

# Atheist

## PhillyCOR Wants YOU! —by Tracie Harris

You're driving home from work and you see a billboard with a religious message. Nothing unusual—you see several each day on your route to and from work. But this one has a surprise ending.

Against a backdrop of blue sky and floating clouds, bold white letters ask, "Don't believe in god?" Rather than tell you that you should, however, the printed response just lets you know that "You are not alone."

Are you "not alone" because this god is with you—whether you believe in god or not? Or are you "not alone" because there are others who, like you, "don't believe in god"? It's the latter, surprisingly. The question is answered in the contact information at the bottom of the board. Along with a listed Web site, it notes a phone number, part of which includes the letters, "humanist."

The message stands out as unique in that it is an invitation to those who are already nonbelievers. And it is inviting to nonbelievers utterly without an attack on religion or theism. It doesn't request anyone

stop believing in god. It doesn't ask anyone to question their belief in god. It simply invites those who already lack belief to contact this like-minded group for information or to attend events where they can meet, mingle, work, and socialize.

The Philadelphia group has found a completely inoffensive atheistic message to promote their worldview in a positive light. They received press coverage in articles at Philly.com and Phillyburbs.com that focused on Stephen Rade, the man who funded the billboard and helped to create PhillyCOR (Greater Philadelphia Coalition of Reason). Rade was a businessman who identified a need for interaction between nonbelievers from all over the area with different interests and agendas, including separation of church and state, furthering science education, or simply opposing supernatural shenanigans in general. PhillyCOR is available to atheists, freethinkers, secularists, humanists, and any individuals who share a connection to a lack of belief in god.



[www.PhillyCOR.org](http://www.PhillyCOR.org) 1-800-NEW-REASON

*Above: PhillyCOR's billboard inviting nonbelievers to network and socialize.*

The group immediately began to involve itself in charitable projects, working side-by-side with faith-based groups such as Lighthouses of Oxford Valley, a Christian group affiliated with the Reformed Church in America.

PhillyCOR maintains it is not out to win converts, but to combat prejudices and misconceptions often aimed at nonbelievers. In the article at Phillyburbs[dgb1].com, Rade was quoted as saying, "There's a myth that if you don't have religion, you don't have morality. The best way to disprove it is to do things of high moral value."

In June 2008, a Fox News report echoed the idea of negative public sentiment when it stated that "many people now want that sign to come down." However, according to Martha Knox, director of the Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia, and coordinator of PhillyCOR, "The fact of the matter is, while we have gotten a fair share of nasty voicemail messages from religious kooks who like to curse a lot, we haven't had any threats, and most people who have contacted us were happy about our billboard. Also, the billboard company hasn't received any calls

from people demanding that it be taken down. Overall this whole campaign has been very positive."

During the Fox interview, Rade was asked, "Why did you put up this billboard?" One has to wonder how many theist organizations are questioned when they put up billboards promoting their perspectives on god. The question itself highlights an underlying prejudice that does not appear to apply to believers who engage in the same promotional activities.

Vice President for Policy, Peter Sprigg, of [dgb3]the Family Research Council, a Washington DC-based lobbying group that promotes "conservative values," had this to say during the Fox segment, "This billboard in Philadelphia seems to represent a trend—a new assertiveness, even aggressiveness on the part of atheists." He further added, "Atheists are very vigorous in promoting the separation of church and state, but with the extreme way that they interpret that concept, you would basically eliminate every mention of god from the public square, and that would amount to the establishment of atheism." Sprigg did not go on to explain how the billboard

### In This Issue

<b>PhillyCOR Wants YOU!</b>	<b>Cover</b>
<b>On the Nature of G-d</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Big Time</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Member Perspectives: How lucky 'y'all' are to live in Austin</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ACA Calendar</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Lessons from the Patrick Greene Affair</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Atheist Longhorns</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Atheist Eve (Cartoon)</b>	<b>6</b>

## About ACA

ACA provides opportunities for socializing and friendship, promotes atheistic viewpoints, encourages positive atheist culture, defends the First Amendment principle of state/church separation, opposes discrimination against atheists, provides outreach to atheists in the greater Austin area, and works with other organizations in pursuit of common goals.

ACA produces a live cable access TV show and Internet radio show, presents a monthly lecture series, maintains a library of Freethought books, protests in support of civil liberties, and participates in various community service activities.

ACA operates in an open and democratic manner to provide a community of like-minded people for social interaction and support.

ACA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational corporation made up of volunteers. The membership is restricted to atheists, but does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, or disability.

