

# NOSHA NEWS

Newsletter of the New Orleans Secular Humanist Association  
Summer 2006

## New Orleans Secular Humanist Association

330 Julia St., Apt. 233  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
(a 501c3 corporation)  
<http://nosha.secularhumanism.net>

## DIRECTORS / OFFICERS

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## NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

## MEETINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month, 2:00 pm  
Old Metairie Branch  
Jefferson Parish Public Library

N.O. COX CABLE TV  
CH 77 "Humanist Perspective"  
Sat. midnight; Sun. noon  
CH 78 "Atheist Viewpoint"  
Tues. 10:30 am; 10:30 pm

## BEST-SELLING AUTHOR MAKES A HOMECOMING

On June 21, the Garden Street Book Shop in New Orleans joined NOSHA in hosting *New York Times* best-selling author Chris Mooney for a reception and book-signing. This was a homecoming for Chris, who not only grew up in and graduated from highschool in New Orleans, but is the son of NOSHA board member, Sally Mooney.



Sally and Chris Mooney

Chris Mooney's first book, *The Republican War on Science*, has been dubbed "a landmark in contemporary political reporting" by Salon.com and a "well-researched, closely argued and amply referenced indictment of the right wing's assault on science and scientists" by *Scientific American*. The book was also a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* book prize in the science and technology category and has garnered him appearances on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," "Fresh Air with Terry Gross," NPR's "Science Friday," and Air America's "Al Franken Show" as well as interviews with major newspapers and magazines. Perhaps one of his proudest accolades, though, is being named

as one of *Wired* magazine's ten "sexiest geeks" of 2005.

Chris discussed his book before a hometown crowd of nearly 60 people and then we all enjoyed a few moments to chat with the author. The centerpiece of the reception which followed was the cake decorated as a near-perfect replica of Chris's book jacket which features "the south end of a northbound elephant." Pictured here are the author and his mother enjoying the reception. Clearly Sally is very proud of her eldest as are we all.

If you haven't read the book, you should. And tell your friends. It's that important. Neal Lance, former science advisor to President Clinton and former Director of the National Science Foundation said of the book, "A careful reading of this well-researched and richly referenced work should remove any doubt that, at the highest levels of government, ideology is being advanced in the name of science, at great disservice to the American people." It is available at your local bookstore as well as at Amazon.com and is now available in paperback.

**A PRAYER SERVICE BY ANY OTHER NAME**  
**Report on NOSHA vs City of New Orleans**  
**by Harry Greenberger**

An August 25 article which appeared in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* newspaper, captioned "Plan to bar atheist doesn't have a prayer," refers to the lawsuit by New Orleans Secular Humanist Association (NOSHA), represented by the Louisiana ACLU, to prevent a Katrina Hurricane Anniversary event "Ecumenical Prayer Service" promoted under the aegis of the City.

On July 24, the *Times-Picayune* had reported that the City of New Orleans was sponsoring an Ecumenical Prayer Service as one of the Katrina anniversary commemoration events. It also stated that others who wished to be included in the various City events should contact a person whose e-mail address ended with "mayorofno.org." On that date I advised this contact that the city sponsorship of a prayer service violated the Establishment Clause, but rather than asking for the event to be cancelled, I just wanted secular humanists to participate either before or after the prayer session, as I didn't think it was right for secular people to be excluded from the recognition, condolences and encouragement of the planned event.

My request was forwarded to another event coordinator, who then failed to respond to my email. After a few days I tried again to elicit a response without success.

The *Times-Picayune* reported in another article about the Anniversary Events that the Mayor's wife, Seletha Nagin, and Lt. General Russell Honore were the co-chairs overseeing city-sponsored Katrina anniversary events, including an interfaith service and a gospel choir, but I received no communication from them.

Finally I wrote to Mayor Nagin explaining my concerns with the event and emphasized again that we wanted secular entities to be included and the event renamed. It was on August 16 that I received a call from the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission for the City of New Orleans, who while not participating the decision, was asked to advise me that my request was denied. I e-mailed him an article about the large and growing secular population in the United States and asked him to encourage the people in the Mayor's office to reconsider. The response remained a rejection of my request.

