

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENT

SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| September 2 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |
| September 9 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |
| September 12* | Sunday 12:30 P.M. | NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch |
| September 16 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |
| September 19 | Sunday 10 A.M. – 6 P.M. | Street Tabling — Columbus Circle |
| September 21** | Tuesday 7 P.M. | NYC Atheists Meetup |
| September 23 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |
| September 26*** | Sunday 1 P.M. | Ed Stephens: Psychiatrist's Perspective: <i>Why Atheism Is a Tough Sell.</i> |
| September 30 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |

OCTOBER

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--|
| October 1 | Friday 8 P.M. | Comedy Club Night Out (Location TBA) |
| October 7 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |
| October 13 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |
| October 12* | Sunday 12:30 P.M. | NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch |
| October 19** | Tuesday 7 P.M. | NYC Atheists Meetup |
| October 20 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |
| October 27 | Thursday 8 P.M. | NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67) |
| October 28*** | Thursday 6:30 P.M. | Paul Grosswald: <i>Cults</i> |

* **Brunch Location:** EURO Diner at 126 East 28TH Street. (Between Lexington and Park Avenue.)

Brunch Cost: Order from Menu — Reservations not required.

** **Meetup Location:** Call 212-330-6794, 2 Days Before the Event.

*** **Meeting Location:** 352 7TH Avenue (Between 29 and 30TH Street at the Source of Life Center on the 16TH Floor.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------|---|
| Page 1: | Calendar of Future Events and Meetings, Table of Contents |
| Page 2: | President's Sermon August Meetings: Cable Shows, Sunday Brunch, Meetup, Tabling, Forum, RNC Demonstration |
| Page 3: | September Events: Cable Shows, Brunch, Forum, RNC Demonstration, Ron Widelec's article |
| Page 4: | Ron Widelec's <i>Same Sex Marriage Will Destroy America? — Prove it</i> |
| Page 5: | Ron Widelec's <i>Good Intentions, Bad idea: Tax money Is Not for Churches</i> , The Treaty of Tripoli |
| Page 6: | Education Committee Request for Volunteers, Francis Crick |
| Page 7: | Francis Crick (continued) |
| Page 8: | Recent Event and Meeting Photos, and Special Year End Membership Application |

NYC Atheists Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational association. Its meetings and membership are open and all are welcomed (both nonbelievers and believers), *i.e.* atheists, agnostics, humanists, free thinkers, skeptics, separation-of-church/state advocates, and individuals who are questioning and searching beliefs.

SEE PAGE 8 FOR SPECIAL YEAR END MEMBERSHIP OFFER



PRESIDENT'S SERMON

We have reached triple digits in membership

NYC Atheists is proud to announce that our paid membership has reached triple digits (over 100). Starting with thirty founding members, we reached our 2004 membership objective in less than seven months. We have witnessed in this last month a dramatic upsurge in the number of people interested and wanting to join our group.

Ken Bronstein

Our success is directly related to the efforts and support of many individuals. I would like to thank: Rich Calissi (newsletter articles), Mario DeOliveira (refreshments chair), Jane Everhart (newsletter, press releases, editing), Dan Gislao (database and meetup coordinator), Jay Gumbiner (financial support), Dennis Horwitz (cable show host), Mason Hu (A/V equipment), Harvey Osgood (Secretary and financial support), Robert Morgan (Goal 3 chair), Jake Shafer (Web Master and Newsletter Layout and Publication), Ron Widelec (numerous newsletter articles) and all those other members who have helped in tabling, recruiting members, cable show guests, etc. and offering great advice and support.

The success of our group — was a team effort.

EVERYBODY PLEASE VOTE

NO VOTE/NO COMPLAINT

Contact me with your comments: Ken Bronstein at *NYCATHEISTS@AOL.COM* or 212-535-7425.

**AUGUST
EVENTS/MEETINGS**

Aug 5 — Cable Show # 7

Bob Morgan — a NYC Atheist member, described his path to Atheism.

Aug 8 — Sunday Brunch

Thirty hungry non-believers had a great time at the NYC Atheist's Sunday Brunch. Four people took advantage of our special \$10 year end membership offer.

