

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

March, 2010

This month we celebrate our Darwin Day celebration and our 5th Annual Dumbth Award (pretty good party – see page 5). Of course we consider “Acts of God” in Haiti, but offer opinions, too, on homeopathic nonsense and cell phone paranoia, as well as on secular spirituality and life’s real and imagined mysteries. We detour to near and far-flung idiocies, welcome the secular Vatican to the community of freethought, and offer birthday wishes to an often overlooked Founding Father. – JR

JAMES MADISON

MARCH 16, 1751 – JUNE 28, 1836

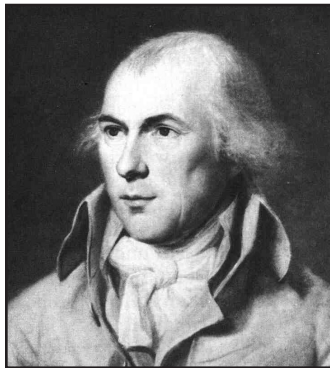
John Rafferty

“And I have no doubt that every new example will succeed, as every past one has done, in shewing that religion & Govt will both exist in greater purity, the less they are mixed together.”

In New York City he has given his name to a high school and any number of retail stores, to an Avenue, a Park and even a succession of Square Gardens.

Far more important, Founding Father James Madison was the fourth President of the United States (1809-1817), the principal author of the Constitution and its fiercest defender as the author of more than a third of the Federalist Papers. Perhaps most important of all to rationalists, humanists and democrats (small d), he was the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, on which the first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, were based, and the co-author, with Jefferson, of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, the basis for the Constitution’s First Amendment.

“Not accidentally,” Christopher Hitchens wrote last December in “In Defense of Foxhole Atheists,” in *Vanity Fair*, “the first clause of our Bill of Rights, this amendment unambiguously forbids any ‘establishment of religion’ in or by these United States. In his ‘Detached Memoranda,’ not published until after his death, Madison even wrote that the appointment of chaplains in the armed forces, and indeed in Congress, was ‘inconsistent with the Constitution, and with the pure principles of religious freedom.’”



In fact, President Madison did veto legislation authorizing congressional chaplains, but Congress overrode him. Madison was no atheist, but became more of a Deist as he matured, and a Unitarian through his friendship with John and Abigail Adams. While today’s revisionists loudly proclaim Madison’s Christian faith and practice in his youth, they ignore the fact that Madison came home to Virginia from the College of New Jersey as an orthodox Christian but almost immediately, David Holmes says in *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers*, “witnessed the persecution and jailing of religious dissenters [Baptists] by the established [Anglican] church – his church.”

At the age of twenty-two, Madison became a convert to religious freedom, believing and arguing that only liberty of conscience could guarantee civil and political liberty. And in 1785 he wrote the “Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments,” which advanced fifteen arguments why government should not support religion. Tell us, Mr. President, what you really think of established religion:

“Experience witnesseth that ecclesiastical establishments, instead of maintaining the purity and efficacy of Religion, have had a contray operation. During almost fifteen centuries has the legal establishment of Christianity been on trial. What have been its fruits? More or less in all places, pride and indolence in the Clergy, ignorance and servility in the laity, in both, superstition, bigotry and persecution.”

– James Madison, addressing the Virginia General Assembly, June 20, 1785

Happy Birthday, Jemmy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: John Rafferty, *President/Editor*; Elaine Lynn, *Vice President/Secretary*; Donna Marxer, *Treasurer*; Remo Cosentino; Arthur Harris; Lee Loshak; Irv Millman; Robert A. Murtha, Jr.

SHSNY, P.O. Box 7661, F.D.R. Station, New York, NY 10150-7661 / 212-308-2165 / www.shsny.org

Individual membership \$40 per year; Family membership \$65; Subscription only \$30.

Articles published in PIQUE are archived in <http://www.shsny.org>. They may be reprinted, in full or in part, in other newsletters. The URL (<http://www.shsny.org>) should be referenced.

SHSNY is a member of the Alliance of Secular Humanist Societies.

RE SWISS MINARETS AND MUSLIM IMMIGRANTS

Robert A. Murtha, Jr.

I have read January PIQUE with considerable interest. With regard to the Swiss Question, I'm going to go with Herb Silverman. I don't expect much by way of progress and tolerance in Muslim theocracies or in Muslim countries where the Mullahs and Ayatollahs dictate what is permissible in public discourse. I do, however, expect better from us, the British, the Germans, the French and even the Swiss.

As to the question of Muslim immigrants, I can't imagine where Art Harris got his statistics about immigration quotas (*Art Harris: "Return of the Nativist," PIQUE, January, 2010*). There are no quotas by country or region except that most of the (few) diversity visas go to Europeans and Africans. Art is wrong to imagine that Muslims who migrate to the United States are in any substantive way different from their predecessors. They are here because they believe that they, and especially their children, will lead better, freer, safer and more affluent lives here than they would otherwise in their home countries. They are also quick to assimilate into the American mainstream, although the more religious among them often choose to live in or near Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods because they like the lifestyle.

Art is also wrong to imagine that there is a link between immigration and terrorism. There simply is none. The 9/11 perpetrators, mostly Saudi Arabs, were not immigrants. There were, however, more than a few Muslim immigrants among their victims. The second most deadly terrorist attack against the U.S. was carried out by Timothy McVeigh, a white, Christian American. It can also be noted that although McVeigh was a Gulf War veteran, no one has yet suggested that white, Christian, Gulf War veterans be subject to special scrutiny when traveling. Nor are they deemed suspicious when approaching or entering federal buildings. So should ordinary Muslims be treated as terrorists? They were not witnessed dancing in the streets of Paterson or Detroit celebrating the destruction of the Twin Towers. This is a malicious lie that Art Harris should be ashamed to repeat. American Muslims were mortified to learn that those responsible were Muslims and swiftly condemned the attacks. Many came forward to assist those affected.

Sadly, Art's reaction is well within the repeating pattern in U.S. history of rounding up innocent immigrants during times of crisis. The list is long: the Palmer raids, the deportation of Russian Jews in 1919 during the first Red Scare, the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, as well as the harassment and internment of German-Americans and Italian-Americans during World Wars I and II. We can do better than that.

Ed: Mr. Murtha is an attorney specializing in immigration law. Like Mr. Harris, he is a member of the SHSNY Board.

