U.S. mail to Hugo Borresen, 8831 Taurus Circle South, Jacksonville, FL 32222. Submit web site contributions to Carrie Renwick at the e-mail address above.

### **Monkey Business in Canada**

*(Continued from page 1)*

enterprise, maybe even financially viable given the current intellectual climate and never-ending debate.

In *Skeptical Inquirer*, I stumbled across an article about a Canadian retired professional engineer, Bruce Pendergast, who wrote to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, member of (Canadian) Parliament (MP) Keith Martin, and 306 other MPs in attempt to prevent “intelligent design” from creeping back into the school curriculum. See his letter, below, which is reprinted here with his permission.

February 7, 2007

*The Honourable Keith P. Martin, MP*

*Dear Keith,*

*I'm sending this letter to all MPs, hoping you will be alarmed by what seems an onslaught against logic as well as a possible attack on our educational system. Surely madness prevails if and when a branch of the federal government verbally supports organizations whose goal it is to prevent knowledge from being taught while replacing it with unfounded dogma based on “faith.” Yet such seems to be the case. Let me explain.*

*Apparently, a federal government department is giving verbal*

*credence to unfounded pseudo-science, namely “Intelligent Design” (ID). ID is nothing more than two new buzzwords which replace the religious fundamentalists’ former unsound explanations supposedly justifying creationism. Their enormous power in America, encouraged by President Bush due to his own “faith,” has caused some U.S. states to reopen the eighty-year-old debate of evolution versus creationism. I thought that the old creation*

*norm have cast doubt on their evangelists’ claims that God created the universe in six days and other nonsensical beliefs to do with their ever-changing concept of how we all got here. (That begs the obvious question: since a day is the time it takes for a planet to revolve around its own axis, one might ask, how did God create the universe in six days before planets existed?)*

*As those less moronic adherents started to consider evolution, the evangelists had to invent a new concept to replace their previous untenable myths and so the oxymoron, “intelligent design” was coined. Well, as it relates to creationism, intelligent design is neither intelligent nor does it represent any design whatsoever. Unfortunately, some backward U.S. states have been intimidated by their reverent citizenry to remove evolution from the school curriculum and replace it with the pseudoscientific intelligent design, which has no evidential backing whatsoever; rather, the rationale for such nonsense is “faith,” a word which, when acted upon, has caused more heartbreak, torture, and senseless murder than virtually any other.*

*Now, incredibly, Canada seems to be following the same path toward such folly. Here’s how.*



**Creationism Museum in Canada**

*myth had been dealt with by the Scopes Monkey Trial, but no, again it is rearing its oh-so-ugly head under the guise of ID. Canada is being led in a similar direction.*

*Since those primitive religions have grown so greatly during the Bush administration, some newer members whose intellect is slightly more developed than the group’s*

*A department of our federal government, the Social Services and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), has demonstrated their fuzzy thinking by making statements indirectly supporting ID while criticizing the science of evolution. One might think their words had been planted by those very fundamentalists whose avowed goal is to keep the populace ignorant of scientific truth. Ms. Janet Halliwell, SSHRC Executive VP, recently suggested "there are certain phenomena in the natural world that may not be easily explained by current theories of evolution." Then Larry Felt, an SSHRC committee member, suggested "there are features of the natural world... that evolution has some trouble accounting for." I ask, what are they?*

*Surely after one hundred and forty years of investigation starting with Darwin, virtually all "questions" raised by the religious fundamentalists have not only been answered but more than that, the answers have been supported by evidence that resulted from such scientific inquiry. Contrast that evidence with the only peg fundamentalists can hang their hat on, their faith and their Bible. It is obvious they are clinging to the only straws they can find in their desire to refute science. It goes without saying that knowledge should prevail over unproved superstition. Surely anyone with a scintilla of intellect must agree that evi-*

*dence has more basis in fact than does "faith" or, even worse, concluding that evolution is false since it "isn't in the Bible." Which Bible?, one might ask.*

