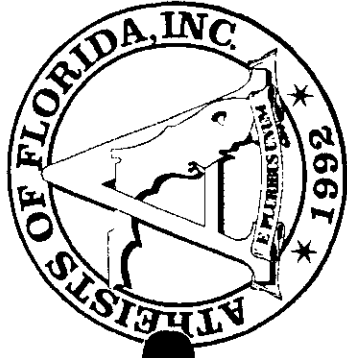




P.O. Box 130753
Tampa, FL 33681

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tampa, Florida
PERMIT No. 2020



Volume XII No. 1
August/September 2003

Atheists of Florida

DADE&BROWARD: Third Sunday of each month, 2:00 pm on the eighth floor of the Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave. Ft. Lauderdale. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 21.

Third Tuesday each month, 8:00 am. Breakfast meetings at *Denny's* Restaurant, 16751 NW 67th Ave. Hialeah. Specific meeting information and activities published in **NEWSNOTES**, included in all newsletters, or listen 24/7 to the message on 305/940-0442. atheist1@bellsouth.net

THOSE WHO DENY the existence of a supreme being have been turned into second-class citizens by a government that continuously sends messages that "real Americans" believe in God." So says Michael Newdow, the Sacramento atheist who won a stunning appeals court ruling striking down the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. In papers filed this summer, Newdow has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to take up the case and broaden the ruling. The First Amendment requires a "disassociation of God and government," said Newdow, whose daughter is about to enter the fourth grade.

Pledge case aimed at Supreme Court

Newdow told the entire story of the case at the Atheist Alliance International convention in Tampa last April (*available on DVD or video—see page 3*). His opponents—who include the Dubya administration, his daughter's school district and the attorneys general of all 50 states—have also asked the high court to grant review of the case and validate the pledge as an exercise of patriotism, not religion.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled 2-1 in June 2002 that a 1954 fed-

Hillsborough County Cable TV subscribers—watch

Atheist Forum

Live at 10:00 every Tuesday night, Channel 20 Rerun Monday night, 10:00 Channel 19

CHAPTER EVENTS

TAMPA BAY: Pinellas County—First Sunday of each odd-numbered month (Jan., Mar., etc.), 1:00-3:30 at the Pinellas Park Public Library, 78th Ave N & 52nd Street.

Tampa—First Sunday of each even-numbered month, 1:00-3:30. Platt Library, 3910 S. Manhattan Ave., Tampa.

Dinners follow all meetings at nearby cafeterias.

FMI: Ed Golly, 813/835-1500, ATHALFLE@aol.com.
NOTE: NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER. The first Sunday of Nov. is St. Pete Times Festival of Reading on the campus of Eckerd College in south Pinellas County. We hope to see you there.

SARASOTA: Meetings on various Sundays at Selby Library, 1331 First St. Contact Melinda Masters via www.tampabayatheists.org for specific times and dates.

HISPANIC CHAPTER: Roberto de los Rios Director del Capitulo Hispano. PO Box 127845. Hialeah, FL 33012-1631 vinrob513@aol.com

eral law, adding the phrase "under God," made the pledge an unconstitutional government endorsement of religion, akin to school-sponsored prayer. The appeals court denied a rehearing in February but narrowed the ruling to specify that the pledge was unconstitutional only in public school ceremonies. Newdow, a physician and lawyer who is representing himself, asked the Supreme Court for a more far-reaching ruling along the lines of last year's appellate decision. The Supreme Court is expected to decide in October whether to review the case. In the meantime, the appeals court ruling is on hold.

An unsigned opinion by the entire Supreme Court summarily denouncing the ruling in ringing terms would not be unprecedented, particularly for the often-reversed 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals which weathered three summary judgments on one day last October.

Since Congress added the words "under God" on June 14, 1954, no fewer than 15 justices—including six now on the high court—have compared the Pledge to the "In God We Trust" motto on the nation's currency as usage that does not violate the First Amendment's clause forbidding "an establishment of religion."

Yet Newdow's arguments to the 9th Circuit panel were primarily based on Supreme Court decisions. Reversing the decision would mean the court disagrees with a significant number of its own decisions.

Monumental Decision

Roy's Rock no Moore Thou shalt not merge church & state

MONTGOMERY, AL—Rarely in the history of constitutional discourse has so much *myth*-information been uttered as when proponents of the Ten Commandments monument set in the rotunda of the Alabama State Supreme Court Building protested to keep it there.

From sidewalk protestor to right-wing talk show hosts, they twisted the meaning of the Bill of Rights like a pretzel trying to justify the display of Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore's 5,280 pound granite monument. Although blatantly flawed, none were ready to let the facts get in the way of their desperate desire to have their religion endorsed by the government.

Even the U.S. House of Representatives weighed in when they voted 260-161 on July 23 to block the federal



Moore



Monument

government from spending any tax funds to enforce the ruling to remove the rock. The measure was nothing more than political grandstanding, but observers noted that the vote is evidence of the House's increasing hostility toward state/church separation and its disregard for constitutional principles.

Between a rock and a judgment

Under cover of night on Aug. 1, 2001, Moore had the freezer-sized monument installed in the rotunda of Alabama's Judicial Building. Moore invited a film crew from Coral Ridge Ministries, a Florida-based evangelical TV ministry, to record the installation. That same group asked supporters to "help defend the Ten Commandments." It raised \$375,000 for Moore's legal defense fund.

Three Alabama attorneys, backed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union, found the monument offensive and complained it made them feel like "outsiders."

Last November, U. S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson found the monument—nicknamed "Roy's Rock"—violates the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution, which provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."
(continued on page 4)

A of F outreach season

MIAMI—It's the season to reach out and find the atheists. With more events scheduled this year than ever, the biggest event remains the Miami Book Fair International Nov. 7-9. Atheists of Florida will be there for probably our tenth consecutive appearance with books, pamphlets, bumper stickers, DVDs and one of the biggest crowd-pleasers, NumZilla. She walks, she breathes fire, she terrifies! Come see us any day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or better yet, come work the business end of the kiosk.

We'll begin the first of three consecutive weekends with Circus McGurkis on Saturday, October 25. Lakeview Park in south Pinellas County is the site where we circle the wagons with the ACLU, Americans United, and the Humanists for a full day of outreach.

The following weekend, Sunday, November 2, we'll make our first appearance at the Saint Petersburg Times Festival of Reading which may rival the Miami Book Fair for a day's attendance.

