



Atheists of Florida

Dedicated to the absolute separation of State and church

A Founding Member Society of the Atheist Alliance International
(The Democratic Alliance of Autonomous Atheist Societies)

Volume XIII No. 4 March 2007

Atheists of Florida Annual Board of Directors Meeting

TAMPA—THE HILTON TAMPA AIRPORT WESTSHORE was the site of the 2007 Board of Director's meeting on January 28.

The Treasurer's report indicated a significant increase in the financial status of A of F with the inclusion of the Norma E. Cossey estate distribution of over \$63,000.

Founder of both Atheists of Florida and the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund, Christos Tzanetakos, reported that state and federal employees have contributed over \$2,000.00 to the Fund this year. However, the Board had decided last year to discontinue the Fund, so all remaining funds will be delivered to the A of F account when all receipts are collected.

A of F President Joe Reinhardt announced that the *Atheist Forum* has survived production in spite of some crew turnover and remains the most productive outreach project of our organization. Reinhardt indicated we require persons who can devote more time to meeting the proposals of A of F, including potentially some full-time people. He reminded the board of the fundraising events of the past year that had generated income. Reinhardt proposed to the board that A of F address the status of the property tax exemption for religious organizations in the State of Florida. He had discussed with board member Jack Basart the effort instigated several years ago by Michael Murphy to eliminate property tax exemptions for religious organizations in the state of Colorado since Basart had been involved in that effort. Reinhardt expressed an interest in seeing A of F enact a similar movement in Florida. This would essentially enforce existing law that prohibits expenditure of any state money to support religion. In Reinhardt's opinion, it would be considered the greatest legacy of Atheists of Florida if we could accomplish this.

As the committee reports began, board member Nan Owens announced she would need to resign from all committees in which she was involved due to the conflict of interest with her employment as Executive Director of the Center for Inquiry-Florida.

The approved budget for 2007 came to just under \$10,000.00, including \$1,000 for advertising, \$2,000 for wholesale merchandise for outreach events, and \$2,500 for our annual meeting and banquet.

Jim Young, head of the Publications Committee, announced that several of his publications had been approved by the committee and published in 2006.

Reinhardt, head of the Fund Raising Committee, described our efforts to have outreach tables at the Plant City Strawberry Festival and the Florida State Fair. (Ultimately, the Festival never responded to our request for space, but the State Fair contacted us less than a week before the Fair opened to offer us a space, which we ultimately fulfilled. A full report will be in the next issue.) We have improved our efforts to renew memberships and anticipate Pay-Pal receipts through our Web site this year. Reinhardt had offered several ideas for fund raising from bake sales to bingo to charity poker, but we have had been unable to fulfill these efforts due to the additional

effort that would be required from the membership. However, he anticipated that we could accomplish several fund raising events if we could secure a full-time paid employee of the organization.

Outreach is handled by Jim Young, who reported on all the activities of A of F. These include the *Atheist Forum*, the *Old Time Atheist Hour* Web cast, and his outreach table at USF when classes are in session, and our weekly Ybor City street appearances by members who spend four hours distributing information about atheism. We also participated in the *St. Petersburg Times* Festival of Reading, Guavaween, and the St. Petersburg Gay Pride Festival. Young allowed that Atheists of Florida has evolved into an outreach organization and expressed his appreciation for all the time and energy contributed by volunteers which had led to the evening dinner banquet that followed the board meeting.

Print advertising has become prohibitively expensive, according to committee chairman Ed Golly. But we will maintain a budget to procure other means of advertising, such as hand-out items like pens or key chains at our numerous outreach events.

Golly is also committee chair for Hillsborough County public access TV and Web cast production. The *Forum* has now expanded to include the original source of Bright House Network, Verizon, and Comcast networks and we intend to continue with the public access production indefinitely. The \$10-per-hour charge formerly required to broadcast the *Old Time Atheist Hour* has been eliminated so the Web cast, just like the TV show, can now be produced primarily at a cost of the time of the participants. The Pinellas County *Forum* had been discontinued due to difficulty of utilizing the production facilities.

Webmaster Jim Peterson reported that there have not been many changes to the Web site (AtheistAlliance.org/florida) but expected the addition of a links page that would concentrate on links specifically relevant to atheism. One significant addition is that every newsletter we publish is now available for viewing on our Web page.

