

## Announcements and Reminders

### RET Newsletter submissions

Feel free to submit news of interest. Submissions are welcomed but may be limited by space and topic relevance. The format may vary depending on the amount of information submitted. Short submissions are preferred but longer ones may be accepted if they can be published as a series over two or more issues. Text or Word format are best for submission. Text may also be included in an E-mail.

For submissions contact  
Carl Ledendecker at:  
(ledendecker@earthlink.net)  
2123 Stonybrook Rd.,  
Louisville, TN 3777  
982-8687 evenings

### DUES

It's that time of year again, dues are due.

\$25 for annual membership

\$15 low income and student

\$300 for lifetime

RET address:  
P.O. Box 51634  
Knoxville, TN 37950

### Contributions

All contributions are tax deductible. Please support RET, East Tennessee's sole defender of reason and a secular society.

### New Board Members

President: Phil King

Vice-President: Lorrie Lance

Treasurer: John McCaffrey

Secretary: Eric Richter

#### Board:

Noelle Cleverly

Kenny Graham

Margaret Klein

Anne Little

Carl Ledendecker

Carl Westman

## Regular Meetings

### Annual Public Meeting

February 4, 2007  
Pellissippi State  
10:30 AM

**Speaker:**  
Professor Joe Barnhart

**Topic:**  
"An Honest Look at Separation of Church and State in the U.S.: Its History, Consequences and Benefits"

Professor Joe Barnhart, University of North Texas, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, will be the speaker for our annual Public Meeting.

Religion and the Proper Role of the State

Joe Barnhart, Professor of Philosophy and Religion Studies, University of North Texas and also associated with the Council for Secular Humanism.

### Book Club

February, 2007  
Barnes & Noble Books  
5:00 PM

This month's selection is

#### The Caged Virgin

Jeff Kincaid will lead the discussion of the book by Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

MARCH - Sprawl  
by Robert Breugmann

APRIL - The Chalice and the Blade by Riane Eisler

MAY - What's your life worth  
by David Dranove

JUNE - The Ethical Brain  
by Michael Gazzaniga

JULY - Our Inner Ape  
by DeWaal

### Philosophy

February 18, 2007  
Pellissippi State  
10:30 AM

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Linda Horton

**Topic:**  
What is Nanotechnology?

Dr. Linda Horton is Director of the Center for Nanophase Materials Science at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

### **Op-Ed piece on repressive governments:**

"How Ironic. At a time when some Christian leaders in America are decrying "separation of church and state," millions of Christians around the world are praying for it."

Charles Hayes,  
Freedomforum.org

## Web Links of Interest

Recent Sam Harris Articles

“God’s Hostages”

[http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/sam\\_harris/2007/01/women\\_are\\_property\\_1.html](http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/sam_harris/2007/01/women_are_property_1.html)

More Sam Harris at [samharris.org](http://samharris.org)

### Billy Graham Quote:

“It’s true, of course, that we live in a very troubled world, and Christians especially should be burdened for a world that has lost its way and abandoned God’s will. .... But Christians should be filled with joy and peace - not because everything around them is perfect, but because they know that Christ is in control.”

This must mean that Christ has lost his way and abandoned God’s will! I guess that God just isn’t himself when he is being human. Then, I suppose that it must be very confusing being yourself and your son at the same time. This notion of Jesus being perfect can only be half correct anyway. He was the son of God but also Mary, who was a female human and therefore a transmitter of original sin. So Jesus had to be half bad, therefore “losing his way and abandoning God’s will” was to be expected. God should have seen that one coming.

## Ingersoll Quotes

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A fact never went into partnership with a miracle. Truth scorns the assistance of wonders. A fact will fit every other fact in the universe, and that is how you can tell whether it is or is not a fact. A lie will not fit anything except another lie

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Happiness is the only good.  
The time to be happy is now.  
The place to be happy is here.  
The way to be happy is to make others so.

I will not attack your doctrines nor your creeds if they accord liberty to me. If they hold thought to be dangerous - if they aver that doubt is a crime, then I attack them one and all, because they enslave the minds of men



If a man would follow, today, the teachings of the Old Testament, he would be a criminal. If he would follow strictly the teachings of the New, he would be insane.

They knew no better, but I do not propose to follow the example of a barbarian because he was honestly a barbarian.

“The Limitations of Toleration”

The destroyer of weeds, thistles, and thorns is a benefactor whether he soweth grain or not.

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**Richard Dawkins** “Fundamentalist religion is hell-bent on ruining the scientific education of countless thousands of innocent, well-meaning, eager young minds. Non-fundamentalists, ‘sensible’ religion may not be doing that. But it is making the world safe for fundamentalists by teaching children, from their earliest years, that unquestioning faith is a virtue.” The God Delusion p. 286

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The Newsletter can also be found online at our Web site: [www.rationalists.org](http://www.rationalists.org). Scheduling: Philosophy (Michael Lance) [lancem@ornl.gov](mailto:lancem@ornl.gov); Round tables (Aleta Ledendecker) [aletaledendecker@earthlink.net](mailto:aletaledendecker@earthlink.net), 982-8687; Book Club (John McCaffrey) [jkmccaffreytn@yahoo.com](mailto:jkmccaffreytn@yahoo.com) Newsletter: (Carl Ledendecker) [ledendecker@earthlink.net](mailto:ledendecker@earthlink.net), 982-8687 Material published in The RET Newsletter represents the views of the individual authors. Publication does not constitute an endorsement by the Rationalists of East Tennessee or its members.