Then it's on to Miami for the biggest weekend of the year, where we usually expand our mailing list by 70 to 90 new names. Between the three events, we may nearly double our database.

While none of the events ever break even, they are ideal opportunities to show that

atheists are no longer content to hide in the proverbial closet. If you would like to help, you may contribute time or money, or both. Registration for all three events totals over \$500 which doesn't include all the merchandise we purchase for resale. If you would like to work the table at any of the events, even for just a few hours, contact Ed Golly or Patrick



By Beny—Wide World of Atheism

Bens. You must be a member of Atheists of Florida and we like to have at least three people at the table at all times. Financial contributions can be made at the address on the masthead on page 2.

It's always a fun weekend!

"Dear God. We paid for all this stuff ourselves, so thanks for nothing."
—Bart Simpson saying grace

Atheists of Florida
Dedicated to the absolute separation of state and church
www.atheistalliance.org/florida www.tampabayatheists.org Sponsor of the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund
A Member Society of Atheist Alliance International, the Democratic Alliance of Autonomous Atheist Societies

Chapters:

Miami/FL, Lauderdale
P. O. Box 640634
Miami, FL 33164-0634
(305) 940-0442 / (954) 929-0441
Fax: (305) 949-3826
atheist1@bellsouth.net
atheist1@bellsouth.net
Tampa Bay
PO Box 130753
Tampa, FL 33681
(813) 835-1500 / (813) 839-7567
ATHALFL@aol.com

Sarasota/Mantatee
(813) 835-1500
ATHALFL@aol.com

Mark Twain Scholarship Fund
P O Box 3893
FL Pierce, FL 34948
Phone/Fax: (772) 465-6402

Membership dues

- Life Member \$ 500.00
- Sustaining 60.00 YR
- Couple 50.00 YR
- Individual 40.00 YR
- Student (under 25 yrs.) 10.00 YR
- Limited Income (over 65) 10.00 YR
- Newsletter (out of state) 10.00 YR

Published eight times a year by Atheists of Florida, Inc., a nonprofit, educational corporation founded to heighten public awareness about atheism and monitor state/church separation issues. Newsletter is provided free to our members. Letters are published on a space-available basis. Send newsletter correspondence to Tampa Bay Chapter, address above. Articles may be edited for clarity or length. Atheists of Florida, Inc. is a Member Society of the Atheist Alliance International.

Chairman

James A. Young

Officers

President: Ed Golly
Vice President: Alex Giannakoulis
Secretary: James Young
Treasurer: Brent Yaciw

State Board of Directors

Jim Peterson Melinda Masters
Patrick Bens Dr. Michael Brannon
Roberto De Los Rios Nan Owens
Raymond Erickson Steven Miles
Joe Reinhardt Christos Tzanetakos

Legal Counsel

John W. Mackay

Newsletter Production:

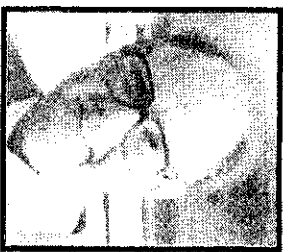
Editor: Ed Golly
NEWSNOTES Editor: Patrick Bens
Staff: Jim Strayer, Jerry Moore

Web master:
Jim Peterson

WHEN CHARLES DARWIN and Alfred Wallace presented their joint paper on evolution in 1859 nothing was known about genes and DNA. Gregor Mendel had worked out the basics of heredity, but his papers were not widely read. In 1859 heredity was thought to be a blending of characteristics from both parents. Something like

**THE SOLUTION IS EVOLUTION
No. 22—Genetic Evidence**

—Jim Strayer



mixing paint. Mix black and white paint and get gray. No matter how many times gray paints are mixed the result is never black or white. Obviously something was wrong with the blending idea. Because of this lack of knowledge it was impossible to answer the all of critics of evolution.

In the years since 1859 an unbelievable amount has been learned about heredity. It is now possible to answer almost every challenge offered by the detractors of evolution. It was an amazing discovery when it was found that all living things have DNA that control their structure and behavior.

We can show that a characteristic can stay hidden for generations and suddenly show up. We can trace the changes in a gene, a mutation, through generations. We know the chemical make up of DNA and can show the similarities and relationship of DNA of one species to another. By studying the DNA we can tell if a rose bush is more closely related to an apple tree or cactus. We

Strayer's series *The Solution is Evolution* will continue in the next newsletter. *Strayer is a retired biology teacher living with his wife, Bobbe, in Ormond-By-The-Sea.*

Solution Available

Our popular feature, *The Solution is Evolution*, has been running in the A of F newsletter since April, 2000. All 22 titles are now compiled in a booklet produced by Jim Strayer available for \$5.00 per copy. The 60-page book measures 7 by 8½ inches and will be sold at all of our outreach projects or by mail at:

ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA
P O BOX 130753
TAMPA FL 33681

Postage and handling included

can tell if humans are more closely related to Chimps or Gorillas.

Almost everyone knows that genetics is a powerful tool in crime detection and determination of human relationships. Yet, some people refuse to believe that the knowledge that is known about genetics can be applied to evolution.

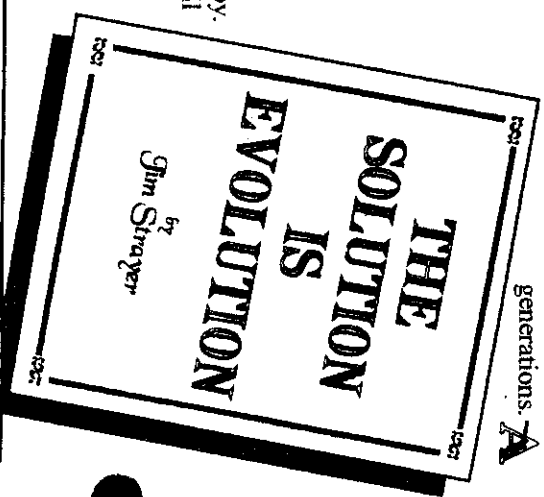
Science is now able to determine what genes most living things have. This is very important, but it means that they still must determine what they do and how they do it. This is a gigantic undertaking, but it will be done.

So far every new discovery that has been made concerning DNA, genes, and their place in nature has added more proof to the fact of evolution. The theories of how evolution occurred are being uncovered every day in scientific laboratories world wide.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this knowledge is the use in medicine. This can be done because predications can be made about what will happen if genes are spliced from one living thing to another. Some diseases are already being treated by using this method. Genes from bacteria have been transferred to potatoes and corn to protect these crops from insects.

