

THE ATHEIST

Newsletter of the Atheist Community of Austin, a Nonprophet Organization

P.O. Box 3798, Austin, Texas 78764

512-371-2911

www.atheist-community.org

19 March 2000 CE

Volume # 4 No. #3

Respect Our Constitution Rally Here In Austin On March 29

RESPECT OUR CONSTITUTION Rally is:

1. For parents of school aged children who RESPECT OUR CONSTITUTION.
2. For children in public school systems who will learn grassroots use of civil liberties provided in the Bill of Rights' First Amendment of The United States Constitution:
 - a. Freedom of (and from) religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;
 - b. Freedom of speech, or of the press;
 - c. Right of the people peaceably to assemble;
 - d. Petition the Government for a redress of grievances;These students RESPECT OUR CONSTITUTION;
3. For teachers and administrators in public school systems who should set examples to RESPECT OUR CONSTITUTION;
4. For people of all faiths and all beliefs who RESPECT OUR CONSTITUTION;
5. For people of all religious denominations who RESPECT OUR CONSTITUTION;
6. For people of no religion who RESPECT OUR CONSTITUTION.

Respect Our Constitution Rally - Austin will be a symbolic rally against government supported and encouraged public school prayer. On Wednesday, March 29, 2000, Oral Arguments will be heard by the United States Supreme Court (USSC) in the Santa Fe Independent School District v. Does - a "battle" over government endorsed and promulgated Christian public school prayers.

Attorney Anthony Griffin working with the Americans for Civil Liberties Union will defend the "Does" against

Christian Extremists employed by the American Center for Justice and Law - well-known Christian Fascist Pat Robertson's group...arguing for public school, [using, by the way, Presidential Hopeful Gov. George W. Bush as Pat Robertson's Pied Piper, the Texas Attorney General, the State Board of Education, and local school districts following the path to destroying the First Amendment Establish Clause]...which desires to overturn the decision of the Fifth Circuit wherein the 5th Circuit Appeals Court disallows, in SFISD v. Does, public school prayer.

Public prayers in public schools cannot pass Constitutional muster---if the action is approved by the USSC, then we'll know the Christian Extremists have influence in the highest levels of government.

So far, this attack on the Bill of Right's First Amendment Establishment Clause has been made over the years solely by extremist Christians. Their desire to gather all Americans into their belief and authoritarian control---and that is Fascism!

We are all familiar with Christian Fascism from the 1930s and 1940s. It was a very ugly action then and is just as ugly now. Yet, we witness history repeating itself today with calls from Christian extremists to promulgate government endorsed prayers and placement of their Christian ten commandments in all government offices and public schools. This Rally doesn't even touch on Christian Extremist control of City Governments and Local School District Boards of Trustees, these communities are victims of the latest battles waged on citizens who oppose Christian domination.

If you're a parent, this rally will be an excellent Social Studies activity for your child. Public School children must learn that their Constitutional freedoms have to be exercised to in order to keep those freedoms not surrendered to Christian authority. Get your children "in the field" and have them know that it is their RIGHT to express their opinions in matters of Constitutional attacks by Christian fascism.

Respect Our Constitution Rally is opened to all religious faiths and denominations, and to non-religious groups who are:

1. in support of the Bill of Rights First Amendment Establishment Clause to the United States Constitution; against public school prayer directed at any students in all levels of the public school system who cannot---or in fear, will not---voice their opposition;

2. opposed to actions of Texas Governor and Presidential hopeful George W. Bush and the nine (9) State Governments and their Attorney Generals for ignoring the First Amendment and promulgating the violation of the First Amendment in supporting public school prayer;

3. opposed to the Texas State Board of Education cooperating and endorsing local, state, and nationwide Christian Extremists' promulgation of public school prayer. Governor Bush, Texas Attorney General John Cornyn, the Texas State Board of Education, eight other states and many school districts are operatives in the Christian fascist agenda. They support the domination of school Boards of Trustees who have ties to Christian fascist organizations and who would twist the life out of the First Amendment Establishment Clause.

The following State Governments and their Attorney Generals have joined forces with Christian Fascism, [relying upon the catalyst of Presidential Candidate George W. Bush's promulgation of public school prayer.

