

FACT
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A Matter of *FACT* & *The Voice*

August 2007

FACT

is an association of atheists, freethinkers, agnostics, secular humanists, rationalists, skeptics, and other non-theists dedicated to preservation of the separation of church and state and promotion of Freethought through education.

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August General Meeting

Our speaker in August is Nick Calzoncit who will be speaking on the "History of Eugenics." Nick has long been interested in education. He received his masters from Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. in the field of Education of the Deaf. He worked 25 years as a Central Administrator at Harlandale Independent School District getting his Administrative Certificate from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Nick is also a tobacco awareness consultant and was awarded a grant from the World Health Organization to promote anti-tobacco use. His work was recognized at the White House by President Clinton. Nick has founded and produced two Public Access TV shows. At the present time, Nick is working on a Peace Project which includes empowerment of females.

After the break for coffee and donuts, we will discuss Jim Evans' proposals for changes in the FACT By-laws.

Proposed Changes to FACT By-Laws

If you have not yet responded to Jim Evans regarding his proposals for changes to the By-laws, please do so soon and attend the August meeting to discuss them. The changes are extensive and are partly designed to satisfy the requirements of the articles of incorporation. They also include staggered terms for the Officers, new definitions of the Officer duties, and an increase in annual dues. Contact Jim by e-mail at: jim.evans@FreethinkersACT.org.

We Are Moving!

In view of the drastic rent increase imposed by the Unitarian Church, the September General Meeting of the Freethinkers Association of Central Texas will be held at the Ed Cody Public Library, 11441 Vance Jackson Road (between Huebner and Wurzbach). Look for more information in the September Newsletter.

Note, also, on page 11, that the pre-meeting discussion group will be meeting at a different loca-

Every Monday at 12:30 and 8:30 PM

Time Warner Digital Cable Channel 20

FREETHOUGHT FORUM

Hosted by Hugh Henry

Elected Positions:

President, OPEN

Vice President, OPEN

Second Vice President, Nick Lee

Secretary, Jean Clelland-Morin

Treasurer, Cathy Howard

Publicity, OPEN

Appointed Positions:**Newsletter**

Publisher/Editor, Marc Janssens

Webmaster, Jim Evans

Discussion Group Host, OPEN

Librarian, Jimmie Barnes

Texas Hill Country**Freethinkers**

(No Officers)

For Information contact

Julie Fisher:

zoezappa@hughes.net

FACT MEMBERS:

FACT wants your participation in communicating through our newsletter. Please contribute letters, articles, book reviews, highlights and comments on church/state separation, quotes, drawings, cartoons, etc. Please send contributions to janssensml@aol.com.

All submissions are subject to editorial revisions at the discretion of the publisher.

Who Wants to Talk About Death?

It seems Freethinkers do. Or, maybe Freethinkers just like to talk about anything. At our July meeting, Jane Tuck, introduced our speaker, Russell A. Gainer, MSSW, LCSW who is the Director of Client Services, Senior Bridge, where he helps senior navigate through the system---nursing, private care givers, etc.

Mr. Gainer is a social worker who specialized in geriatrics. In his work he found he needed to find resources for families who had to deal with a death in the family which is why he is so involved in funeral information and planning. Russell presented us with a topic that is serious, but he managed to convey information in a matter-of-fact, yet humorous way.

He showed us a TV clip, a satire starring Mike Nichols and Elaine May, in which Mr. Nichols choose the \$65.00 funeral and learning from the Funeral Director, Ms. May, of the "extra costs" such as a casket, burying the body, and much more. It was funny, but if you've ever been involved in planning a funeral, you know it is not far from the mark.