Humans have entered the arena of evolution by being able to change characteristics of living things that will then be passed on to future generations. The knowledge about evolution is increasing so fast that it is almost impossible to keep up with all of it.

The basics of Gregor Mendel's work is still important, but like all science, be it evolution, genetics, medicine, or physical science, new important information is being added almost daily. That is why science works. We can gather new evidence and if necessary, change our minds. It can even change the way we perceive life. I am sure that even more amazing things await future generations. **A**



Eliminate all blue laws

Published August 17 in the Tampa Tribune

The Tampa City Council is attempting to play catch-up with its neighboring communities by giving consideration to amending the "blue law" that establishes certain limitations on alcohol sales within the city of Tampa. Blue laws were extremely rigorous laws first established in 1781 to regulate morals and conduct in Colonial New England. By today's standards, they are any statute regulating work, commerce and amusements on Sundays.

LETTERS

Why Sunday? Because this is a day of importance specifically to the Christian religion that dominated the New England culture in the 18th century.

The Constitution prohibits Congress from creating any law establishing religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The clear intent of this right is twofold.

Founder thanks

Dear members of the 9th Annual AAI National Convention committee and volunteers:

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude and to congratulate you for one of the best conventions ever.

I am convinced that, thanks to your tireless efforts and dedication, the members of AAI who attended the convention will convey the best impressions to their respective states and countries.

Personally, I am indebted to all of you for setting the stage to receive the beautiful plaque award.

The celebration of our first grandson a week prior to the convention in Tampa and the honor conveyed to me by the Board will remain forever in my mind. Thank you. —CHRISTOS TZANETAKOS, Fort Pierce, FL

Tzanetakos is founder of A of F, Inc

ceeds religions coercion in importance. It fails to address the core of the issue. Since government exists to serve its constituents and not to influence religions persuasion, all blue laws should be eliminated completely. The Tampa City Council should not be thinking in terms of catching up with the rest of Florida. Rather, it should be thinking of leading the way for all other municipalities to follow with a government that recognizes and respects the civil liberties of all its citizens.

We welcome correspondence from readers. Address mail to: Atheists of Florida P.O. Box 130753 Tampa, FL 33681 Or e-mail: ATHALFL@aol.com

The writer is president of Atheists of Florida.

Taken place

I am a Kentuckian writing to thank Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore and his supporters for the stand they are taking. We in Ken-

tucky are ridiculed all across the country for being the most uneducated, ignorant, backward people there are. Judge Moore and his supporters have done a world of good to take our place as the objects of derision by thinking people.

—ROY CRAWFORD Whitesburg, KY

Vouchers nonsense

Re: "A hairy subject," letter 8/21/03 (St. Pete Times)
The letter writer unwittingly provides a wonderful argument against vouchers, especially if they are used to fund faith-based schooling. Her ignorance of both the intellectual and practical value of scientific discovery, as well as utter misunderstanding of the workings of evolution, make a far better argument than I could.

One might as well ask, "if white people are descended from black people, why are there still blacks?" The assumption that a species, or a subspecies, or a race, disappears once an evolutionary change takes place is as absurd as thinking the trunk of a tree disappears once it grows a few branches—unless your thinking has been clouded by faith, in which case reason is thrown to the winds.

Religion and science are simply incompatible by nature. Allowing science to be corrupted by religion is cheating our descendants and destroying the future of our country far better than a few terrorists could.

—BRENT YACIW, Wesley Chapel, FL

Magdalene Sisters
I saw the movie today in Sunrise...a packed house... shock and horror...the audience was stunned that such things could have gone on so recently in the name of Christianity! I felt like throwing up myself...I had to sit for a while after coming out.

This Pope has to face up to what was going on under his administration!

Atheists are the best people!
—PATRICIA ELKINS, Hollywood

Tax the churches
From the April, 2000 News & Advance, Lynchburg, VA

I have been following the articles and editorials over the last few months about the need for tax increases in Lynchburg and surrounding counties.

I have a solution that will not increase the tax burden for any of the hard-working, taxpaying citizens, it is time to revoke the tax-exempt status of churches and religious institutions. Church revenues nationwide are in the hundreds of billions of dollars annually, most of which is tax free.

Religious institutions should succeed or fail based on their own merit, not on the backs of the taxpayers.

The notion that churches do good work and shouldn't pay taxes doesn't hold water. Churches receive billions of dollars a year in government subsidies to run such programs. Apparently the mythical almighty god is helpless against fair taxation.

—C.W. MITCHELL, Rustburg, VA
C.W. is former director of the Northeast Chapter of Atheists of Florida in Saint Augustine

Supreme Court affirms freedom over religious oppression

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court's decision to strike down a Texas sodomy law has reaffirmed the principles of secular government and individual rights.

In a 6-3 ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the justices overturned a Texas statute that made it a crime for two persons of the same sex to engage in sexual relations.

The court majority said the law violated the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment. The June decision overturned a 1986 Supreme Court ruling that upheld a similar Georgia law.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the court majority, observed, "Liberty presumes an autonomy of self that includes freedom of thought, belief, expression and certain intimate conduct." He said former Chief Justice Warren Burger and other members of the high court were wrong to base their 1986 decision in part on centuries of societal disapproval of homosexual conduct. (Burger, in his opinion in that ruling, cited legal proscriptions on homosexuality "throughout the history of Western civilization" and said "condemnation of those practices is firmly rooted in Judeo-Christian moral and ethical standards.")

But Kennedy and the court majority took issue with Burger's analysis. "The condemnation [of homosexual conduct] has been shaped by religious beliefs, conceptions of right and acceptable behavior, and respect for the traditional family," Kennedy noted. "For many persons these are not trivial concerns but profound and deep convictions accepted as ethical and moral principles to which they aspire and which thus determine the course of their lives. These considerations do not answer the question before us, however. The issue is whether the majority may use the power of the State to enforce these views on the whole society through operation of the criminal law."

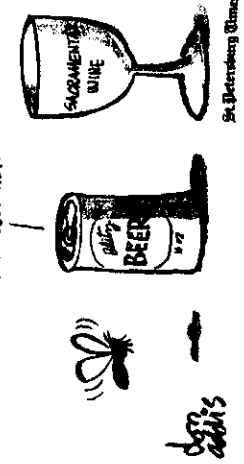
Quoting court precedent, Kennedy added, "Our obligation is to define the liberty of all, not to mandate our own moral code."