I believe I have no prejudices whatsoever. All I need to know is that a man is a member of the human race. That's bad enough for me. — Mark Twain

WHY THE TRIAL SHOULD BE IN CRIMINAL COURT IN NEW YORK CITY

Andrew Sullivan

(From "How To Talk To A Jihadist," 2/3/10 on Andrewsullivantheatlantic.com/the_daily_dish)

Editor's note: I know the question is moot now that our mayor has said he doesn't want the trial of the "Underwear Bomber" held here, but I think Mr. Sullivan's argument is worth repeating anyway. — JR

Watching senators and pundits huff and puff about Mirandizing terrorists when they should apparently be declared enemy combatants and tortured at length is a depressing spectacle. To see political leaders in the West have such a low view of the American judicial system and such an elevated view of the world-historical significance of these pathetic, twisted, religious nutjobs ... well, they look like a bunch of scaredy cats to me. What the hell happened to "Live Free Or Die?" What happened to the confidence of a society that its ancient traditions are perfectly capable, indeed precisely tailored, to cut down to size these narcissistic, fundamentalist celebrity-seekers?

Which reminds me. One of the high points in the West's defense against these losers was the trial of one Richard Reid, an unspeakably ugly and deeply stupid Brit whom Dick Cheney decided should — *gasp* — be treated as a terrorist under the criminal law in the months after 9/11. Not an enemy combatant to be flown to Gitmo and tortured. A terrorist brought to justice in the light of day. Eight years later, Cheneyites are drumming up panic that Obama would do exactly the same thing for exactly the same reasons. But that they have lost it is no reason for the rest of us to lose ours.

My view is that trying Mr Undie Bomber is the truly tough guy option — to stand by our traditions against his pretensions. Few people put the case better than the judge in the Reid case, one William Young. Listen to him again. Remember what American values truly are — not the pathetic reduction to torture or cockamamie theories of presidential super-powers. Just the West's principles and values, our strongest weapons and our only hope:

"We are not afraid of any of your terrorist co-conspirators, Mr. Reid. We are Americans. We have been through the fire before.

"There is all too much war talk here. And I say that to everyone with the utmost respect. Here in this court where we deal with individuals as individuals, and care for individuals as individuals, as human beings we reach out for justice.

"You are not an enemy combatant. You are a terrorist. You are not a soldier in any war. You are a terrorist. To give you that reference, to call you a soldier gives you far too much stature.

"Whether it is the officers of government who do it or your attorney who does it, or that happens to be your view, you are a terrorist. And we do not negotiate

with terrorists. We do not treat with or sign documents with terrorists. We hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

“So war talk is way out of line in this court. You’re a big fellow. But you’re not that big. You’re no warrior. I know warriors. You are a terrorist. A species of criminal guilty of multiple attempted murders. In a very real sense, Trooper Santia-go had it right when first you were taken off that plane and into custody and you wondered where the press and the TV crews were and he said you’re no big deal.

“You’re no big deal.

“It seems to me you hate the one thing that to us is most precious. You hate our freedom. Our individual freedom to live as we choose, to come and go as we choose, to believe or not believe as we individually choose. Here, in this society, the very winds carry freedom. They carry it everywhere from sea to shining sea. It is because we prize individual freedom so much that you are here in this beautiful courtroom. So that everyone can see, truly see that justice is administered fairly, individually, and discretely. It is for freedom’s sake that your lawyers are striving so vigorously on your behalf and have filed appeals, will go on in their representation of you before other judges. We care about it. Because we all know that the way we treat you, Mr. Reid, is the measure of our own liberties.

“Make no mistake, though. It is yet true that we will bear any burden; pay any price, to preserve our freedoms. Look around this courtroom. Mark it well. The world is not going to long remember what you or I say here. Day after tomorrow it will be forgotten. But this, however, will long endure. Here, in this courtroom, the American people will gather to see that individual justice, justice, not war, individual justice is in fact being done.

“The very President of the United States through his officers will have to come into courtrooms and lay out evidence on which specific matters can be judged, and juries of citizens will gather to sit and judge that evidence democratically, to mold and shape and refine our sense of justice.

“See that flag, Mr. Reid? That’s the flag of the United States of America. That flag will fly there long after this is all forgotten. That flag still stands for freedom. You know it always will.

“Custody, Mr. Officer. Stand him down.”

How far we’ve come. But how deep and strong the inheritance we can still reclaim.

The most important single political act of the 21st century so far — the terrorist attacks of September 11 — was an act of religious war. — *Adrian Wooldridge and John Micklethwait in their book God is Back*)

PROTESTORS TAKE MASS HOMEOPATHY OVERDOSE, GET SUGAR RUSH

(Reprinted from the UK-based madamruth blog on opensalon.com, 2/1/10)

At 10:23 a.m. on Saturday, January 30, alternative medicine and science went to war. Their weapon? A pill. For one side, the pill was a potent remedy. For the other side, the pill was just sugar wrapped in superstition. To prove it, nearly 400 skeptics gathered across the world and took a mass overdose of a homeopathic remedy prescribed for sleep.

The overdose, organized by Britain’s Merseyside Skeptics, was a protest against the sale of homeopathic pills in the [UK] pharmaceutical chain Boots. The Skeptics claim that Boots is profiting from a treatment known to be useless.

Homeopathy is a hot topic in Britain, whose National Health Service (NHS) is increasingly relying on the advice of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE, which evaluates medical treatments, controversially ruled that a liver cancer drug widely used in Europe didn’t offer enough benefits for the cost. So at the same time the NHS was denying a drug to seriously ill patients, it has been spending up to £4 million a year on homeopathy.

Homeopathy isn’t any old alternative therapy – it’s the most scientifically studied alternative medicine in history. And what those studies have discovered is that homeopathy doesn’t work – at all.

Homeopathy claims to work on the principle of “like cures like.” Its founder, the German doctor Samuel Hahnemann, devised homeopathy after he ate some cinchona bark, a cure for malaria. The bark gave him shakes and a fever – the symptoms of malaria itself – so he decided a tiny amount of something that mimicked the illness could cure it.

But Hahnemann went further, claiming that the more dilute the solution, the more powerful its effects. Today, homeopathic solutions contain none of the original substance – what patients are being dosed with is a simple sugar pill, or plain water. Homeopaths have come up with a range of theories on how water can acquire magical healing properties, but none stand up to scrutiny. At least the British Society of Homeopaths is honest enough to admit that “Specifically it can not yet be explained how it works.”