Some interesting facts presented were that until 1984 the funeral industry was unregulated. In 1987 the Federal Trade Commission brought about some funeral rules such as they must tell you their prices over the telephone, provide you with a price list, and other such rules. The most interesting is that you may furnish your own casket, or make your own, and the funeral home can't charge you handling charges. Some typical funeral costs:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| United States — | \$5,200 (San Antonio — \$4,511) |
| England | 1,650 |
| France | 2,200 |
| Australia | 2,100 |

There are many reasons why funerals cost so much, one reason is that consumers do not shop for funerals. Another is the industries marketing methods are used to manipulate consumers. And, as in other businesses, big companies buy up Mom and Pop funeral homes so there's less competition.

Mr. Russell gave us a lot more information about planning ahead, peace of mind, cremation process and benefits of belonging to Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Antonio. He talked about autopsies and who pays for them (we do except in exceptional circumstances).

He spoke on the benefits of belonging to FCASA, and how the funeral industry adjusts its practices, pitfalls of pre-need contracts, financial planning and information of which the organization keeps you apprised. For more information about Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Antonio, Texas, 7150 IH-10 West, San Antonio, Texas 78213-3468. Telephone: 210-341-2213, web: www.fcsatx.org and e-mail: fcsatx@aol.com

That concluded the speaker's talk and Nick Lee spoke on the relocation of our general meetings due to increase in rent at our present site. He suggested we meet at a library, and posted a map of three that would meet our requirements.

After our refreshment break, Jim talked about changes to our Bylaws and passed out a draft for consideration and comments from members. He discussed the proposed changes. Nick Lee said we would set aside some time at our August meeting to speak about the Bylaws. The meeting was adjourned.

By Sally Chizek

Atheist Artwork Requested

Here's a challenge for Freethinkers. Dr. Andrew Newberg, the Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburg who put spirituality and the brain on the covers of both "Time" and "Newsweek" is asking for input from the atheist community. For an experiment Dr. Newberg and his Assistant Mark Waldman are conducting, they are requesting artwork from atheists. This experiment builds upon an interesting study of 2,000 Christian and atheist children's drawings of God.

In any way that spontaneously comes to you, with pencil, colored pens, chalk, anything--atheists are being asked to draw a concept of spirituality, meditation and religious beliefs (of course, the lack thereof applies). On the back of the artwork, please write down your impressions of your own drawing, with your name, age, childhood religious affiliation, and the year you embraced atheism/agnosticism.

Submission are to be sent via mail or snail mail to:

Mark Robert Waldman
Associate Fellow
Center for Spirituality and the Mind
University of Pennsylvania
1605 Lookout Drive
Agoura, CA 91301

E-mail: markwaldman@sbcglobal.net <<mailto:markwaldman@sbcglobal.net>>

For more information about the study or the Center, log on to <http://markrobertwaldman.com> and www.spiritualityandthemind.org

Get An Earful of Science and Religion

Can science ever be reconciled with religion? How did the universe begin? Can science prove there is a biology of belief? Can you believe in God if you accept evolution? Where can you touch the fabric of mystery?

The Wisconsin Public Radio series "To the Best of Our Knowledge" recently aired a five-part series of discussions on these topics, and they are available for listening at your convenience. The program includes interviews with [E.O. Wilson](#), [Francis Collins](#), [Richard Dawkins](#), [Karen Armstrong](#), [Michael Ruse](#), [Ursula Goodenough](#), and [Sam Harris](#).

To listen to this entire series, log on to <http://www.wpr.org/book/god/>, or download the .mp3 files for later enjoyment.
(Our thanks to member Glenn Ellison for bringing this program to our attention.)

Our Own Texas Atheist

On a related note, the Freedom From Religion Foundation produces a weekly hour-long radio program, which also can be heard on the internet. The June 16th broadcast included an interview with FACT Founder and Free-thought icon, Catherine Fahringer. You can catch it at <http://ffrf.org/radio/podcast/>, along with other archived broadcasts.