Abandoning my conciliatory attitude, I contacted Louisiana ACLU, who were incensed about the position of the City and advised that a lawsuit be immediately filed by NOSHA to stop the proposed prayer service as being in violation of the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The NOSHA Board of Directors approved

this legal action in our name and ACLU proceeded to prepare the documents. Upon advising the City Attorney of the imminent filing of the suit against the mayor and the City of New Orleans ACLU was asked to meet with City officials to see if the problem could be worked out. The outcome of that meeting was that the lawsuit was not filed, the name of the event would become "Citywide Remembrance, Renewal, Rebirth Service," and that I would be allowed to make a two minute talk which they called "Secular Humanist Reflections." A news release was sent out by the ACLU with the caption "Facing ACLU Lawsuit, City of New Orleans and Mayor Back Down on Katrina Prayer Service and Allow Non-Religious Speech." This elicited a call from Associated Press which then disseminated their story captioned "ACLU: Lawsuit threat prompts prayer service changes." The story appeared in the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, but we do not know what other newspapers might have run the article.

The new description of the event as listed in the *Times-Picayune* then included: National, state and local leaders speak, scriptural readings and prayers by clergy from various religious backgrounds. Subsequent listings dropped the above wording.

It had been previously announced that President Bush would participate in the Prayer Service event at the Convention Center. On August 28, the day before the Anniversary events, an Associated Press article reported that "the president is skipping the city's many planned activities, which include wreath-laying, an interfaith service at the city's convention center..." The reason given for these cancellations could have supported his "skipping" the events at any time in the previous month. Our guess is that he was reluctant to appear when a secular speaker might challenge him. Instead, he and Laura attended a prayer service at the St. Louis Cathedral, where medieval rites were performed by a group of men wearing lacy and embroidered gowns.

Upon arrival at the participants' assembly room prior to the commencement of the ceremonies, I was surprised that, in addition to the governor, the mayor and me, there were 20 church leaders on the program, plus a choir and other musical selections. We were reminded that we must keep to our allotted time, which in most cases was only 1 or 2 minutes, so my 2 minute allowance was appropriate. It was also unexpected that the program showed my talk, Secular Humanist Reflections, prominently following that of the governor and mayor. The event was, in fact, a prayer service and the auditorium audience was there for just that. There were a few insignificant boos to my talk as might have been expected. My address follows on the following page.

## A SECULAR HUMANIST REFLECTION

The New Orleans Secular Humanist Association underwent a month-long struggle to be included in what was a City sponsored ecumenical prayer service. Only a final threat of a lawsuit persuaded the Mayoral staff that their announced event violated the U.S. Constitution as respecting freedom of speech and prohibition of government involvement with religion. We hope that the President, who cancelled his appearance here, will also acknowledge the propriety of church/state separation.

The most recent large scale surveys have shown that 14% of the adults in this country responded to the question as to their religion, that they had none. For us secular non-religious people, our strength and dedication to Katrina recovery comes from the acceptance that we live in a natural, not supernatural, world and that the quality of our lives and surroundings depends entirely on what we, ourselves, do and our cooperation with other humans.

We are equally important in the rebirth and rebuilding of our city. Our losses are as great as all others in the area; our grief is as deep; our empathy for others is as sincere; and our recovery is as deserved.

The confidence of good persons of faith that the cataclysm was part of God's design provides them with consolation and an optimism that the ultimate reconstruction of their lives will be superior to what was before and that those whose lives were lost have gone to a better place. We do not begrudge them that comfort.

We secular humanists will be moving forward to assuage our grief and to assure our rewarding lives through morality, reason and humanity, as we did before Katrina and the flood. (End of talk)

The program was televised live and seen nationally, which I learned from some e-mails received from other states, but to date has not elicited any follow-up contacts from the news media, local or national.

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## MEMBERS' PUBLISHED LETTERS

NOSHA member **Will Hunn** had the following letter published in the June/July 2006 issue of *Freethought Today*, the newsletter of the Freedom from Religion Foundation:

I've been an FFRF member since 1979. Congratulations on your new radio program! It sounds great, and I've thoroughly enjoyed the programs. Finally, the free-

thinker's perspective is getting aired, and it's being done with style.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I can hardly wait to hear what future programs will be offering.

Here's wishing you all the best with this most worthwhile (and hopefully influential) endeavor.

(For more information on how to access the FFRF broadcast on Air America via the internet, go to [www.ffrf.org](http://www.ffrf.org).)