Despite what Governor Bush claimed after the debacle of his appearance at Bob Jones University, he is very much in consortium with Christian Fascist Doctrine.

GEORGE W. BUSH
Governor of Texas and Republican Presidential Candidate
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

JOHN CORNYN
Attorney General of Texas
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711

Religious interference in government has been solely of Extremist Christian production to gain control in all levels of government in order to subject our children and ourselves to their special brand of Christian fascism.

It is imperative that Christian Extremists be reminded that preserving America's heritage of a secular government is the most unique of all freedoms not only in the United States, but also in many other countries of our planet.

An examination of Early American History and the writings of Jefferson, Madison, and Franklin [it was Jefferson who conceived of what is now the First Amendment] leave no doubt that our government was designed as a secular model. Claims by Christian Extremists for expanding "religious liberty" in the name and spirit of our forefathers and founders is the worst and most offensive action by the Christian Fascist movement; and their actions will tear away the very foundation of our Constitution for their own purposes.

People of all religions and no religions are equally protected by the nature of the secular government. No one receives preferential treatment. The Christian Fascist Movement is NOT an option for freedom. The majority religion's dogma cannot possibly encompass the diversity in Texas, or in the United States for that matter, of people's faith or no-faith, culture, ethnic background, disability, or sexual-orientation.

Anthony Griffin, with the ACLU, as attorney for the appellants will argue against Jay Sekulow - one of Pat Robertson's Christian Fascist puppets from the organization American Center for Justice and Law. And not to be left out of this breach on the First Amendment, Texas Attorney General John Cornyn will join Sekulow in arguing for public school prayer as a "religious liberties" issue of the student. See URL: <http://www.aclj.org/>

Please plan to attend the Rally. It will be a very important day. If you cannot attend the Rally, please spread this message far and wide. 

Thanks,

Will Ellsworth
Rally Organizer
5847 Greencraig Dr.
Houston, TX 77035
713-729-1757
willpe@swbell.net

Please contact me with any questions you might have.

(Ed. note: Well, what are we waiting for? Let's get behind this effort!)

And The Survey Says:

Q. What would you like to tell middle school kids about atheism?:

A. Do not confuse what your parents tell you is radicalism with what is actually reason. Question your motives for belonging to whatever religion you belong to. Don't accept anything without questioning it.

An ACA Permanent Fund?

Here's the proposal for a constitutional amendment concerning ACA's funds. This will be put to a vote by the general membership on April 2nd at the Furr's Cafeteria lecture series meeting.

ACA's funds shall be in accounts structured as follows:

- A checking account. The purpose of the checking account is to support the normal, day to day activities of ACA. Normal inflows will include, but not be limited to membership dues and anonymous donations made at meetings. The Treasurer is authorized to pay routine expenditures out of this account.
- A building fund. The purpose of the building fund is to accumulate money to be eventually used toward the purchase of a building for ACA use. Normal inflows are to include Randall's Remarkable Card contributions, Amazon.com's percentage of book sales from ACA's website, and any other moneys that ACA's board of directors choose to deposit there. Withdrawals from the building fund may only occur with the approval of 2/3 of the board.
- A permanent fund. The purpose of the permanent fund is to establish an eventual, long term source of income and emergency cash to ensure ACA's survival. Normal inflows are to include any donation earmarked for the permanent fund, and any other moneys that ACA's board of directors choose to deposit there. Withdrawals from the building fund may only occur with the approval of 3/4 of the board.

Humanist Conference in Houston

Houstonians for Secular Humanism will be hosting a conference April 15-16. The keynote speaker for the conference will be author and Council for Secular Humanism Chairman, Paul Kurtz.

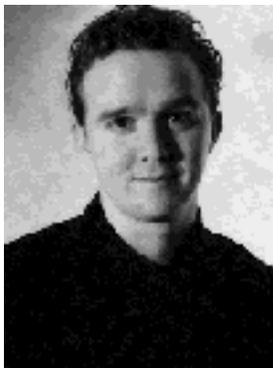
Other speakers will include Janet Waugh, of the Kansas State Board of Education, and Alma Brown, of the Texas State Board of Education.

