

New York City Atheists

August 2002

Serving the tri-state area ■ An affiliate of American Atheists

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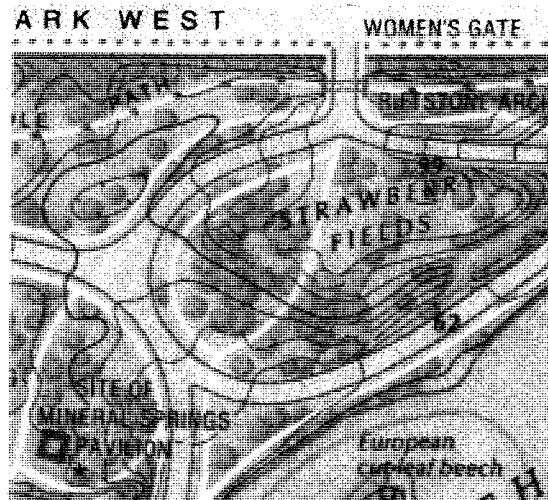
Events

Potluck Picnic 2

Potluck Picnic 2 (replacing August meeting)
Sunday, August 25, starting 11:00 A.M.
Central Park, near West 72nd St. entrance

Directions: Same location as last month. Take the B/C or 1/2/3 trains to 72nd Street. The B/C stop at the park entrance; the 1/2/3 are a couple of blocks west of the park. At the entrance, you can either turn right and walk down the curved road, or turn left and enter the Strawberry Fields path (which is marked by a sign, soon followed by an "Imagine" mosaic). Take either path into the park and you'll reach the park's inner road, with a tall statue on your left. Cross the road and walk up the grassy hill, which is topped by a giant rock and is marked on the map on page 2 with a square. We will be on that hill, between the statue and rock. Look for a purple sash.

Bring snacks for yourself plus at least one more. Nothing requiring cooking -- the park forbids grilling. There are several delis near the 72nd Street intersection one block away from the park. NYC Atheists will supply sodas, ice, cup, plates, and forks. No rain date. For more information, contact (212) 330-6794 or atheist@foody.org.



Join Us on August 25 for Picnic 2!

New York City Atheists had a great July potluck picnic in Central Park, in lieu of the usual monthly meeting. 23 members talked for over five hours about everything under the summer sun, mingling under trees on a hill near Strawberry Fields, the garden memorial to John Lennon. People brought plenty of food and drink, and Kirsten distributed free atheist T-shirts she'd made (see "Atheist T-shirts" elsewhere in this issue). You can see more

picnic photos at <http://foody.org/atheist/picnic.html>.

It went so well that we're having a second potluck picnic in lieu of a regular August meeting. Some members have already asked for a second picnic, and an alternative meeting space to the diner is not quite ready. The last Sunday of the month is August 25, which will not conflict with the later Labor Day weekend. So meet your fellow outdoors for the first or second time!

Treasury

Late July's balance was \$268.24. We spent \$48.90 to print and mail June's newsletter (extra copies for the picnic), and \$43.79 in picnic expenses. We collected \$55 in donations (unsolicited!) at the picnic, and received a \$100 donation via mail. As of mid-August the treasury balance is \$330.55, excluding the cost of this newsletter and sodas and ice for the second potluck picnic on August 25.

New Meeting Space

There are three leading candidates for new rented meeting space. The Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Center on West 13th Street, the least expensive, is a recently renovated, bright, clean, airy complex whose guests are involved in all sorts of activism. American Gay Atheists and the NYC chapter of American Atheists met there in 1990-1991. But they might not rent to groups that are not primarily gay.

The Source of Life conference center plans to move soon to a new building. It is owned by an eponymous "alternative" church that does not seem to proselytize.

Greenwich House's elevator is out of service, limiting access to its available fourth-floor room. It might be worth considering after repairs. A promising hotel conference room available for \$100 for three hours turned out to be too small for us. The Greenwich Village Center prefers larger groups and will rent its auditorium on an emergency, as-available basis, but we would benefit more from "classroom" space than "lecture" space.