Although several NOSHA members submitted letters to the *Baton Rouge Advocate* in response to an earlier letter denigrating the ACLU, the following letter by NOSHA member and Louisiana ACLU Executive Director **Joe Cook** was published on September 1, 2006:

Mr. Rusty Lavergne (re: "Vote out officials who support ACLU") is obviously confused or willfully ignorant about the American Civil Liberties Union, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization.

We exist to preserve individual freedom as embodied in the United States Constitution, especially the bill of Rights. The majority of the people govern through democratically elected representatives, but the power of the majority must be limited to ensure individual liberty.

Fortunately for all of us, judges, appointed by both Republicans and Democrats, agree with us at times and take their oath of office seriously to uphold the rule of law without regard to political or religious affiliation. The letter criticizing our organization, on the other hand, has a partisan, intolerant tone. The writer seems to blame Democrats and judges appointed by them as un-American and responsible for everything he dislikes; but his real problem appears to lie with the Constitution and the freedoms it guarantees.

He says that the ACLU wants to take prayer out of the public schools. Well, state-sponsored prayer, what we object to, has supposedly been out of all public schools since the *Engel v. Vitale* decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1962. Some people in Louisiana still want to turn a blind eye to the truth of the matter and take a freedom-for-me-but-not-for-thee mindset.

The Founding Fathers, having witnessed the religious wars in Europe, and the government-forced religion of the English Crown, were determined that the people of the United States would have religious freedom. Wisely, they crafted the First Amendment to force the government to stay neutral in matters of religion and allow belief or nonbelief to flourish side by side.

Also, we strongly protect the right of free speech, the right to privacy and the right to be free of governmental intrusion into our everyday affairs. We're there for you. Rich or poor, straight or gay, black or white or brown, urban or rural, pious or atheist, American-born or foreign-

born, able-bodied or living with a disability. Every person in this country should have the same basic rights. And since our founding in 1920, we've been working hard to make sure no one takes them away, especially the government.

If you disagree with these basic ideas, you shouldn't join the ACLU. If you do, check out our Web site at <http://www.aclu.org> and see for yourself what we stand for, rather than listening to those who have a distaste for our Constitution.

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### OF INTEREST TO HUMANISTS . . .

*WOODSTOCK, GA*—Johnny Hunt, a Baptist minister is the spokesperson for Muslim Bible Day, a project that distributes Bibles in Muslim countries. Hunt explained the goal of the organization with the following: "The terrorists sent bombs and bullets . . . Let's respond with Bibles." Great idea since in most Muslim countries it is unlawful (not to mention a sacrilege) to proselytize Christianity. Who's gonna listen?

*WATERTOWN, NY*—The First Baptist Church dismissed a female Sunday School teacher who had taught there for 54 years recently after adopting what it called a literal interpretation of the Bible. Reportedly the first epistle to Timothy says "I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent." Said a church spokesman, "I believe that a woman can perform any job and fulfill any responsibility that she desires to outside the church." Hmm, it only took them 54 years to read that part of the Bible; what about all those little boys she taught all those years—what happens to them?

*MIAMI, FL*—In her campaign for the U.S. Senate, U. S. Rep. Katherine Harris told a religious journal that separation of church and state is a "lie" and God and the founding fathers didn't intend the U.S. to be a secular nation. In fact, she said that "God is the one who chooses our rulers." She added that if Christians are not elected, politicians will "legislate sin" like abortion and gay marriage. Fortunately, even the state's GOP leaders don't think she can win the Senate seat against the Democratic candidate.

*VATICAN CITY*—A Vatican publication recently reported that Pope Benedict XVI's chief exorcist, one Father Gabriele Amorth, believes that not only were Adolph Hitler and Josef Stalin possessed by the devil, but that all Nazis were so-possessed. In fact, according to secret Vatican documents recently released, wartime Pope Pius XII attempted a "long distance" exorcism of Hitler which obviously failed. Father Amorth declared that it is difficult to exorcise someone from a distance, but that Hitler and the Nazis were obviously possessed. "That is why," he said, "we need to defend society from demons."

This gives new credence to the criminal's plea, "The devil made me do it."

*MEMPHIS, TN*—The congregation of the World Overcomes Outreach Ministries Church have placed a giant statue of Lady Liberty holding the Ten Commandments and "Jehovah" written across her crown atop their church. In place of her torch, she carries a large gold cross. It was noted in the press that a single tear graced her cheek. Said one report, "It is not clear if she was crying because of her new home, her new identity as a symbol of religion or, as the pastor said, America's increasing godlessness."