*It seems to me that those two members of SSHRC should be asked to back up their absurd claims or else be fired from their undoubtedly cushy jobs. There is no room in any government agency for such nonsense to be spouted, particularly by an executive Vice President. More than just the shame of it, apparently this department spends close to \$300,000,000 of our tax money each year. Hopefully none will be spent trying to support such ridiculous absurdities as the above two statements. Surely SSHRC has better things to do than verbally support groups whose only goal is to place their religious beliefs above science and truth. Incidentally, when asked to withdraw their statements, they refused, presumably feeling they are untouchable.*

*I ask you and your fellow MPs: would you finance an alchemist whose efforts to change lead into gold replaced chemistry classes? Would you encourage astrologers with their Zodiac and horoscope to replace astronomers and their scientific inquiry into the origin of the universe? Why not finance numerologists and abandon mathematics or donate to Transcendental Meditationists who are still trying*

*to levitate? Their beliefs could replace the teaching of physics. Presumably, you would not dream of doing such insane things. Then I implore you, make certain the nonsense spouted by SSHRC ceases. Remember, those fundamentalists are the same group who refuse to support stem cell research, who are horrified if an embryo in a Petri dish is discarded yet rejoice when felons are executed, who remain silent when a lunatic member of their faith murders a doctor for performing legal abortions and finally, who claim in contrast to all the evidence that the universe is a mere 10,000 years old. Just yesterday, Washington State banished Al Gore's movie on global warning, "An Inconvenient Truth," because "no contrary view was provided and it is all explained in Revelations anyway." Fortunately, saner heads later prevailed and the movie is now reinstated.*

*I have no quarrel with those who believe whatever appeals to them, no matter how ridiculous it may seem to me. However, I take issue with any government department which encourages charlatans whose only claim to credibility is their frantic clinging to some dogma or "holy" book. Again, they can believe whatever they choose but they have no right to thwart the further knowledge, education and intellect of me or my fellow Canadians. Nor do you.*

*In conclusion, please consider the dreadful impedi-*

ments to knowledge that organized religion has been responsible for over the past millennia. Whether it is Galileo being persecuted because he suggested the earth circled the sun, or the thousands of others whose knowledge could have accelerated our education were it not for organized religion, it is imperative that we prevent such backward steps from being taken. Please, look into this abomination, reprimand those two dimwits for promoting superstition in place of logical thinking, and find out if any other travesty

is being perpetrated by the SSHRC. May truth and knowledge thrive and superstition vanish. Man did not land on the moon because of faith or prayers but through scientific knowledge and much hard work. May such advances continue.

Remember, you are my civil servant, you spend my money; it's not the other way around. May not one penny of my tax money be used to encourage myths or thwart knowledge. Let Canada not follow in the misguided footsteps of those who use their

religious beliefs to try and disprove scientific facts. If my information regarding verbal support of intelligent design by the SSHRC is incorrect, I apologize. Otherwise, I look forward to your personal take on the matter. Being retired, I can be contacted any time, day or evening by mail, e-mail or phone.

Yours respectfully,

Bruce Pendergast  
P. Eng., B. A. Sc.  
Univ. of Toronto, 1956



## Ongoing FCFS Activities

### Dinners For Atheists (and Freethinkers, Humanists, Agnostics, etc.)

Sign up to attend or host a dinner yourself. Sign-up sheets will be at the back table at the monthly meetings. For further details on how this works, see page 9 of the February 2006 *Freethinker*, or ask the hospitality ladies at the back table.

### Secular Sunday Morning in the Park (or Atheist Sunday Morning)

Freethinkers... let's get acquainted and enjoy intelligent conversation **every 4th Sunday of the month** (unless inclement weather prevails) at 9 a.m. 'til ? at the pavilion at Losco Park, 10851 Hood Rd., S., Jacksonville 32257, between Shad and Losco Roads. Need directions? Call Beth Perry at 733-5489 or Google the address to get a map and directions. Bring your own cup and breakfast snack. Most of the time coffee is furnished. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there!