ACA co-leader, and unemployed ex-public school teacher John Koonz will speak on Saturday from 9am to 10:15am.

The conference will be at the Braeswood Hotel & Convention Center, 2100 South Braeswood, Houston, TX 77030 (Tel #713-797-900) on Saturday - Sunday, April 15-16.

Bob Finch (rdfinch@flash.net) is the organizer for the conference.

Meet Martin, Our New Atheist Experience Co-Host



Hi, everyone. I'm Martin Wagner, and I've officially been co-host of The Atheist Experience since March 5, 2000. I only joined the ACA late in the fall of 1999, so I've been a bit surprised by my "meteoric rise" in the ACA's ranks and I hope I can continue to benefit the organization for a long time to come. I became an atheist late in my teenage years, after a lengthy study of the Christian beliefs I had been brought up in

revealed to me they simply didn't stand up to critical evaluation; also, as this was the 1980's, the oppressive political tactics of the "religious right" during the Reagan era (which are currently enjoying something of a rebirth, sadly) further turned me off to this misguided supernaturalism. Professionally, I was a cartoonist and comic book artist for ten years, and am now pursuing a film making career, with my first feature to be, ironically enough, a supernatural thriller (though nothing to do with Christianity). Hey, fiction is one thing, reality is another! Rich atheist film investors are invited to get in touch. :-)



The Battle Rages On

(The following essay was contributed by G. Richard Bozarth (ALISAK@prodigy.net) of Round Rock. This was originally published in 'The American Rationalist' This will be published in The Atheist in several parts. The first part was in the February issue.)

Part 2

His reply (dated 4 October) gave me more to think about. The warning obviously had not been strong enough. He included an unsent letter (dated 1 December 1998) and in it he clearly hoped any discussion of religionism and Atheism with me could "follow the standard rules of civilized debate: be tough on the issues, not on the person." How could that be possible when religionism has not in the past and does not now inspire civilized behavior? How could the subject be rationally debated when religionism requires the irrationality of faith to be accepted as being about something that actually exists? How could the rules of civilized debate apply when religionists have not yet ceased to use every possible uncivilized terrorist and fascist tactic to silence Atheists, heretics, and infidels? And every Atheist, even one who believes in the Good Doggy Atheist Hypothesis, ought to know this: there is something unquestionably wrong with any person who likes being in

the mire even if she is only toe- or ankle-deep in it. If there really was anything good or right about religionism, would the history religionism has made in the past and is making today be as horror show as it is? How can an Atheist Freethinker debate religionism in a civilized manner with a religionist when religionists are as a whole the most uncivilized citizens in every country on this planet?

I decided Russ needed a clearer, stronger warning. I gave it to him in my next letter (dated 6 November 1999):

You mentioned in your letters the issue of discussing whatever we discuss with respect. That's not going to happen with religionism, which is the term I prefer to use. ("Spirituality" is too nebulous because "spirit" has been successfully secularized, and as a sectarian term its meaning is mombled.) I don't respect religionism because I have not found a reason to respect it. You're right that Voltaire used *Écrasez l'infâme* to refer to primarily organized religion, especially the Roman Catholic Church. However, it was also his attitude about most versions of religionism. He was a Deist, but, like most of the Deists who are remembered by historiography, his religious lifestyle was as atheistic as mine is. His vision of eunomy was as atheistic as mine is. And even if he had limited his contempt to organized religion or even to just the RCC, *Écrasez l'infâme* would exactly express how I feel about believing imaginary supernatural realms and imaginary supernatural entities objectively exist.

You're right that the first true questions about religionism are "whether or not there is a realm of existence beyond the corporeal and what do we know about it." The answers have been known for a long time. They are "No" to the first question, which means the answer to the second one is "Only what we humans have imagined about it". And what haven't we imagined about it? There is an excellent encyclopedia of religionism called *Man, Myth, : Magic*. It discusses just about every version of supernatural realm and supernatural entity known to us up to its publication in the early 70s. I've read it from first page/first volume to last page/last volume. The only conclusion possible at the end is that religionism most likely began as a rational hypothesis to explain dreams and certain mental glitches (visions, hearing voices, etc.), but the hypothesis was not rationally tested to determine its degree of probable certainty. What happened was the hypothesis was accepted as Truth, then that imaginary Truth became the all too real muck called faith, thus thereafter thinking about religionism has been completely wild guessing totally uncontrolled by anything that could be called rational, objective evidence, inevitably producing incredible, usually ridiculous fictions generated by imaginations freed from any requirement to provide objective evidence substantiating a person's assertions about some kind of supernatural realm and/or supernatural entity.