*FERNLEY, NV*—On a wall of brass plaques honoring natives of this town killed in military service, there is one blank space. That is because Sgt. Patrick Stewart who was killed in Iraq is a Wiccan and the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs has refused to allow a Wiccan symbol to be inscribed on U.S. military memorials. Supposedly they find the Wiccan pentacle a magic symbol. That's funny, though, because they allow the Jewish Star of David, the Muslim crescent, the Buddhist wheel, the Mormon angel, the star of Bahai and even a symbol for atheism. And, oh yes, a Christian cross. But no *magic* symbols.

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### A GIFT FOR EDUCATION

We reported in the Summer *NOSHA News* of the gift of a laptop computer for a deserving local graduating senior. The gift from the Atheists and Agnostics Group of Rossmoor in Walnut Creek, California was made to young Daniel Duarte. Daniel is now a freshman at the University of New Orleans. Daniel and his family are immigrants from Nicaragua and have lived in New Orleans for about 10 years. In the photograph below are pictured from left to right NOSHA members Lucy Tierney, Harry Greenberger, Daniel's mother Lucy Duarte, Daniel, and NOSHA member Lanny Goldfinch. The award was made at Lanny's home.



## THE THREAT OF THE THEOCRATS

**By Perry Mann**

*(Perry Mann is a former teacher, a lawyer, a former prosecuting attorney of Summers County and a regular columnist for the Nicholas Chronicle in Summersville and Huntington News Network. This article is reprinted by permission of [www.huntingtonnews.net](http://www.huntingtonnews.net).)*

*Hinton, WV (Special to HNN) – “Modern Religious Right groups might not press overtly for writing their understanding of Christianity in the Constitution, but their agenda, if implemented, would force Americans to live under a system of laws based on fundamentalist interpretation of the Bible.”*

The preceding quote is from an article in the June 2006 edition of “Church and State” titled “The Religious Right and American Freedom.” This article is based on that article and all quotes are taken from it.

The Religious Right groups have an agenda. They oppose abortion for any reason, euthanasia and stem-cell research; advocate abstinence-based sex education; have pressured the FDA to refuse to approve the “morning after” pill; work to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and press to overturn *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which struck down a law that banned the sale of contraceptives even to married couples. They want to rid the world of public education and replace it with “Christian schools.”

They consider homosexuals evil, insist that gays choose to be gay and quote St. Paul and other Scripture to support their homophobia. Their agenda include striping the courts of the nation the right to hear certain cases and working zealously to see that judicial appointments are filled with right-wing judges.

They are happy beyond measure that Bush has espoused “faith-based” initiatives and has poured millions of dollars into them, thus knocking holes in the wall of church-state separation and giving fundamentalists opportunities to make more fundamentalists through proselytizing and indoctrination. They will feel more secure when all mankind has the same faith as they have. The money spent from the U.S. Treasury to fund them is tantamount to a church tax, the use of which in history and even today is to establish a church, a violation of the First Amendment.

They are unhappy about what is published, what is filmed, what is televised, and what is on the internet and they are doing what they can to censor what they do not like. They have succeeded in getting Congress to act. There are now pending bills that would greatly increase fines on broadcasters for indecency. And they pressure to ban books that are not to their liking. They can’t fathom that indecency is in the eye of the beholder.

The greatest threat to democracy, to those of a sweeter faith and to those of no faith is their effort to make

legal church-built and church-funded political machines, so that on Sundays fundamentalist preachers can advise the faithful which candidate to vote for and why, adding no doubt in the sermon that his choice is also God’s choice. At present, churches cannot do so owing a Federal tax law that prohibits non-profit groups from intervening in partisan political campaigns, the penalty for violation of which is the loss of tax exemption, which would be a formidable punishment for any church. It is the threat of that penalty that keeps such prominent preachers as Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and D. James Kennedy from going over the top sermonizing politically.

Presently, U.S. Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.) is the lead sponsor of a bill to overturn the Federal tax law. He believes he is on a divine mission: “In 2002, he told Focus on the Family, ‘The Lord has given me this energy; the Lord has selected me to be his foot soldier.’”

