

NOSHA NEWS

Newsletter of the New Orleans Secular Humanist Association
Fall 2003

New Orleans Secular Humanist Association

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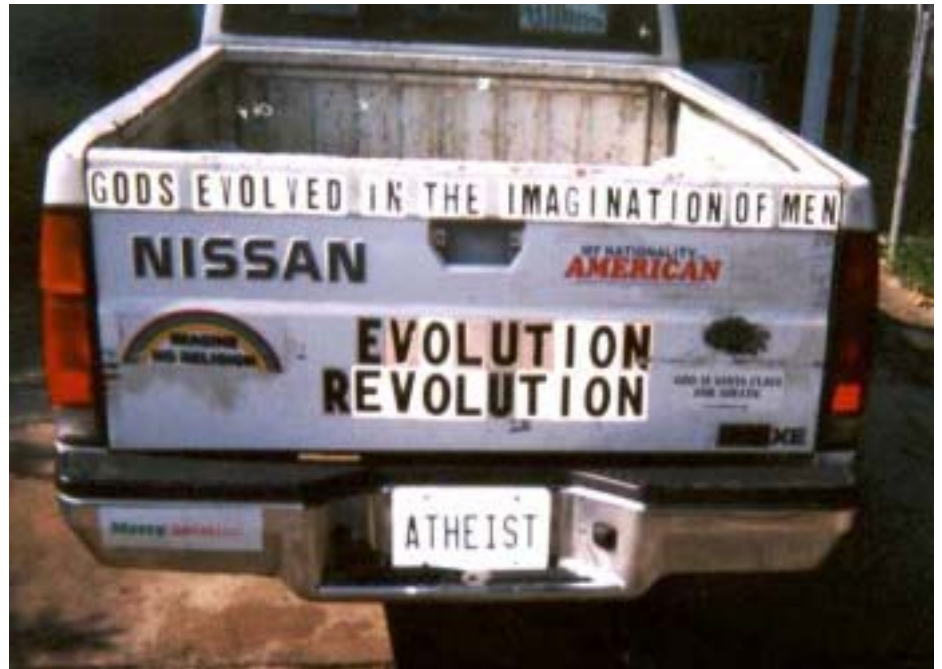
NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Council for Secular Humanism
American Humanist Association
Atheist Alliance International
American Atheists, Inc.

MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Sundays
1:30 p.m.
Smith Branch Library
6301 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans

LOUISIANA'S #1 ATHEIST



NOSHA member **Percy Prestenbach** has never been a "closet atheist" and lets everyone know just where he stands. He now has Louisiana's only "ATHEIST" vanity plate. The plate fits well with his truck's overall motif which includes many other messages including "Gods Evolved in the Imagination of Men", "Evolution Revolution", "Imagine No Religion", "God is Santa Claus for Adults", and "Merry Solstice!" The front of Percy's truck is adorned with a "Darwin Fish" plate.

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TAKING A GIANT STEP New Orleans Access TV

The NOSHA mission statement which appears in our pamphlet reads: The New Orleans Secular Humanist Association was formed to provide an opportunity for like-minded people to meet and exchange ideas and to promote awareness of Secular Humanist viewpoints in the community as an alternative to the reliance on supernatural explanations. We are now poised to commence an ambitious program to "promote Secular Humanist awareness in the community" through membership in

New Orleans Access TV. These programs can be viewed by the 134,000 subscribers to Cox Cable in New Orleans and will appear on Channel 77.

Initially, NOSHA will sponsor programs supplied by the Council for Secular Humanism, which has a library of over 200 tapes. With the new facilities and support now offered by NOA-TV we will also begin producing our own local shows, with discussion panels of our own members and guests, as well as other events. Key to the success of these shows will be our ability to widely publicize the dates and times of their airing.