“Submit to the Roman Pontiff”

(The FACT library contains two volumes of cartoons originally published by the Truth Seeker, the leading Freethought magazine of the 1890's. The cartoons are accompanied by relevant texts from the magazine. The excerpt below reflects the anti-Catholic sentiment of the country in the wake of recent waves of immigration from Catholic countries such as Italy and Ireland. These quotes have relevancy more than one hundred years later, as evidenced by the recent Papal dictat that the Catholic Church is the one true church recognized by God.)

“He (the Pope) alone has the right to assume empire. All nations must kiss his feet.”
--*Bull of Gregory VII*

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“Let it be remembered that all churches have persecuted heretics to the extent of their power. Toleration has increased only when and where the power of the church has diminished. From Augustine until now the spirit of the church has remained the same. There has been the same intolerance, the same undying hatred of all who think for themselves, and the same determination to crush out of the human brain all knowledge inconsistent with an ignorant creed. Every church pretends that it has revelation from God, and that this revelation must be given to the people through the church; that the church acts through its priests, and that ordinary mortals must be content with a revelation—not from God—but from the church....Give any orthodox church the power, and to-day they would punish heresy with whip and chain and fire. As long as a church deems a certain belief essential to salvation, just so long it will kill and burn if it has the power.”
---*R.G. Ingersoll.*

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“The church has never formally given up the wish, however hopeless it may be, that the fervor and discipline of primitive times could be restored, and, consequently, instead of abolishing their injunctions and specifically substituting other practices in their place, she has preferred ever considering these as mitigations of what she still holds herself entitled to enforce. The only difference, therefore, between the former and her present practice, is that that mitigation of commutation has become the ordinary form of satisfaction, which, however unwillingly, she deems it prudent to exact.”
--*Cardinal Wiseman*

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“If the laws of the state are openly at variance with the law of God—if they inflict injury upon the church—if they clash with the dictates of religion, or set at naught the authority of Jesus Christ which is vested in the supreme pontiff, then, indeed, it becomes a duty to resist them, a sin to render obedience....Nay, it is a duty assigned by God to the church to make resistance, if at any time the state does harm to religion, and to strive that the virtue of the gospel shall influence the laws and institutions of peoples....There is no true and lawful authority except that which comes from God, the sovereign Lord of all, who alone has power to give man authority over his fellow-man....Now, to declare what is the divine teaching is the function of the teaching church to whom God has entrusted the guardianship and interpretation of his words. But the highest teacher in the church is the Roman pontiff. Hence, as the union of mind necessitates a perfect agreement in one faith, so it calls all wills to be perfectly submissive and obedient to the church and the Roman pontiff, as to God....The diminution and loss of Christian faith is shown most of all in the wrongs which are too often done to the Catholic religion publicly and before the eyes of men—wronges which an age that practiced religion would not suffer for a moment.”
—*Encyclical of Leo XIII of Jan. 10, 1889.*

●—————●
“When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag
and carrying the cross.”

Sinclair Lewis (Undated quote)

Update On Christian Reconstructionism

In the May issue, Sally Chizek and Catherine Fahringer wrote about the Christian Reconstructionism. Here are some excerpts from an article by Jeremy Leaming which show that "they are still pushing this treasonous agenda."

"A recent conference held by American Vision, a radical ministry that tolls away to 'help Christians build a truly Biblical worldview, displayed the growing organization of the dangerous Reconstructionist movement....Tucked away a few miles from Interstate 40 just outside Asheville, N.C., the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center provides Southern Baptists with a remote place to facilitate the nurturing of 'Biblical Solutions for Life.'...The sprawling 1,300-acre compound in the Blue Ridge Mountains is made up of chapels, a book store, cafe, guest housing, drab-colored brick buildings, fences topped with barbed wire and plenty of wooded grounds...it is not easily or quickly located, the address CANNOT (my capitals) be found via Google Maps or traced on a Global Positioning System (GPS).