Well, the Lord has given me energy and I can say just as well as does Rep. Jones that I have been selected by the Lord to do all I can to prevent Jones and his ilk from overturning the tax law. I really don’t believe that the Lord, even if he exists, which I doubt, would care one way or the other about this issue. But I care about it, because I do not want to have to live in a nation whose laws are fashioned by theocrats nor do I want my children or grandchildren to have to live in a nation whose laws reflect the superstitions of religious zealots. My son is gay. He has suffered enough of fundamentalist ignorance and bigotry. And my daughter married a black and they have a son, a beautiful and intelligent child, who will undoubtedly one day feel racism’s sting, if not worse.

The Bible is the source of the beliefs and faith of fundamentalists. Here is an evaluation of the Bible and the culture it has spawned by Theodore Roszak professor emeritus of history at California State University: “Despite the undeniable philosophical value some sections of the Bible retain, the Bible as a whole was coming more and more to look like what it essentially is: the worldview of one isolated, intellectually restricted, largely superstitious, and vastly ignorant ancient society whose experience carries no more weight than that of any traditional culture.”

If everyone could know what science and scholarship have uncovered that subverts and contradicts Biblical beliefs, the only believers left would be those die-hards that refuse to hear, see or understand how flimsy are the premises of many of their beliefs. Those die-hards and dogmatists, pushing to breach the wall between church and state, are the ones which seek to establish a theocracy based on their faith. And it is those that provoke me to write this article.

That I belong to a minority is no reason to conclude that what I believe is less true than what the majority believes. If one studies and evaluates honestly the relative

validity of the premises of faith-based beliefs and science-based beliefs, he can come to no other conclusion but that faith-based premises are mostly wish supported by hope. Once, no one on earth doubted that the sun circled the earth. Then came Copernicus. Now, no one but the insane doubt that the earth circles the sun.

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**WHICH TEN COMMANDMENTS?**

**Michael Malec**

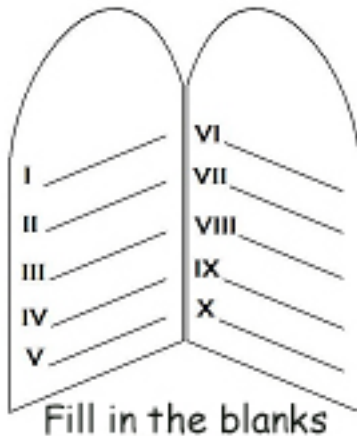
Senator James David Cain, R. Dry Creek, is running for Insurance Commissioner, so, he filed several bills that would get him press coverage. One bill would direct the Secretary of State to print frameable copies of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Ten Commandments and parts of the Northwest Ordinances, showing what he called our “religious heritage.” He said that local governments could post the 10Cs without running afoul of the Constitution. The text of the documents is included in the bill. The bill itself was not unconstitutional, although posting the 10Cs might be.

Lobbying for the ACLU-LA, I testified against the bill in the House and Governmental Affairs Committee. Sen. Cain wasn’t there, and Rep. Peppi Bruneau, R. New Orleans, presented the bill for him. I testified that knowing the author was a North Louisiana Protestant, I expected the Commandments would be taken from the King James Version, but when I checked, I found that although they were Protestant, they were not the wording in the KJV. I said that if the wording in the bill was written into law as the official, legislatively approved Ten Commandments, it would be a slap in the face to Catholics and Jews who use a different wording and order.

Peppi, a Catholic, said, “That’s a legitimate objection.” I noted that the version said, “Thou shalt not murder,” to which Peppi said, “We can change that.” and ordered staff to prepare an amendment, and also change “honour” to “honor.” I also noted that Catholics have no Commandment about “graven images.” “We can change that too,” Peppi said. The next day, the *Baton Rouge Advocate* carried the story, “House Panel Rewrites Ten Commandments.”

(Editor’s note:  
All things considered, if the state legislature wants to post the 10Cs to everyone’s satisfaction, we propose the following concept.)

Louisiana’s Official Ten Commandments



**A VISIT FROM CLARENCE DARROW**

Every March, Clarence Darrow’s admirer’s gather at the Chicago bridge named in his honor. Darrow did not believe in life after death, but predicted if there was “anything to it,” he would return on the anniversary of his death at the bridge. He’s been dead nearly 70 years and he hasn’t shown up there yet.