### No Atheist Left Behind (or Are You Going My Way?)

If you are seeking a ride to an FCFS event, contact **Hugo Borresen** at [HBorresen@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org](mailto:HBorresen@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org) or call 904-779-6883.

### Caring Tree

If a telephone call to a member is in order, or if a sympathy card, flowers, or some form of support is needed, please contact **Nita Pitts** at 904-996-0879 or e-mail her at [pitrymnd@comcast.net](mailto:pitrymnd@comcast.net). If you prefer, leave a notation on the sign-in sheet at the back table at one of our monthly meetings.

## Polygamy and Democracy

Fred W. Hill

Part of the legacy of Mormon founder Joseph Smith is the largely underground but moderately thriving subculture of polygamists (or polygynists, men with multiple wives, to be more accurate) in North America. This legacy includes the estimated 12,000 belonging to the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The church's current leader, Warren Jeffs, faces several charges of statutory rape and is currently on trial for forcing a 14-year-old girl, over whom he had substantial influence, to marry and have sex with her 19-year-old cousin. Given that marriages between people of the same sex have received some support from courts and legislatures in some of the more liberal regions around the country, some American polygamists believe that their own untraditional marriage practices will yet be legalized, perhaps by the Supreme Court overturning the *Reynolds vs. United States* decision of 1879 that upheld the constitutionality of a federal law barring polygamy, even when based on religious tenets.

Personally, I doubt *Reynolds vs. United States* ever will be overturned. Moreover, I hope in substance it never is, as I believe that polygamy is incompatible with modern democracy. Some of my more libertarian friends may disagree and believe that

polygamy should be legalized based on the religious protection clause of the First Amendment. A few more lascivious guys may find the idea of polygyny tantalizing, contemplating marriage to as many women as they like, and a far more varied sex life. The reality, however, wouldn't live up to the fantasy for most men.

The reason should be fairly obvious – there wouldn't be enough young women. According to the CIA World Fact Book, the current ratio for male to female births is about 1.05 (105

***Polygyny is a remnant of a predominantly patriarchal autocratic past which has been painfully, slowly but steadily replaced by a far more egalitarian present ...***

boys to 100 girls), although the ratio dips to .98 for ages 15-64 and goes into a steep decline of .71 for those 65 and over.

Still, barring wars, occupational hazards, or even genetic defects that may erode the number of men, women rarely significantly outnumber men except in the most violent societies. This means that in any society in which one man has numerous wives, unless some calamity has eliminated much of the competition, many men won't have opportunities to marry any women

at all (unless they're wealthier than most).

Further, women tend to be treated as commodities and have nearly no rights in typically patriarchal polygynist societies. In Saudi Arabia, for example, women are essentially treated as the private property of their closest male relatives to be traded off without their consent and to be kept nearly entirely under wraps to prevent any other men from even gazing upon any part of their flesh. Ritzy Mabrouk, an Egyptian woman who describes herself as "a recovering news-junkie" speculates, only partly in jest, that polygamy breeds terrorists, because there are so many young men who can't find wives, and most women have been taken by the older, much richer men (<http://missmabrouk.blogspot.com/2005/07/terrorist-breeding-x-factor.html>).

Closer to home, Warren Jeffs, who succeeded his father to the autocratic leadership of the fundamentalist LDS sect, controlled the lives of both male and female members of his flock with threats of damnation which they had been sufficiently brainwashed to take seriously. He arranged and broke up marriages as he saw fit, often ordering girls as young as 12 to marry men old enough to be their great-grandfathers and, of course, taking the choicest nu-