Atheist T-Shirts

At the picnic, NYC Atheists member Kirsten gave away the fruits of her new project, atheist T-shirts. If you'd like a shirt of your own, you can talk to her at a NYC Atheists event. Some of her slogans include:

Democracy. Not Theocracy.
Atheists Bless America
Say No to Theism
Dare to Doubt
Dare to Think for Yourself
Atheism Opens The Mind. Religion Closes It.
Religion Does Not Require that Things Make Sense. Science Does.
We Put People in Jail for Working in "Mysterious Ways"
"A Miracle" Is How You Explain Things When You Don't Know the Answer.
Teach Kids Logic, not Magic.
Give Children Logical Explanations, Not Magical Ones
Keep All Gods Out of Government
Keep Religion Out of Schools and Government
Say No to Theism. Say Yes to Rational Thinking.
We Now Have Better Books than Those Written 3,000 Years Ago
A God that Fails to Rescue a Child from Chronic Abuse Is All-Powerful? Loving?
Please Tell Me Why the Guy in the Sky Just Stood by and Watched Them Die. Were There Vacancies in Heaven on 9/11?
Magical Thinking Fosters Ignorance
Morality Should Be Based on Current Insight, Not Ancient Ignorance
What Morality Does Religion Teach if Clergy Abuse Children and Pay Millions in Hush Money?
I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag that Used to Represent Free Thought, Free Speech, Freedom Not to Bow to Any God; Presidency Not by Court Appointment But By Citizen Vote; One Nation, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All, Including Atheists.
"Under God" Is Indoctrination
A Government that Would Coerce Its People to Pray Is Tyrannical
Leaders Who Encourage Prejudice Against Atheists Dishonor Themselves and This County

LISTEN TO "EQUAL TIME FOR FREETHOUGHT"

Sunday evenings at 6:30, WBAI-FM (99.5). See foody.org/freethoughtradio.html to listen to past programs.

WBAI

NYC Atheists supports "Equal Time for Freethought," the new rationalist radio show on WBAI-FM (99.5 FM), in conjunction with other freethought groups. At the picnic, new member Eugene showed a promotional flyer he had created on his own initiative. NYC Atheists has Xeroxed it so he can distribute it.

So far, guests have been Norm Allen, Jr., from African Americans for Humanism; Annie Laurie Gaylor from the Freedom from Religion Foundation; Ron Barrier from American Atheists; Paul Kurtz and Ed Buckner from the Council for Secular Humanism; evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins; plus two call-in shows. The half-hour program has favored prominent figures in freethought, and will be increasing its number of call-in shows, but is still considering for later shows many previously suggested topics.

To urge WBAI to expand the show to a full hour, contact WBAI's program director, Bernard White, by calling (212) 209-2800, or write him at WBAI, 120 Wall St., New York, NY 10005. The show airs on Sundays at 6:30 P.M. on WBAI. Past shows' text highlights and full audio recordings are available at the Web site <http://foody.org/freethoughtradio.html>

September 11 Memorial in N.J.

American Atheists NJ will host a September 11 memorial on Sunday, September 15, from 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., at Possumtown Park in Piscataway. A picnic will follow the memorial. Contact New Jersey State Director David Silverman at dsilverman@atheists.org for more information.

Godless March on Washington

Charter bus and hotel plans for the November 2 Godless Americans March on Washington, D.C., are rolling right along. A round-trip ticket is available for \$60, and a hotel room available for \$59.

To reserve bus seats, write a check for \$60 per person to NJHN (New Jersey Humanist Network). Mail the check either to Joe Zamecki, American Atheists, 225 Cristiani St., Cranford, NJ 07016; or to NJHN at P.O. Box 51, Washington, NJ 07882. The bus leave New York City on the morning of Friday, November 1, leave us at the hotel for the night, will come in the morning to bring us to the demonstration, and then back home.

The hotel is the Best Western Capitol Skyline at 10 I St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. It is five blocks south of the Mall, where the demonstration will take place. For dinner, there are fast-food restaurants near the hotel. You must make hotel reservations individually, and mention that you are staying with the NJHN group. Each room has two beds, and we can sleep more than one person for the same charge. A rollaway bed for a third person, is \$10 extra. Everyone is responsible for their own reservations, but you must take one of the bloc of rooms reserved for us. If more than one person is staying in a room, there must be a single reservation, and one person is responsible. Anyone booking a room and not showing is responsible for the deposit, not NJHN.

American Atheists is planning a hospitality room at another hotel. Please keep all this information limited to fellow freethinkers to avoid fundamentalists harassing the bus company or the hotel. Thanks to American Atheists' Joe Zamecki and New Jersey Humanist Network's Harley Brown for the teamwork that makes this possible.