Homeopathy had fallen in and out of fashion in the past 200 years, until a French researcher called Jacques Benveniste published a 1988 paper in *Nature*. Benveniste was an immunologist whose work on the effect of a very dilute substance on blasophils seemed to support homeopathy. *Nature* accepted his paper on the condition that his work be replicated – but the team *Nature* sent included the American magician and skeptic, James Randi.

The results couldn’t be replicated, but many scientists felt Benveniste had been badly treated. Throughout the early 1990s, a number of researchers tested homeopathy – sometimes with promising results.

By the mid 1990s however, the evidence had become overwhelming – homeopathy didn't work. A 2005 *Lancet* article reviewed the medical literature and declared homeopathy's effect was negligible. But homeopathy didn't go away. Today, the Brits spend £40 million a year on sugar pills, while the French and Germans between them spend ten times that amount.

Not only that, but the love of homeopathy seems to be getting stronger. When the UK papers reported the Merseyside Skeptics protest, their comments boards lit up with scorn. To take the objections one by one:

Homeopathy has effected miraculous cures.

As the saying goes, the plural of anecdote is not data. The many miraculous cures can be explained by the placebo effect. Unfortunately, mentioning the "placebo effect" seems to inflame the debate, as though being susceptible to it is the same thing as being weak minded. In fact the placebo effect is not just a powerful and near-miraculous response from the body, it's getting stronger – so we can expect homeopathic "cures" to seem even more effective in the future.

Homeopathy works on animals – who aren't susceptible to the placebo effect.

The studies that apparently support the veterinary use of homeopathy have all been debunked. So concerned were a group of vets about the rise in homeopathy that they set up the satirical British Veterinary Voodoo Society.

Doctors use homeopathy.

Doctors can be just as impressed by the apparently miraculous placebo effect as anyone else. They may also be knowingly using it for the placebo effect.

Opposition to homeopathy is organized by Big Pharma.

How's this for a question – who makes all those homeopathy pills? Who has the machines for turning out millions of pills in sterile conditions? Very big businesses, that's who.

Conventional medicine has killed thousands of people. Modern drugs are often toxic, or wrongly prescribed.

True. That doesn't mean that homeopathy works. In fact, every drug in the world could cause spontaneous combustion – and homeopathy still wouldn't work. That argument is what's known as a non sequitur.

Herbalism, acupuncture and other alternative remedies have been proven effective.

Herbs definitely have active ingredients. But homeopathy isn't herbalism and it doesn't work. See non sequitur.

Homeopathy can't be tested by scientific methods.

Which means it's voodoo.

But at least homeopathy doesn't do harm.

Oh, yes it does. Lots of harm. How about when homeopaths prescribe sugar pills in place of malaria immunizations? Or when a homeopath kills his child?

Maybe scientists just aren't advanced enough to understand it yet.

Or maybe they understand it perfectly, and it's bollocks. So what happened to the hundreds of skeptics who took an

overdose of homeopathic medicine? Nothing. None fell asleep and none died. Some, however, admitted to enjoying the sugar rush and at least one has twittered that she's been fancying a sweet or two ever since.

JESUS, MO & MOSES DEBATE HOMEOPATHY

(From jesusandmo.net, 2/23/2010)

Jesus (at computer, e-mailing): It is true that some badly designed tests have shown that homeopathy has a slight effect, but meta-studies show that as the tests become more stringent, the effect disappears. What does that tell you, Moses?

Moses (at computer, replying): It tells me that stringent test conditions impede the mechanism by which homeopathy works, thereby rendering the test invalid.

Jesus: A government committee has looked at the evidence and agrees that it works no better than a placebo.

Moses: The existence of such a committee shows how terrified Big Pharma is of the competition. Which makes me even more convinced that homeopathy works.

Jesus (to Mohammed): There's no getting through to him.

Mo: He's arguing like a religious fanatic.

CELL PHONES ARE FOUND TO EMIT NONSENSE

Robert Park

(Excerpted from "What's New" in Fig Leaves, newsletter of the Free Inquiry Group, January, 2010)

Fact: Cell phone radiation doesn't cause cancer. Cancer agents break chemical bonds, creating mutant strands of DNA. Microwave photons cannot break chemical bonds. This is not debatable.

In 1989, Paul Brodeur claimed in a series of sensational articles that electromagnetic fields from power lines cause childhood leukemia. When virtually every scientist agreed that it was impossible, Brodeur took their unanimity as proof of a massive cover-up. Other science know-nothings followed his lead, shifting their attack to cell phone radiation. Cell phones have since spread to almost the entire population, but with no corresponding increase in brain cancer. Case closed.

In Maine, State Rep. Andrea Boland (D) is pushing to require cell phone makers to put warnings on packaging like those on cigarettes. The bill is considered "emergency legislation" because there are 900,000 cell phones in the state. Rep. Bolden's concern was based on a 2006 study in Sweden showing a correlation between brain tumors and heavy cell phone use. However, a Danish study found that the rates of brain cancer in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden remained stable from 1974 to 2003. If the effect is real, the frequency of brain cancers would have turned up sharply in 2000.

An estimated 277 million people use cell phones in the U.S.* I doubt if such a warning label would reduce that number significantly.

And science, it seems, is something to be negotiated.

***Ed:** Not me. I like being out of touch occasionally. – JR

WE CELEBRATE DARWIN DAY, OUR 22ND ANNIVERSARY, AND POPE BENEDICT XVI

On February 3, sixty-six members and friends of SHSNY joined in our annual celebration of Darwin Day (February 12) and our own SHSNY anniversary (January 14) – this time at Red Egg restaurant downtown – for camaraderie, conversation, Darwin-inspired entertainment, and a bountiful ten-course Chinese feast.

In a great turnout for a freezing February night (*Note: next year a place with coat-check facilities, please*) we gathered from all over the metro area, warmed up on pre-dinner drinks, settled in for the feast, and then turned our attention to guest speaker/entertainer and Darwin scholar Richard Milner, who roused the crowd with his very first song, a la Gilbert & Sullivan: “*I Am the Very Model of a Modern Anthropologist*.” Troupier that he is, Richard never missed a beat as dish-bearing waiters walked back, forth and around him (one even danced to his music) while he performed. Thank you, Richard.

The Fifth Annual SHSNY Dumbth Award

So, who won the not-so-coveted horse’s ass trophy? Extra bal-

lots for SHSNY’s 2009 Dumbth Award election were distributed, and the totals added to the numbers collected via e-mail all through January. And now it can be told – that from the very first it was clear who the “winner” would be. Joseph Ratzinger, aka Pope Benedict XVI, amassed 56 votes for his clueless opinion that the distribution of condoms would only make the problem of AIDS in Africa worse. (It is suspected that some voters may have had additional issues with His Holiness.)