This is demonstrated by the way religions and their sects and cults die. They never die in the rational way wrong scientific hypotheses and theories die. In other words, they do not die because they fail to accurately interpret objective reality as we continue the process of discovery about objective reality. A religion dies only when the last person sustaining it by faith dies. Then suddenly it is obvious that the religion was a false one. However, while still sustained by living believers, especially if they are organized into culturally and politically powerful churches, they live on. Every Atheist who laughed at the memes who believed the ancient Greek gods and goddesses actually existed was right. In fact, Atheists have always been right about every dead religion that once seemed as awesome and as eternal as Christianity today. We haven't been wrong yet. So why should we be wrong about the religions currently living?

As far as I am concerned, belief in the real existence any supernatural entity, even the supreme supernatural ones being sold by the vast organized religions today, is same-same believing in the real existence of Santa Claus. In fact, if you want to understand Atheism, begin by listing all the reasons why those who believe Santa Claus really exists acquired that belief. All those reasons will be the same ones that explain why any person believes any kind of supernatural entity really exists, including the supreme ones like Yahweh, Allah, and Christianity's three-part deity. After doing that, list all the reasons why those who cease believing in the real existence of Santa Claus lose their faith. All those reasons will be the same ones that explain why people become Atheists.

Does making the theological discussion about Santa Claus seem disrespectfully facetious? All I can say is too bad, because I don't see any difference between believing in Santa Claus and believing in some other supernatural entity. If you reply that there's a huge load of differences between a joke like Santa Claus and a supreme supernatural entity represented by a politically and culturally powerful organized religion, then I point out that these differences are only imaginary unless convincing evidence òi.e., evidence that does not require faith first to be persuasive) can be presented for their objective reality. The truly real differences among the various sects and cults are not the imaginary characteristics of their nonexistent supernatural realms and entities. The only real differences are the cultural and political power each sect or cult possesses and how that power is used to pursue the sect's or cult's ends.

If you meet the day after you read this some person who declares to you "Santa Claus is the only God and I am His prophet", what would be your reaction? I'm serious. Would you respect the religionism of Santa Claus's prophet when you are the first person to whom he has revealed the latest True Faith? Then five years later you're watching the news

on TV about a tragic airliner crash and one of the few survivors says to the camera, "I just kept praying to Santa Claus to permit me to survive so I can keep on spreading His Word, and He stretched out His Loving Hand to save me." What would be your reaction? Would that "miracle" seem as impressive as similar "miracles" are when it is Christians or Jews or Hindus claiming to have been saved by their imaginary supernatural entities? Would the cult of Santa Claus now deserve more respect? Or would you laugh like I would laugh? Another five years pass and you're reading in the newspaper about the grand opening of the majestic and fabulously expensive temple of the Church of the Living Santa Claus and the story mentions the sect claims to have over 100,000 members throughout the U.S. and in Europe, with the largest population of them in the city that is now the "Rome" of the CLSC. What would your reaction be? Would you begin to respect their religionism or be as contemptuous of the memes as I would be? Five more years pass and you see in a bookstore the CLSC holy book for sale. It's as beautifully printed and bound as any copy of any other older holy book also on sale. It's as long and as full of assorted stories, proverbs, prophecies, and moral commandments as any other older holy book also on sale. Do you begin to respect the religionism of the CLSC or do you laugh like I would laugh to find another volume of ridiculousness being offered to us as some imaginary supernatural entity's True Word? Then another five years pass and you read about political candidates in the state where the CLSC now has serious political and cultural strength eagerly giving speeches at political events the CLSC organizes to demonstrate and enhance its political and cultural power. The article mentions hospitals the CLSC has opened and benevolent charities it now operates. It mentions the awesome wealth of the CLSC and its worldwide growth in membership. It quotes ex-Christians, ex-Jews, ex-Muslims, and even ex-Atheists who claim their lives were saved and they found true happiness at last when they became believers in Santa Claus. Would you still laugh like I would still laugh? Or would you now respect their religionism?