A NOA-TV committee is being formed comprised of NOSHA members interested in participating in either on-air or off-air aspects of this undertaking, including selection of tapes available from CSH, choosing topics and guests for our local programs, working with NOA-TV technicians in selection of graphics, music, props, etc., and appearing on-air as a regular or occasional participant in discussion panels, working to publicize the programs, and recording some of the NOSHA meetings and events. At the September 7 NOSHA meeting, ten members signed on for the committee. Others interested in helping should contact Harry Greenberger at 282-5459.

Only a few other groups similar to ours are producing local programs for access TV. This will be a major initiative for NOSHA.

NOSHA has now been assigned a time slot on Cox New Orleans Channel 77. Beginning on October 19 our program, "The Humanist Perspective" will air every Saturday at 12:00 am and Sunday at 12:00 pm (midnight Saturday and noon Sunday). You might want to set your VCR to tape the programs.

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WAS HITLER ONE OF US?

Harry Greenberger

On my recent boat trip along the Rhine River through Germany, there were many instructional tours in the towns and cities where the boat docked, as well as some local lecturers who came aboard in the evenings. This was an opportunity for me to ask contemporary Germans a question which I have heard asked in American discourse, with divergent answers: was Adolph Hitler religious or was he an atheist? To my dismay, both the lecturers whose subject was Germany during the rise of the Third Reich, and the specialist in education in German schools answered unequivocally that Hitler was an atheist.

I have previously read that Nazi soldiers wore belt buckles bearing the inscription, "Gott mit uns" (God is with us), so I did some further Internet research where I found validation of his religiosity (or possibly, as with some U.S. politicians, his contrived public religious personage). In *Mein Kampf* he wrote, "...I am convinced that I am acting as the agent of our Creator. By fighting off the Jews, I am doing the Lord's Work." At a Nazi Christmas celebration in 1926 he is reported to have said, "Christ was the greatest early fighter in the battle against the world enemy, the Jews ... The work that Christ started but could not finish, I – Adolph Hitler – will conclude." In a speech delivered July 5, 1944, he asserted, "I may not be a light of the church, a pulpiteer, but deep down I am a pious man, and

believe that whoever fights bravely in defense of the natural laws framed by God and never capitulates will never be deserted by the Lawgiver, but will, in the end, receive the blessings of Providence." Reportedly, in 1941, Hitler told Gerhard Engel, one of his generals, "I am now as before a Catholic and will always remain so."

There is no way to know whether the two German scholars I spoke with had ever learned of Hitler's religious pronouncements, whether they knew about them but considered them merely political expediences, or whether their own religious convictions required their disavowal of Hitler as one of them. Nor do I know whether their responses would have been typical of other contemporary Germans. But whenever Secular Humanists explain that more innocent people have been killed in the name of religious than for any other cause, and the counter argument consists of naming atheists who were similar maniacal murderers, I think we can, at least, eliminate the name of Adolph Hitler from their lists.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Albert D'Orlando Lecture on Social Justice will be given this year by **Edd Doerr** on **November 15** at 5:00 pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans.

Edd Doerr is at present the Executive Director of Americans for Religious Liberty (AFRL), an organization which promotes the unique American principle of separation of church and state, and the philosophies of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison that gave birth to this tradition. The AFRL believes in the free exercise of conscience and religion and restraining persons from such exercise only when they harm others or the public welfare. They oppose any effort to place any ethnic, racial, religious, gender or age limitation on the enjoyment of rights or equal treatment.

Mr. Doerr is also the immediate past president of the American Humanist Association, a board member on the National Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and a board member on the International Humanist and Ethical Union. He is a writer, editor, publisher, lecturer, and a very informative and entertaining speaker.

Immediately following the lecture there will be a Q & A session as well as an informal reception where attendees are free to meet and visit with Mr. Doerr.

The First UU Church is located at 2903 Jefferson Avenue (at South Claiborne) in New Orleans.

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HOLIDAY DINNERS ANYONE?

A suggestion has been made that a group dinner for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas (Winter Solstice) might be of interest to NOSHA folks who do not have families here. If you would like to participate in preparation and enjoyment of such holiday get-togethers, call Harry at 282-5459 and we'll see where to go from there.