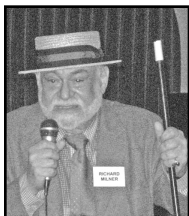
Glenn (“Believe in something, even if it’s wrong”) Beck placed second with 42 votes, and ex-Bush Press Secretary Dana (“We did not have a terrorist attack on our country during President Bush’s term”) came in third with 20. Michele (“We’re running out of rich people”) Bachman, Joe the Plumber (who thinks the 18th century Founding Fathers disapproved of 19th century socialism), and Senator John (guns would make Central Park safer) Thune trailed the field. Better luck next time, guys. And everyone watch Bachman this year – she’s a comer, a natural Dumbth.

The editors of PIQUE hope to have an acceptance statement from the Pope in time for the April 1 issue.

66 FOR DINNER

Steven Ali
Rory Allweiss
Jay Appleman
Maria Astifidis
Doug Barnaby
Karin Barnaby
Giddian Beer
Roz Boyd
Alexandra Callner
Frank Ciulla
Remo Cosentino
R.J. Cote
Robert Crothers
Henry Eiser
Susan Ferguson
Edith Finell
Alvin Golub
Mary Ellen Goodman
Harry Graber
Jay Gumbiner
Art Harris
Ed Henrion
Marilyn Henrion
Andrew Iocco
Tunc Iyriboz
Ria Katz
Diane Keefe
Elaine Kudo

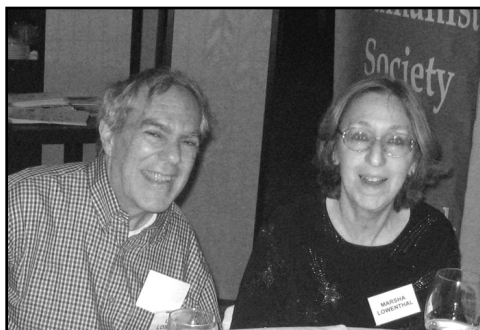
John Levin
Barbara Lifton
Julie Lipp
Lee Loshak
Marsha Lowenthal



Elaine Lynn
Donna Marxer
Lynne Mayocole
Kevin McKenzie
Debra Miller



George Miller
Robert Miller
Samuel Milligan
Irv Millman
Richard Milner
Carlos Mora
Bob Morgan
Gail Morse
Robert Murtha
Sylvia Murtha
Margo Myer
Massimo Pigliucci
John Rafferty
Richard Rapaport
Bill Reed
Martine Reed
Ethel Romm
Brandon Root
Lori Rothman
Delores Rubin
Caroline Rubinstein
Rich Sander
Deborah Shapiro
Roger Sorrentino
Harvey Wachtel
Mike Weiss
Sam Wiener
Phillip Winegar



SHSNY BOOK CLUB: MARCH - MAY 2010

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**The SHSNY Book Club meets at
The Muhlenberg Branch Library
209 West 23 Street (at 7th Ave.)**

to discuss

THIS WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING:

Ideas That Will Shape the Future

Edited by John Brockman

Brockman and his edge.com collaborators offer up 136 answers to the question: "What game-changing scientific ideas and developments do you expect to live to see?"

Milan architect Stefano Boeri responds with a single sentence: "Discovering that someone from the future has already come to visit us." J. Craig Venter believes his laboratory will use "digitized genetic information" to direct organisms in creating biofuels and recycling carbon dioxide.

Several topics are recurrent: both Robert Shapiro and Douglas Rushikoff consider discovering a "Separate Origin for Life," a terrestrial unicellular organism that doesn't belong to our tree of life; Leo M. Chalupa and Alison Gopnik both consider the possibility of resetting the adult brain's plasticity — its capacity for learning — to childhood levels. Futurologist Juan Enriquez believes that reengineering body parts and the brain will lead to "human speciation" unseen for hundreds of thousands of years, while Richard Dawkins suggests that reverse-engineering evolution could create a highly illuminating "continuum between every species and every other." Full of ideas, *This Will* ... will offer you dozens of ingenious ways to think about progress.

***Join us even if you haven't finished reading.
The SHSNY Book Club is open to all ... and free!***

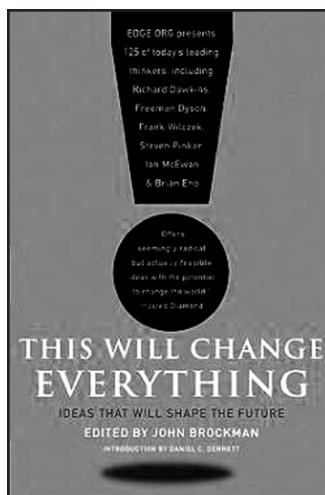
Every SHSNY Book Club is a Book Swap, too.

Bring the books gathering dust on your shelves and take your pick of other readers' castaways.

The leftovers? Donated to the Library.

What book(s) would you like to read and discuss?

Anyone can suggest any book that would be of interest to our secular humanist readers, and everyone's opinion is valued. Final choices are made by our Book Club Editor, Elaine Lynn, but please email your suggestions to editor@shsn.org



Tuesday, April 27,

6:30-8:00 p.m.

**at the Muhlenberg Library
36 ARGUMENTS FOR THE
EXISTENCE OF GOD:**

A Work of Fiction

Rebecca Newberger Goldstein

From Austin Dacey's review in *Free Inquiry*: "Her marvelous new novel, witty, wise, cativating and sumptuous ... is about many things — atheism, religion, mathematics, academia, the life of the mind, and the blessings and duties of genius. Throughout, it is about the subjective and the objective; about what it is like and what it is, and what it is like to live and believe somewhere in between. ...

"I won't give away ... this expertly paced story line ... gripping intellectual suspense. I will simply urge atheists and believers alike to experience this wonderful book."

Thursday, May 20

6:30-8:00 p.m.

**at the Muhlenberg Library
IN GODS WE TRUST:**

***The Evolutionary Landscape
of Religion*
Scott Atran**

"How, Atran asks, is it that religious beliefs and practices are manifest, anywhere there are people, past or present? How could evolution have favoured wasteful investment in preposterous beliefs? ... Quite a project." — *Ian Hacking, London Review of Books.*

"*In Gods We Trust* is by far the best exploration so far of the evolutionary basis of religious behavior." — *James Fox, Prof of Anthropology, Stanford University.*

"*In Gods We Trust* is a marvelous work on the evolution of religions." — *Michael Shermer.*

SHSNY CALENDAR: MARCH - APRIL 2010

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 7:00 p.m.