## ACA Board of Directors

### President

Matt Dillahunty

### Vice President

Don Rhoades

### Treasurer

Michael Swift

### Secretary

Don Baker

### Directors

John Iacoletti

Mark Loewe

Lisa Mais

Shelley Roberts

Sandra Jaramillo

## Contact

### Atheist Community of Austin

P. O. Box 3798

Austin, TX 78764

512.371.2911 (voice mail)

www.atheist-community.org

info@atheist-community.org

## Austin Atheist Newsletter

Editors: Matt Dillahunty, Don Baker

Design/Production: Tracie Harris

editor@atheist-community.org

## Submission Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Jan. _____	Dec. 1
Feb. _____	Jan. 1
March _____	Feb. 1
April _____	March 1
May _____	April 1
June _____	May 1
July _____	June 1
Aug. _____	July 1
Sept. _____	Aug. 1
Oct. _____	Sept. 1
Nov. _____	Oct. 1
Dec. _____	Nov. 1

# On the Nature of G-d

—by Matt Dillahunty

If you've been interacting with religious folk on the interwebs, you've probably run across comments from Jews that include "G-d" in place of "God." A bit of investigating will reveal that this is a way of showing respect and avoiding the 'sin' of erasing or defacing the name of God.

When I first heard of this, I largely disregarded it as one of the various pretentious activities of the religious. Eventually, I gave it a bit more thought, and the absurdity really started to sink in. Consider the following:

The Jewish deity has a name, and it's a sin to erase or deface this name. There are a number of names for this god (YHVH, El Shaddai, Elohim), some of which

are supposedly unutterable, others are reportedly unknown (what happens if you accidentally deface one of the unknown names?)—but all are sacred.

So, observant Jews avoid typing or writing "God," for fear that it might 'count' as a name of their god. The generic "god" is a word in the English language, made up of characters that evolved from other languages. The symbols that make up this word (remember, it's the written name, not the spoken name—that one must be cautious about), are unlikely to be the correct symbols for any of the names of their god, as these characters didn't exist at the time.

If modern English characters could be constructed to actually be the

written name of a god, it seems that those characters might just as likely be "banana," "porn," or "ghoti"—yet observant Jews don't worry about morphing these words to avoid incidental defacement of the name of their god.

But, if we assume, for a moment, that "God" is a valid written representation of the name of the Jewish god, isn't "G-d" a defacement of that name? Granted, we're in the realm of word-magic, so it doesn't have to make sense, but it certainly seems ironic to me.

Further, we're really just talking about characters here that are used as labels for a concept. The label "god" is a nonspecific reference to a type of being, but "God" tends to refer to a specific being.

The value of a label is in its ability to communicate information.

By modifying the "God" label to "G-d," the Jews have added information. The "God" label could apply to a variety of specific deities qualifying for proper noun status. The "G-d" label, because of Jewish usage, now has the added information that renders it a label that specifically applies to the Jewish god.

It has become, by their alteration, a more specific label that is far more likely to qualify as the "name" of their god than the less specific versions that started this mess.

Ironic, huh? ■

## Big Time

—by Don Baker

The ACA passed a milestone this month—a milestone in the visibility of our message. We have licensed a brief clip of *The Atheist Experience* to be shown in an independent feature-length film. "Sex and the U.S.A." explores abstinence-only education and its failure among American teenagers. The lead characters' story is peppered with a wide variety of online clips showing a spectrum of voices in the debate. The film will be completed this September and get its first screening at the Deauville Film Festival, a festival of American-made movies in Deauville France. It's a difficult transition for a film to get distributed, but it's possible it will be eventually shown in theaters around the country. We hope that happens, especially because the message of the film is in support of real sex education, something the ACA has advocated on many occasions, including our participation in the Texas State Board of Education textbook hearings covering health education.

A portion of a fan-created YouTube clip of *The Atheist Experience* will be shown in the film. The clip comes from episode #529, "Hypocrisy," which aired December 2, 2007, starting around 41:20. In the clip, Matt Dillahunty and Don Baker talk about the failure of abstinence-only education in the state, especially in Lubbock, a city with one of the highest teen STD rates in the country. Atheism is mentioned in the clip and the greater context of the clip in the film. ACA and *The Atheist Experience* are both to appear in the credits of the film along with our Web site. We are excited about the potential to make people aware of our TV show, our group, and atheism in general.