Election of officers was held after a motion was passed allowing the president to serve a third consecutive term. All officers were re-elected except the position of vice president. Brent Yaciw was unable to accept nomination because he would be relocating away from the area. Rob Curry was subsequently elected to the position.

The meeting was followed that evening by the first Atheist of Florida Volunteer Recognition Banquet conceived, planned and hosted by Jim Young. Approximately 50 members and guests were treated to a banquet dinner followed by recognition of the contributions made by each member, then two video presentations. We plan to make this an annual event coordinated with the board of directors meetings.



Religious bondage shackles and debilitates the mind and unfits it for every noble enterprise, every expanded prospect
—James Madison



www.atheistalliance.org/florida
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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 by Atheists of Florida, Inc., a nonprofit, educational corporation founded to heighten public awareness about atheism and monitor state/church separation issues. 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.

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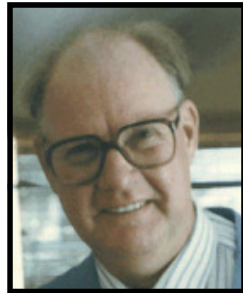
Jim Strayer is a retired biology teacher living with his wife, Bobbe, in Ormond-By-The-Sea, Florida. He can be reached at BIOJIMS@aol.com.

In 1968, *The Population Bomb* by Paul Ehrlich was published. He predicted that hundreds of millions of people would starve to death soon if changes were not made. The levels of death that he predicted did not come true. On the other hand, about two hundred million people have died of starvation and hunger-related disease since 1968.

THE SOLUTION IS EVOLUTION

No. 33—Evolution and Population

— Jim Strayer



When it was written, his detractors said that there would be no problem—that wonderful lives and a wonderful diet could be

given to four or five billion people. That hasn't happened either. There is a vast uneven distribution of wealth in the world; even in wealthy nations like the United States.

The world population has grown from 1.6 billion in 1900, to about 6 billion in 2000. The world population is continuing to expand at about 80 million people a year.

Most of the population experts say that the earth can best support a population of about 2 billion people, and the United States about 145 million (at present the US is approaching 300 million). Industrial leaders, although admitting that there is unequal distribution, say that population is not a big problem.

What does all of this have to do with evolution? After all, evolution is small changes over long periods of time leading to the survival of those most able to produce young. It happens not in a few hundred years, but in thousands, if not millions of years.

There is a very important part to natural selection. It is that all species overproduce and that there must be some selective power to reduce the numbers. If this did not happen, there would be no natural selection.

As an example, a pair of cockroaches could produce 164 billion descendants after only seven months if there was no selection by natural processes. It is a good thing that humans take years to reach reproductive age, have a long gestation period, produce few

young, and cannot produce often. Our evolutionary change is much slower than most species. The problem is that there is very little selection by natural causes in our species.

Natural selection can proceed at a faster rate if the species is isolated and has fewer members. The animals on the Galapagos Islands made noticeable changes in just a few million years after isolation. There were differences in humans isolated in China, Australia, and Europe after several thousand years. The vast numbers of humans that have spread over the earth have almost removed the isolation factor from our species. We so dominate the earth and cause changes to happen in such a short time, that hundreds of species have become extinct and the rest are forced into an unreal world where the evolution of many species either advance rapidly because of pollution, or come to a complete stop because of extension.

What humans have done to bacteria, flies, domestic animals, and hundreds of other living things in just a few thousand years is not measurable on an evolutionary scale. The examples are everywhere: exotic plants and animals have been introduced into areas that they would not have migrated to on their own; chemicals are being produced that do not exist naturally on earth; and natural cycles are being disturbed. Herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers have all but destroyed soil in many places of the world.

World population has grown from 1.6 billion in 1900, to about 6 billion in 2000

Water everywhere in the world is different from what it was just 100 years ago.

Evolution is a never-ending process. It has been continuing for about 4 billion years. Continents have moved, mountains have arisen and eroded away, magnetic fields have changed, asteroids have collided with earth, plants and animals have evolved, and humans have had an effect similar to a global disaster.

This is why the study of evolution is so important, and why so many scientists are involved in evolutionary research. Humans need to know where we came from and have some idea of where we may be going. But most importantly, we need to understand the impact that we are having on the evolution of life on earth. Nations and individuals tend to think in short terms.

We owe the earth and our future generations some long-term planning on environmental issues that will have *(next page.)*

an evolutionary impact for stabilization.

It does seem impossible that we could reduce the population on earth to 2 billion people without a catastrophe. Obviously wars, famine, disease, and birth control have helped very little in population control when competing with human reproductive power.