SHSNY MOVIE NIGHT

Stone Creek Bar & Lounge
140 East 27 St. (Lex-3rd Aves)

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

Part 2

Here, in all its cheesy glory, is the award-winning 1981 Brit TV series



based on Douglas Adams' hilarious (and sneakily atheistic) cult-favorite radio play and

novel. When Earth is destroyed by a Vogan Demolition Fleet to make way for a new hyperspace bypass, Arthur Dent (Simon Jones) joins his friend Ford Prefect (David Dixon) on a galactic voyage that takes them from the remains of Earth to the Restaurant at the End of the Universe, and on a search for Deep Thought's answer to the Big Question of the meaning of Life, the Universe, and Everything. (Yes, there really is an answer.)

SHSNY Movie Night is free, but Stone Creek's management expects a "one drink minimum" per person for the use of their back room.

Check out the Stone Creek menu and prices online at www.stonecreeknyc.com

Coming Attractions

April 5: "The Invention of Lying" — In an alternate reality, Ricky Gervais invents lying — and religion.

May 3: "Religulous," Bill Maher's funny take on the three big religions.

June/July: What do you want to see? Come and tell us.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

12:30 p.m.

OUR MONTHLY SHSNY BRUNCH GET-TOGETHER

We'll gather again at Wild Ginger restaurant ("Asian fusion at its best"), 226 East 51 Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

Everyone interested in getting together with 20 or more like-minded humanists and rationalists for good pan-Asian food and lively talk in a charming East-side setting, is welcome. Bring friends!

Order off the menu; individual checks.

April brunch: 4/18

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

1:00 p.m.

Public Lecture:

DAVID SHENK

THE GENIUS IN ALL OF US Jefferson Market Library 425 Ave of the Americas

Integrating cutting-edge research from a wide swath of disciplines — cognitive science, genetics, biology, child development — Shenk portrays a highly-optimistic new view of human potential. Genes are not a "blueprint" that doom some and bless others. Instead, genes are dynamic actors in a complex developmental process — dynamics that we can influence.

David Shenk is a bestselling author of *The Forgetting*, *Data Smog* and *The Immortal Game*. His blog "The Genius in All of Us" is featured on The Atlantic.com

OTHER EVENTS

Sundays:

Religion on the Line

6-9:00 a.m. — WMCA, 770 AM

Equal Time for Freethought

6:30 p.m. — WBAI-NY 99.5FM

Religion & Ethics Newsweekly

6:30 p.m. — Channel 13

Wednesdays:

Atheism History Week — 5:30 p.m.

Hosted by SHSNY President John Rafferty. On MNN Channel 57 and RNN Channel 110 in Manhattan, and simultaneously anywhere via live streaming on your computer at www.mnn.org

Thursdays:

NYC City Atheists TV — 7:00 p.m.

Atheist Book Club — 7:30 p.m., hosted by SHSNY VP/Secretary Elaine Lynn. Both on MNN Channel 67 and RNN Channel 110 in Manhattan, and simultaneously anywhere via live streaming on your computer at www.mnn.org

Fridays:

Drinking With Atheists — Meet every Friday Night, at a venue to be announced, with like-minded friends for a fun evening of conversation. Details at: www.meetup.com/RichiesList/

Various Dates & Times:

Agnostic A.A. — Seven A.A.-endorsed meetings. Schedules: agnosticAAnyc.org/meetings.html

FOR UPDATES ON ALL SHSNY EVENTS ...

... check the website at www.shsnyc.org and/or 212-308-2165 and/or our MeetUp site at <http://humanism.meetup.com/155/>

Check Richie's List, too, at <http://atheists.meetup.com/515/>

**STUFF HAPPENS!
SCHEDULES CHANGE!
CHECK FOR UPDATES
BY PHONING
212-308-2165**

HAITIAN RELIEF AND AMERICAN SECULARISM

(Excerpted and edited from the *Richard Dawkins Foundation website* – forwarded by Robert A. Murtha, Jr.)

One of the most widespread lies about secularists and atheists is that they are indifferent to human suffering because they do not believe in God. (The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science has set up a special Haitian-relief account, Non-Believers Giving Aid.) What is true is that the donations of the “unchurched” are difficult to identify, because many religious believers always give to humanitarian causes through their churches. In fact, non-belief in eternal life and the supernatural creates an even greater imperative to relieve human suffering on earth – because secularists are convinced that this one, finite life is all we have. What is responsible for the stereotype of the uncaring atheist propounded by many religious believers on the right?

One of the great ironies in American responses to the Haitian relief effort is that most of the objections have come from the farthest-out fringe of the religious and cultural right. Rush Limbaugh, of course, saw the Haitian natural disaster as a made-to-order opportunity for the Obama administration to flaunt hypocritical humanitarian credentials. (Limbaugh must secretly believe that Obama is God, since many on the religious right claim that the deity sends natural disaster to punish evil people.) Pat Robertson thinks the earthquake was sent because Haitians in the early 1800s made a pact with the Devil by rising up against French colonial domination. Even more sober voices like that of *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist David Brooks (who, I should emphasize, does not oppose disaster aid for Haiti) nevertheless emphasize that aid must be targeted to fix Haiti’s “progress-resistant” culture. He quotes a book that targets, among other factors, the “influence of the voodoo religion, which spreads the message that life is capricious and planning futile.” Among the factors Brooks does not mention is American support in the 1960s for the brutal dictatorship of President-for-Life François Duvalier, who was regarded as a bulwark against Fidel Castro’s communist gospel. The thuggish Duvalier dictatorship was responsible for an enormous brain drain of Haiti’s sorely needed educated professionals, and the loss of so many in the educated class has influenced the country’s fate to this day.

One of the more comical aspects of mentioning voodoo is the inference that it is the only form of religion designed to offer the illusion of protection from the capriciousness of life. In the mists of time, all religion originated as a way to plead for safety from seemingly inexplicable disasters. To blame voodoo for Haiti’s undeniable backwardness is like blaming Catholicism for the social disparities that make poor areas of southern Italy much more vulnerable to economic disaster after earthquakes than more prosperous areas of northern Italy. Actually, come to think of it, Haiti is a land in which people are in thrall to both voodoo and Catholicism, sometimes simultaneously. Haiti was certainly in a deplorable state before the earthquake, and I agree that it will be difficult to use this earth-

quake as an opportunity to improve the nation’s underlying and extreme deprivation. But first, let’s save those who are still alive from rubble, epidemics, and starvation—and let’s not jump in to blame the victim while the victim has lost all of what little he or she had.