The ACA entered into a license agreement with the film company in mid-August for the content license. We believe the license terms are fair and that the film company will not be misusing the clip as has happened to other atheists, such as for the movie "Expelled." We are excited that our message is finding its way into multiple venues and getting exposure to new audiences. ■

## ACA Bat Cruise

The ACA Bat Cruise will be **Saturday, September 20.**

We'll have the big boat this year. Members, friends, and family are welcome. The cruise will cost \$20 per person and payment should be made in advance of the event to Mike Swift. ■

# How lucky ‘y’all’ are to live in Austin —by Jamie Tobitt

**Editor’s note: Jamie is an enthusiastic ACA member who lives in San Diego.**

I became an atheist through a long journey that is probably common to many of you, so I won’t go into that.

When I found the ACA on the Internet, I found a group who seems to have the right demeanor, insight, and perspective that is needed for a truly positive atheist experience.

The TV show (*Atheist Experience*), *Non-Prophets*, and other resources are of great value to me in honing my arguments and giving me the words I’ve been looking for to express myself as a positive atheist. Because of this, I chose to join the ACA even though I don’t live in Austin—or even Texas for that matter.

This makes me wonder if the ACA members in Austin understand how fortunate you are to have

such a well-constructed atheist organization. I want to share a few of the reasons that make the ACA more appealing to me than other atheist groups in my own backyard. (It’s not that I won’t support my local organizations. However, I often think to myself, “If this was run more like the ACA, then...”)

**1. Understanding that you can’t prove a negative.** In the ACA you hear it explained that there hasn’t been sufficient evidence to support the belief that a god exists, but if such evidence becomes known and verifiable, then we may reconsider our position. This immediately removes the confrontational and absolute dogma, which has turned other atheist discussions into arguments, which only dig each side in deeper.

**2. The three questions.** “What do you believe?”, “Why do you believe it?”, and “Why should I believe it too?” I have not heard

a more simple way to lay out exactly what the issue is when speaking with believers. It also addresses the definition of god to the person you are talking to, which is absolutely crucial. The other thing I love about these questions is you are only asking what they believe. This plays beautifully into the notion that atheism is not a belief in something, but a rejection of someone else’s.

**3. Not being a victim.** I want to visit Austin someday to hang with the ACA. It seems like a group of nice people that I would actually enjoy spending time with. Pub crawls, bat cruises, happy hours—all the social stuff that builds a healthy community. Not to point out specific faults with other organizations, but I just don’t find any desire to be around a group of angry, bitter victims. The point, to me, is to let the world know that atheists are contributing

members of an active, caring, and helpful society. The ranting lunatic fringe image only makes it easier for believers to marginalize us.

Those are just a few thoughts I wanted to share. I know I’m ‘preaching to the choir,’ if you will, but I wanted to provide some perspective from someone who wishes he had something as cool as the ACA locally. My only option (other than moving to Austin) is to try to make my local groups more positive—more like the ACA. ■

## ACA Garage Sale

The ACA garage sale will be **Saturday, September 6**. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the ACA. Contributions of items for sale are requested by September 3. See Lisa Mais or Mike Swift. ■

## ACA CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

• **7 p.m.-?:** CFI Austin Food for Thought Lecture (Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr.) Clare Wuellner: *The economics of human and animal interactions*; Free.

• **7 p.m.-?:** Happy Hour (Dog & Duck Pub)

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

• **8 a.m.-4 p.m.:** ACA Garage Sale (See Web site for details)

• **2-3:30 p.m.:** *Non-Prophets Internet Radio Show* (See Web site for details)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

• **12:15-1:45 p.m.:** ACA Lecture Series (Austin History Center) Oak DeBerg: “Are Atheists in the Military the “New” Gay, (or Black or Female)?”; Free.

• **3-4:30 p.m.:** *Atheist Experience* (Channel 10)

• **5 p.m.-?:** Meet-up after *The Atheist Experience* (Threadgill’s)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

• **7 p.m.-?:** Happy Hour (Dog & Duck Pub)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

• **10:30-11:30 a.m.:** Board Meeting (Romeo’s (outside))

• **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.:** Regular Sunday Meeting at Romeo’s (Romeo’s)

• **3-4:30 p.m.:** *Atheist Experience* (Channel 10)

• **5 p.m.-?:** Meet-up after *The Atheist Experience* (Threadgill’s)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

• **7 p.m.-?:** Happy Hour (Dog & Duck Pub)

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

• **11 a.m.-12 p.m.:** Adopt-a-street Clean Up (Jack-in-the-Box, Burnet Rd. & Anderson Ln.)

