



The Cowtown Humanist

Volume Nine Number 2 - March 2007

WE MEET AT THE WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH,
LOCATED AT 901 PAGE AVE., FT WORTH AT 7 PM ON MARCH 14TH

Many of us dine at Luby's Cafeteria, 2001 8th Avenue prior to our meetings (it's just south of Elizabeth Ave)

All are invited to join us at 5:30

**The topic of discussion at our next meeting will be the
Costs and Benefits of Redistributing Income**

Our speaker for the March 14th meeting is Dr. Kristen Klopfenstein, Assistant Professor of Economics at TCU. Her special field is the Economics of Discrimination. In this time of growing and unmitigated disparity of income, probably the greatest extreme in the history of our country, few subjects could be of more interest and importance. It is a special privilege and our good fortune to have a speaker with such outstanding qualifications.

I hope our attendance will honor our speaker and will justify a continued high quality of programs. I think most of us will agree that programs are the most important factor in the growth and strength of our Humanist chapter. If you value your association with like-minded free-thinkers, the exchange of ideas, opportunities for learning and the making of new friends, you can ensure its continued existence by your presence and participation at meetings. Please come and bring a friend.

**NOTE TO BOARD MEMBERS: PLEASE PLAN TO STAY
FOR A BRIEF MEETING FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION AT
APPROXIMATELY 8:40 P.M.**

17 Million humanists in Britain!

36% of the population!*

**42% of the population think the Government pays too
much attention to religious groups and leaders!**

If you count yourself amongst the rapidly growing number of humanists in Britain, or resent the growing influence of unrepresentative 'faith leaders' on Government policy,
Please join the BHA today!

*FROM THE BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
TOO BAD WE ARE'N'T AS WELL REPRESENTED IN THE US.

*The non-moving Earth & anti-evolution web page of Fair
Education Foundation, Inc., proclaims*

EXTRA! EXTRA!

*Read all about the Copernican and Darwinian Myths
(and their many ramifications going all the way to Kab-
bala-based Big Bangism!)*



"The world also is established that it cannot be moved"

"He...hangeth the Earth upon nothing." Job 26:7

Levitating Globe

**Could God have engineered something like that for the real
Earth? The Bible and all real evidence confirms that this is pre-
cisely what He did.**

All of the evidence that is required to expose and destroy the counterfeit Copernican Model of a rotating and orbiting Earth--and the entire evolutionary paradigm resting upon that counterfeit--is set out in This Book & in scores of links on this web page.

Those who read some or all of these links will quickly realize that this is no idle claim. Rather--as will become evident with each subject listed--there is abundant hard proof that both the Copernican Counterfeit and the Big Bang Evolutionary Paradigm that is built upon it are factless frauds from start to finish.

Indeed, the diligent reader will be astonished at the level of *demonstrable* hi-tech fraud, baseless assumptions, occult mathematics, etc.,--all part of a religious conspiracy!--that has been at work over many centuries implanting the incredible evolution myth about the origin of the Universe, the Earth, and Mankind.

On this web page the Bible is not used to prove anything scientific. Instead, the scientific facts--along with historical and religious facts--prove the Bible to be precisely what it claims to be, namely, the *infallible* Word of God.

Want more "proof?" Go to www.fixedearth.com

Europeans' Understanding of Science, Evolution, More Advanced Than Americans

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15 (AScribe Newswire) -- When it comes to scientific literacy, Americans aren't nearly as evolved as they may think. In fact, only about 40 percent of American adults accept the basic idea of evolution, a figure much lower than any European country.

Friday, Feb. 16th, in an American Association for the Advancement of Science symposium, titled "Anti-Evolution in Europe: Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid, or Not?," Michigan State University's Jon Miller argued that religion plays a major role in how Americans view evolution.

"The lowest-ranking country in terms of discounting evolution is Turkey. The United States is next," said Miller, who has analyzed surveys on belief in evolution from around the world. "The way we characterize religious fundamentalists in Turkey and in the U.S. is that they are both one-book religions."

"Fundamentalists in this country say everything you need to know is in the Bible, period. Islamists say everything you need to know is in the Koran, period," said Miller, a professor in political science.

Last year, Miller published a paper in the journal Science that stated two in five American adults rejected the concept of evolution, which was a significantly higher proportion than found in any Western European country. Another one in five

were unsure about evolution. In contrast, 80 percent or more of adults in Iceland, Denmark and Sweden accepted the concept of evolution.

In addition to religion, politics plays a crucial role in how Americans view evolution. It has become a highly politicized issue, Miller said, with the Republican Party in particular often using it as a litmus test for potential candidates.

"There is no major political party in Europe that uses opposition to evolution as a part of its political platform," he said. "In the United States, there are people who think it is a political advantage to discount evolution."