NEWS

Squabbling over the Pledge

Last month's newsletter focused on the political reaction to the U.S. 9th Circuit of Appeals ruling rendering unconstitutional the pledge of allegiance. But there was also a public reaction, both found and fanned by the press.

New York newspapers unanimously panned the ruling. "The judges do not understand the ocean of difference between two small words and the constitutional prohibition against establishing an official religion," said the *Daily News* in an editorial titled "Somebody Bless America," which blamed "fanatical civil libertarians" and called the decision "stupefyingly silly." "This is a land blessed," continued the *News*. "If you don't like the pledge, you don't have to say it. If you don't like the phrase 'under God,' you don't have to say that. But those who wish to recite it should be permitted to do so. Even in school."

"Where's a San Francisco earthquake when you really need one?" asked the *New York Post's* editorial "Left Coast Lunacy." Complaining that "the loopy left has pressed for the broadest possible interpretation of the Establishment Clause," the *Post* praised "the natural inclination of any society to distill its basic beliefs into civic shorthand," and called "the Pledge of Allegiance . . . an easily digested version of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

"A Left Coast federal-court decision" is how the *Post* began a news article titled "God-Awful," its reporter adding, "In the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks, the court's timing couldn't have been worse."

"Why They Hate New York" was the title of a *Post* editorial criticizing House of Representatives Gary Ackerman, Jerrold Nadler, and Nydia Velazquez for abstaining from a 416-3 vote that endorsed keeping the words "under God" in the pledge.

The *New York Times* said that though the 1954 addition of "under God" was "a petty attempt to link patriotism with religious piety . . . after millions of repetitions over the years, the phrase has become part of the backdrop of American life," and that the "well-meaning ruling . . . lacks common sense. A generic two-word reference to God tucked inside a rote civic exercise is not a prayer." The decision "invit[es] a political backlash for a matter that does not rise to a constitutional violation. . . . The ruling trivializes the critical constitutional issue of separation of church and state." Also calling the issue "trifling," *Newsday* said that the court "went way overboard."

Local and syndicated columnists raged in New York papers. "The entire moral inheritance of our Founding Fathers is predicated on the repeated idea that something beyond the power and wisdom of mere mortals is necessary for the survival of the United States," said Victor David Hansen in the *New York Post*. "It is the worst form of modernist condescension. . . . It is also elitist. . . . It's arrogant. . . . Finally, the decision is dangerous for the message it sends to our enemies at a time of war. They claim that our creed is as intolerant of religion as theirs is of reason. They say that they believe in something, we in nothing." "Even the wild-eyed Tom Paine invoked 'the Word of God' in his *Common Sense*," said another *New York Post* writer.

Complaining about the "foam-at-the-mouth hostility to religion that grips our elites," John Leo said in the *Daily News* that "the ruling opens the door to a serious discussion of the aggressive ideological campaign against religion. . . . While using high-road rhetoric (safeguarding church-state

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separation allows all faiths to flourish, etc.), the elites have pursued low-road policies, relentlessly working to drive religion from the public square."

Marc Gellman and Thomas Hartman, the rabbi-priest pair who write folksy interfaith advice once a week in *Newsday*, actually wrote the most wrathful opinion, titled "In the Court Of Secular Fanaticism." "Since Sept. 11, we've been living with the specter of religious fanaticism," they said (meaning only Islamic). "So it's grimly refreshing that two judges from the Ninth Circuit on the Left Coast have now offered us a glimpse of secular fanaticism. . . . We Americans believe our rights come from God -- not from the state. What God gives, no state can take away. . . . There must be some power higher than the state, or there's no way to critique the state. Without God, politics is idolatry."

Peter Steinfels' weekly "Beliefs" column in the *New York Times* suggested that the First Amendment clauses barring Congress from making any law "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," became popular more because of late-nineteenth-century anti-Catholicism from nativists such as the Ku Klux Klan, and less because of late-eighteenth-century Jeffersonian ideals.

But there were other commentaries. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., wrote in the *Times* in 1943, after the Jehovah's Witnesses won for all the right to abstain from the pledge, "the American people then, far from denouncing the court, applauded the decision as a pretty good statement of what we were fighting for. Are we backsliding today?" *Daily News* columnist Michael Kramer called the decision foolish, but added that after talking to an atheist child who unhappily said "under God" because of peer pressure, he felt that the values of tolerance outweighed the inclusion in the pledge of that exclusionary phrase.