Tampa ponders change to 'blue law'

TAMPA—Following the lead by neighboring counties, Tampa City Council decided the city would suffer a financial disadvantage if it continues to prohibit sales of booze until Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

The council proposes moving liquor sales to 11:00 a.m. in order to "keep up with the Joneses." The City of St. Petersburg most recently addressed the same time changes in March. As far as we know, the issue is

YOU WANT A DRINK ON SUNDAY? YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE MY FRIEND HERE ABOUT THAT



By Peter B. Gass

still in committee.

Unfortunately, only Tampa City Councilman John Dingfelder understands that blue laws exist for the sole purpose of advancing religion and have nothing to do with public welfare or economics.

Several years ago in Hernando County, officials loosened their Sunday alcohol restrictions, making it no different from any other day.

A of F president Ed Golly addressed the City Council reminding them that the Constitution forbids establishment of religion which is the exclusive purpose of any blue law. He advised they eliminate the blue law and trust in their constituents to assume their own responsibilities. Anticipated outcome: since they serve to get reelected, not to consider our civil rights, the law will likely just be changed to 11:00 for the time being.

Vote on abortion notice likely

TALLAHASSEE—It will probably be up to Florida voters to decide if parents must be notified before their pregnant daughters seek an abortion.

When Jeb Bush took office in 1999, the Republican legislature passed a measure that he signed into law. Previous efforts by the Republicans had been vetoed by Gov. Chiles. In July, the Florida Supreme Court struck down the law. With two laws having been overturned, some lawmakers and Shrub believe a constitutional amendment is the only way to subvert privacy.

It was the second time in recent years that the court invoked Florida's constitutional right to privacy in overturning an attempt by lawmakers to require notice or consent for abortions by minors.

No favored treatment for Scouts

ACLU to the rescue in California, where a U.S. district court has agreed that the Scouts—a religious organization—were improperly granted control of public land.

Requiring members to profess a belief in God and excluding gays because, according to the organization's strictures, they are not morally fit, the Scouts had been leasing an 18-acre campground from a California city. The judge found this constituted special treatment to a religious organization.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that the Boy Scouts have a First Amendment right to discriminate. On that basis, the district judge concluded that the Scouts' free expression rights "are at odds with values requiring tolerance and inclusion in the public realm."

Nation under god?

SPAIN—It's now compulsory. A decree by conservative Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar requires students in all schools to study religion.

The move contradicts the new Spanish constitution which now requires a secular government. It was drafted in 1978 following the death of the dictator General Francisco Franco, who had imposed Catholicism as a state doctrine. Catholic bishops, longtime advocates for mandatory religious study, lauded the prime minister's "education" order.



James Madison, fourth president of the United States, became known as the "father" of the Constitution.

The Inquisition in Alabama

—Susan Dunn

wrote, "it differs from it only in degree. The one is the first step, the other the last in the career of intolerance."

Unlike some Americans today who applaud monuments of the Ten Commandments on state property that sanctify the Judeo-Christian tradition, Madison was adamant that Christian religion deserved no privileged status whatsoever. To single out one religion, he wrote, "degrades from the equal rank of Citizens" all those who have a different sense of the divine. "Who does not see," he

Susan Dunn is the author of *Sister Revolutions: French Lightning, American Light*, and coauthor with James MacGregor Burns of *the forthcoming George Washington*.

asked in 1785, "that the same authority which can establish Christianity, in exclusion of all other Religions, may establish with the same ease any particular sect of Christianity, in exclusion of all other Sects?"

Indeed, for Madison, freedom of religion was the foundation of all other rights. When he first proposed a bill of rights to Congress in June 1789, he underscored freedom of conscience: "The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext, abridged."

There was no murky area concerning the separation of state and church for Madison: he saw only black and white. When he was president in 1811, as his biographer Irving Brant reminds us, a bill came up to grant a certain piece of land to a Baptist church in Mississippi; because of a surveying error, the church had been built on federal land. Wasn't it fair to rectify the error and give the church the land? Madison said no and vetoed the bill. He saw a slippery slope and a dangerous precedent. Madison even objected to chaplains in Congress who were paid out of the federal taxes. The appointment of congressional chaplains, he wrote, was "a palpable violation of equal rights" be-

cause it "shut the door of worship against the members whose creeds and consciences forbid a participation in that of the majority." Chaplains for the Army and Navy fared no better in his mind. And yet, because chaplains in the Army and Navy already existed, he thought the more prudent course was to leave certain small matters alone. Nor did proclamations of thanksgiving meet his test of separation of state and church for, he wrote, "they seem to imply and certainly nourish the erroneous idea of a national religion."

Not all politicians or even presidents have understood Madison's intent—not even his contemporary John Adams. In his inaugural speech in 1797, President Adams addressed his words to all who "call themselves Christians," and at the close of his speech, declared that it was his "duty" to end by reminding Americans that a "decent respect for Christianity" was the best recommendation for public service. But, he would later write—perhaps as apologetically: "Nothing is more dreaded than the national government meddling with religion."

Eighteenth-century rationality is a hard act to follow. But Alabamians as well as the rest of Americans would do well to return to the words of the founders for a cool lesson in the meaning of freedom of conscience and tolerance.

Now Available

For the first time in AAI history

The Complete Ninth Annual Atheist Alliance International 2003 Convention on DVD or video!

This two-DVD or video set contains every convention presentation except breakouts produced to the highest professional standards.

Atheist Alliance International 2003 Convention

Number of sets _____ DVD or _____ Video tape @ \$25 each.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____



Make check or Money Order for \$25 each set (which includes shipping and handling) payable to:

Atheists of Florida
PO Box 130753
Tampa, FL 33681

"Both in appearance and in stated purpose, the Chief Justice's Ten Commandments monument is...nothing less than 'an obtrusive year-round religious display'...to place the government's weight behind an obvious effort to proselytize on behalf of a particular religion," wrote Thompson in his opinion, and ordered Moore to remove the Decalogue.

On the very day the "graven image" known as Roy's Rock was removed, we heard a report from Nigeria that a woman had been convicted of adultery. The court sentenced her to be buried up to her neck and stoned to death. The seventh of the Ten Commandments reads: *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* The punishment can be found in Leviticus 20:10—"The adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death."

Forty-one days after Roy's Rock was placed in the Alabama State Supreme Court building, terrorists hijacked four airliners and you know the rest.

James Madison, William Blackstone, James Wilson, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and John Jay. Also included in the engravings is the National Motto, "In God We Trust," and quotations excerpted from the 1954 Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Alabama Constitution. The front of the monument references the Declaration of Independence with the statement, "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God."