Not surprisingly, Miller and colleagues also found that persons with strong pro-life beliefs were significantly more likely to reject evolution than those with pro-choice views.

"The total effect of pro-life attitudes on the acceptance of evolution was much greater in the United States than in the nine European countries surveyed," he said.

Miller is the Hannah Professor of integrative studies at Michigan State University. He has appointments in the Division of Mathematics and Science Education and the Department of Political Science.

THEOLOGICAL VERSUS HUMANIST ETHICS

One charge often hurled at disbelievers is that we have nothing positive to offer. On the contrary, we at Free Inquiry have always maintained that it is possible for an individual to lead a good life and be morally concerned about others without belief in God. We have pointed out that the traditional creeds often condoned heinous crimes: censorship, repression, slavery, war, torture, genocide, the domination of women, the denial of human freedom, and opposition to new frontiers of scientific research. We surely cannot condemn all religions, and we recognize that some religions have performed good works: providing charity to the poor and consoling the sick and weak at times of suffering or tragedy. Religions are among the oldest human institutions on the planet. They developed in agricultural and nomadic societies. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" expresses the metaphors of premodern and prescientific cultures. Many of them would later

oppose modern secular trends and fight against democratic reforms. Indeed, the achievements of human progress in the past have often been in spite of opposition from devout religious believers. Today is another day, and religious liberals now support many of the ideals and values of modern secularism and humanism; they may support science and even not be unsympathetic to biblical criticism. Yet in spite of this, they often cling to earlier mythological creeds spun out in the infancy of the race. that skepticism about the existence of God does not by itself define who and what we are. For there is a commitment to the realization of human freedom and happiness in this life here and now and to a life of excellence, creativity, and fulfillment. Life is meaningful without the illusion of immortality. There is also the recognition that the cultivation of the common moral decencies—caring, empathy, and altruism—is an essential part of our relating to other human beings in our communities of interaction. Humanists have always been concerned with achieving justice in society. Many of the heroes and heroines in human history were freethinkers who contributed significantly to democratic progress and a defense of human rights. Indeed, the agenda of secular humanism is twofold: first is the quest for truth, a critical examination of the assumptions of supernatural religion in the light of science; second is the development of affirmative ethical alternatives for the individual, the society in which he or she lives, and also the planetary community at large. To label us “evangelical atheists” without recognizing our affirmative commitment to secular humanist morality is an egregious error.

Trash pick up on Granbury Rd March 31st beginning at 8:30 AM. After we perform our civic duty, we will be rewarded with breakfast at a nearby pancake house.
Contact Ray Weil 817-205-8603



I am a subscriber to www.stumbleupon.com, a site that allows you to interact with people all over the world who have ideas and interests that coincide with yours. I for one, have acquaintances whose interests include agnostic/atheist and classical music. I've contacted several people in the Fort Worth area and have invited them to attend our meetings. Give it a try . . . you too may enjoy the site.

Your officers may be contacted as follows:

- Chair: Dick Trice** 7563 Casburn Ct Ft Worth, TX 76120 Phone 817-446-3840 [email maandpatrice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maandpatrice@sbcglobal.net)
- Vice Chair: Jim Cheatham** 1582 CR 2730 Glen Rose, TX 76047 Phone 817-254-797-0277 [email halfrey@hyperusa.com](mailto:halfrey@hyperusa.com)
- Secretary: Reed Bilz** 6130 Haley Ln Ft Worth, TX 76132 Phone 817-292-7974 [email rbilz@charter.net](mailto:rbilz@charter.net)
- Treasurer: Dolores Ruhs** 1036 Hill Top Pass Benbrook, TX 76126 Phone 817-249-1829 [email ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net)
- Past Chair: Don Ruhs** 1036 Hill Top Pass Benbrook 76126 Phone 817 249-1829 [email laidback935@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laidback935@sbcglobal.net)
- Past Chair Mike Haney** 924 Roaring Springs Rd Ft Worth, TX 76114 Phone 817-737-7047 [email mhaneyinfw@charter.net](mailto:mhaneyinfw@charter.net)
- Past Chair and Webmaster:** Russell Elleven 6120 Comfort Dr Ft Worth, TX 76132 Phone 817-370-2171 [email info@hofw.org](mailto:info@hofw.org)
- Program Director: Jeff Rodriquez** 5612 Odom St Ft Worth, TX 76114 [email schnooks61@netzero.com](mailto:schnooks61@netzero.com)

I'd like to solicit articles from members who may wish to contribute anything of interest to our membership.

Newsletter Editor: Ray Weil: Phone 817-205-8603 (cell) or 817-346-2402 (home) [email alphamail@myway.com](mailto:alphamail@myway.com)

Please contact the editor with newsletter comments, complaints and/or suggestions.

For more info about us and an archive of our past newsletters, go to: www.hofw.org

Owe dues? – see Dolores Ruhs