

## Meetings

### Roundtable

May 6, 2007  
Pellissippi State  
10:30 AM

Presenter:  
Carl Ledendecker

Topic:  
What is Secular Humanism and  
the problem with Atheism.

A brief history and an analysis  
of current status of secularism

To be followed by discussion

### Book Club

May 13, 2007  
Barnes & Noble Books  
5:00 PM

This month's selection is  
What's your life worth  
by David Dranove

Calculate the value of your own life in  
tomorrow's health care system

Which diseases are worth curing? Which  
medicines are worth paying for?

The best ways to ration health care--and  
the worst

JUNE - The Ethical Brain  
by Michael Gazzaniga

JULY - Our Inner Ape  
by DeWaal

### Philosophy

May 20, 2007  
Pellissippi State (LA Bldg 206)  
10:30 AM

Presentors:  
Eliot Specht

Topic:  
Why is yesterday different  
from tomorrow?

Footprints, black holes, and the  
direction of time

Reference: A Brief History of Time,  
by Hawking

### May 20 Philosophy Sunday Moved

The Rationalists have been moved to a new loca-  
tion for the May 20th meeting.

Room 206 in the Lamar Alexander Building.

### May 3 National Day of Reason

Listen for WUOT for RET ads

Mon 4/30/07 12.29pm & 5.49pm  
Tue 5/01/07 10.45:00am & 12.48:30pm  
Wed 5/02/07 8.49:45am & 5.19:45pm  
Thu 5/03/07 6.59:00am

also Metro pulse page 86

### May 3 Give Blood

Noelle Cleverly is spearheading RET's participa-  
tion in National Day of Reason - also, "Gift of Life  
Day," so dubbed by the Center for Atheism and The  
Rational Response Squad. Participating are Noelle,  
Dale Haste, Forrest Erickson, Dave Buck and per-  
haps others of our group. The idea is to go down  
to your local blood bank and GIVE BLOOD on  
May 3rd and then to log your contribution on the  
web site: [atheistvolunteers.org](http://atheistvolunteers.org).

Groups of atheists, humanists and freethinkers will  
go to blood banks in scores of U.S. locales to donate  
their blood and sign up for organ donation programs.  
It is a nationwide action which we hope will point  
out that there are alternatives to silently beseeching  
a deity to perform miracles. We urge our members,  
our friends and our neighbors to give a part of them-  
selves for the benefit of humanity. We want to make  
a public statement about how people can observe the  
National Day of Reason (Gift of Life Day). On that  
day, you can engage in action that we can prove sci-  
entifically has real-life impact on our fellow citizens.

Pat Buchanan at the 1992 Republican convention:

"There is a religious war going on in this country for the soul  
of America. It is a cultural war, as critical to the kind of na-  
tion we will one day be as the Cold War itself."

## Reverend Barry Lynn of Americans United responded in Piety & Politics

“Buchanan’s rhetoric was strident and his remedies unthinkable - but he was right about the existence of their ‘war’. Our side did not start it, but it exists. Efforts to act like this isn’t a real war (as opposed to just one hyped on television) or that a get-a-long philosophy is the only appropriate approach from any side will increasingly prove disastrous. We’ll end up whistling past the graveyard of our Bill of Rights and religious freedom if we take that road.”

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### Billed as the Fourth Musketeer, Christopher Hitchens’s new book *God Is Not Great* Is recommended by Sam Harris

“If God intended reasonable men and women to worship Him without embarrassment, why did He create Christopher Hitchens? It was a fatal miscalculation. In *God Is Not Great*, Hitchens not only demonstrates that religion is man-made--and made badly--he laughs the whole monstrosity to rubble. This is a profoundly clever book, addressing the most pressing social issue of our time, by one of the finest writers in the land.”

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### From the Secular Islam Summit organized by the Dutch Government:

“We are secular Muslims, and secular persons of Muslim societies. We are believers, doubters, and unbelievers, brought together by a great struggle, not between the West and Islam, but between the free and the unfree.

We affirm the inviolable freedom of the individual conscience. We believe in the equality of all human persons.

We insist upon the separation of religion from state and the observance of universal human rights.

We find traditions of liberty, rationality and tolerance in the rich histories of pre-Islamic and Islamic societies. These values do not belong to the West or the East; they are the common moral heritage of humankind.

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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.

In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action.

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#### 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. Carl Ledendecker at: (ledendecker@earthlink.net) 2123 Stonybrook Rd., Louisville, TN 37777 982-8687 evenings

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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.