Moore became known as the "Ten Commandments Judge" after posting a wooden, hand-carved plaque of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom while a state court judge in Gadsden, Ala. He also was known to invite clergy to lead prayer in his courtroom before trials. The Civil Liberties Union of Alabama and the state of Alabama sued Moore in 1995 over his actions. Both suits were dismissed.

He then mounted and won by a landslide margin an election to the Alabama Supreme Court in 2000. Moore viewed the election as a mandate from the people to "restore the moral foundation of law."

John W. Mackay, P.A.
 Board Certified
 Civil Trial Lawyer
 Certified Circuit Court Mediator

201 South Westland Avenue
 The Mackay Building
 Tampa, FL 33606
 Tampa (813) 254-8835
 Statewide (800) 813-RIDE
 Fax (813) 254-6662
 mackay@tampabay.fl.com

Moore maintained the monument depicts the "moral foundations of law" and reflects the "sovereignty of God over the affairs of men."

The top of Moore's monument is engraved with the Ten Commandments as excerpted from the Book of Exodus in the King James Bible. The sides of the monument bear quotations from the Declaration of Independence and smaller quotations from

prohibit the acknowledgment of God that is specifically recognized in the Constitution of Alabama," Moore said in a statement announcing the appeal.

"Anytime you deny the acknowledgement of God you are undermining the entire basis for which our country exists," Moore told the *New American*. True to some extent. Slavery, for example, was an integral part of our nation's founding, endorsed by the god of the Christian Bible.

Conservative jurist Carnes, who was appointed by the former President George H.W. Bush, rebutted that U.S. Supreme Court precedent runs contrary to these arguments and the court has ruled certain religious symbols do violate the Constitution if they are on public grounds.

As we pointed out on the *Atheist Forum* on the eve of the monument's removal, only two of the "commandments" are incorporated into American civil law—stealing and killing. Both of these issues were accommodated by virtually all societies established before the invention of Christianity, as well as scores of others that had never heard of it. Christianity has no monopoly on these two ideals for establishing a functional society.

None of the remaining commandments are acknowledged by any law in any municipality in this nation.

Adios, boulder

After seven days of clamor and noise, arrests, prayers and hymns, sudden silence fell on the morning of August 27th. The crowd of demonstrators outside the Alabama Judicial Building learned that a work crew had tugged and pushed the monument out of the rotunda at about 9:15 a.m. after more than an hour's work. Building manager Graham George said the stone was moved to "a private storage area" in the building, declining to elaborate or say if the public would be able to see it. It happened more quickly than many believed possible. The 2-ton granite sculpture had seemed firmly planted. Crowds and cameras pressed up against the building's glass front, watching workers circle the monument, hands on hips, as if wondering how to budge it. A man prostrated himself a few yards away. Others knelt in prayer.

A few minutes later came the announcement by a protest organizer: "They have just moved the Ten Commandments monument." There was silence, as if the weary, heat-stricken protesters had no more to give. Perhaps also they were nonplused. The sculpture had not been moved with cranes or otherwise muscled out the front door but merely wheeled from public view on a dolly, like the ones discount stores use to maneuver pallets of goods through the aisles. The prostrate man started sobbing. A woman wearing a gold cross sat with her hands clasped, tears streaming down her cheeks. Toward the back of the throng, a man started shouting almost convulsively. "Lawbreakers!" he yelled. "Lawbreakers!"

Demonstrators had pledged to kneel in prayer at every doorway to block the monument's removal, but there was no chance for such gestures. Most of them,

though, reacted quietly to the news, weeping or talking in low tones with friends nearby.

Moore, who had refused to obey Thompson's order to remove the monument, was suspended with pay on ethics charges for the refusal and was overruled by the eight associate justices of the Alabama Supreme Court. The Judicial Inquiry Commission found probable cause that Moore violated six canons of judicial ethics.

During a conference call with all parties in the suit against Moore, Judge Thompson agreed that the state was in compliance. "We are now satisfied that the state is in compliance with the court order now that the monument is being kept in a locked room with no access to the public at any time," said Penny Weaver, a spokesperson for the Southern Poverty Law Center. Attorney Richard Cohen of the SPLC said attorneys had issued a motion to hold Moore in contempt of court. If contempt had been determined, the state could have paid as much as \$5,000 a day in fines. "We told the court that we agreed that the state was now in compliance," Cohen said. "We also told the court that we are withdrawing our motion for contempt so there will be no fines."

The Court of the Judiciary could remove Moore from office. But that prospect was made more difficult in recent years when the Supreme Court changed the rules to require a unanimous vote of sitting Court of the Judiciary members in order to remove a judge.

However, a vote of six of the nine would be all that is needed to impose a lesser punishment than removal from office. Ironically, Moore voted with other Supreme Court justices to change the rules that could now benedict him.

Auburn University political science professor Anne Pernaloff said a unanimous vote may be difficult to secure against Moore, assuming his case goes to a vote of the court. A trial would be public.

Alabama State Attorney General Pryor's office by law is charged with prosecuting Moore. Pryor said that could take months. He declined to say he would seek the strictest punishment for Moore, saying "I'm not going to comment on what we're going to do."

An organization that had set up camp in Montgomery and staged numerous demonstrations against the removal of the monument called on Gov. Bob Riley to post the Ten Commandments in the State Capitol.

When Moore installed the monument two years ago, he decided it to the judicial system. The document stipulates that if the monument is altered or moved, ownership reverts to Moore.

RESIDENTS ARE ROUTINELY SWORN into the nation's highest office with a hand placed reverently on the King James version of the Bible. Congress always opens with prayer. U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, the son of a Pentecostal preacher, holds morning prayer meetings in his taxpayer-funded office. And the Hebrew prophet Moses is depicted in the frieze of the U.S. Supreme Court building holding two tablets that represent the Ten Commandments. So why did a federal court invoke the U.S. Constitution and pick Montgomery as the place to divorce state and church?

State, church meet in many ways

about the same time, our national motto, E Pluribus Unum, was changed to "In God We Trust." That's been our state motto since Florida entered the Union. No one seriously contends that the god on our paper money or in our mottos is a lowercase god, inclusive of all religions. It's not Allah, Thor, Ra, or Vishnu. It's the God of the Christian savior whose birth and crucifixion dates our calendars. We all know it, but since it's not specified by the government, it is declared "ceremonial" by the courts and allowed to stand.