Aug 12 — Cable Show # 8

Pat Berger — a NYC Atheist member, described her path to Atheism.

Aug 17 — Meetup

Fourteen people attended our August Meetup at the Manhattan Lounge. After the meetup, nine attendees had dinner at a local Thai Restaurant.

Aug 19 — Cable Show # 9

Dan Gislao — a NYC Atheist member, discussed how he became an Atheist.

Aug 22 — Street Tabling

NYC Atheists had a great day of street tabling on Madison Avenue (43/44TH Street.) Three new members joined. As usual, there were some interesting incidents. As a group of distinguished individuals were walking by our table, one of them loudly yelled out to us, "god will be your witness!"

NYCA president Ken Bronstein responded, "That is impossible, god is hiding in the witness protection program!"

Everyone, including the group who yelled, broke out into laughter.

Tabling is one of our most productive ways that we get new members. **BECOME A TABLE VOLUNTEER!**

Aug 26 — Cable Show # 10

Ken Bronstein — NYC Atheist president Bronstein discussed plans for the August 29TH demonstration at the Republican Convention

Aug 26 — Atheist Forum

Bob Morgan (Goal 3 Chair) lead a lively discussion: What should be the ethical practices and legal system of a non-theist culture/society?

For the second half of the meeting, Ken Bronstein (NYCA President) discussed the final plans for the August 29th Demonstration at the Republican Nation Convention.

**Aug 29 — RNC
Demonstration**

Great Member Turnout. Details in the October Newsletter

FUTURE/EVENTS

Sept 2, (Thursday) Cable show
#7 8:00 – 8:30 P.M. Manhattan Cable:
Ch. 67 Leonid Hambro — NYC
Atheist member: His path to Atheism.

Sept 9, (Thursday) Cable show
#12 8:00 – 8:30 P.M. Manhattan
Cable:Ch. 67 Harvey Osgood, NYC
Atheist member: His path to Atheism

Sept 12, (Sunday) Brunch:
12:30 P.M. – Euro Diner, 126 East 28TH
St. (Park/Lexington)

Sept 16, (Thursday) Cable Show
#13 8:00 – 8:30 P.M. Peter Kramer —
NYC Atheist member: His Road to
Atheism

Sept 19, (Sunday) Tabling 10:00
A.M. – 6:00 P.M. Location:
Columbus Circle in front of Time
Warner Building

Sept 21, (Tuesday) NYC Atheists
Meetup: 7:00 P.M. Call
212-330-6794 three days before event
for location

Sept 23, (Thursday) Cable Show
#14 8:00 – 8:30 P.M. Manhattan Cable
Ch. 67 Paul Grosswald: *Cults*

Sept 26, (Sunday) Monthly
Meeting 1:00-5:00 P.M. Ed Stephens
MD: Subject: Psychiatrist's
Perspective: Why Atheism Is a Tough
Sell

Sept 30, (Thurs.) Cable Show
#15 8:00 – 8:30 P.M. Manhattan Cable
Ch. 67 Paul Grosswald: *Cults*

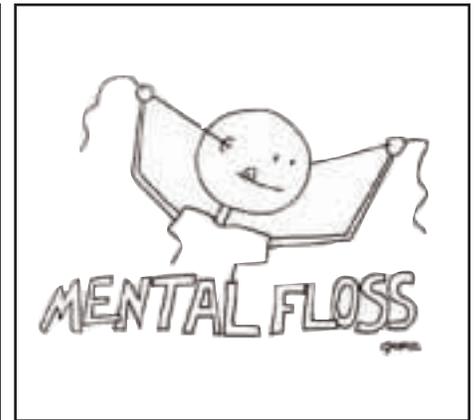
The Christian Right-Wing Assault on the Judiciary

By Ron Widelec

“Activist judges are legislating from the bench and destroying America.” Claims such as these have become a rallying cry for conservatives nationwide as they attempt to convince Americans that the judiciary has run amuck. Many Americans who are wholly ignorant of the role of the judiciary eat this up. However, despite their backward beliefs, the right-wing is not ignorant nor stupid, and knows quite well that the judiciary is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. In reality, according to the Christian right wing, an activist judge is any judge who disagrees with their policies.