• **2-3:30 p.m.:** *Non-Prophets Internet Radio Show* (See Web site for details)

• **6-8 p.m.:** 2008 ACA Bat Cruise (Capitol Cruises, 208 Barton Springs Rd.) Members, friends, and family are welcome. Please pay in advance (\$20).

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

• **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.:** Regular Sunday Meeting at Romeo’s (Romeo’s)

• **3-4:30 p.m.:** *Atheist Experience* (Channel 10)

• **5 p.m.-?:** Meet-up after *The Atheist Experience* (Threadgill’s)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

• **7 p.m.-?:** Happy Hour (Dog & Duck Pub)

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

• **8:45 a.m.-?:** San Antonio Zoo Outing (San Antonio Zoo)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

• **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.:** Regular Sunday Meeting at Romeo’s (Romeo’s)

• **3-4:30 p.m.:** *Atheist Experience* (Channel 10)

• **5 p.m.-?:** Meet-up after *The Atheist Experience* (Threadgill’s)

### REGULAR LOCATIONS:

- **Austin History Center**, 9th and Guadalupe. Building opens at noon. Lectures are free and open to the public.
- **Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas**, 4300 North Lamar Boulevard, 512.206.1266.
- **Dog & Duck Pub**, North of the Capitol, 406 W. 17th at Guadalupe, 512.479.0598. Informal gathering; food available.
- **Romeo’s**, 1500 Barton Springs Rd. South of Town Lake.
- **Threadgill’s**, 301 West Riverside Drive (at Barton Springs Rd.)

Unless otherwise indicated, events are open to all atheist and atheist friendly people, regardless of ACA membership status. Check the calendar on the Web site <[www.atheist-community.org/calendar](http://www.atheist-community.org/calendar)> for last minute changes.

# Lessons from the Patrick Greene Affair

—by Don Baker

If you've been following *The Atheist Experience* TV show or the *Atheist Experience* blog, you've heard about the ACA's interaction with a San Antonio resident Patrick Greene. Briefly, Mr. Greene is an atheist who was offended by a bumper sticker for sale on the Web site of Living Waters Publications, run by Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron, of "Way of the Master," fame. The \$1 bumper sticker reads:

National Atheist's Day  
April 1

"The FOOL has said in his heart,  
"There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1)

In late July, Mr. Greene wrote Living Waters, said that the bumper sticker offended atheists, and he threatened to sue them if they didn't stop selling it. They removed the sticker temporarily while they consulted their lawyers. You can probably guess what happened next. Ray Comfort made hay with the belligerent atheist on his blog, they offered the sticker for free for awhile, and Patrick Greene was

made the fool along with the atheists he claimed to represent. His threatened lawsuit had no basis and the irony was just too delicious for Comfort's followers.

Martin Wagner and Matt Dillahunt (among others) thought it was important to publicly denounce the actions of Mr. Greene for a number of reasons—most importantly, to show that we will criticize one of our own when they are in the wrong. On the *Atheist Experience* blog starting July 23 there are a number of posts where Martin goes after Greene's actions. Matt and Russell Glasser's July 27 episode covered the subject, and Patrick Greene called in to explain his position. Matt and Martin did a recap on the August 3 episode. As a result of the first show, around 200 *Atheist Experience* fans sent e-mail to Patrick Greene telling him why he was in error. At least that's how many copied the TV e-mail address. Most letters were eloquent, and many were heated. There's more to the story, should

you care to follow the above threads.

While it's easy to find fault with Patrick Greene's actions, I think it's important for all atheists to learn the larger lessons from his experience. If we are to win the hearts and minds of people for the cause of reason and church-state separation, we must not make mistakes that set us back. Here's what I think we might have learned from this episode:

- **Choose the right battles.** There is no shortage of wrongs to right in the world. It's important to fight the battles that really matter. Would the world have been improved by having suppressed the "National Atheist's Day" stickers? Probably not.
- **Don't yield the moral high ground.** By attempting to suppress the free speech rights of Christians, Greene made Comfort's ilk look good. They're in the martyr business; they know how to play the persecution

card. A far better approach in most cases is using YOUR free speech rights to criticize and educate.