"There are many places where we blur the line between state and church, and most stem from the inability to distinguish between piety and patriotism," says James Dunn, a Baptist and professor of Christianity and Public Policy at the Divinity School at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. The inclination to yoke church to state "comes out of that soil of thinking that this is God's people and that America is a Christian nation."

Officially, of course, it's not. Unlike Denmark, where all newborns are branded Lutheran by the monarchy, or the Republic of Colombia, where babies are counted as Roman Catholic as sure as they are Colombian, the U.S. government is not supposed to thrust religion upon its public. In fact, the United States exists because of people who fled here seeking religious freedom. It's why secular and spiritual leaders from B.C. to A.D. offset Moses in the frieze of the Supreme Court building in Washington. Among them: Confucius, the Chinese lawyer and philosopher; Solomon, king of Israel and a renowned judge; Napoleon, emperor of France; and the prophet Muhammad, shown holding the Quran, Islam's holy book.

How do the courts decide?

Why have courts allowed that some religious displays are legal while others, such as Roy's Rock, are not? The Supreme Court has stressed the importance of the context of a display or reference to a god. As an example, in a 1989 case, it upheld the display of a menorah at a city-county building because it was part of a larger display of holiday symbols, including a Christmas tree. But it forbade a Nativity scene that stood alone at a courthouse.

Why did a federal judge have jurisdiction over an action by a state judge in this case? The challenge to the monument alleged that it violated the U.S. Constitution. Federal courts are the arbiters of the U.S. Constitution.

In 1980, the Supreme Court struck down a law in Kentucky that ordered schools to post the Ten Commandments. Since then, it has declined to intervene in local disputes over public displays of the Commandments. In April, the court let stand a federal appeals court ruling that a Ten Commandments monument outside Kentucky's Capitol would be unconstitutional.

The issue of oaths customarily having witnesses or jurors swear to tell the truth while placing their hand on the Bible or swearing, "so help me God" is often raised as a justification of establishing religion. But the Supreme Court has ruled that government may not require a person to swear to any belief not held by that person. Witnesses have the option of affirming that they will tell the truth, without reference to the Bible or any god.

A President who feels compelled to quote scripture in his presidential speeches is free to express himself under the First Amendment. Same with an attorney general who prays in his office—but forces prayer upon no one. The daily Congressional prayer is said to be non-denominational. A poll showed 77% of Alabamians thought the Commandments should not be removed. Politicians, always mindful of the pulse of their constituency, will generally imply religious reverence in the interest of reelection.

Oddly goody

A sampling of interesting internet news blurbs from the past few weeks. If you do not receive them yet, send your email address to atheist1@BELLSOUTH.net.

From KKK to CCC

NEW ORLEANS, LA (Reuters)—A car crash in a town near New Orleans revealed that a building thought to be a home improvement business was actually a white supremacist church. The vehicle smashed into the brick storefront in Chalmette, Louisiana, after colliding with two other cars and came to rest amid stacks of racist books and pamphlets, including Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. A sign proclaimed the building the "Southern Home Improvement Center," said Lt. Mike Sanders of the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Department. But investigators found out it was the New Christian Crusade Church and headquarters of the Christian Defense League.

Both organizations were the projects of building owner James Warner, a founder of the American Nazi Party and associate of former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard and Republican gubernatorial candidate David Duke, according to the Anti-Defamation League, which monitors hate groups.

"Duke recruited him into the Klan back in 1975, but before that Warner had been with the American Nazi party in the 1960s," said Cathy Glasser, the league's regional director in New Orleans.

Mind the (Generation) gap

DUBAI (AFP)—A grandson of Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini has denounced the religious "dictatorship" ruling Iran, a newspaper reported.

Iran "needs a democratic regime which does not use religion as a means to oppress people and stifle society," the Saudi-owned pan-Arab daily *Al-Awsat* quoted Hossein Khomeini as saying from an unspecified location in Iraq. The grandson of the leader of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution called for "separating religion from the state and ending the despotic religious regime reminiscent of the rule of the Church during the Dark Ages in Europe," London-based *Al-Awsat* reported.

Hush Hush!!!

WASHINGTON (AFP)—A confidential Vatican document drafted more than 40 years ago set out a policy that demanded total secrecy in cases of sex abuse by priests. The policy was written in 1962 by Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, and said that anyone who spoke out about sexual abuse could be kicked out of the church, CBS News reported.

The document deals with what it calls the "worst crime"—"sexual assault committed by a priest" or "attempted by him with youths of either sex or with brute animals." It called on bishops to pursue such cases "in the most secretive way...restrained by a perpetual silence...and everyone (including the alleged victim)...is to observe the strictest secret, which is commonly regarded as a secret of the Holy Office...under the penalty of excommunication."

Larry Drivon, a lawyer who represents victims of sexual abuse, called the document "a blueprint for deception."

"I call it a blueprint for obstruction of justice," victims' attorney Carmen Durso said. Durso has asked the U.S. attorney to review the document with the hope that it can be used to criminally prosecute church hierarchy.

Muslim not welcome at Salvation Army

A homeless Muslim woman claimed she and her two young children were denied shelter at the Salvation Army because she refused to participate in Christian Bible classes. Nadia Auxilia claimed she told a Salvation Army official that attending Bible study classes would be in direct conflict with her Muslim faith. They said "if you don't attend Bible study, you have to leave," Auxilia said. "So, I packed up my stuff and I left."

Who needs tourists

ROME (AFP)—Tired tourists beware—if you visit the cathedrals of Florence or Venice and afterwards want a minute's rest on their steps or pavements, you may be slapped with a fine. Millions of tourists flocking to the historic Italian cities of Florence and Venice are being warned not to sit down when faced with the splendor of the Renaissance—or be slapped with a 50-euro (55 dollar) fine.

Yes, tourists are no longer allowed to sit or stretch out in front of Florence's cathedral, better known as the Duomo, or the Santa Maria Novella church. The measures are thought to be linked to declarations made by Duomo official Monsignor Timothy Verdon that the cathedral and other churches in Florence were "humiliated by chaos, criminality and filth."

Pope prays for rain

More than 40 deaths—including a 3-year-old French girl who died in a parked car—have been blamed on temperatures that have hovered in the 100-degree range for days.

Pope John Paul II made his prayer appeal at the papal palace in lakeside Castel Gandolfo, which is generally cooler than Rome. Drought-fueled fires have plagued Italy, the Iberian Peninsula, France and arid areas of other countries.