Right wingers often claim that judges, especially unelected federal judges, are too powerful and out of control (but only those who are not conservative, of course). They claim that because these judges are not elected, they totally disregard the opinion of the public and just decide what they believe to be right. What they fail to mention is that this is exactly what the courts are supposed to do! The courts were designed in that way so that public opinion would not directly sway their decisions on matters of justice. What the right wing calls “legislating from the bench” is the court’s interpreting the constitution and the constitutionality of existing laws. The courts do not write laws; they merely evaluate law and amendments and decide how they pertain to modern situations. Such is the case with the new controversy surrounding same-sex marriage. The courts are not writing a law allowing same-sex marriage; they are deciding whether the 14TH Amendment to the constitution, which protects equal rights for all, includes the right to marry even if the couples are same-sex.

This was done to counter the one major flaw in democracy, which is the



power of the majority to totally dominate and overpower any minority through legal means. Madison realized this when he wrote in the Federalist Papers #10 that he feared that the Majority (the poor) might take over American from the minority (the aristocracy), because of their numbers. However, due to hefty requirements to vote and the tremendous political influence that comes with money, the poor have never dominated the wealthy. Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville made a far more accurate assessment of this problem in the 1800s, when he noted that as long as America remained a democracy, African Americans could never achieve equal rights, because the white majority of voters would never allow it. If the extension of civil rights were entirely based on elections, Tocqueville would probably have been correct. However, historically the extension of civil rights has very rarely fallen into the realm of elections; nor have they often been extended in the halls of a legislature or the offices of an executive. The vast majority of Civil Rights victories, which usually deal with discrimination of a minority by the majority, have come from the bench of a Federal Court. The reason is simple: Officials who are worrying about getting re-elected very rarely think of justice and constitutionality, while federal judges are free to make a correct call, even if it may be unpopular (which by no means assumes that they will actually make the correct call... *e.g.* Plessey v.

Ferguson). This is not to say that unelected officials are better than elected officials, but there must be a balance between the two. Any attempt to tip the balance could lead to a catastrophic failure of his nation's promise of liberty.

I highly doubt that the *Brown v. Bd. of Ed.* Supreme Court decision was universally popular. Legislatures and Executives, both local and federal, did not step up and end segregation. It took a Federal Court of "Activist Judges" to make it happen. Today President Bush claims these activist judges are destroying America by considering the constitutionality of same-sex marriage. Congressmen are trying to pass laws that would limit the Court's right to hear certain types of cases, such as the "under god" case and "Ten Commandment" cases. The right-wing plot to destroy the major force for civil rights in America, the Federal Courts, may dramatically tip the balance in favor of majority discrimination and open the door to a new wave of Jim Crow type laws against any minority group that gets in the way.

Same Sex Marriage Will Destroy America? Prove It!

By Ron Widelec

Recently, while the September 11 Commission was presenting its findings, the House of Representatives sneaked in a vote on the so-called "Marriage Protection Act." While the public was looking the other way, the House passed the bill that would prevent federal courts from hearing cases dealing with the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996. Luckily, C-Span was there to get great coverage of a most ludicrous debate.

It featured rhetorical nonsense and catch phrases by the Republicans without a shred of fact, evidence, logic, or reason. The Republicans claimed, as usual, that this bill was needed to protect the "sanctity" of

marriage, and with it, the very foundation of our society. Most Democrats stood up against this horrific bill. The main contention of the Democrats was that the House should not strip the courts of their right to hear cases dealing with civil liberties.

However, very few stood up and pointed out the ridiculousness of the bill itself. This bill, and the entire Anti-Gay agenda of the Republican Party, is absolutely outrageous and discriminatory. Yet, it was being discussed openly on the floor of the House. Where were the sensible, liberty-minded supporters of common sense, decency, and justice? Where was the voice of reason shouting, "How dare this Congress convene to even consider a law that would openly discriminate against American citizens!"