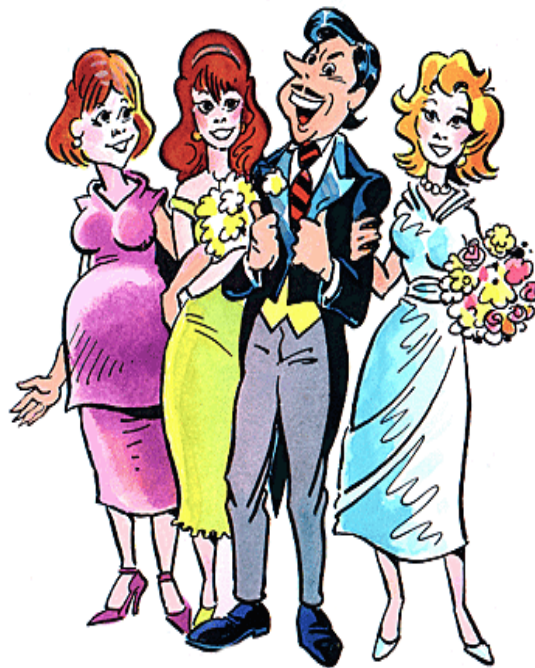
biles for himself.

Jeffs and other church elders also routinely exiled a great many young males from their community—typically for trumped-up infractions to cover up the real reason—to reduce competition for potential wives made ever scarcer by being hoarded by the old men. Once exiled from their communities, these “lost boys,” many as young as 13, who had naturally received only religious education and knew very little about the “outside” world, turned to crime or welfare in order to survive because they received no support from their families and had no idea how to earn a living. (More details on Jeffs’ life and crimes may be found at [http://www.crimelibrary.com/criminal\\_mind/sexual\\_assault/warren\\_jeffs/1\\_index.html](http://www.crimelibrary.com/criminal_mind/sexual_assault/warren_jeffs/1_index.html)). These may be extreme examples, but I believe they reveal the authoritarian tendency of the ruling elites of polygamous societies.

True, not all polygamous societies are so malignant, and until the last hundred years, most monogamous societies weren’t much better regarding the treatment of women (or even men who weren’t members of the ruling classes). And men in modern monogamous societies may have one legal spouse and multiple mistresses, although married women may also have many lovers. Such behavior by either sex is frowned upon by most Americans, however, even by those who aren’t exactly mo-

nogamous themselves, a tradition of pious hypocrisy that dates back at least to the ancient Romans who also made monogamy sacrosanct—even if often carried out in serial fashion with multiple spouses, but rarely with more than one at a time—while also often carrying on numerous extra-marital affairs.

Further, as Professor Serena Nanda of John Jay College of Criminal Justice argues the



status of women in polygamous horticultural societies is “not uniformly low, and in some societies women welcome the addition of a co-wife because it eases the workload and provides daily companionship” (Nanda, *Cultural Anthropology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., 1987, p. 212). In Tibet, Nanda notes, polyandry (the marriage of one woman to several men) is common as a means to keep scarce arable land within one family. More ominously, another reason

polyandry is common in Tibet, as well as neighboring Nepal and northern India, is due to the also common practice of female infanticide, resulting in men having to share wives or forego marriage altogether because there are so few women.

Most commonly, however, polygamy involves one man with tyrannical authority over several wives. In western-European cultures and their branches, monogamy has been the norm for over 2,000 years, yet only within the last century have women achieved nearly equal rights with men. In most polygamous societies, women still have far fewer rights than do men; and all the societies are typically ruled by tyrants who obtained power by force or chicanery rather than honest elections.

Currently, the only democracy where polygamy is legal (as opposed to mostly overlooked, as in the United States) is India, but even there it is only permitted for Muslims, although several predominantly Muslim nations, including Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon have banned polygamy altogether. Polygyny is a remnant of a predominantly patriarchal autocratic past which has been painfully, slowly but steadily replaced by a far more egalitarian present in which men and women, single or married, all are entitled to equal rights and opportunities under the law.



## RELIGIOUS AWARENESS WEEK

October 22 - 28, 2007 (Monday - Sunday) UNF Interfaith Center

**T**he First Coast Freethought Society (FCFS) is delighted to be participating in UNF's Religious Awareness Week. The brochure outlining all activities will be sent with the e-mail version of the *First Coast FreeThinker*, but here are the programs in which the FCFS is represented. Visit the UNF website for directions, or you can get a map and directions at the UNF Guard House. We hope you can attend some of these fascinating events!