SCIENCE ACTIVISTS' SUMMIT

Barbara C. Forrest

The National Center for Science Education hosted a science activists' summit at the University of California-Berkeley from May 30-June 1, 2003. The meeting gave pro-evolution activists an opportunity to meet others engaged in the fight against creationism, most notably against the "intelligent design" movement. Attendees reflected the diversity among pro-evolution activists nationwide: scientists, housewives, private sector employees, public school science teachers, representatives of scientific organizations, and non-science academics. Virtually all geographic areas of the United States were represented, from the Pacific Northwest to the Deep South, indicating the extent to which the problem of intelligent design creationism has spread. To take advantage of the expertise of veteran anticreationists, there were breakout session leaders from states such as Kansas and Ohio, where intelligent design presented serious obstacles to the adoption of state science standards. NCSE invited two representatives from each of the state pro-science organizations such as Kansas Citizens for Science, as well as selected individuals who are active in pro-science efforts.

Several breakout sessions were devoted to different categories. One session, devoted to elected officials was led by Patricia Princehouse, a veteran of the recent Ohio anticreationist effort. This session focused on locating allies among elected officials and forming strategies for interaction. Attendees were informed of the types of public officials typically involved in creationism outbreaks and how to approach them. For example, school board members and employees of state departments of education often have very different attitudes toward creationism and must be dealt with differently. Activists, we were told, must learn how school boards work, how science standards are written, and what those standards should cover. The importance of building broad-based community alliances was stressed.

Another session, led by David Applegate of the American Geological Institute (AGI), examined the role of national organizations in aiding state and local grassroots efforts, and the kind of help available at the national level. School officials are sensitive to the involvement of "outsiders" in what they consider local matters, and activists must be careful in asking national groups for help. However, organizations such as AGI have networks of members around the country that can be quickly alerted via e-mail and electronic newsletters about outbreaks in their local areas, enabling them to assist activists in their communities.

Sessions for educators and museums and/or science centers focused on what can be offered to grassroots anticreationist efforts and on the problems and limitations associated with the involvement of teachers in such efforts.

Judy Scotchmoor of the UC-Berkeley Museum of Paleontology discussed the role of museums and science centers in educating the public about evolution. Another topic was the ways such institutions can aid in the efforts of science activists. Museums, zoos, and other educational institutions play a unique role in supplementing the efforts of schools to teach evolution, and they have often been targets of creationist complaints.

Skip Evans, NCSE network project director, led a session on communications, informing activists about the various types

of technology available to anticreationists and how it is used most effectively. The electronic media have become essential tools in fighting the efforts of creationists, who have themselves adopted such technology. Evans informed the group of the importance of electronic media to anticreationist efforts and of issues relating to their use: websites and security, access to information databases such as Lexis-Nexis, and the kinds of information such electronic media can make available to activists.

A session on Working with the Media was led by Liz Craig, the media/PR contact for Kansas Citizens for Science and a veteran of the well-known effort to restore evolution to Kansas science standards. Craig shared strategies for getting attention and for working with different kinds of media. This is often difficult for activists, who are usually not experienced in dealing with the media. Techniques for writing effective op-eds and letters to the editor were discussed. Activists also learned how to cultivate relationships with reporters, how to direct their efforts through radio, newsletters, newspapers, websites, special events, and direct mail. Target audiences were identified: voters, mainstream religious groups, legislators, local school boards, and state boards of education.

NCSE executive director Eugenie Scott led the session on initial organizing. Attendees discussed ways of locating the scientists, teachers, clergy, parents, and community members who are needed to fight creationist outbreaks. The first task is to get people together, and there are various ways to do that. For example, potential activists can be located by watching letters to the editor and contacting the writers. NCSE can also put activists in contact with local NCSE members. If local activists organize formally, they must consider a name for the group, possible incorporation, and membership-building. Once groups are formed, they must divide the labor in order to use their manpower effectively. Most importantly, they must understand their opponents, such as school boards, and their local situations. Approachable board members and opposed board members must be identified, as must their various constituencies.