Paul Ehrlich is still teaching about population and there are still many who disagree with him. Right or wrong, he gives a point of view that evolutionists must consider:

“The standard that biologists use and environmental scientists is very simple and that is you’re overpopulated when you

no longer can live on your interest, when you’ve got to live on your capital. And the three main forms of capital that we’re getting rid of very, very rapidly at today’s density and today’s consumption patterns are deep rich agricultural soils; biodiversity, which is critical; and maybe the most short-term critical is our supplies of groundwater everywhere, which are being over-drafted. So, we are like the profligate child who has inherited a vast pile of resources, in this case from the planet, but every year we write a bigger check on it. Nobody bothers to look at what’s happening to the balance, and that’s the critical thing.”



A OF F EDITORIAL

Bigotry: Alive, Well, and As Ugly As Ever in Largo, Florida.

What does a sleepy Florida town near the beach, full of *moral*, god-fearing folk, do with a city manager who has given 14 years of exemplary service? Call for his dismissal, naturally; especially when that city manager has become an unseemly abomination in the eyes of the Biblical god, or more accurately, an abomination in the eyes of god’s self-appointed earthly envoys. Thus is the unfortunate case with one Mr. Steve Stanton, the future Ms. Susan Stanton, and future ex-city manager of Largo. On Tuesday, February 27th, Largo city commissioners voted 5-2 to fire Stanton, following his disclosure that he intended to have a sex-change operation.

In certain circles, such behavior is construed as messing with an otherwise perfectly good divine plan. In Largo, it means just that, and apparently also indicates (by some strange twist of logic alien to this world) that the one who voluntarily discloses such a contentious decision is also *not* being truthful. The writer can only empathize with the rational readers confusion on that second point, as he, too, is confused as to how anyone can accuse Stanton of being anything *but* honest, thoughtful, and courageous.

By all accounts, Stanton served the city of Largo honorably, having received many glowing reviews, with the most recent resulting in a 9 percent salary increase. Furthermore, he has run marathons, joined Largo fire-fighters for training, and reputedly has an assertive, take-charge personality. In other words: he was a *get things done kind of guy*. This writer would be willing to bet that he’ll be a *get things done kind of gal*. For most of his life Stanton lived a life of quiet confusion, psychological displacement, and emotional agony. One might say it was his hell on earth; denying ones nature and happiness usually is a kind of

hell. Years of private cross dressing, counseling, and self-examination brought him to the realization that he is a woman in a man’s body. The Biblical god is indeed a cruel jokester, or not quite the intelligent designer as envisioned by his earthly envoys. Either way, Stanton has begun receiving female hormones and plans to soon start dressing and living as a woman. Welcome, Susan!

Three years ago, a proposed human rights ordinance was bitterly opposed and shot down in lovely Largo, where conservative churches and vocal Evangelicals apparently wield an unhealthy degree of political influence, all the while, of course, playing the role of beleaguered, besieged victims who, ‘because of their faith’ are being pushed out of the public arena. Evidently, morals are everything in Largo, crime and punishment are next to everything, and civil and constitutional rights are out there on the periphery, unless we’re talking about churches.

Like most towns in the south, one cannot travel very far without seeing a tax-exempt house of worship. One hears a great deal of talk about love, tolerance, acceptance, and charity, but interestingly enough such fine, noble human qualities are (and have been) practiced selectively. During the fateful four-hour meeting in which 480 people packed City Hall, and some 60 speakers were heard, gay and lesbian advocate Nadine Smith was arrested for passing out pink leaflets that read “*Don’t Discriminate*”.

Based on such a disturbing message rendered by a lone 41 year old woman, one can understand why Ms. Smith had to be taken to the floor by four of *Largo’s finest*, then charged with resisting arrest with violence (a felony), and the lesser misdemeanor of disturbing the assembly. It would seem that the assembly was plenty *disturbed* long before the meeting was gavelled to order. After the vote that effectively ousted Stanton from his position, he told the St. Petersburg Times: “*the commission did what they felt was best for the community*”. Such grace, such understanding, such *Christ-like* behavior!

One must naturally ask: *What would Jesus do?*

(continued on back page)

More to the point, what was Stanton dishonest about?