"During the last week of May, hundreds of Religious Right activists and their families made their way there for a four-day 'Worldview Super Conference.' They came to hear fundamentalist Christian speakers rail about the nation's moral confusion, claim the public schools are bastions of secular humanism and warn that Christians, especially their type of Christians, are in danger of being persecuted by America...."The major theme of this year's Worldview conference was a call for an ongoing push by Christian fundamentalists to tear down democracy and replace it with theocracy. Far from being super, it was rather scary."

"One of the first speakers, Gary Cass (former head of TV preacher D. James Kennedy's now-defunct Center for Reclaiming America for Christ), said 'We need a new American vision because we've lost our biblical heritage, our Christian birthright, which has been given to us by our founders, we have squandered for a poisonous bowl of atheistic humanism and political correctness.....By God's grace you are here to reclaim our godly heritage and to reassert, without apology to the atheists and the neo-pagans of our day, that this was and is a Christian nation, built on Christian ideals.'

The Rev. Vodde Baucham, Jr., pastor at Grace Family Baptist Church, Spring, Texas (virtually the only African-American at the conference) is indignant that so many "blood-washed" Christians choose to send their children to public schools. (he is) .pushing a resolution before the South Baptists' annual convention that calls on church members to yank their kids from public schools.

"Doug Phillips (heads up a San Antonio-based group called Vision Forum that advocates for the 'Biblical family.'), railed at what he said was a plot by secularists to write Christianity out of American history,.....he promoted removing kids from public schools and immersing them in fundamentalist Christian training.

"Gary North ...(the son-in-law of the founder of the Christian Reconstructionist's movement...)said, 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now, that established God as the absolute authority, since he is the creator, he is the owner of all of creation. And, therefore, absolutely sovereign over that creation.' (North calls for the death penalty for youngsters who curse their parents, gays and others who violate his interpretation of biblical law. He has argued that stoning is the preferred means of capital punishment, noting that it is a communal activity and 'the implements of execution are available to everyone at virtually no cost.')

"The conference also heard from Janet Folger, a former executive director of Kennedy's disbanded Center for Reclaiming America for Christ...she now heads a Religious Right lobbying group dubbed 'Faith2Action,' was especially ticked off at the new make-up of Congress, blasting it for supporting hate-crime legislation...She tagged gays as plotting to criminalize the Christian religion.

"The evening featured one of the oddest presentations. Gary Bates, head of Creation Ministries International, spoke for well over an hour about his recent book 'Alien Intrusion: UFOs and the Evolution Connection.' In a nutshell, Bates contends that the UFOs some Americans claim to see are not space aliens, but rather angels. Some of those angels are good, he indicated, and some are bad. He said that Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, and the Muslim prophet Mohammed had both been visited by fallen angels.

"The biggest draw, however, was the debate between Americans United Executive Director Barry W. Lynn and Herb Titus, a former dean of TV preacher Pat Robertson's Regent University and former attorney for disgraced Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore. The two advocates sparred over whether the First Amendment prevents 'a Biblical-Based Public Policy.' ..."Lynn told the 800 conferees what they didn't particularly want to hear. 'American public policy cannot be based solely on the Bible, any more than it could be based solely on the Koran or the Bhagvad Gita.

Submitted by Sally Chizek

Islamic Police Face Backlash

According to an Associated Press report, recent developments may lead to some loosening of the extremist religious stranglehold on the Islamic Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a scary incident four years ago, three women were dragged from a car on a Riyadh street by two bearded men, who took them on a wild ride for more than one hour before dropping them off on a dark street. The women said the men identified themselves as “religious police” charged with the responsibility to enforce Islamic modesty laws. One of the women took an unprecedented step of suing for damages, and the case is finally being heard by a Grievances Court.

Another recent court case involves wrongful death suits filed against the religious police by the families of two Saudi men — one arrested for allegedly consuming alcohol, another for being alone with a woman not of his family.

The Religious Police are a powerful, independent body called the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, created more than six decades ago. In that time, there has been no known public legal action taken against its members despite complaints they occasionally overstep their boundaries. But things may be changing.