“MIRACLES” IN HAITI ... “AS SEEN ON TV”

John Rafferty

I was as happy as any other American TV viewer in the comfort of my safe and warm apartment when I saw Haitians being pulled from under tons of concrete and steel four and even five days after the earthquake killed, maimed and made homeless tens of thousands of their neighbors. But I cringed with every report because I knew what was inevitably going to follow: “Thank God!” and “It’s a miracle!”

As insane as such thanksgiving on the part of the Haitians seemed to me, the fervid, even breathless use – over and over again – of the word “miracle” by American television journalists and commentators drove me nearly nuts.

I could almost understand a husband or wife, a father or mother crying thanks to God for the rescue of a cherished spouse or parent or child – even as bulldozers shoveled bodies in the next street or doctors amputated the crushed limbs of infants in makeshift tents just yards away – hell, in such extremis, I might do it myself.

But to watch coiffed and lacquered talking heads in New York studios describe the herculean efforts of disaster-relief teams from Virginia and Israel and the round-the-clock labors of doctors and paramedics from Miami and Cuba, and then to hear them mouth that meaningless word “miracle” – as if the benevolent Deity that gave two or three victims a day back to their families wasn’t also the homicidal psychopath historically responsible for the senseless “Act of God” destruction of tens of millions of other lives – was too much to watch. I couldn’t, and tuned it out.

But “miracle,” the media mavens obviously decided, was what the American public – whose attention span is shorter than that of a Mayfly in coitus – wanted to see. Besides, for all its live coverage expense, disaster reporting is cheaper than scripted programming, and “miracles” are sure-fire audience draws. Not much else was happening mid-January, and so to keep the ratings up, the death of tens of thousands of Haitians, spiced with a few “miracles,” became “programming.”

And for the networks it sort-of slotted in neatly between Tiger Woods and the Olympics, didn’t it?

A GREAT READ-BETWEEN-THE-LINES STORY

(From “Solar-powered Bibles sent to Haiti” on *Australia’s ABC News*, 1/19/10)

As international aid agencies rush food, water and medicine to Haiti’s earthquake victims, a United States group is sending Bibles.

But these aren’t just any Bibles; they’re solar-powered audible Bibles that can broadcast the holy scriptures in Haitian

Creole to 300 people at a time. The “Faith Comes By Hearing” organization says its Bible, called The Proclaimer, delivers “digital quality” and is designed for “poor and illiterate people.” 600 of the devices are already on their way to Haiti.

The Albuquerque, New Mexico-based organization says it is responding to the Haitian crisis by “providing faith, hope and love through God’s word in audio.” The audio Bible can bring the “hope and comfort that comes from knowing God has not forgotten them through this tragedy,” a statement on its website says. “The Proclaimer is self-powered and can play the Bible in the jungle, desert or ... even on the moon!”

Tens of thousands of Port-au-Prince residents are living outdoors because their homes have collapsed or they fear aftershocks following Wednesday’s quake.

Ed: Think this is straight reporting? Read the first and last paragraphs again. Good on you, Australia’s ABC News. – JR

ANSWER US THIS, PAT ROBERTSON

Albert Mohler, Baptist Preacher

(Rev. Mohler’s response to Pat Robertson’s claim that the Haiti earthquake was punishment from God was reported on National Secular Society (UK) Newline, 1/22/2010)

Why did no earthquake shake Nazi Germany? Why did no tsunami swallow up the killing fields of Cambodia? Why did Hurricane Katrina destroy far more evangelical churches than casinos? Why do so many murderous dictators live to old age while many missionaries die young?

SECULAR HUMANIST SPIRITUALITY?

Giles Kelly

It seems to me that most of us have multiple levels of consciousness, beginning with the level of our most private/personal selves. Next, the level of our immediate family, then to the level of our neighborhood, and on to a civic level (local and national), further to the world level, then the cosmic and perhaps even to a spiritual level. Consider each level ...

All of us have an intimate consciousness of who we are and what we want. We also have a consciousness of belonging to a group related to us, an immediate family.

Then there is the consciousness of belonging to a neighborhood described by geography and/or by intellect, such as our professional and recreational circles. We are also conscious of our citizenship, belonging, as we do, to entities such as a town, a state, and a nation. We also may be conscious of being part of the world, as in, “little me on this huge planet.”

And then there may be an awareness of being a tiny part of a boundless universe.

That last level brings me to the consciousness of Spirituality, a quality I think we all have to some degree, secular humanists included. It is an awareness of the mystery of our being, and our wonder about the reason for it.

I have no answers, but I have an awareness, a suspicion, an intuition, whatever, of an order of cosmic laws at work other than laws of physics. Call them Spiritual Laws that create and

influence human activity for purposes we do not yet know, much less understand.

The evidence of such Spiritual Laws is still ethereal, but I suspect such laws have to do with such things as our knowledge of what is right, and with our feeling of being in tune with the environment; perhaps with some expansion of our personal powers; and with influencing our decisions, and perhaps with the finding of peace.

WHY WE DON’T NEED RELIGION TO GIVE LIFE MYSTERY

Greta Christina

(Reprinted from AlterNet.org, 2/12/10)

“What does Dr. Bloody Bronowski know about it?”

“He knows everything!”

“Oh, I wouldn’t like that. It’d take all the mystery out of life.”

It takes all the mystery out of life. This is an argument that sometimes gets made against the atheist/materialist/naturalist view of life. Naturalism is too reductionist, the argument goes. By seeking to explain the universe in terms of physical cause and effect, and in seeking to understand that physical cause and effect in increasingly greater breadth and detail, naturalism ultimately seeks to explain and understand everything. And that would be bad. We need some mystery. Mystery – unanswered and unanswerable questions – are a central part of what makes us human. Without it, our life would be bleak and empty, with a yearning that can never be satisfied, because there’s nothing left out there to satisfy it.

Religion, supposedly, offers that mystery. The belief in that which cannot be perceived by the senses; the belief in immaterial entities or forces that somehow affect the world but that nobody perceives in the same way; the belief in a life after this one that nobody’s ever returned from and nobody really knows anything about. All of this fills the human need for mystery, the need for questions we don’t know the answer to.

Okay. Deep breath.