More importantly, where was the most crucial challenge: **PROVE IT!** The Republicans believe that Same Sex Marriage would be terrible for America. They claim that it would destroy marriage and lead to the crumbling of the whole nation. If this claim is true, surely the Republicans can back it up with facts, hard evidence, logical step by step reasoning showing a chain of events beginning with the allowing of same sex marriage and leading to the total destruction of the United States.

It would take a brave individual to step up in the House and turn the Republican argument on its head by asking them to prove their case on national television for the whole nation to see. The following letter has been sent to various representatives from New York in both the House and Senate, urging them to do just that.

Please send a copy of the following short letter (or your own version) to your representatives urging them to demand proof; to demand that the Republicans step up to the podium and present an argument rather than empty rhetoric. The American public

deserves to see a step-by-step cause and effect analysis that clearly shows how same-sex couples getting married damages the marriage of others and then destroys the entire country.

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

Recently, many congressmen have stepped up their attacks on Same Sex Couples. In their attempt to pass discriminatory laws, they have claimed that Same Sex Marriage will destroy the institution of marriage, damage the marriages of others, and then lead to the destruction of the United States.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the NYC Atheists urging you to stand up to these Right Wing bully attacks on homosexuals and demand that they present an argument supporting their case. Demand that they explain how Same Sex Marriage will destroy America. Demand that they make a case in front of the Congress for the whole of the American public to see. The American public deserves to see their case. Demand facts, real data, evidence and logical arguments, rather than the rhetorical nonsense of the past "debates."

Next time the Republicans attempt to pass such a blatantly discriminatory and baseless bill, stand up and say "PROVE IT!" Make them get up and explain for the whole nation to see. Don't let them replace debate and argument with empty, mindless rhetoric and catch phrases. Demand more! Make them PROVE IT!

Respectfully,

NYC Atheists, Inc.

"The inspiration of the Bible depends upon the ignorance of the gentleman who reads it."
— **Robert G. Ingersoll**

Good Intentions, Bad Idea: Tax Money is not for Churches

By Ron Widelec

The recent decision by the City Council to give public tax monies to churches to fight AIDS and HIV is a bad move, despite the good intentions and public praise. Too often the government, both local and federal, has tried to cut its programs and dismantle its ability to help those in need and replace it with funding to faith-based programs. Later, if the funding dries up, there is no longer a workable public program able to deal with those high-need individuals. Faith-based programs can do wonderful work, but must do so through volunteer work and charity from private citizens.

It is not surprising that many African Americans and Hispanics are praising this measure. Most feel that the churches are the best equipped to help them and the most willing to do so. The reason they feel this way is because to some extent it has been true. Minorities have had to turn to faith-based programs in the past because government programs often ignore them. A failure by the government in the past to provide serious aid for struggling minorities has forced some to become reliant on church assistance. This does not mean the city government should just give tax money to churches; it means that the city needs to get its act together and create serious programs to help those in need. This is just an attempt to pass the buck to the churches and rid themselves of responsibility for these problems.

This does not mean the churches should not be involved. Philip Hilton, a spokesperson for the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA), was correct to say that "if we are going to have an initiative that is culturally appropriate we have to involve the churches." Churches, as a major pillar of some communities, have an important role to play. They should work hand-in-hand with local

government and community leaders to increase the reach of a program through the hard work of their membership. Programs that combine government, religious, and community leaders can have far reaching effects, but public tax money need not enter a church's coffers.

Most importantly, tax money should not be given to these faith-based programs because there is always a great deal of difficulty separating the spending on religious functions and secular aid. NBLCA's Hilton clearly stated that "[he] doesn't see anything wrong with having a sermon, with educating the community about what is going on with HIV AIDS..." There is a serious problem though. If a community member wishes to get information about AIDS from this program he must subject himself to a sermon; a sermon which may have many religious implications that differ from his own beliefs. Should any community member have to listen to a sermon of another religion in order to receive assistance paid for by public tax money? No person should be made to feel unwelcome when looking for tax-funded aid. However, there is a serious risk of this occurring when tax-funded AIDS education is merged with religious preaching.