- **Think about how it plays.** The bumper sticker is a silly ancient ad hominem attack on non-believers. Reacting to it with a lawsuit gives the appearance of a schoolboy throwing a punch after a taunt. Most people would view the reaction as a childish tiff. If someone wants to sink to the level of ad hominem attacks, why not just respond, "If a fool can figure out there is no God, what does that say about believers?" By letting the taunt get under your skin, you allow them to have power over you.
- **Build coalitions.** If an idea is a good one, it'll get support. Seek criticism from a "friendly audience" before going forward. Improve the idea based on their criticisms. A group working toward a cause is more effective than an individual.

## PhillyCOR

—Continued from page 1

could be interpreted as representing aggressiveness.

Rade's did not automatically go on the defensive. He unapologetically supports a more secular society "I say that we are promoting a secularist agenda. We do believe in a separation of church and state, and we believe that this is the way the country should be run." Rade understands that secularization and atheism are not the same thing. In fact, without a secular government, religious freedom is in jeopardy. Theists and atheists alike are involved in the movement toward a more secular government.

One wonders, for example, how Sprigg might interpret the agenda of Americans United for Separation

of Church and State—an organization often represented by the Reverend Barry Lynn. The "Our Issues" segment of the Americans United Web site begins, for example, with this statement, "Americans have more religious freedom than any people in world history. We can choose what to believe; what to teach our children; how, where and when to worship; which causes to give money to; or even whether we want to get involved with religion at all. We have the separation of church and state to thank for this broadly based freedom."

At the conservative Web site onenewsnow[dgb5].com, an image of the billboard ran with an article which laments that information concerning nonbelief is even available to the public. One quote in the article includes, "You've got

the Web site. You've got a phone number. And young people who are questioning [the existence of] God have this front and center." Not surprisingly, the image that ran with the article was altered so that it did not include the Web site or the phone number for PhillyCOR.

When Knox was asked for her reaction to that idea that people should be protected from access to PhillyCOR's contact information, she had this to say, "I react to that the same way I react to burning books. We aren't using highly manipulative propaganda here; we're mostly using words and being pretty direct on our Web site about what we're about. If our children are taught to think critically, they can handle straight information. In order to be able to differentiate good ideas from bad and false ones, you need to be exposed to

both. I'm not afraid of my children seeing religious billboards, so [the fact that] some religious people being afraid of their children seeing our billboards makes me think they are insecure about their beliefs and have little faith in their children's ability to think."

It remains to be seen whether or not PhillyCOR's efforts to create cohesion among atheists, freethinkers, and secularists for socialization and charity work will yield positive, long-term results for the community of nonbelievers. If nothing else, it offers opportunity to a group that has historically lacked strong unity and influence. Perhaps, one day, messages promoting nonbelief will be as uncontroversial as messages promoting religion? If so, PhillyCOR could certainly claim credit for being one of the first groups to work positively toward that goal. ■

# The Atheist Longhorns

—by Sandra Jaramillo

**Editor's note:** Sandra Jaramillo is an ACA board member as well as president of the Atheist Longhorns. The group is sponsored by UT staff person Susan Brown, who is also an ACA member.

The changes in the air and trees tell us it's time for the school year to begin once again. The new academic year also starts the activities of Atheist Longhorns, one of the many student groups at UT Austin. The first meeting of the year will be held the second week of school. New officers for the 2008–2009 academic year are Directors Michael Harison and Aubrey Slaughter, Vice President Elizabeth Caldwell, and President Sandra Jaramillo. The current Webmaster for the group is Paul Ritchey. The Atheist Longhorns group was formed in September 2007 with the intention of being a social group where atheists campus-wide could interact with like-minded people. The group

is comprised of students who were both raised atheist and who became atheist at various ages in life from many different religions. During regular meetings, members of this group come together and discuss one another's experiences as atheists, as well as sharing their lives as students.

This coming year will be Atheist Longhorns' second at UT Austin. In their first year, the group participated in several activities around campus, one being Beautiful U day where we cleaned up sections of campus. The student group also hosted lectures given by Dan Barker of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, and by Dr. Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion* among other

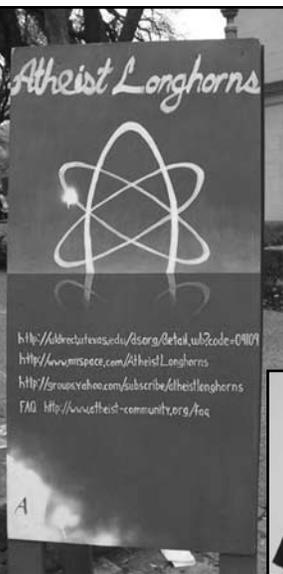
famous titles. The Dawkins lecture filled the Hogg Auditorium.