"The decision is entirely correct in constitutional terms, although, as an atheist and a civil libertarian, I wish that a more substantive issue than the pledge were responsible for reigniting the passions of the religiously correct," wrote columnist Susan Jacoby in *Newsday*. "The furor is rooted in a common modern American misconception -- that the nation was founded upon religion from the beginning and that 'secular humanist' courts in the second half of the 20th century are responsible for banning public demonstrations of religious allegiance once taken for granted. Nothing could be further from the truth. The issue of whether to use the word 'God' in the Constitution was fully debated at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and the secularists prevailed. The first five American presidents, from George Washington to James Monroe, eschewed any public statements of their private religious beliefs. The now-sanctified Pledge . . . was entirely secular in its original wording."

Jacoby concluded by describing a teacher who had said of her students, "They don't know the words to the Bill of Rights and they don't know the Declaration of Independence, but they can all recite the Pledge.' That many students don't know anything about the Bill of Rights is precisely the problem -- one that cannot be corrected by retaining or removing God from the Pledge of Allegiance."

The fact that "boards of education are educating the young for citizenship is reason for scrupulous protection of constitutional freedoms of the individual," said atheist columnist Nat Hentoff in his *Village Voice* article "God Is Not in the Constitution." Hentoff was quoting from -- and praising the 9th Circuit court for following -- the 1943 U.S. Supreme Court suit that rejected a board of education's policy that Jehovah's Witness children who refused to join in the pledge should be expelled, sent to reformatories, and their parents threatened with prosecution. Responding to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who said that "this decision is directly contrary to two centuries of American tradition," Hentoff replied that "an even longer American tradition is that there is no mention of God in the Constitution. The Declaration of Independence, heralded by opponents of the Ninth Circuit decision for its references to God, does not have the force of law. And the Constitution says plainly, 'No religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public trust under the United States.' We all have the right to freedom of belief, or nonbelief, in God."

Daily News columnist E. R. Shipp praised the ruling "even though I am a Baptist and a regular churchgoer. . . . While the decision in the case brought by Dr. Michael Newdow has given the talk-show gasbags a lot to howl about and the candidates something to run on, it really doesn't affect how and what we believe theocratically. It merely limits our abilities to force others to see, feel, and believe as we do. I always think of the hypocrisy of the Pilgrims and their contemporaries who supposedly came to North America from England in search of religious freedom. Once they got here, they usually set up such an oppressive system that religious freedom was denied to dissenters. Have no fear: You may still live your life "under God," but the Constitution does not mandate God in our polity or our civic lives. Speaking of which, how many people have actually taken the time to read the document and learn that?"

"[Cold-war hysteria] came back with a vengeance after Sept. 11, with an infusion of God and patriotism in all aspects of public life, practically coercing people into waving flags," concluded Shipp. "Newdow and the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, the villains in this drama as far as preachers, politicians, editorialists, and talk-show hosts are concerned, may have really done the country a favor by reminding us that we are a democracy, not a theocracy."

"Under God" was inconsequential to *Daily News* columnist Richard Cohen, but he was upset that when "the entire Congress rose as one and . . . recited the Pledge, [n]ot one member had the guts to dissent. . . . After a lifetime in

journalism, I can tell you that some members of Congress are religious skeptics. Some are even agnostics or atheists. That's true of society in general, and it is no less true of our national leaders. Yet not one questioned the consensus. Not one stood up for that school kid in California. If these men and women, adults with immense influence, were cowed into acting like 8-year-olds in the classroom, then how can we expect real 8-year-olds to assert their constitutional right to delete the phrase or not recite the Pledge at all? What kid can stand up to that kind of pressure? Certainly, no member of Congress could. . . . A court understood her plight -- and then Congress, virtually to a person, stood as one and effectively declared she should, as the law allows, make a stand on principle by staying silent. They covered their hearts -- but they were really covering something else instead."

Reporters' people-in-the-street interviews were uniformly negative. "What is so wrong with saying the word 'God'?" said a Long Island woman. "It's not a prayer to God, it's a pledge to a country." "The pledge is a symbol and we are crying out for symbols these days," said a Woodmere, New York, public school principal. "'Under God' could mean whatever your definition of God is, not any one person's definition," said a Great Neck parent of elementary school students.