First, I feel compelled to point out: This is not an argument for why the spiritual view of the world is correct. This is an argument for why the spiritual view would be nice. It’s not offering any evidence or reason for why the spiritual world is real and has a real effect on the physical one. It’s a classic case of the argument from wishful thinking: “It would suck if there were no God – therefore, there is a God.”

But let’s take this argument on its own terms. Let’s pretend, for a moment, that the argument from wishful thinking has some validity. Let’s say that, if it could be shown that religion serves some social or psychological utility that can’t be addressed by any secular means (religion in general and the mystery of religion in particular), it would therefore be right to perpetuate it, even if it’s mistaken. “We need religion because we need mystery” is still a terrible argument.

For starters: If you’re worried that we’re in danger of understanding everything about the universe, you can relax.

We're in no danger of that happening anytime soon. There's an enormous number of unanswered questions remaining about the physical world, some of which are huge and profound. The two great ones of our era, in my opinion, are "What is the nature of consciousness?" and "Where did the universe come from?" (It's one of the great frustrations of my life that I will most likely die before those questions are answered.) And there are thousands of other unanswered questions in every field of science: questions with answers that are closer to our grasp, yet still elude us.

What's more, it's in the nature of science that every answer we find seems to present more questions. For instance: We now understand the answer to a question that was unanswered for millennia: we now understand that the universe is not infinite, but is in fact finite in size (although pretty darned big). But the answer to that question inevitably leads to another question: Is there anything outside this universe? Are there more universes out there: are we just one universe in a multiverse, the way we're just one planet in a star system, one star in a galaxy, one galaxy in a universe? (And if so, is that multiverse infinite, or is it limited in size as well?) Or when it comes to physical existence, is our universe the whole enchilada?

At the moment, we don't have any way of even beginning to answer that question, or even beginning to explore it. But we might someday. And when and if we do, that'll make for centuries, millennia probably, of further exploration, further unanswered questions for us to try to answer.

And it has been ever thus. When we figured out evolution and answered the question, "How did the vast and complex diversity of life come about?" it led to thousands of new questions about how exactly evolution happens. When we discovered that our galaxy was only one of billions in the universe, it led to thousands of new questions about the nature of those galaxies. When we discovered atoms, it led to thousands of new questions about the nature of atoms; ditto when we discovered the subatomic world. Some answers do lead to dead ends – as I understand it, we have Newton's Laws of Motion pretty well figured out – but it's very common indeed for solved mysteries to open up still more unsolved ones.

But let's pretend that we somehow come up with a Grand Unifying Theory of Everything. Let's pretend that we somehow come up with perfect and complete explanations of the physical cause and effect of absolutely everything, from quarks to galaxies to the universe itself. Multiverse. Whatever. Would this mean there'd be no mystery to life? I say no.

Consider this. We know, reasonably well, how babies are made; in even more detail than the basics of "sperm and egg combine to make baby." We know that when a sperm and an egg combine, the DNA in the fertilized egg provides a recipe for how the proteins behave, how they fold and unfold and divide and combine to eventually form into a human being. And we're learning more every day, in ever-greater detail, about exactly how this process happens.

Yet the fact that this happens – that entirely new people

come into the world, people who once didn't exist and now have their own consciousness and selfhood and personality and future and everything – is still enough to fill me with a gob-smacked sense of mystery and awe. In fact, the more I learn about genetics and the process of embryonic development, the more awestruck I become. Entire human beings, whose lives and selves are just as vivid to them as mine is to me – and they came out of nowhere! They didn't exist – and now they do! DNA and Hox genes and all of that nifty embryonic development stuff – it made a person! Every time I look at my nieces and nephews and my friends' kids, the mere fact of their existence sends chills of amazement down my spine.

And that's been true for every field of science I've learned about. The more I find out about the universe – the more I learn about matter that bends space, brains that produce thought, finches that evolve to drink blood, chemical bonds that create solidity out of mostly-empty matter, black holes that exist at the center of all spiral galaxies – the more I learn about all this, the more I'm left with my mouth hanging open in wonder at the bizarre, extraordinary, astronomically improbable coolness of it all. Understanding the world doesn't remove its mystery, except in the most narrow and literal sense of the word. It enhances it.

And finally: Let's say, for the sake of argument, that none of this is true. Let's assume that the naturalist worldview someday manages to explain absolutely everything. And let's assume that having everything explained would somehow be a terrible occurrence that sucked all the mystery and wonder out of life. Would deliberately blocking off some areas of inquiry – deliberately setting aside some questions that can never be answered – be a remotely appropriate way of preventing this tragedy?

Yes, unanswered questions are a crucial part of what makes us human. But that's because we *like* to answer those questions. Humans are curious, restless, exploring animals. Mysteries are cool, not because ignorance is satisfying, but because solving those mysteries is satisfying. So how would saying "We need to preserve some mysteries and unanswered questions" in any way solve this hypothetical calamity?

Doesn't saying "This question can never have an answer" have the same effect as saying "This question now has an answer"? Doesn't it have the effect of shutting off that yearning, that restless desire to look into the dark and wonder what's out there? Doesn't it cut off the sweet mystery of life, every bit as much as actually turning on the light? A closed door is a closed door, whether it's closed because we opened it and looked inside, know what's there and don't need to look again, or whether it's closed because we choose not to open it.

If I'm wrong, if it turns out that atheism and materialism are mistaken, and that a supernatural view of the world is the right one, then that's fine. If someone can demonstrate, with solid, carefully gathered, rigorously cross-checked evidence, that the universe came into being by the hand of God, or that consciousness is animated by an immaterial soul – then I'll

admit I was wrong. And I'll be as curious to explore the nature of the metaphysical world, its broad architecture and its fine details, as I am to explore the physical one.

But that's not the conclusion the current evidence points to. The overwhelmingly obvious conclusion, pointed to by every good piece of evidence I've seen, is that the physical, natural world is all there is, and that all the things that seem immaterial – consciousness and selfhood and the ability to choose and so on – are really products of biological processes, physical cause and effect.

And I'm not going to reject that conclusion – and I'm not going to stop trying to persuade other people of it – just to preserve the sweet mystery of life. There is plenty of mystery in the natural world: mystery enough for a lifetime, for a trillion lifetimes. I'm not going to pretend the world is not the way it really is – fascinating, awe-inspiring, profoundly bizarre, but ultimately a product of natural laws and of physical cause and effect, just because some people find it exciting to ponder the mystery of the darkness.