To prevent this, highly intrusive and expensive oversight is needed; probably too much for the city to bother with. Thus, the oversight will be lackluster and city tax money may end up being used to preach rather than give aid. This would force New Yorkers to pay for religious services from religions they do not follow. Most New Yorkers would probably prefer not to pay for someone else sermons.

Dennis Deleon, the president of the Latino Commission on Aids (LCA), admitted that their program is not secular and claimed "that seven days of unity and PRAYER are the only way to overcome what we view as some major obstacles in HIV

prevention..." Religious unity and prayer may be a powerful weapon to rally community support against AIDS, but that does not need government funding. These faith-based programs should be helping to organize and increase the reach of legitimate government programs to help those in need rather than competing for the same funding. The government's job is to combat these problems, not to write a check and watch from a distance.

The Treaty of Tripoli

In the 1790s, pirates of the Barbary coast and of Tripoli (in what is now called Libya) were destroying U.S. shipping and holding U.S. seamen as prisoners.

On November 4, 1796, near the end of George Washington's second term, a treaty with the "Bey and People of Tripoli" was signed, promising cash and other considerations to Tripoli in exchange for peace.

As a demand of the treaty, the United States was required to state: "that the government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion; as it has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquility of Musselmen [Muslims] ... it is declared ... that no pretext arising from religious opinion shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries...."

"The United States is not a Christian nation any more than it is a Jewish or a Mohammedan nation." The Treaty of Tripoli (1797), was carried unanimously by the Senate and signed into law by John Adams (the original language is by Joel Barlow, U.S. Consul).

NEW PO BOX ADDRESS

**New York City Atheists
Cooper Station
P.O. Box 93
NY, NY 10276-0093**

Education: “HUGE” Help Needed By Allen Gardener and Bob Morgan

Two Goal 2 (Education) Committee Members are developing a two-layer educational project to meet the challenge of: what educational curriculum would best serve the needs of the students of the post-religious society?

Named HUGE [History of Universal and Global Evolution], it is a general framework of a K–12 curriculum, designed to integrate all grades and all classes and beyond.

The specific core would be “History, Life and Myself, from Big Bang to Today,” (with emphasis on Cultural Evolution and global history). This is an existing curriculum, that has been used in NYC public junior high schools for over 25 years.

It would also include “Philosophy: Critical Thinking and Discovery Method” (*i.e.*, making generalizations from data.). These are our Major Needs

1. Your personal expertise in subject areas: What do YOU think the post-religious child needs to know? HUGE lets you plug it in. So come on down and join our project.
2. Skills we need: Editorial, Research, Outreach.
3. Above all, we need Computer skills: transferring AVI materials (slides, tapes, etc) into Power Point.
4. Video production skills: Allen has the equipment.

Reasons for New York City Atheists to join this project:

1. To counter the oft-heard complaint that atheists do not “contribute something positive and concrete” to society and humankind as a whole.
2. To provide a focus-project for those wishing to so share their insights, ideas, and skills.

3. To think HUGE: the History of Universal and Global Evolution.

Our initial project will be to develop a History of Atheism, one two-hour presentation/curriculum for Junior and Senior High School Students.

If you are interested in taking part or learning more, e-mail Allen: allengardner817@msn.com OR Bob: xchangebob@nyc.rr.com OR, if without computer, write to: Allen Gardener, 4177 Bronxwood Ave, Bronx, NY 10466.

ADAM — Where Have You Been?

Sometimes women can be overly suspicious of their husbands. When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset.

“You’re running around with other women!” she charged.

“You’re being unreasonable,” Adam responded. “You’re the only woman on Earth.”

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve.

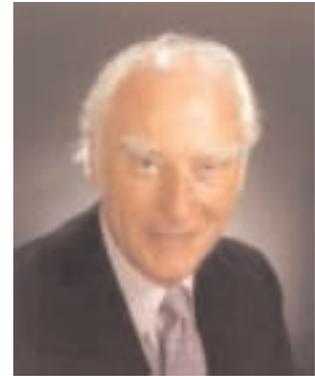
“What do you think you’re doing?” Adam demanded. “Counting your ribs,” said Eve.