September 11 was often invoked. "After 9/11 we all turned to God, and now we want to turn our backs on him?" said clerk in Ridgewood, New Jersey. "We need to have more respect for our faith since God carried us through 9/11," said an Elmhurst real estate agent. How did clergy react? "Taking God . . . [out of the pledge] is raping the very fabric of the Constitution," said the minister of Westbury's Long Island Bible Baptist Church. "The name of God should be mentioned whenever possible," said the rabbi of Temple Israel in Riverhead, New York.

A rare positive comment came from Long Island Secular Humanists' Gerry Dantone in *Newsday*: "Every day, children are forced to say a prayer in school and it's just inappropriate." He said his two children attend public school, but that they recite the pledge without the words "under God."

The pledge fillip ended with a hiccup a week later, when the Associated Press reported that Newdow's 8-year-old daughter, who had given Newdow standing in the case but was now under her religious mother's custody, routinely said "under God" during the pledge and is attending a church. "I have a right to send my child to a public school without the government inculcating any religious beliefs," replied Newdow, adding that the mother taking the child to church doesn't mean the 8-year-old is choosing to be religious.

The *New York Times* reported that Newdow planned to "to ferret out all insidious uses of religion in daily life," including the use of "In God We Trust" on currency and prayers at presidential inaugurations. "Why should I be made to feel like an outsider?" he said.

Sources: "God-Awful," *New York Post*, 6/27/02; "Ruling Will Change Nothing in City Schools," *Newsday*, 6/27/02; "Somebody Bless America," *Daily News*, 6/27/02; "Left Coast Lunacy," *New York Post*, 6/27/02; "'One Nation Under God'," *New York Times*, 6/27/02; "No Need to Throw God Out of the Pledge of Allegiance," *Newsday*, 6/27/02; "America's Pledge," *New York Post*, 6/28/02; "By God, These Elitists Are Making Me Cringe," *Daily News*, 7/1/02; "In the Court Of Secular Fanaticism," *Newsday*, 7/1/02; "Evolution of Words That Aren't There," *New York Times*, 7/6/02; "When Patriotism Wasn't Religious," *New York Times*, 7/7/02; "Pledging Ourselves to Tolerance," *Daily News*, 7/7/02; "Much Ado About Propagandist Pledge," *Newsday*, 6/28/02; "God Is Not in the Constitution," *Village Voice*, 6/28/02; "Congress Cowardly on Religion," *Daily News*, 7/9/02; "Court's 'Under God' Ruling Fits the Constitution," *Daily News*, 6/30/02; "On Island, 9/11 Made Pledge Even More Vital," *Newsday*, 6/27/02; "Girl in Pledge of Allegiance Case Recites It at School," Associated Press, 7/12/02; "Under God' Iconoclast Looks to Next Targets," *New York Times*,

Vouchers in New York?

Although June's pro-voucher U.S. Supreme Court ruling seriously breached the wall between church and state, there should be no immediate effect in New York, whose state Constitution's "Blaine" amendment bans direct or indirect support of religious schools, except for transportation. Changing the state Constitution requires votes by two consecutive state legislatures, plus approval in a public referendum. Also, the power in Albany of the New York City teachers' union may prevent elected officials from supporting them, especially in an election year, when candidates may need union endorsement.

Mayor Bloomberg was noncommittal on vouchers, but during the mayoral campaign he had denounced the idea as disastrous for public schools. "Public dollars should not be used to underwrite a private or religious education -- especially when we are struggling," said liberal Assembly member Steven Sanders (D-Manhattan), head of the Education Committee.

Local voucher advocates may challenge the constitutionality of the Blaine amendment. "A battle was won. The war is just getting started," said Assembly member Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn), who plans to draft voucher legislation. He said that his heavily Orthodox Jewish district would welcome the chance to use public school dollars to send their children to religious schools.

Roman Catholic lobbyists immediately began targeting the Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Legislative Caucus in Albany. "A lot of our advocacy really must be geared toward minority communities, to begin to apply pressure on the Black and Hispanic Caucus, who in turn can apply pressure on both houses to get something going," said a speaker for the New York State Catholic Conference.

Agudath Israel of America and the Orthodox Union are promoting vouchers elsewhere in the United States. But most non-Orthodox Jewish groups usually oppose them because such programs require that students be low-income, and that participating schools may not discriminate in their admissions policies. And even pro-voucher Orthodox Jewish and Christian

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groups are uneasy about Islamic schools benefiting from public funding.