NCSE's Eric Meikle, who monitors anticreationist legislation around the country and assists activists in developing strategies to counteract it, led the final session. Meikle's group discussed the common themes found in anti-evolution efforts and the most appropriate responses to such efforts. The need to reach the "man in the street" was addressed, since creationists are experts at identifying hot-button issues that appeal to scientific laymen. For example, the intelligent design movement equates evolutionary science with atheism, raising concerns among parents that science instruction will undermine their religious values.

The final day of the summit was devoted to large-group discussion and to summarizing the sessions. NCSE funded the event with grants secured from various organizations, and attendees expressed the hope that more funding will enable NCSE to host further summits.

(Barbara Forrest is a NOSHA board member and is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. She is co-editor (with Robert T. Pennock) of Intelligent Design Creationism and its Critics.)

OF INTEREST TO HUMANISTS . . .

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have at long last recognized the Humanist logo as a “legitimate emblem of belief” on military headstones. After more than two years of lobbying by the American Humanist Association and others, the federal agency responded affirmatively in June. AHA executive director Tony Hileman remarked, “The agency’s decision should serve as a reminder that there are indeed atheists, Humanists, and others without a belief in God in foxholes.”

CROSS LANES, WVA—a Powerball winner who has donated more than \$3 million of his record winnings to churches was drinking at a strip club when more than a half million dollars in cash was stolen from his SUV. The man said he hoped the incident would not affect the foundation he established to help charities operated by the Church of God and other causes. He said he was a simple businessman and made no excuses for his actions. Already a millionaire when he won a record \$315 million jackpot, he promised to donate a tenth of his winnings to charity. I guess that includes the strip club.

SAN ANTONIO—The Texas Freedom Network, which monitors the religious right, has reported that Holt, Rinehart & Winston changed a biology textbook being considered for Texas schools in an effort to cave in to religious conservatives who are pushing for “intelligent design” and other creationist theories to be taught. Reportedly, the publisher has added a passage in a biology text that tells students to “study hypotheses for the origin of life that are alternatives” to others in the book.

MILWAUKEE—An 8-year-old autistic boy was wrapped in sheets during a prayer service where he suffocated and died. The boy’s mother took him to the Faith Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith where the minister wrapped him in an attempt to ask God “to take this spirit that was tormenting this little boy to death.”

JACKSON—The Mississippi Supreme Court has held that a fetus is a “person” under state law and that wrongful death claims can be filed on its behalf. The ruling was made in a case where a woman alleged that emotional distress and a mistake caused by her doctors caused her to have a miscarriage; the fetus was 19 weeks old at the time. The 6-2 ruling expands the definition of a “person” in wrongful death statutes to include an “unborn child.”

OPELOUSAS—On Sept. 11, the police in this small Louisiana town held a simulated terrorist attack just to show citizens what it would be like. The police chief said he just “wanted regular citizens to see how hellacious a terrorist attack can be.” The simulation was complete with a man wearing Middle Eastern-style headgear saying his final prayers just before a bomb went off. The chief didn’t think the enactment would offend anyone. Probably not in Opelousas where the chance of terrorist attacks by Middle Easterners are so high!

“Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us.”
--Bill Watterson, American Cartoonist

**THE BALLAD OF CHIEF JUSTICE
 ROY MOORE
 Brannon P. Denning**

(sung to the tune of “The Ballad of Jed Clampett” and with apologies to Flatt and Scruggs)

Come ‘n listen to my story ‘bout a judge named Moore
 Had a rock so big could barely fit it through th’ door
 Had it installed in the middle of the night
 Swore he’d never move it, not without a fight
 Rock that is! Ten Commandments! Word of God!

Well the first thing you know there’s trouble in the air
 Federal courts say, “Roy, move it out of there!” Said
 “Yonder in your office if the place it ought to be!”
 That brought out all the faithful down to Montgomery
 Alan Keyes that is! Jerry Falwell! Operation Rescue!