The National Society for Human Rights, a nongovernmental body, has issued a report which, according to the daily Arab News, levels a string of allegations at the religious police: abusive language, unsubstantiated accusations, humiliation of people during interrogation, beatings, unnecessary body searches, forced entry into private homes and coerced confessions.

The report, as well as the extensive coverage the cases have received and editorials calling for the commission's reform, suggest the government may act to regulate the force.

Another setback for the commission came in the appointed Consultative Council, the nearest thing to a parliament in Saudi Arabia. It rejected proposals to build more commission centers and give its members a 20 percent salary raise. While the council's actions are not binding, they reflect a general desire to curb the religious police's power.

Several media outlets have conducted informal surveys asking Saudis whether the commission should be dissolved. Some have said yes. While the polls may be unscientific, simply asking the question is significant.

The Saudi government is reluctant to tamper with its religious establishments for fear of angering conservatives and weakening its credentials as custodian of Islam's two holiest shrines. The conservative impulse has lately been illustrated by a request from 14 faculty members of King Saud University's medical school to ban male students from treating women and vice versa, on the grounds that handling bodies of the other sex is un-Islamic.

Trouble In The Ranks?

Some Polish Nuns have developed bad habits. (*Sorry!*) Seems like sixty-four Nuns are standing strong against the Vatican and their own religious order in support of their Mother Superior, who was fired for running the convent based on her religious visions. The Nuns took over the convent in the southern city of Kazimierz Dolny two years ago, and have refused to leave, despite the fact that supplies of electricity and water have been cut off. Now, a Polish court has stepped in and issued an eviction notice to the Nuns to vacate the convent. Stay tuned.

We Got Letters

The following information was submitted by an online user through the [Feedback](#) page of [MySanAntonio.com](#).
05/26/2007 09:09 AM

SUBJECT: Atheist Authors - Saturday Religion Section

"--time for Atheists to take the gloves off". I was one of the quiet protesters who objected to the use the city hall steps being used as a house-of-worship on the National Day of Prayer. During a discussion afterwards with fellow members of Freethinkers Association of Central Texas, I said I was sick and tired of being on the defensive and suggested that we use the National Day of Reason to hand out information such as the brochure entitled "10 Myths About Atheists".

It's difficult not be angry when fundamentalist-religious leaders accuse me of being part of the war on Christians (or Christmas!). I am merely a member of a minority trying to keep the holier-than-thou from discriminating against me and legislating my private life.

If the world is going to hell in a hand-basket, it is because the fundamentalists (not the true Christians) have not only failed to make this a better planet but have done much to perpetuate the ills.

I am sick of taking undeserved blame. The gloves are off!

HEY, LETTER WRITERS!

We're looking for well-crafted letters having to do with the separation of church and state, atheism, or any other relevant topic. Members are encouraged to forward published letters, or ones which were rejected by the mainstream media, for publication. Send them either to: janssensml@aol.com or P.O. Box 160881 San Antonio, TX 78280

Let The Dialogue Begin

Here's an example of an e-exchange with a believer. I like communicating with believers who are open to others' ideas. But, there are Christians and there are fundamentalists. To the fundamentalists I say, "I'm fed up and I'm not taking it anymore".

From: jean clelland-morin
To: questions@bobsiegel.net
Sent: Sun, 16 Apr 2006 17:01:56 -0700 (PDT)
Subject: "church persecution"

Thank you for coming to the American Atheist convention and sharing your thoughts. Thank you for the respect you gave. I read your article on your site and liked most of it. But there is no "church persecution", no "War on Christmas" nor "War on Christians". I don't see that there is any danger of losing our churches or any danger of losing our right to pray at the bedside.

The real persecution is found in such things as The Texas Constitution prohibition of holding public office unless professing to believe in a "Supreme Being". This has been challenged and is legally not effective at the moment. But the legislature refused to take it off the books. What will happen when the fundamentalists get their way with the Supreme court?