"I invite all to join in my prayers for the victims of this calamity, and I exhort all to raise to the Lord fervent entreaties so that He may grant the relief of rain to the thirsty Earth," John Paul told pilgrims and tourists.

Thousands of nude priests

TRIMBAKESHWAR, INDIA (AFP)—Thousands of nude Hindu priests plunged in a pool of water in the early hours to take a holy dip, kicking starting a series of such baths in this western Indian town which form part of the Kumbh Mela (Nectar Pot Fair).

The fairs are marked once every three years, rotating through four different locations in India where Hindu mythology says drops of nectar fell from the pot of Jyanti, the son of the Hindu god of war Indra.

Feng Shui: art and superstition

BERLIN—The breathtaking glass dome above the German Parliament may be a historic landmark, but it's giving off bad karma, a feng shui expert says.

Wilhelm Wuschko, an expert in the Chinese art of positioning objects, said the energy is being sucked out by the glass dome, and should be preserved by coating the dome with protective foil. A Parliament spokesman chuckled at the suggestion.

Chanting the name of the Hindu god Shiva, the priests walked into the pool from various streets. Most of the priests, numbered in the thousands, were nude or wearing only a piece of saffron cloth as they took their swim.

The sight at the pool was one of ritualistic euphoria as the priests, many of whom had come down from the hills where they spend years in penance and meditation, plunged in groups and splashed water on each other chanting sanskrit mantras and holy scriptures.

Most of the nude priests were covered by wet dark ash that gave them an otherworldly look. Even after the bath, they were seen once again rubbing wet ash on their hands and face and walking away back to their abodes.

Just as one group of priests completed their baths, another group was waiting outside the pool for its turn to swim in the cold water.

"I am truly blessed today as I jumped in this holy water and became one with the God. It is this moment that we wait for years and years," said Sri Chaitanya, a young priest from Indian state of Haryana.

"This is God's chosen land and to bathe here is like washing away all your sins and starting life again."

Kennedy versus the Pope

Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, a Democratic congressman from Rhode Island, disagrees with the Pope on the issue of same sex marriage.

Kennedy is not afraid to disagree with his church. He has a long outspoken history favoring abortion rights and the ordination of women in the Catholic Church. In a six-page edict, the Catholic Church told politicians that they had a "moral duty" to oppose same-sex marriage. Kennedy called the Catholic church's opposition to same-sex marriage "bigotry."

"We are talking about the law here, and whether the law is going to treat people equally," Kennedy said in an interview.

"I don't see where the church or anyone else dictates what the policy is going to be with respect to treating people equally."

NEWSNOTES

Monthly Bulletin for the members of ATHEISTS of FLORIDA Inc. Chapter DADE&BROWARD

Our next meeting is planned for



September 21, 2003 at 2pm on the 8th floor of the

BROWARD COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY

100 S Andrews Ave Fort Lauderdale

Topic: Instant classic of atheism:

2003 AAI Tampa Convention

ATEOS de la Florida

Roberto de los Rios, Director

P.O.Box 127845 Hialeah, FL 33012-1631 vinrob513@aol.com

TERROR IN THE NAME OF GOD (page 3)

NOOSENOTES

EXPOSING THE DANGERS OF RELIGION

Should religious displays be allowed on government properties?

By MARK TROP Esq.

No, they should not. The idea of state and church separation has a point. It serves the social good. If you start to put that religious stuff up, it diminishes the basic point of that good.

If all people were smart and enlightened you could put that stuff up with little erosion or rational.

If you start to put that up, it gets used in a dangerous way. Prejudice and hatred of anyone different emerges.

The idea of equality gets set aside in favor of preference for the favored group. In theory the idea of explaining all and representing all equally should maybe solve that problem.

But in reality, when the idea of separate but equal schools came into the U.S. after slavery was outlawed it was later seen that separate was inherently unequal.

Same thing here. In the end the only religions which will get any real presence will be Christian ones. And that will bring bad consequences to all the rest.

In the end, keeping religion and the state separate serves human needs. Religion must be allowed, but it must also be kept out of governing.

Government exists to govern; not to further the devices of religion. It must respect the human desire for religion, but never become part of it.

Putting those things there—usually on the argument that our way of governance grows out of religious ideas—is a step backward. We grew from it; just as we grew from monkeys, but we are not monkeys.

We need to advance into the future; not retrench to the past.

We need to grow with the time; not get chopped back to an era when religion was progressive. Now it is retrogressive. Its very much like going back to caves. But no; we have electricity and running water now; caves don't work.

Religion provides many useful things; its ideas are similar to the way a government/state runs.

But to say it can be expressed on governmental places creates a form for abuse. Equality, one of our most basic principles, gets crushed too easily.

Religion has its place, but one place it has only very limited role is in government. Even to say the word "god" generically in the Pledge and on coins is somewhat dangerous in this regard. Here and there religion will appear; but to put up monuments too...if you are going to do that, then why not and must not you also accommodate the Muslim precepts? And the Buddhist and Janist and so on? And if you don't, have you not put one religion above all others? And then have you not taken the first step to ESTABLISHMENT? Does not making a monument to a thing establish that thing?

Mark Trop is legal counsel to ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA Inc and the Mark Troup Scholarship Fund.

13 Questions

An atheist's profile

Christopher
Wanless

cwan5275@hotmail.com

- 1. Where did you attend school?**
University of Vermont—BS in Computer Science Northeastern University, Boston, MA—MS in Computer Science
- 2. What is your occupation?**
Software Engineer Contractor
- 3. What influenced you to choose that occupation?**
In high school, I found that I was both good at programming and I really enjoyed it.
- 4. In your choice of career, were there any obstacles you had to conquer?**
Not really.
- 5. If you ever wanted another occupation, what would it be?**
Something artistic, like the movie industry.
- 6. What are your hobbies?**
Biking, scuba diving, sky diving, going to movies...
- 7. What is your all time favorite book and why?**
Grapes of Wrath, because I like Steinbeck's writing style a lot and because it's such a powerful story about an important time in American history.
- 8. What is your all time favorite movie and why?**
Dune because I'm a huge Sci-fi fan and because so many aspects of that film were so original and unique.
- 9. When did you become aware you were an Atheist?**
In one sense, I've been one since I was a young boy, maybe nine or ten, when my friends introduced me to the idea of an all-present God (my family was in the Universalist Unitarian church, where they didn't talk about such things—to me anyway), and I couldn't reconcile the notion with my own intu-
- 10. Was there an event or person in your life that influenced your choice of being an Atheist?**
Besides the confirmation mentioned above, no.
- 11. If you were a teacher, what lesson would you teach religious kids?**
Each person's faith is a product of their unique life experience. Atheism requires a kind of faith—after all we can't prove there's no higher intelligence influencing our lives (from the past, or in the present). Since faith is primarily a personal thing, to argue that one kind is 'superior' to another is arbitrary, illogical and wrong.
- 12. How do you see the future of the Separation of State and Church?**
In this country it appears to be in big trouble. The Bush strategy appears to be intent to break it down under the guise of saving money, or at least creating the appearance that the government is spending less. There is hardly anyone attempting to advance thoughtful, intelligent arguments against the current trend of selling politics to the lowest common denominator and those who do don't seem to get much coverage, if any, at all.
- 13. If you were to be quoted, what would be your quote?**

“Please don't quote me.”