Atheist Longhorns is very grateful for all the assistance they received in putting together these two lecture events last year. Those that helped include the Secular Student Alliance and Center for Inquiry On Campus. Atheist Longhorns is an affiliate of both organizations. Others that helped the Atheist Longhorns are the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science, Dr. Richard Dawkins, Freethinkers of UT Arlington, and Atheist Agenda of UT San Antonio. Atheist Longhorns is also very thankful for the donations given by the ACA and by individuals. With these donations, the group was able to make an

A-frame, which is used to advertise for the group on campus, and several vinyl banners used during the group's activities.

Throughout the upcoming year the group has many activities planned. Atheist Longhorns plans on participating in the numerous festivals held on campus, like the Forty Acres Fest held in the spring. A Darwin Day celebration is also being arranged for next February. In addition to the guest lecturers and debates planned by the student group, they will also hold social meetings, such as bowling and movie nights in the Union building, swimming and karaoke parties, and an end-of-year picnic.

You can find up-to-date news about Atheist Longhorns on the Web at [www.atheistlonghorns.org](http://www.atheistlonghorns.org). Festivals and fundraisers on campus will be announced so that you all may come to participate and to meet student members. ■



**Left:** Atheist Longhorns (AL) manning their table on the UT campus.

**Top:** The AL A-Frame.

**Right:** The AL officers.



## Lessons

—Continued from page 4

- **Be nice.** Often, a considerate and thoughtful request is all it takes to get positive action. Humor can be an effective way of making your case in a nonthreatening way. Even if you don't expect things to go your way, starting with a civil position portrays you as a decent human being.

- **Lawsuits are sledgehammers.** If you're considering a lawsuit to address some wrong in the world, think carefully. Frivolous lawsuits don't help your cause. If you're fighting a church-state separation fight you might have to go through multiple courts over decades, possibly racking up hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees. The opposition has a lot of money, experience, and patience. Do you have the stamina to go the

distance? If the Supreme Court rules on your case, will they be set up to make a good decision in strengthening the wall of separation between church and state. If you're serious about a lawsuit, get advice from groups like the ACLU or FFRF who have executed them successfully and who might be able to help.

- **Fight the good fight.** While Mr. Greene made a number of

mistakes, I give him credit for his willingness to fight for his principles. Too many people give up immediately. Once you're sure of your position and you know you've picked a good battle, jump into the fray, or at least help those who do. Others will benefit from your actions and you will have spent some of your time on this planet doing something worthwhile. ■



Atheist Community of Austin

P. O. Box 3798

Austin, TX 78764

www.atheist-community.org

ATHEIST EVE

TH DESIGN ©2008

I'm the scribe who **added verses 7:53-8:11 to John**. Unfortunately, I can't tell you why I added them. But you have to admit, the "**Adulterous Woman**" is a compelling story. It really caught on with believers! It made Jesus look clever—not to mention compassionate!

ρεεκ τησ τεε  
 ξετ ψου χαν οσε  
 τησ τεξετ ισ γρ  
 εεκ αν τειενλοσ α  
 λαινβωμ εξλληεπ  
 αλιωενκοσ κοθαλ  
 τημοεοδ δοκλιο

I'm the scribe who **added verses 9-20 to Mark 16**. I'm not around anymore to explain why I did it. But you have to admit, it looks a lot better for all the gospels to have some version of the "**Great Commission**." It would be strange for Mark to totally leave it out—like it wasn't important to the story!

μεβκ τησ τεε  
 ξετ ψου χαν οσε  
 χησ τεξετ ισ γρ  
 φεκ αι τειενλοσ α  
 ηαιξεσσ εξλληεπ  
 τλιωενκοσ αιωθαι  
 ρουθεσοδ δοκλιο

OK, well, I just wanted to make it clear that Jesus is God. So, in **I Timothy 3:16**, I used "**god**" instead of "**who**." It's just one letter, and it promotes our belief that **Jesus IS God**. I helped move things in the right direction for Christianity. It was good enough for KJV!

λοεκ φησ τηε  
 ξετ ψου οεν οσε  
 τησ τεξετ ισ γρ  
 φεκ αν τευψηλοσ ο  
 λαινβωμ εξλληεπ  
 φρωεαζσολ κοθαλ  
 τημοεοδ δοκλιο

The Bible is the **INERRANT WORD of GOD**. Perfect in every way. Only God's **DIVINE** guidance could have produced it.

You're **SERIOUS**—aren't you?!