JESUS AND MO FIND MEANING IN MYTHS

(Transcribed from jesusandmo.net, 10/23/09)

Jesus (who is reading Karen Armstrong's "The Case for God"): Homo sapiens is also Homo religiosus. As soon as we became recognizably human, we started to create religions. We are meaning-seeking creatures. That's why God isn't going anywhere, He is part of the human quest for meaning.

Mohammed: Let's go tell the barmaid.

(At the bar)

Barmaid: So you're saying say that as long as there are questions, there will be people who pretend to know the answers.

Jesus: Yes, and you must respect that.

Mo: And not laugh at them.

PHILOSOPHY AS A TWO-EDGED SWORD

Dennis Middlebrooks

Massimo Pigliucci ("On the Scope of *Skeptical Inquiry: Skepticism, Atheism & Political Theory*," *PIQUE*, February, 2010) notes that science cannot refute the claim that the universe is only 6,000 years old and only looks older because a deity is providing a test of faith, while philosophy can easily point out why this claim is unreasonable.

Massimo fails to point out that there are probably an infinite number of ludicrous claims that science cannot refute (e.g., the universe is governed by Bugs Bunny, who incarnated himself into Merry Melodies cartoons back in the 1940s to "test our faith"). So what? Science by definition deals with empirical facts and is under no obligation to refute claims for which there is not one iota of evidence.

And I am quite sure there are any number of philosophers (religious and secular) who will argue quite persuasively that the claim that a tricky God made a 6,000 year old universe look 13.7 billion years old to weed out rational minds is quite reasonable. That is why there are so many different schools of

philosophy, as opposed to one school of physics, chemistry, biology, etc. Science weeds out false theories (e.g.: Steady State Theory, Cold Fusion, Lamarckian Inheritance), while in philosophy contradictory schools proliferate. Whereas philosophers can argue forever over the validity of their immaterial domains, astronomers do not argue over the speed of light, the mass of the proton or the gravitational constant.

I totally endorse the scientific approach of men like Richard Dawkins, Victor Stenger and Daniel Dennett to refute religion, because the facts of science have obviated the need for a deity to explain the wonders of nature and existence, whereas philosophy is a two-edged sword that can cut both ways regarding the existence of God, the reality of the Trinity, reincarnation, etcetera ad nauseum.

IN THE 21ST CENTURY, IN A COUNTRY EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Yes, the presidency in Pakistan is a largely titular office with limited powers, but in that Muslim country with nuclear weapons in its arsenal and Taliban supporters in its armed forces, President Asif Ali Zardari has a black goat sacrificed almost every day to ward off "evil eyes" and protect him from "black magic." When Mr. Zardari moved into the President's House, a flock of black partridges were brought in too, for their supposedly magical effects. Not-so-magically – or perhaps black-magically – the whole flock was electrocuted when a live wire fell on their cage.

WHY WE LIVE IN NEW YORK #88

Mark L. Cole (R-Fredericksburg) introduced a bill in the Virginia House of Delegates to protect Virginians from any possible attempts by employers or insurance companies to implant microchips in their bodies against their will.

A privacy-issue liberal? Nope, he's concerned that the devices could someday be used as the "mark of the beast" described in the Book of Revelation. "My understanding – I'm not a theologian – but there's a prophecy in the Bible that says you'll have to receive a mark," Cole said. "Some people think computer chips might be that mark."

Just one crazy? The bill passed 88-9.

Oh, and by the way, that same Virginia House of Delegates on January 30 killed a bill that would have banned open containers of alcohol in motor vehicles – you know, drinking while driving – and in February repealed a 10-year-old ban on carrying loaded guns in bars.

WHY WE LIVE IN NEW YORK #89

In February, the South Dakota House of Representatives passed a resolution to "urge" public schools to teach astrology. By a 36-30 vote, the legislators passed House Concurrent Resolution 1009, "Calling for balanced teaching of global warming in the public schools of South Dakota." After repeating long-debunked denier myths and calling carbon dioxide "the gas of life," the resolution concludes that public schools

should teach that “global warming is a scientific theory rather than a proven fact.” In the nearly-illiterate language of the bill:

“... there are a variety of climatological, meteorological, astrological, thermological, cosmological, and ecological dynamics that can effect [sic] world weather phenomena and that the significance and interrelativity of these factors is largely speculative ...”

SOUTH CAROLINA SOLVES THE TERRORISTS-IN-OUR-MIDST PROBLEM

(Based on a post by Daniel Tencer on RawStory, 2/5/10)

Terrorists who want to overthrow the United States government must now register with South Carolina’s Secretary of State and declare their intentions – or face a \$25,000 fine and up to 10 years in prison.

The state’s “Subversive Activities Registration Act,” requires every person or organization that “advocates ... overthrowing the government ... shall register with the Secretary of State.” That’s so we’ll always know where they are, see.

And there’s even a \$5 filing fee.

Oh, yes, there’s an exemption: for “fraternal” and “patriotic” organizations – you know, the right-wing militias who advocate overthrowing the “socialist” Obama government.

Too bad we can’t give collective Dumbth Awards (Congress would win every year), because the clueless clucks of the South Carolina legislature would be this year’s hands-down horse’s-ass trophy winner.

SAVONAROLA IS ALIVE AND WELL IN ALCOA, TENNESSEE

(Found and forwarded by Barbara Lifton – thanks!)

Michael Louis Colquitt has taken out an order of protection against his father, 60-year-old Joe Colquitt, well-known pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Alcoa, Tennessee. Why? Pastor Colquitt was unhappy about his son’s irregular church attendance, called Michael to a meeting at the church, pulled a gun on him, and threatened to kill him, his wife and his family if he didn’t start attending services regularly.

Comment: Man, I thought the nuns were tough. – JR

IT’S ABOUT TIME

As per a January SCA press release:

The Council for Secular Humanism has been admitted as a member group of the Secular Coalition for America (SCA). They [“they” means “us,” SHS/NY] join many other organizations that are represented by the SCA, including American Atheists, American Humanist Association, Camp Quest, Secular Student Alliance and others.

“Joining the Secular Coalition will allow the Council to work effectively with other nontheistic organizations on shared goals, which include achieving a United States in which nontheists have complete social and civil equality,” said Dr. Ronald A. Lindsay, President and CEO of both the Council and its affiliate, the Center for Inquiry.

Comment: So, what took so long? – JR

Page 8
"Sweet Mystery of Life"?

Religion:

Page 3
& Other Nonsense
Homeopathy

Page 5
Dumbth Award?
Who won the

Secular Humanist
Society of New York
FDR Station
PO Box 7661
New York, NY
10150-7661