Mail Interviews with atheists across the Internet by *NEWSNOTES* teen reporter Fabiola Bens

The Magdalene Sisters is showing at

Regal South Beach 1100 Lincoln Rd Miami, FL 33139	Sunrise Cinemas 4321 Pine Island Road at 44th Sunrise, FL 33351	Regal Shadowood 16 9889 West Glades Road Boca Raton, FL 33434
---	--	--

Book review

Terror in The Name of God

WHILE MOST OF THE MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS claim to be peace-based, most terrorists are religious fundamentalists who use violence in the name of God, Allah, or Jesus. Terrorism expert **Jessica Stern** wondered why. She traveled the world to try to get into the minds of terrorists. Her book **"Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill"** was the end result of her research.

Stern earlier worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In 1998-99, she was the super-terrorism Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and, in 1995-96, she was a national Fellow at Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Besides being the author of *Terror in the Name of God* (HarperCollins, 2003), she also wrote *The Ultimate Terrorists* (Harvard University Press, 1999), and numerous articles on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. She received a bachelor's degree from Barnard College in chemistry, a master's of science degree from MIT, and a doctorate in public policy, from Harvard.

Stern tells *The Early Show* co-anchor **Hannah Storm** (CBS): "I'm deeply concerned. Based on my research, many of the people who end up being terrorists believe they are doing God's will at first. Over time," she says, "the leaders recruit youth into seeing the world in that way. I think some of them become quite cynical. They become professional killers." Intelligence officials in the United States, Europe, and Africa report that al Qaeda has stepped up its recruitment drive in response to the war in Iraq. And the target audience for its recruitment has also changed. They are now younger, with an even more "menacing attitude," as France's top investigative judge on terrorism-related cases, Jean-Louis Brugui, describes them. More of them are converts to Islam. And more of them are women.

What accounts for al Qaeda's ongoing effectiveness in the face of an unprecedented onslaught? The answer lies in the organization's remarkably protean nature. Over its life span, al Qaeda has constantly evolved and shown a surprising willingness to adapt its mission. This capacity for change has consistently made the group more appealing to recruits, attracted surprising new allies, and—most worrisome from a Western perspective—made it harder to detect and destroy. Unless Washington and its allies show a similar adaptability, the war on terrorism won't be won anytime soon, and the death toll is likely to mount.

One of her interviewees was a religious terrorist

Stern says she was compelled to keep studying the connection between religion and terrorism once she started talking to someone who saw terror as an expression of his faith. One of the masterminds of the September 11 attacks, Ramzi bin al-Shibh, described violence as "the tax" that Muslims must pay "for gaining authority on earth."

Why do religious terrorists kill? In interviews over the last five years, many terrorists and their supporters have suggested to her that people first join such groups to make the world a better place—at least for the particular populations they aim to serve.

Over time, however, militants have told her, terrorism can become a career as much as a passion. Leaders harness humiliation and anomie and turn them into weapons. Jihad becomes additive, militants report, and with some individuals or groups—the "professional" terrorists—grievances can evolve into greed: for money, political power, status, or attention.

In his putative autobiography, Zawahir calls the Bush "New World Order" a source of humiliation for Muslims. It is better, he says, for the youth of Islam to carry arms and defend their religion with pride and dignity than to submit to this Bush humiliation. One of al Qaeda's aims in fighting the West, in other words, has become to restore the dignity of humiliated young Muslims. This idea is similar to the anti-colonialist theoretician Franz Fanon's notion that violence is a "cleansing force" that frees oppressed youth from "inferiority complexes," "despair," and "inaction," making them fearless and restoring their self-respect. The real target audience of violent attacks is therefore not necessarily the victims and their sympathizers, but the perpetrators and their sympathizers. Violence, whether through terror or through intimidation, becomes a way to bolster support and awe for the organization and the movement it represents.

This book compels the reader to take another look at religion's claim to be peace-loving. After all, in civilized societies, faith-based terror is committed in very sophisticated ways.

Excerpt from *Terror in the Name of God*:

In this book, terrorism will be defined as an act or threat of violence against noncombatants with the objective of exacting revenge, intimidating, or otherwise influencing an audience. This definition avoids limiting perpetrator or purpose. It allows for a range of possible actors (states or their surrogates, international groups, or a single individual) and all putative goals (political, religious, or economic). This book is concerned only with terrorists who claim to be seeking religious goals, i.e., religious terrorism. It is limited to three monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

As we shall see, most religious terrorists promote a mixture of religious and material objectives, for example, acquiring political power to impose a particular interpretation of religious laws or appealing to religious texts to justify acquisition of contested territory.

Two religious terrorist organizations from history are of particular interest for our purposes: the Zealots-Sicarii and the Assassins. The first was active around the time of Jesus Christ, the second during the eleventh to the thirteenth century. The technologies they employed were primitive: their weapons were the sword and the dagger. Nonetheless, these groups, inspired by religious conviction, were highly destructive and were active internationally.

A Jewish group, the Zealots-Sicarii, survived only twenty-five years, but profoundly influenced the history of the Jews. The Zealots murdered the individuals with daggers and swords. Later they turned to open warfare. Their objective was to create a mass uprising against the Greeks in Judea and against the Romans that governed both Greek and Jews. The revolt had unforeseen and devastating consequences, leading to the destruction of the Temple and to the mass suicide at Masada. Later revolts inspired by the Zealots-Sicarii led to extermination of the Jews in Egypt and Cyprus, the virtual depopulation of Judea, and the Exile itself, which, David Rapoport explains, became central features of the Jewish experience over the next two thousand years.

A