

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

May 2009

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 3

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne, small conference room by reference desk

Topic: Are atheists just as annoying as Christians?

Sunday, June 7

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne, large conference room by entrance

Topic: ?

Sunday, July 5

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne, large conference room by entrance

Topic: Movie

Want to keep informed of SCFA events & discussions? Join atheists.meetup.com/569/

9 in '09 (www.au.org)

Americans United has a "9 in '09" project to press the new administration to repair Bush's damage:

1. Restrict Faith-Based Funding
2. Ban Faith-Based Job Bias
3. Select Good Judges
4. Reform Justice Department
5. Stop School Vouchers
6. Protect Military Personnel
7. Defend Sound Science
8. Resist Church Politicking
9. Oppose Sectarian Symbolism



Bill Maher: Evolution & Swine Flu

youtube.com/watch?v=MyxxTT5la6Q

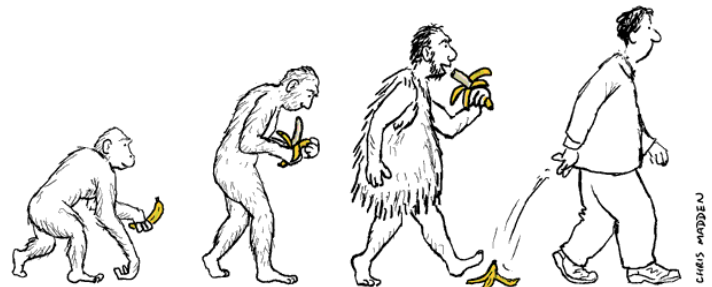


This meeting's talking points (Are atheists just as annoying as Christians?)



- Are we too argumentative?
- Are we too dogmatic?
- Are we too demanding?
- How can we effectively make ourselves heard?

THE EVOLUTION OF HUMOUR



chrismadden.co.uk/wordpress/

Space Coast Freethought Association

(SCFA) is a nonprofit community of reason-based individuals organized to facilitate social interaction, promote the non-theistic, rationalist viewpoint as a valid contribution to public discourse, reinforce the First Amendment guarantee of separation between government and religion through education and activism, and work in coalition with like-minded organizations where joint action is needed to achieve these goals.

SCFA Board of Directors

Doug Cramer, president
Bob Long, vice-president
Cameo Johnson-Cramer, secretary
Steven Brown
Mike Sweeney



Landover Baptist (satire website)

With special Mother's Day feature, "Why Did Jesus *HATE* His Mother So Much?"

landoverbaptist.org/



Church-State Update

A Report on Church-State Legal Issues Affecting Brevard County Citizens

National

Some Stem Cell Research Limits Will Remain (4/17)

'Guidelines proposed by the National Institutes of Health to carry out an order made last month by President Obama would allow research with federal financing only on stem cells derived from surplus embryos at fertility clinics. The money would still be prohibited for stem cell lines created solely for research purposes and for embryos created through a technique known as therapeutic cloning.' – New York Times

Supreme Court Turns Down Challenge to Jury's Use of Bible (4/20)

'Khristian Oliver's defense said jurors reviewed a biblical passage stating that a murderer who used an iron object to kill "shall surely be put to death." Jurors were deciding whether to sentence Oliver to death for shooting and bludgeoning his victim with the barrel of a gun. The court previously has said jurors should base their verdicts only on evidence presented in the courtroom...The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year said jurors wrongly used the Bible but said there wasn't enough evidence to show they were prejudiced when they decided to send Oliver to death row in 1999.' – Associated Press

FDA to allow 17-year-olds to get 'morning-after' birth control over the counter (4/23)

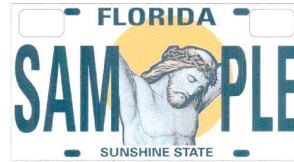
'The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday it would accept, not appeal, a federal judge's order that lifts Bush administration restrictions limiting over-the-counter sales of "Plan B" to women 18 and older. U.S. District Judge Edward Korman ruled last month in a lawsuit filed in New York that President George W. Bush's appointees let politics, not science, drive their decision to restrict over-the-counter access...Korman ordered the FDA to let 17-year-olds get the birth control pills. He also directed the agency to evaluate clinical data to determine whether all age restrictions should be lifted.' – Associated Press



*skeptic.com/
podcasts/*

Florida

Proposed 'Christian' License Plates In Florida Fail to Pass in Time (4/27)



'Religious specialty plates offered by Sen. Ronda Storms, R-Valrico, and Sen. Gary Siplin, D-Orlando, made it onto a bill [4/24] even though many members had not seen images of those plates and none were produced for the debate. Siplin didn't mince words when asked what his "Trinity" plate looks like, saying: ``It has a picture of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' It...would benefit the Toomey Foundation for the Natural Sciences. Storms' "I Believe" plate would benefit Faith in Teaching, an Orlando company that funds faith-based programs at schools. 'The issue is whether the state of Florida ought to be producing license plates with religious images on them,' said Sen. Ted Deutch, D-Boca Raton, ``and I don't believe that we should.' ...[A push to eliminate all specialty plates within two years in favor of specialty stickers sold for use on standard Florida license plates is] the idea of Sen. Victor Crist, R-Tampa, who said it will save the state money, generate more revenue for charities and most importantly, help ``law enforcement clearly and swiftly identify a Florida license plate.'" **This bill failed to pass before the end of the legislative session on 5/1.** – Miami Herald

Interesting Non-legal Developments

- 'Georgetown University hid a religious inscription representing the name of Jesus during President Obama's address there Tuesday...because White House staff asked the school to cover up all religious symbols and signs while the president was on stage. The monogram IHS, whose letters spell out the name of Jesus, and which normally perches above the stage in Gaston Hall where the president spoke, was covered over with what appeared to be black wood during the address.' – Fox News
- In a speech given to the Turkish Parliament, President Obama said "One of the great strengths of the United States is...we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation; we consider ourselves a nation of citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values."