**“Defining Atheism: Dispelling the Myths, Exposing the Taboos”**

Mon., Oct. 22, 12:00-1:00 p.m. • Room 14/1606 • Presenter: Earl Coggins

Wed., Oct. 24, 9:00-10:00 a.m. • Room 14/1603-1604 • Presenter: Earl Coggins

**Information Fair on the Green - FCFS to host a table at the Information Fair**

Tues., Oct. 23, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • Campus & community groups to host tables

Wed., Oct. 24, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • Campus & community groups to host tables

**“Faith, Social Justice, and the College Student” - Panel Discussion**

Wed., Oct. 24, 8:00-9:00 p.m. • Room 39/1016 • Earl Coggins on Panel

**“The Culture Wars: How the Nonreligious Fit In”**

Thurs., Oct. 25, 8:00-9:00 a.m. • Room 15/1205 • Presenter: Heather Wellman

Fri., Oct. 26, 8:00-9:00 a.m. • Room 15/1304 • Presenter: Heather Wellman

**“Waiting for Godot” - Play by Samuel Becket, discussion to follow**

Sat., Oct. 27, 6:00-10:00 p.m. • Room 14/1700 • Earl Coggins on Panel

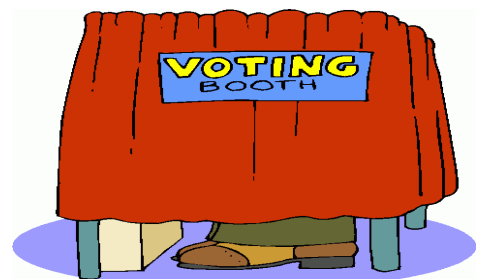
Sun., Oct. 28, 2:00-4:00 p.m. • Room 14/1602-1604 • Earl Coggins on Panel

## Nominating Committee Appointed For 2008 Officers

**B**obbie Nord has been appointed Nominating Committee Chair.

The Nominating Committee is tasked with the preparation of the slate of prospective 2008 officers. You will receive

the ballot in the November newsletter or else in the mail. The deadline for voting will be December 1, 2007. Help determine the future of the First Coast Freethought Society by selecting its leaders for 2008!





## Religious Rumblings in Jacksonville

Curtis Wolf

In the July and August *First Coast FreeThinker* newsletters (“Is Feeding The Homeless a Religious Duty?” and “Sometimes, You Can Beat City Hall!”), I wrote about a bill before the City Council that treated the religious differently from the nonreligious when it came to feeding the homeless. After members of the freethought community, including the First Coast Freethought Society, expressed their opposition to the bill, and especially after American Atheists Florida State Director Greg McDowell made inquiries about the bill to the city, city officials did an about face on the issue. As noted in a July 18th *Florida Times Union* story (“Feeding lawsuit goes to court”), “there was a threat that atheists would sue the city for giving the faithful special privilege.” Because of this threat, the proposed ordinance was rewritten.

Well, the city did a pretty good job in passing a bill that is even-handed towards the religious and nonreligious alike. Basically, it loosened up the rules on feeding the homeless so that persons who feed the homeless on private property, regardless of their religious inclinations, do not have to get a permit before they do so. They are still subject to Duval County Health Department regulations that I consider to be onerous, but at

least the application of the regulations is not dependent on whether you worship a god or not. I consider this to be a victory for the nonreligious.

This is not to say that the bill is perfect. There is an inconsistency in the bill, in which a person on church-owned property who is religiously motivated to feed the homeless, and a person on his own property who could be motivated to feed the homeless for reasons other than religion, are both excluded from the definition of a distributor upon which certain restrictions in the

***It shows what we can do as long as we do not meekly take whatever the religious community dishes out to us.***

Jacksonville ordinance code apply. But a person who feeds the homeless on property owned by a secular entity that gives permission to this person to do so on its property is not excluded from the definition. In a later section of the bill, the waiving of the requirement for a permit to feed the homeless is applied to both persons and *entities* that are otherwise compliant with health regulations. This is an oversight that should be remedied in a future bill.