Judge Roy Moore said his rock was stain’ put
 Said Judge Thompson could come and kiss his foot
 Then Roy’s eight colleagues hollered “Not so very fast!” and
 Signed their own court order to save the state some cash
 Fines that is! Injunctive relief! Contempt of court!

Well now it’s time to say goodbye to Moore’s big work of art
 But you’d better be believin’ this’ll only be a start
 You’re all invited back real soon down to Montgomery
 To have a heapin’ helpin’ of his demagoguery
 2006 Y’all! Moore for Governor! Send contributions!

He’ll be back y’all, hear!

(Brannon P. Denning is Associate Professor of Law at the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, located in Birmingham, Alabama) - Thanks to Larry Darby of Alabama Atheists for sharing this little ditty with us.

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The following is excerpted from George Will’s column of 08/18/03 entitled “Freedom: It’s not for everyone”:

British Prime Minister Tony Blair in last month’s address to a rapturous Congress:

“Ours are not Western values, they are the universal values of the human spirit. And anywhere, anytime ordinary people are given the chance to choose, the choice is the same: freedom, not tyranny; democracy, not dictatorship; the rule of law, not the rule of the secret police.”

. . . Does Blair believe that our attachment to freedom is not the product of complex and protracted acculturation by institutions and social mores that have evolved over centuries that prepared the social ground for seeds of democracy? When Blair says freedom as we understand it, and democracy and the rule of law as we administer them are the “universal values of the human spirit,” he is not speaking as America’s Founders spoke of “self-evident” truths. They meant truths obvious to all minds unclouded by superstition and other ignorance.

NOSHA MEMBERS' LETTERS

The following letter by **Anna Pleasonton** appeared in the *Times-Picayune* on September 12, 2003:

Issuing vouchers to 1,000 to 2,000 students among the probably 50,000 students attending failing schools is not the answer.

At \$7,500 per student, 1,200 students would cost the government about \$8.5 million. There may not be sufficient spaces for even 1,200 in "good" schools, whether public, private or parochial. Only a small percentage of the students in underperforming schools would benefit from the vouchers.

Why not give an equal sum to the failing schools to hire additional teachers and reduce class size? Ten million dollars would allow 200 teachers to be hired and 200 classes to be halved, allowing students in 400 classes the luxury of the smaller classes found in good private schools.

Few students would benefit from vouchers. On the other hand, a majority of students in poor schools would benefit if similar amounts of capital were dedicated to significantly reducing class size.

What is missing is the true will to improve education for all children.

The following article, based on an interview with NOSHA board member **Barbara Forrest**, appeared in the *Hammond Daily Star* on September 11, 2003. It was written by Staff Writer, Fred Batiste.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the civil liberties of a few people or groups have been affected, but professor Barbara Forrest said the USA Patriot Act has the potential to affect anyone in the United States. Depriving people of due process is a major concern, involving the Fourth and First Amendments, she said.

Section 215 of the Patriot allows the Federal Bureau of Investigation to order any person or entity to turn over any tangible things so long as the FBI specifies that the order is for an authorized investigation to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities.

Forrest compared the passage of the Patriot Act to other historical policies and legislation. The rounding up and placing of Japanese-Americans in internment camps after the Pearl Harbor attack of 1941 is an example of policies adopted in response to fear, Forrest said. Other examples are the FBI secretly collecting information on civil rights movement leaders during the 1950s and 1960s and former President Richard Nixon using the FBI and Central Intelligence Agency to collect personal information on political threats.

"The difficult question to ask is where is the proper balance between freedom and security," she said. "I think the Patriot Act shows when people are scared, they tend to forget the lessons of history." Bush administration officials were very secretive before 09/11 and they have become more obsessed with secrecy since the attacks, Forrest said. That

obsession with secrecy has pushed not only liberals, but also conservatives to respond in protest.

Former U.S. Rep. Robert Barr, who now works on privacy issues with the American Conservative Union, is cooperating with the American Civil Liberties Union in regard to personal privacy, Forrest said. "This is a nonpartisan concern," she said. "Anybody who is worried about the freedoms afforded by the Constitution should be worried."