I worked the 1530 to midnight shift, as a single mother, and went to school days to earn my university degree. I was angry a lot of the time because the media and many around me (including family) insisted that we were an inferior
(continued on next page)

Let The Dialogue Begin (cont.)

family unit because there was no father. This is not inherently so and the outside pressures were the only real problem (including pay for women lower than merited).

This is probably the basis for my standing up for gay rights. Gay families are NOT inherently inferior and ho-lie-r-than-thou social pressure is the real problem. Blatant case in point: How many men who were afraid to get married and just as afraid to come out of the closet escaped into the priesthood and finally succumbed to their testosterone?

You are one of the reasonable believers (as opposed to the usual shouters I often saw on Faith under Fire). I am begging you to stand up for my rights to fellow believers. I am convinced this will be good for both sides.

Jean Clelland-Morin /

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To: Jean
From questions@bobsiegel.net

Thank you for your letter. I enjoyed the debate and I enjoyed meeting you. If it is OK with you, I would like to read your interesting letter over the air on my radio program this week and respond to it there. I believe you raised some good points and that my listeners could benefit from a discussion of this topic. You can hear my program over the internet in real time, (KCBQ.Com 3:00 to 4:00 Pacific Time Sunday April 23. There is a toll free number if you want to then call in and respond live over the air to my response 1-888-344-1170. If you are unable to hear the program live, it will be posted to my own website the next morning. www.bobsiegel.net. If you do not feel like calling in but would still like to respond, you can always send me another E Mail. If you would prefer that I not read your letter over the air or if you would like your name changed while I read it, let me know.

Sincerely

Bob Siegel
<questions@bobsiegel.net>



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|--|-------------------------|
| FACT T-Shirts for Sale (Grey w/Black Logo) | |
| Small-XL... ..\$12.00 | 3X.....\$15.00 |
| 2X.....\$14.00 | Vests (Red).....\$17.00 |
| To order or for further information, contact Sally Chizek (210) 6565-3796 | |

Labels

By Nick Lee

How many times have you engaged in a conversation with someone and revealed that you are a member of the Freethinkers, only to have them go “Huh? What’s that?” And then you go into the list of labels that are included in that term: “Nonreligious”, “Secular Humanist”, “Agnostic”, “Atheist”, etc. And then they walk away thoroughly confused and unenlightened.

Even among ourselves, those terms are confusing and we do not agree on their definitions. Some of them have an immediate negative impact on the hearer, as strong as the “N” word.

Nonreligious has the most neutral connotation and simply refers to a lack of religion.

The term **Secular Humanism** represents a philosophy that values reason and ethics and rejects supernatural or spiritual bases for moral behavior.

An **Agnostic** takes the view that the truth of theological claims or the existence of a God is unknowable, due to the lack of objective evidence.

Atheism asserts an affirmative belief in the nonexistence of Gods, and the rejection of the supernatural.

The way I explain the difference is that: a Theist says “I believe there is a God!”; an Atheist says: “ I believe there is no God!”; while an Agnostic says “I don’t believe in belief!”

One problem with most of these labels is that we tend to define ourselves in negative terms:

nonreligious = without religion,
 agnostic = without sure knowledge,
 atheism = against religion.

These labels tell people what we are against, but does not indicate what we are in favor of. That is one of the motivations behind the recent invention of the term “Brights”: to provide a positive label for those who have a naturalistic world view, free of supernatural elements. But that term has generally been met with derision, both within and without the non-believers community.

For my money, the term Freethinker provides a positive description of a philosophy with a centuries-long pedigree. As defined in *Freethought Today*, a Freethinker is “a person who forms opinions about religion on the basis of reason, independently of tradition, authority, or established belief.” The *Wikipedia* article states that “Freethought is a [philosophical](#) viewpoint that holds that [beliefs](#) should be formed on the basis of [science](#) and [logical](#) principles and not be compromised by [authority](#), [tradition](#), or any other [dogma](#).”