Also, the bill still includes the language exempting religious people from regulations

related to feeding the homeless. Granted, it also exempts nonreligious people under similar conditions. So the religious exemption has no real effect since the bill as a whole treats everyone basically the same except for the inconsistency noted above. Still, the language exempting the religious is not needed since there is other language in the bill that lumps the religious and nonreligious together when homeless feeding exemptions are delineated in the bill. The enacted bill can be viewed at <http://citycirc.coj.net/docs/2007-0611/Current%20Text/2007-611-E.doc>.

Despite these problems, this is a bill that I can live with, and I see no reason to seek a legal challenge against it. It shows what we can do as long as we do not meekly take whatever the religious community dishes out to us.

Could this happen again? Possibly. The new taxes passed recently by the City Council were not popular with the churches, especially the storm water tax. There were protests outside City Hall and considerable dissent by speakers at the public hearing concerning the new taxes that essentially expressed opposition to any attempt to “limit God’s work” by imposing new taxes on churches.

*(Continued on page back cover)*



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### Statement of Purpose

The First Coast Freethought Society, Inc. is an educational, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization dedicated to supporting nonreligious persons in the Northeast Florida area and promoting a nontheistic approach to everyday life.

### Meetings

The FCFS meets the THIRD Monday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, upstairs in the sanctuary, 7405 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville, Florida 32211, (904) 725-8133. Meeting time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

### Committees and Chairs

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	<a href="mailto:ARicker@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org">ARicker@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org</a>	
<b>Long-Range Planning</b>	Curtis Wolf	573-3847
	<a href="mailto:CWolf@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org">CWolf@firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org</a>	

## October Social - All Welcome!

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

**WHEN:** TUESDAY., October 23, 2007. Gather in Lounge at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

**RSVP:** [CarrieRen@att.net](mailto:CarrieRen@att.net) (or 268-8826) by **October 22**, if you plan to attend!

First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.

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

2007 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 - 65+ (\$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: \_\_\_\_\_

***You can make a lasting impact on the future of  
freethought and secular humanism in this community  
...if you provide for the First Coast Freethought Society in your Will.***

Your bequest will ensure that the FCFS continues to be a beacon for freethinkers on the First Coast and to remain a vital Voice of Reason in the Northeast Florida area. Several options are available for establishing a bequest (specific, percentage, residual, or contingent). We will be happy to provide the appropriate wording to you and your attorney, depending upon your wishes.

For further information, contact  
Carrie Renwick, P.O. Box 550591, Jacksonville, FL 32255-0591 or  
904-288-6291 • [CarrieRen@att.net](mailto:CarrieRen@att.net) • <http://www.firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org/>  
All inquiries are held in the strictest confidence.

**Religious Rumbings in Jacksonville**

(Continued from page 9)

Since church property can have large parking lots and other impervious surfaces, the cost imposed on the churches due to the storm water tax could be high. There will certainly be pressure

on the city to provide tax relief to the churches. Who knows? There could be a lawsuit similar in nature to the Michael Herkov lawsuit that contends that any attempt to tax churches violates Christians' religious rights.

We should oppose any exemption or tax relief that is based on the religious nature of

the church property. While anyone who knows me knows how I feel about taxes, and I certainly do not like the three new taxes passed by the City Council, the taxes should certainly be applied in the same way to religiously owned property as they are to nonreligiously owned property.



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**Next deadline for article submission: October 27, 2007**

**First Coast Freethought Society 2007 Events**

October	15 - Monthly meeting	21 - Book discussion group	23- Social at Steak and Ale
November	19 - Monthly meeting	18 - Book discussion group	27- Social at Steak and Ale
December	17 - Monthly meeting	16 - Book discussion group	25- Social at Steak and Ale

Visit our website at <http://www.firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org/>.

(In the Adobe version, the links are **LIVE!** Ctrl & Click will take you there.)

Return service requested



**First Coast Freethought Society, Inc.**  
10653 Hearstone Drive  
Jacksonville, Florida 32257