"The impact of the Patriot Act will depend on who is enforcing it," she said. "Citizens trust the government to enforce the Patriot Act correctly," said Forrest, "but if an unscrupulous administration begins to enforce it, then they will be at the mercy of how that government administers it. The government, even after the security threat is eliminated, could use it for any other reason that they want," she said.

"Another problem with the Patriot Act," Forrest said, is that it created a tone and the impression that criticizing the Patriot Act or the government is not patriotic."

She recalled instances during the past 18 to 24 months of people not being allowed to buy airline tickets and eventually learning they had been under surveillance years after protesting in rallies before 09/11. Under the Patriot Act, libraries can give authorities reading information and are prohibited from telling citizens why they are doing so. "The government does not need probable cause. That's a violation of the Constitution," she said.

"The Constitution exists to protect all citizens," she said.

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We now have NOSHA T-shirts lettered as above in white on navy blue. To order one for \$10, e-mail or call Harry, with size preferred: hpgreenx@aol.com or 282-5459.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 19 – Regular Meeting – Dr. Thomas A. Smith, Associate Dean, College of A & S, Loyola University – “The Fundamentalist Impulse”

Nov. 2 – Regular Meeting – Monique Hardin with Advocates for Environmental Human Rights will tell us about the activities of her organization.

Nov. 15 – Albert D’Orlando Lecture of Social Justice speaker Edd Doerr of Americans for Religious Liberty, 5:00 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 2903 Jefferson Ave.

Nov. 16 – NOSHA Meeting Cancelled

Dec. 7 – Topic to be announced

December 21 – Winter Solstice Celebration

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WHAT NOSHA HAS BEEN DOING

At the July 20 NOSHA meeting, member **Bob Sylvia** compared the writings of H. P. Lovecraft and Clifford D. Simak in a talk entitled “Nightmares and Dreams: Tales of Nihilism and Humanism.”

On August 3, member **Ray Bartlett**, a former history teacher spoke on “Origins of the First Amendment with Special Emphasis on the ‘Freedom of Religion’ Section.” A lively discussion ensued about our “Godless Constitution” and about recent efforts to subjugate that godlessness (i.e. Senator Mary Landrieu’s proposed constitutional amendment which states in part that “a reference to God in the Pledge or on currency shall not be construed as affecting the establishment of religion . . .”

NOSHA celebrated our fourth anniversary at the meeting of August 17, with our own vice president, **Dave Schultz** giving a long overdue talk on “Some Little-appreciated Facts about Organic Evolution.” For example, the earth formed about 4.6 billion years ago, it took another 1.1 billion years before single celled organisms appeared, and another half billion years before organisms became multicellular. The first land animals and plants appeared only 400 million years ago.

With the recent Supreme Court decision striking down the Texas anti-sodomy law, and Canada’s recognition of same-sex unions, **Mark Gonzales**, an attorney who handles many legal issues for same-sex couples spoke at the September 7 meeting on the topic of “Same Sex Marriage.” It is his own opinion that recognition of domestic partnerships/civil unions is preferable to marriage.

We were all honored on September 21 first to view the video of **Paul Kurtz** explaining secular humanism and then a live telephone conference with Mr. Kurtz. Thank you, Paul, for all you have done for secular humanism in the United States, and for sharing your time with us!

At the meeting of October 5, our speaker was **Russell Patterson**, a regional organizer of United for a Fair Economy and Fair Taxes for All.

Finally, on Friday, October 10, another stimulating potluck-movie night was enjoyed. After much delicious food and interesting conversation, we watched the Michael Moore Oscar-winning documentary, “Bowling for Columbine.” A lively conversation followed involving the main question posed by the movie: Why are we such a violent society in the U.S. when the rest of the industrialized world, including our neighbor to the north, Canada, are not?

Special thanks to our special guests, to all members who volunteered to speak, to **Sally Mooney** for organizing the movie night, and to **Harry Greenberger** for arranging guest speakers and our phone visit with Paul Kurtz.