Does this seem to be a contemptuous way to discuss such a "profound" issue? It really isn't. Two examples: the Mormons and the Moonies. Do you respect either of these versions of religionism? If so, why? Merely 20 years ago the Moonies were condemned as the most dangerous cult in the U.S. Some parents hired professional deprogrammers to save their children (all teens or twentysomethings) from the "brainwashing" cult. When was the last time you read a story like that about the Moonies? That church is well on its way to achieving what the Mormons have achieved. The Mormons once were a cult as despised and feared as the Moonies. They are not that today, are they? Yet their theology and holy book are as ridiculous as any CLSC theology and holy book would be. Do you respect the Mormons and their religionism today? Would you have respected both when Joseph

Smith could have counted his congregation without getting out of the double digit numbers? Do you respect the Moonies and their religionism? If so, did you respect both 20 years ago when both were condemned as threats to truth, justice, and the American way of life and politicians thundered speeches about the need to Save Our Children from the Moonies and other despised cults?

If you don't believe a CLSC could be started and could grow to become politically and culturally important, then you haven't studied this subject enough. I mean, have you read the Book of Mormon? If not, do so, then explain why that completely absurd fairy tale did not result in Joseph Smith committing suicide to escape the unending laughter his holy book should have caused. How far would the Heaven's Gate cult have gone if it's charismatic leader had been more mentally stable than he was? Probably all the way to serious cultural and political power 100 years from now despite the complete ridiculousness of that cult's True Faith. Just look where the Church of Scientology is today compared to what it was when L. Ron Hubbard was being laughed at when he first made public his bizarre and zany beliefs. Do you respect Scientology's religionism today? Do you think I am wrong for having absolutely no respect for that version of religionism or the memes who profess to possess it?

Well, you name any version of religionism, even the benign version of the Deists (see Paine's *The Age of Reason* if you have not read it), and it is just as silly to me as the Mormons, the Moonies, Heaven's Gate, Scientology, or the latest weed sprouting today in the mire of religionism. I am not respecting any of them. I don't care if they are 2,500 years old or 2,500 days old or 2,500 hours old. I don't care if books written by their members would fill ten average U.S. public libraries or if their holy book is their only book and it only exists as ten photocopied manuscripts in three-ring binders. If there is an intrinsic difference between any of them and you know what it is, please demonstrate it to me. All I see are cosmetic differences to create the illusion of intrinsic differences. To ask me to respect any version of religionism is like asking me to respect a book about the "history" of Atlantis like I would a book about the history of Rome. It's not going to happen, and, if that offends you, there it is. *Écrasez l'infâme*

I know there are good religionists. There have always been good religionists. When human sacrifice was popular, most those religionists who thought human sacrifices were essential to successfully interact with some imaginary supernatural entity were otherwise good people who worked hard, played by the rules of their culture, did their best to raise their children properly, and stood by their friends through thick and thin. Right now in Africa there is a cultural war going on over female circumcision, which is much more horror show than male circumcision. The people who are resisting the movement to stop it are not

evil sadists even though female circumcision is sadistic. They are just ordinary people whose religionism makes them believe their imaginary supernatural entity has made female circumcision one of the rites necessary to make that entity happy and thus willing give them the good things they imagine it can give them. Nevertheless, female circumcision is horror show. Do you respect the religionism of these religionists? Would you want any woman or girl you know to be converted to this version of religionism and be circumcised even if she were as joyously eager to do it as the Heaven's Gate moms were to commit suicide?

~G. Richard Bozarth

G. Richard Bozarth (b. 3/21/49) is a veteran of the Marine Corps (8/67 8/76), Vietnam (4/69 3/70), and the American Atheist Center (12/78 7/80). He has been active as a Freethought writer since 10/77 (his first article in a Freethought publication) and as a husband since 4/79 (his second I-do). Since 8/80 his Clark Kent identity has been a blue-collar employee in the printing industry (until 11/98 in an in-house print shop for a large corporation and, following being downsized, since 4/99 in a commercial print shop specializing in forms).