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Trinity Baptist faces new abuse lawsuit

By JEFF BRUMLEY *The Times-Union*

JACKSONVILLE—The second negligence lawsuit in just more than a week was filed Thursday against Trinity Baptist Church, also saying the Jacksonville church hid knowledge of alleged sexual abuse of children by former Pastor Robert Gray in the 1970s. More crime and public safety coverage Homicide 360: A Times-Union special report The Independent Baptist church referred

questions about the suit to its attorney, Ed Trent, who said he had seen the suit but could not comment on pending litigation. The lawsuit alleges that Gray, now 80, molested the unidentified plaintiff on three occasions from 1976 to 1979, when she was approximately 6 to 9 years old. In one instance, the woman, now in her late 30s and

living in Georgia, claims Gray prefaced the 1976 abuse by explaining "that the Bible says that people should love each other and show affection," according to the lawsuit. In another, the alleged abuse occurred while Gray baptized her at Trinity in 1979. Adam Horowitz, the Miami attorney representing the plaintiff, filed a similar lawsuit Feb. 21. As with that action, the new suit says the church failed to provide a safe environment for the girl, that it concealed its knowledge of other abuse claims against Gray and that it did not report what it knew to authorities. Separately, Gray faces a Nov. 12 criminal trial on four counts of capital sexual battery. Gray was arrested in May and again in July as at least 20 adults leveled claims of sexual abuse against him. He is under house arrest.

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This story can be found on Jacksonville.com at http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/030207/met_8325913.shtml.

NEWSFILES

The Bible says that people should love each other and show affection...

Atheists Battle Against Religion

WASHINGTON—This week, the Supreme Court heard arguments in a case brought by a group of atheists who claim the Bush administration's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives violates the separation of church and state. It's just one example of how atheists are becoming increasingly assertive — arguing not only that religion is false, but also a threat to civilization.

Outside the court, atheists and people of faith squared off. Inside, the *Freedom From Religion Foundation* made its case against the president's pet program. The foun-

ation's co-president, Dan Barker, was a fundamentalist preacher for 19 years. Now, he's preaching from a different text — specifically, "separation of church and state, and reason and kindness in place of superstition and ideologies." But Barker and his wife, Annie Laurie Gaylor, who is also the foundation's co-president, said the problem is bigger than the Bush administration and its faith-based initiatives. They see a world being torn apart by religious fundamentalists of all stripes. "[Religion is] the source of the greatest violence in the world," Gaylor said. "More people have been killed in the world for religion over any other reason." That atheist argument seems to resonating. There's an atheist Internet recruiting campaign, atheist summer camps and several bestselling books — including "Letter to a Christian Nation" by Sam Harris. Harris claims religion is nothing less than a global threat. "We have a world that has been shattered, quite unnecessarily, by competing religious beliefs," Harris said. "We have Christians against Muslims against Jews. They're making incompatible claims on real estate in the Middle East as though God were some kind of omniscient real estate broker parsing out parcels of land to his chosen flock. People are literally dying over ancient literature."

Perhaps not surprisingly, people of faith don't agree with the argument that faith is wrong or dangerous.

"I understand that people who claim certain religious beliefs have done terrible things throughout history," said Randall Baumer, professor of American religious history at Columbia University. "I think the challenge is for people of faith to be true to the principles of the faith. I think the challenge is coming back and reclaiming the real principles of the faith, so that we act decently toward one another." While Ballmer agrees atheists have every right to their own beliefs — or lack thereof — he feels these new atheists have something in common with the fundamentalists they oppose.

"We talk about Islamic fundamentalists; we talk about Christian fundamentalists," Ballmer said. "I happen to think there are also secular fundamentalists out there, people who have no tolerance whatsoever for religion or faith, and in some ways their tactics and their arguments are just, to me, just as offensive as religious fundamentalists." Atheists who envision a world without religion may have a while to wait. While polls show that the percentage of Americans who say they're not part of an organized religion has grown from 8 to 14 percent, only two percent of Americans identify themselves as atheist or agnostic.

One Evangelical minister called the atheist movement, "a firecracker going off in the forest." Barker clearly thinks that firecracker has potential.

"If it's a dry forest, it can cause quite a conflagration there, can't it? There can be a tipping point in any society where people say enough is enough," he said. "And if enough atheists and agnostics speak out and that firecracker goes off, it can cause quite a sensation."