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THE NOSHA LIBRARY

In the Summer 2003 newsletter we listed all the items available in the NOSHA library. The following is a blurb from the latest addition to our volumes. Thanks to **Langston Goldfinch** for his donation.

The Godless Constitution: The Case Against Religious Correctness (by Isaac Kramnick and R. Laurence Moore is an urgent and timely reexamination of the roots of church-state separation in American politics—and a ringing refutation of the misguided claims of the religious right.

No issue has roiled American politics more than the attempt in recent years by the Christian Coalition to dismantle the wall between church and state erected by the framers of the Constitution—to inject religious issues into the secular business of democratic governance. Extravagant (and utterly mistaken) claims have been made that America was founded as a Christian nation and that we need to return to that condition. In this important polemic two distinguished scholar of American political ideas and religion refute this dangerous attempt to introduce what they term “religious correctness” into our politics, by reminding us that the absence of any mention of God in the Constitution was a conscious action on the framers’ part, intended to prevent the bloody religious controversies that so marked European history. They also emphasize that church-state separation was seen as a *guarantee of*—not a hindrance to—religious liberty.

Since we have no permanent home for our library, we have a librarian, **Doug Hinton**, who maintains the collection at his home. If you would like to borrow this or any other item as listed in the Summer 2003 newsletter, you should contact Doug prior to the next NOSHA meeting and ask him to bring it, or ask him to send it to you. You may reach Doug at Hintondougk@aol.com, or you may call Harry Greenberger at 282-5459 with your request.

“You never see animals going through the absurd and often horrible fooleries of magic and religion. Only man behaves with such gratuitous folly. It is the price he has to pay for being intelligent but not, as yet, intelligent enough.”

– Aldous Huxley, 19th century British author

YEAR 2004 DUES AND NEWSLETTER COSTS

It is the time of year to remind everyone on our mailing lists that dues paid now through the end of this year will be treated as payment for the calendar year 2004. Again, we are providing the opportunity for current members to bringing a new member with dues for both included in a single \$15 payment. If you do not have someone to “sponsor,” you might ask others at our meetings whether they are now members and, if not, whether they would like to come in under your aegis.

Because of costs involved in preparing and mailing our quarterly newsletters, a new policy has been set by the Board of Directors. We prefer that dues-paid members advise us of their willingness to receive the newsletter via the Internet, but those who still would like the printed copies will receive them. For those on our mailing list who have not paid dues, the Newsletter will be sent to them via the Internet if they have E-mail addresses, but others who would like to receive the newsletter by mail, we will not have an annual “Newsletter” charge of \$4.00 payable to NOSHA. Meeting notices will continued to be mailed to all that have no e-mail address.

We invite everyone to show your support of our mission by mailing in the membership application printed below.

New Orleans Secular Humanist Association (NOSHA) was formed to provide an opportunity for like-minded people to meet and exchange ideas and to promote awareness of secular humanist viewpoints in the community. We are committed to the application of reason and science to the understanding of the universe and to the solving of human problems. We reject efforts to explain the world in supernatural terms and to look outside nature for salvation. We strive to make the public aware of the importance of the separation of church and state, to oppose the teaching of creationism and other religious doctrines in the public schools, and to provide a voice of reason when superstition is presented in the media. We believe in enjoying life here and now, and in cultivating moral excellence. We believe in the fullest realization of the best and noblest we are capable of as human beings.

To become a friend of THE NEW ORLEANS SECULAR HUMANIST ASSOCIATION, complete, clip, and mail in the following form:

Check one: New Member Renewing Member Mailing list only Newsletter by mail

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone and/or e-mail: _____

Effective 01/01/2003 annual dues will be \$15.00. A renewing member can bring in a new member, two for one -- \$15 for two when one is new. Mail to Connie Gordon, 2509 Giuffrias Ave., Apt. 603, Metairie, LA 70001.

Please send \$4.00 if you are a non-member and would like to receive the newsletter by regular mail.