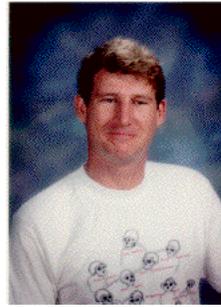
A Quote to put on your refrigerator

“What possible good did it do the world for Christ to go without food for 40 days? Why should we follow such an example? As a rule, hungry people are cross, contrary, obstinate, peevish and unpleasant. A good dinner puts a man at peace with all the world - makes him generous, good natured and happy. He feels like kissing his wife and children. The future looks bright. He wants to help the needy. The good in him predominates, and he wonders that any man was ever stingy or cruel. Your good cook is a civilizer, and without good food, well prepared, intellectual progress is simply impossible. Most of the orthodox creeds are born out of bad cooking. Bad food produced dyspepsia, and dyspepsia produced Calvinism, and Calvinism is the cancer of Christianity. Oatmeal is responsible for the worst features of Scotch Presbyterianism. Half cooked beans account for the religion of the Puritans. Lent is a mistake, fasting is a blunder, and bad cooking is a crime.”

Robert G. Ingersoll

From The Editor

Last month, I wrote what I thought was a very clever editorial on public school. When I was done, I started to close the various windows I had open. For some reason, I got confused when I was asked the question about saving or not saving. Well, anyway, my clever opinions on public



school went to where the unsaved go, wherever that is. And although Norton descended into the depths of the hard drive for what seemed like days, nothing of it could be resurrected.

This month, I thought I would say something about elections. We just had one, and I didn't vote because I plan on signing a petition to get a third party on the ballot. Rodney, Don and Howard had worked on a set of resolutions to be distributed to all precincts. Hopefully, some of them passed, as they pertain to civil liberties for atheists.

If you missed the election, don't worry, there will be others. At least for now. Of course, if we never show up to vote we will have nothing to complain about when we cease to have any semblance of democracy at all. 

~John Koonz, editor

Notes From the Board

ACA Board Meeting, March 12,2000:
Old Business:

Treasurer's report:

- Checking account balance, \$1239.58
- Building Fund Balance, \$6583.14
- Permanent Fund balance, \$5000

The board approved a proposed amendment to ACA's Constitution, subject to approval by the membership at the April 2nd meeting at Furr's. (Printed in full in this issue)

Blood Drive:

- ☑ The next Blood Drive will be April 29th, 10 am, at the Regional Blood and Tissue Center on N. Lamar.

Signs:

- ☑ Rodney reports that 2 banners are being made and should be ready within the next few weeks.

Products:

- ☐ Michelle will order the new T-shirts. John will order more pencils. There is currently \$387 in the product fund, which should be more than enough to pay for the new T-shirts.

TV:

- ☑ John will put the co-host change (Martin Wagner replacing Vic Farrow) in the newsletter.

Alliance Convention:

- Jeff has volunteered to attend the Atheist Alliance convention (and represent ACA at the Alliance board of directors meeting) if the cost is reasonable enough. He will investigate hotel and travel costs and get back to us. If he goes, Jeff has agreed to cover \$200 of the costs, while John and Don each committed to \$50 to help out. We would then "pass the hat" in an effort to cover the rest.

Annual Freethought and Thought-Free Awards:

- Ray is heading up this effort, and likes January 4th, 2001, as an auspicious date to announce the awards, as it is the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tripoli. Send nominations to Ray.

Texas Freethought Meeting:

- The board authorized John and Susan to pursue plans for a Freethought gathering in Central Texas, so long as we're all invited.

New Business:

- ☑ The board approved a motion to repay Rodney the cost of taping ACA lectures. Rodney also agrees to make sure we have permission before taping begins.
- ☑ The board approved a motion to buy our guest speaker and a guest lunch, not to exceed 2 lunches.
- The board discussed SafePlace's walk which is coming up April 16th. Ray was selected as team captain; if you wish to walk to support SafePlace, or pledge support, see Ray.