Atheist Forum

Hillsborough County Public Access TV

Live Thursday ...7 PM

Bright House: Ch 20, Verizon: Ch 30,
Comcast: Ch 20

Rerun Tuesday ...7 PM

Bright House: Ch 19, Verizon: Ch 36

Schedule changes every 13 weeks. To be kept informed of new schedules send e-mail address to AthALFLE@aol.com

Does Your Candidate Love Jesus?

THE UNITED STATES OF AMNESIA—Recently, a heckler interrupted a speech by GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney. The heckler shouted pointed questions aimed at Romney's faith, which as nearly everyone should know by now, is Mormon. More interesting was what Romney said later in the speech: "We need a person of faith to run this country." Oh, really? This would be news to our sitting president, and scores of others who preceded him.

For all the screeching from the right-wing spin machine about the "war on Christmas" and alleged discrimination against Christians from the so-called secular left, it's interesting to note just how *uncontroversial* Romney's comment was. The anti-Mormon bias against Romney is either being manufactured by his supporters (conservatives are great at playing the victim card), or is actually coming from *other* Christian conservatives. Polls show that seven out of ten Americans would have no problem voting for a Mormon president. If only the numbers were as favorable for an atheist presidential hopeful. Romney will lose more voters for his position on any remotely controversial issue than he'll lose because of where he attends Sunday services.

None of Romney's opponents have made his faith an issue. But coming from a candidate whose campaign and supporters have publicly complained about undue attention paid to their candidate's spiritual beliefs, Romney's comment, which basically excluded atheists and agnostics from the presidency, should have received more attention. Perhaps it didn't because much of the public agrees with Romney. A recent Gallup poll found that—refreshingly—a solid majority of Americans would have no problem voting for a presidential candidate who was Catholic, black, female, divorced, elderly, Mormon, or gay. The only option on the poll that a majority of Americans couldn't bring themselves to support was that of an atheist. Perhaps a review of Article XI of the U.S. Constitution would be helpful.

Conservative cultural critic Michael Medved caught Romney's remark and those poll numbers and weighed in with an "Amen" and "The Declaration of Independence makes clear that our inalienable rights come from God – we are 'endowed by our Creator,'" Medved wrote, "so that anyone who openly denies God's existence is likely to take the more conventional (dangerous) view that rights are a gift from government, not *the Deity*." "The government giveth, the government taketh away—the peril in this approach is too obvious to require explanation." Actually, it isn't "obvious". One needn't believe in a creator to believe in natural rights. But there are a host of other non-believing subscribers to the idea that we are born with inalienable rights. Many of the most eloquent defenders of natural rights at the time of America's founding were deists, e.g., Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Ethan Allen and to a lesser extent, George Washington, John Adams, and James Madison. Deism isn't atheism (though deists like Voltaire were deists because atheism was illegal), but it's a far cry from the bumper crop of Bible-thumping panderers that have littered the American political arena for far too long.

• — — •••• • •• ••• —

'Bring Me The Head Of Rich Cizik!':

Demands the religious right.

WASHINGTON—It has become an immutable axiom in politics that a little moral outrage (cynical or otherwise), goes a long way. Recently, a group of Religious Right leaders wrote to the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and demanded that a top Washington staff member be fired because they don't like his stand on global climate change. The signers of the letter, including James Dobson of Focus on the Family, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council and Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association, insisted that the Rev. Rich Cizik be handed a pink slip. But here's the cynicism and irony: None of outraged groups are members of the NAE (an umbrella organization of 60 denominations and dozens of evangelical organizations). Yet they still are trying to claim the right to direct the NAE's hiring policies. Moral outrage? More like cathedral bell-sized brass *cojones!* NAE leadership seems disinclined to listen to the bullies, and rightfully so.

Why is the Religious Right so eager to oust Cizik (director of NAE's Washington office)? His big sin is that he has dared to speak out against global climate change; he believes that Christians have a religious obligation to care for the planet. While Cizik has been careful to note that the NAE does not take a stand on climate change, he has argued that the issue should be of concern to evangelicals. Well, everyone, really.

This rather reasonable stand infuriates the bullies who insist (against mounting evidence) that global warming is a myth. The Rev. Jerry Falwell, in a recent sermon, announced, "Today I am raising a flag of opposition to this alarmism about global warming and urging all believers to refuse to be duped by these 'earthism' worshippers." Falwell who does not hold a degree in science, believes the earth is about 6,000 years old and that humans and dinosaurs lived at the same time. It's fair to ask who's really taking the extreme position here.

In their letter, the Religious Right's cadre of 800-pound gorilla bullies asserted that Cizik's work is harming the evangelical movement. Never mind the Earth.