That may be difficult to explain to a curious inquirer, but it is an honest and positive expression of a philosophy of life. The term Freethinker conveys an affirmative attitude, rather than ‘anti’.

In the words of Descartes’ doppelganger: **“I Am, Therefore I Think!”**

Personal Note

Although a resident of Minneapolis, Marie Castle has been a member of FACT for a number of years. In a recent e-mail to Sally Chizek, Marie describes how her son, Mike, was only seconds away from driving under the bridge that collapsed. He was able to get off the highway, and was one of the first responders to pull people from cars and children from the school bus, before the police and EMTs arrived. Marie is relieved that Mike escaped injury, and she is proud that was able to give assistance.

Proof Of The Existence Of God?

The following is an actual question given on a University of Washington Chemistry mid-term. The answer by one student was so "profound" that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet, which is, of course, why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it as well.

"Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)?"

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools when it expands and heats when it is compressed) or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following:

"First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving.

"I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

"As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell.

"With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially.

"Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell...because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added.

"This gives two possibilities:

"1 . If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.

"2. If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

"So which is it?

"If we accept the postulate given to me by Teresa during my Freshman year that, "it will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you" and take into account the fact that I slept with her last night then number 2 must be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and has already frozen over.

"Of course, the corollary of this theory is that since Hell has frozen over, it follows that it is not accepting any more souls and is therefore, extinct...leaving only Heaven thereby proving the existence of a divine being which explains why, last night, Teresa kept shouting "Oh my God.""

THIS STUDENT RECEIVED THE ONLY "A"

READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY? TELL US ABOUT IT.
Send your book reviews, recommendations, critiques, or top 10 list to:

janssensml@aol.com

August Events

August 7th - THCF First Tuesday Lunch

1:00 pm – Meet other Freethinkers at the Texas Hill Country Freethinkers' First Tuesday Lunch (held monthly)
 Discussion Topic: "Could we catch more flies with Honey? A Different approach to activism."

Ping's Restaurant
 (by the HEB in Leon Springs)
 24165 W IH 10 # 221

August 18th – The Lunch Bunch

11:30 am: Join the "Lunch Bunch" for good food and great conversation before the General Meeting

Sarika's Thai Restaurant
 4319 Medical Drive (near Fredericksburg Road)
Note New Location!

August 18th – FACT General Meeting

1:00 pm: General meetings occur on the 3rd Saturday of every month (unless otherwise announced)

Guest speaker: Nick Calzoncit
 Title of Presentation: "Eugenics"
 After-break: discussion of changes to FACT By-laws
Community Unitarian Universalist Church
 4818 Beverly Mae East (off Babcock)

August 26th – FACT Discussion Brunch

10:00 am - Join us for breakfast and discussion the last Sunday of every month.

Hosted by To Be Announced
 Topic: To Be Announced
Justin's Ice Cream and Deli
 2512 N. Main (Near Woodlawn)
 (Note: FACT needs YOU to turn out for this monthly Brunch, to justify Justin's decision to open two hours early, just for us!)

September Events

September 4th — THCF First Tuesday Lunch

September 15th — FACT General Meeting
 September 30th — FACT Discussion Brunch

| August 2007 | | | | | | |
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| September 2007 | | | | | | |
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FACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Return form to : FACT, P.O. Box 160881, San Antonio, TX 78280-3081

YEARLY DUES

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| A. | Individual Paying Member | \$25 |
| B. | Family (2 or more members) | \$35 |
| C. | Full-time Student | \$15 |
| D. | Restricted Member (Newsletter Subscription Only) | \$15 |

- Membership dues are due in January.
- Dues are non-refundable.
- New members who join after the 1st month of the year will pay a prorated amount for the remainder of the year.
- Members who paid dues the previous year, but who are paying late, will be liable for the entire year.