"If the vouchers become available, our parents will want to take advantage of them too," said the principal of Brooklyn's Al Noor School, the largest of the 35 Islamic day schools in New York. At Al Noor, girls keep their heads covered. The students read the Qur'an and study the history of Islam. Arabic is the only foreign language. The curriculum is mostly academic, but all the courses -- not just religious ones -- are taught from a strong Islamic perspective.

The Supreme Court ruling upheld a plan that allowed inner-city Cleveland parents to use taxpayer funds to give their kids an alternative to one of the nation's worst public school systems. Even though about 96 percent of the vouchers were used for Catholic schools, the five majority justices insisted that the program does not amount to unconstitutional state sponsorship of religious instruction. But the four dissenting justices bitterly rejected the voucher plan as a back-door way of legalizing state funding for religious education.

Standards for religious schools' participation in voucher programs may become a legal and ideological minefield. Such rules often say that schools are ineligible if their curriculum teaches "hatred," a definition that competing groups could say include Jewish Zionism, or stressing salvation only through Jesus.

Sources: "Battle Still Uphill for NY," *Newsday*, 6/28/02; "High Court OKs Vouchers," *Daily News*, 6/28/02; "Taking Advantage of the Right's Idea," *Newsday*, 6/28/02; "Court Ruling Buys Yeshiva Voucher Bids Aguda Meets With Allies in Illinois," *Forward*, 7/5/02; "No School Vouchers in City, Says Mike," *Daily News*, 6/29/02; "Best Chances for Vouchers Lie in the Cities," *New York Times*, 6/29/02; "Supporters of Vouchers Fear Use by Radical Religious Schools," *Forward*, 7/12/02.

HELP NYC ATHEISTS GROW

Our monthly meetings and newsletter are free, but we depend on donations to keep them going. Donation amounts are reported in the monthly treasury report, anonymously unless requested otherwise. Donations are non-tax-deductible, and checks must be made out to "Josh Karpf." Mail to New York City Atheists, PO Box 1187, New York, NY 10013.

Prayer Sneaks into Public Schools

If the eagerness of some religious groups is any clue, public schools will soon host many after-hours religious clubs. In June, a Manhattan federal court ruled that the Bronx Household of Faith could rent space for worship at a public school, a decision reflecting the 2001 U.S. Supreme Court case *Good News Club vs. Milford Central School*, which held that an upstate New York school district could not exclude the Child Evangelism Fellowship's club once it allowed other after-school civic meetings on its campus.

The Child Evangelism Fellowship plans to launch 1,000 new after-hours clubs in public schools nationwide. Orthodox Jewish organizations have praised the ruling, though Reform groups have not taken a position. Conservative Jewish groups, though at first critical of the ruling, may switch sides if Christian clubs or even other Jewish clubs proliferate, for fear of losing Conservative children to other sects or religions. Many after-hours Jewish clubs are already permitted in schools if they're called "cultural."

Source: "School Clubs Next Church-State Hurdle," *Forward*, 7/26/02.

Catholic Charities Cashes In

Catholic Charities has won \$3.4 million in public money to build low-income housing in Brooklyn. The contract was opposed by State Assembly member and housing chairman Vito Lopez. The *New York Post* reported that Lopez controls a lucrative nonprofit empire that includes a huge network of government-subsidized housing projects -- but depicted Catholic Charities, a \$2.2 billion operation, as the oppressed underdog.

Source: "Priests Best Big-\$\$ Pol on \$3M Project," *New York Post*, 7/31/02.

Hellish Faith Healing

A Brooklyn minister and his wife were arrested and charged with first-degree assault after they allegedly mutilated a woman's feet during a healing ritual at the Great Deliverance Spiritual Baptist Church in Brooklyn, police said. After first praying over her legs, the couple allegedly cut the victim's feet with razor blades, poured hot wax on them, and set them on fire. Because she could then not walk, the victim stayed at the church for nine days until she was taken to Kings County Hospital by ambulance. She may have to have surgery to amputate part or all of one foot. The *Daily News* called the incident "faith healing gone awry."

Sources: "Bizarre Healing Act Maims Qns. Woman," *Daily News*, 6/23/02; "Pastor Charged with Burning Woman's Feet in Healing Ritual," *Associated Press*, 6/23/02.