But he did visit New Orleans recently. On Sunday, August 6, Darrow appeared at the First Presbyterian Church as a guest of the Community Church Unitarian and NOSHA where he regaled a large gathering with stories about the “recent” Scopes trial in Dayton, Tennessee and other concerns about civil liberties.

Actually, Darrow was portrayed by the Rev. Roger Brewin, himself a Unitarian Universalist minister. He also impersonates Charles Darwin, Martin Luther, Frederick Douglass, and Charles Dickens. For more information, you may contact Rev. Brewin at [rbrewin@uuma.org](mailto:rbrewin@uuma.org).

NOSHA would like to thank members **Robert Carver** who videotaped the performance and **Diane Hays** who took photographs. The photos below show Rev. Brewin as Darrow and NOSHA member Robert Carver.



**OTHER NOSHA ACTIVITIES**

Between the NOSHA-sponsored homecoming of author **Chris Mooney** in June, the visit from Clarence Darrow on August 6, and **Harry Greenberger's** participation in the Katrina commemoration event on August 29, there have been several other NOSHA-related events.

At the regular NOSHA meeting on June 17, members **Glen and Gigi Sandberg** reported on their visit to the annual meeting of AAAS in St. Louis.

The July 15 meeting featured a discussion /forum on the topic "Intelligent Design or Natural Evolution." Speaking for ID was local physician Dr. William J. Woessner, and supporting natural evolution was NOSHA vice president Dr. **David L. Schultz**, an evolutionary biologist at nearby Nicholls State University. The forum drew one of our largest crowds ever and elicited a lively discussion afterward.

Since this forum was held on secular turf, Dr. Schultz has offered to take the discussion to the religious arena—any area church. To date, we have had no takers.

The meeting of August 19 featured another offspring of a NOSHA board member. **Jessica Goldfinch** is a local artist and humanist. She presented a slide show of her work and discussed the conceptual meaning behind the works, concentrating on their relationship to science, religion and Freud's theories of the uncanny. The title of her presentation was "Humanizing the deity and other such matters of life and death."

The photograph below features Ms Goldfinch standing between her father, NOSHA board member **Lanny Goldfinch** and NOSHA president Harry Greenberger.



If you are interested in learning more about Jessica Goldfinch's work or upcoming showings of her pieces, you may contact her at [www.jessicagoldfinch.com](http://www.jessicagoldfinch.com).

**THE "MARRIAGE" AMENDMENT**

NOSHA member **Tim Ruppert** recently reminded us that the U.S. Congress is considering a constitutional amendment which would, in essence, ban same-sex marriage. One of the bill's co-sponsors is LA Republican senator David Vitter.

The actual wording of the proposed amendment is: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

Tim points out that it not only proscribes the definition of "marriage," but it also prohibits "the legal incidents thereof" from anyone except those who qualify as married. He wonders, and so do we, if that means civil unions would also be outlawed. That is what it seems.

We should stay vigilant on this issue. It is bound to be resurrected in the next session of Congress.

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**NOSHA MEETING DATES**

- September 23 – Topic and speaker to be announced
- October 21 – Topic and speaker to be announced
- November 18 – Topic and speaker to be announced
- December 16 – Celebration of the Winter Solstice

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**DUES FOR 2007**

At a recent board meeting it was reported that there are currently more than 280 names on our mailing list, but only 90 dues-paying members. Dues-paying members are important to our credibility as an influential organization. If you have not paid 2006 dues, or if you have never paid dues, please do so now. Dues received after September 1 will be credited to 2007 membership. You may use the membership form on the back of this newsletter. Dues remain only \$5.00 per year.

Some of you, and you know who you are, have made additional contributions to NOSHA over the past year. We want you to know how very much we appreciate your continued support.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Church says the Earth is flat, but I know that it is round, for I have seen the shadow on the moon. And I have more faith in a shadow than in the Church."  
--Ferdinand Magellan

Circumnavigated the World 1519-1521

"History repeats itself; that's one of the things that's wrong with history."  
--Clarence Darrow

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**2007 Annual dues are only \$5.00.** Make checks payable to "NOSHA" and mail to Connie Gordon, 2509 Giuffrias Ave., Apt. 603, Metairie, LA 70001.

**NOTE: For those of you who receive the newsletter by standard mail, the year for which you have last paid membership dues is reflected in the upper right corner of the mailing label.**

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