"We have observed," wrote the bullies, "...that Cizik and others are using the global warming *controversy* to shift the emphasis away from the great moral issues of our time, notably sanctity of human life, the integrity of marriage and the teaching of sexual abstinence and morality to our children."

So there you have it. Cizik has dared to talk about an issue that has not been personally approved by the bullies, who, naturally, by divine right presumably, claim the sole political right to determine what the "great moral issues of our time" are; evidently the likelihood of an uninhabitable planet is not among those great moral issues. So much for free speech. So much for the sanctity of human life, since the health of the planet is the core prerequisite *for* human life.

The global warming controversy seems to be controversial only to Fundamentalists, and a few right-wing 'think tanks' who are on the payroll of some of the large transnational corporations who are profiting from the despoiling of the planet. It is somewhat heartening that many evangelicals are beginning to recognize the *common-sense morality* of cleaning up our own yards.



Bigotry (continued from page 3)

That question is, as always, first and foremost in the minds of many of fair Largo's most staunch moralists, like for example, Ron Sanders, pastor, Lighthouse Baptist Church of Largo, who was quoted as saying: "Mr. Stanton is not a role model. He's proven that. I think for the sake of our young people today, you need to do what's right, and that's terminate him. If Jesus was here tonight, I can guarantee you he'd want him terminated. Make no mistake about it." It must be a great comfort to Pastor Ron's flock to know that he possesses such eternal insights into personal integrity, what is best for our youth, and what the offspring of the creator and lord of the universe would say and do regarding such issues.

What, exactly, did Jesus have to say regarding transsexuals? Nothing. St. Paul, ever the moralizing gasbag, did not address the issue of transsexuals, per se, although he did have few choice words on homosexuality, *effeminate* behavior and dress.

Nevertheless, this writer, for one, would be interested in hearing what pearls of wisdom Jesus might render unto us regarding the myriad sex and financial scandals in both of the major Christian churches, various sects, numerous parishes, synods, etc.

The recurring theme of discontent toward Stanton seemed to center on the issues of integrity and honesty. Peggy Schaefer from Indian Rocks Beach First Baptist Church said: "I don't want that man in office. I don't think we should

be paying him \$150,000 a year when he's not been truthful. We have to speak up. Of course [we] don't believe in sex changes or lesbianism. They have their rights, but we do, too."

Yes, indeed [they] do have rights; it was good of Ms. Schaefer to recognize that. But how, exactly, would her rights be compromised in any way, by allowing a demonstrably competent public servant to remain in a position for which he (she) is demonstrably qualified?

Where do the rights of one very loud large group end, and those of other smaller groups begin? Where is the ethical boundary? Are such boundaries best defined and drawn by so-called eternal values of faith and belief (absolutism), or by an ever-evolving civil society based on empirical, scientific, and philosophical insights (relativism)?

But more to the point, what was Stanton dishonest about? Clearly, he did a lot of soul-searching and gave his decision a great deal of thought. He made a plan, confided to an inner circle of family and friends, and was set to *voluntarily disclose* his decision *publicly*. If the much vaunted character traits of honesty, forthrightness, and personal accountability, so lauded and coveted by social conservatives, are the 'values' we wish to imbue in children and all of society, then this writer cannot imagine a better role model than Steven, no - Susan Stanton.

-THE EDITOR



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We need your input and help! Send your ad information to the editor—Michael Harvey—at mharvey7@tampabay.rr.com; or Ed Golly at AthAIFLE@aol.com.

Godless in America: conversations with an atheist by George A. Ricker is now available at most book retailers and online book sellers.

For more information about the book and its author, go to www.godlessinamerica.com.

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St. Pete-Atheists // Free-Thought Group

IN REASON WE TRUST

GARY THOMPSON, Organizer
Monthly Meetup Day: Third Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Contact: easy8@tampabay.rr.com
<http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

Atheists of Florida CHAPTER MEETINGS

TAMPA BAY: Pinellas Park Public Library—Second Sunday of each odd-numbered month (Jan., Mar., etc.), 1:30—4:30. 78th Ave North & 52nd Street.

Tampa—Second Sunday of each even-numbered month, 1:30-4:30, various locations in Northwest Tampa area. Social dinners follow all meetings at nearby cafeterias. Call or email for venue information. FMI: Ed Golly, 813/835-1500, AthALFLE@aol.com.

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