Your ACA board of directors:

Co-chairs:

Susan Brown
John Koonz

Treasurer:

Earle Beach

Secretary:

Don Rhoades

Board members:

Keith Berka
Paul Wilson
Michelle Gadush
Jim Hallamek
Arval Bohn
Ray Blevins
Vic Farrow
Jeff Dee
Janet Swisher

Announcements

- **Weekly Meetings** Sunday Mornings at Hot Jumbo Bagelry, 307 West 5th Street at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings when lectures are not scheduled at Furr's Cafeteria.
- **ACA Board meetings** are on the second Sunday of the month at 12:00. Board meetings are open to all members.
- **Guest Speakers**
 - **April:** Howard Thompson
 - **May:** Samantha Smoot of the Texas Freedom Network will be our May 7 speaker. Her working topic title is "The Religious Right in Texas," although if something more topical comes up in the next month, she may change the topic.
 - **June:** Our June 4 speaker will be Dr. Larry Brownstein of UT and the Center for Rational Living. His topic will be, "How to Communicate Rationally with Religious Family Members." Lectures are held at Furr's Cafeteria in Northcross Mall, 11:00 am on the first Sunday of the month. Susan Brown (iatris@mail.utexas.edu) is in charge of scheduling our lectures.
- The **TV committee** is always looking for volunteers on Sunday mornings. They also need donations to pay for tapes and training. ACA TV Tapes are now available for \$20.00 each and will be offered over the web soon.
- **Products** There are still t-shirts left. Our ACA t-shirts list a number of famous atheists. See Michelle Gadush (gadush@mail.utexas.edu) for more information on these and other exciting atheist products.
- **Library** The library has a new keeper! If you want to check out a book, contact Earle Beach (earleb@jumpnet.com) so he can be sure to bring it to the bagelry. If you would like to donate a book, please be sure to put your name in it so we know who to thank.
- The next **blood drive** will be on April 29th. Meet at the blood bank at 10:00AM. Ray Blevins has taken on the role of blood drive coordinator. After you donate, be sure to give him your coupon so that our account can be credited.
- **Randalls Donations** Randalls will donate a percentage of the money you spend there to the Atheist Community of Austin. To take advantage of this offer, contact the customer service department of your nearest Randalls. The ACA number is 5158.

For more information about any of these coming events, call (512) 371-2911 or e-mail iatris@mail.utexas.edu

The Atheist is printed on somewhat recycled paper!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR THE ATHEIST COMMUNITY OF AUSTIN, INC.

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Companion's name (if family or couple membership)

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone : (_____) _____ e-mail address: _____

This is to certify that I am a non-theist, that I have read the "Purpose" of the Atheist Community of Austin, Inc. as stated in the Constitution (below), and that I am in agreement with the principles stated herein. I understand that membership is open only to non-theists.

Purpose

The Atheist Community of Austin is organized as a nonprofit educational corporation to develop and support atheist community; to provide opportunities for socializing and friendship, to promote atheist viewpoints, to encourage positive atheist culture, to defend the First Amendment principle of state/church separation, to oppose discrimination against atheists, and to work with other organizations in pursuit of common goals.

This organization shall operate in an open, democratic manner, without discrimination as to gender, race, age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, nationality, or disability.

The Bylaws to this Constitution are intended to further define and explain the operating procedure of this organization. Changes may be made to the Bylaws when necessary to improve the operation of this organization. Changes to the Bylaws shall not alter the purpose of this organization as set forth in its Constitution.

Check all that apply

I wish to become a member of the Atheist Community of Austin, Inc. Membership fees are \$24.00 per year, but our membership year does not begin until the 1st of March. My prorated membership fee, at \$2.00 per month u n t i l next March, is enclosed.

- I wish to make a tax exempt donation to ACA .Please direct my donation to the following fund:
 - General Fund Building Fund Permanent Fund
- I only wish to participate in the e-mail group. My e-mail address is above. No fee is required.
- I wish to help ACA save money by receiving The Atheist by e-mail. No fee is required.
- I wish to receive a hard copy of The Atheist in the mail. \$10 is enclosed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to: Atheist Community of Austin, Inc., P.O. Box 3798, Austin, Texas 78764

Austin, TX 78764
P.O. Box 3798