I Believe in Life Before Death

Global warming and tobacco’s link to cancer are junk science, but creationism should be taught in schools.

Francis Crick, humanist and co-discoverer of DNA, dies at 88



Sir Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the double-helix structure of DNA, died last week at the age of 88. Nobel-laureate Crick revolutionized the science of genetics in 1953 when he and James Watson (both Atheists) finally cracked the mysterious molecular structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

Sir Francis was an outspoken atheist and humanist. In an interview with the Daily Telegraph five years ago, Sir Francis confirmed that his antipathy towards religion was a prime motivator for his DNA breakthrough. “There’s no doubt about that,” he said. “I asked myself what were the two things that appear inexplicable and are used to support religious beliefs: the difference between living and non-living things, and the phenomenon of consciousness.”

So strong were Crick’s freethought convictions that, in 1961, he resigned as a fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, after it proposed to build a chapel. In a letter, Sir Winston Churchill pointed out that nobody need enter the chapel if they didn’t wish. Crick replied that given this reasoning the college should build a brothel. “I have no doubt, that my loss of faith in Christian religion and my growing attachment to science played a dominant part in my scientific career not so much on a day-to-day basis but in the choice of what I have considered interesting and important,” Crick said. “I realized early on that it is detailed scientific knowledge which makes certain religious beliefs untenable. A

knowledge of the true age of the earth and of the fossil record makes it impossible for any balanced intellect to believe in the literal truth of every part of the Bible in the way that fundamentalists do. And if some of the Bible is manifestly wrong, why should any of the rest of it be accepted automatically? A belief, at the time it was formulated, may not only have appealed to the imagination but also fit well with all that was then known. It can nevertheless be made to appear ridiculous because of facts uncovered later by science. What could be more foolish than to base one's entire view of life on ideas that, however plausible at that time, now appear to be quite erroneous? And what would be more important than to find our true place in the universe by removing one by one these unfortunate vestiges of earlier beliefs? Yet it is clear that some mysteries have still to be explained scientifically. While these remain unexplained, they can serve as an easy refuge for religious superstition. It seemed to me of the first importance to identify these unexplained areas of knowledge and to work toward their scientific understanding whether such explanations would turn out to confirm existing beliefs or to refute them. "Even a cursory look at the world of living things shows its immense variety. Though we find many different animals in zoos, they are only a tiny fraction of the animals of similar size and type. J.B.S. Haldane was once asked what the study of biology could tell one about the Almighty. "I'm really not sure," said Haldane, "except that He must be inordinately fond of beetles." There are thought to be at least 300,000 species of beetles. By contrast there are only about 10,000 species of birds. We must also take into account all the different types of plants, to say nothing of microorganisms such as yeasts and bacteria. In addition, there are all the extinct species, of which the dinosaurs are the most dramatic example, numbering in all perhaps as many as thousand times all those alive today. "The second property of almost all living things is their complexity,

and in particular, their highly organized complexity. This so impressed our forebears that they considered it inconceivable that such intricate and well-organized mechanisms would have arisen without a designer. Had I been living 150 years ago I feel sure I would have been compelled to agree with this Argument from Design. Its most thorough and eloquent protagonist was the Reverend William Paley whose book, *Natural theology — or Evidence of the Existences and Attributes of the Deity Collected from the Appearances of Nature*, was published in 1802. Imagine, he said, that crossing a heath one found on the ground a watch in good working condition. Its design and its behavior could only be explained by invoking a maker. In the same way, he argued, the intricate design of living organisms forces us to recognize that they too must have had a Designer. "This compelling argument was shattered by Charles Darwin, who believed that the appearance of design is due to the process of natural selection. This idea was put forward both by Darwin and by Alfred Wallace, essentially independently. Their two papers were read before the Linnean Society on July 1, 1858, but did not immediately produce much reaction. In fact, the president of the society, in his annual review, remarked that the year that had passed had not been marked by any striking discoveries. Darwin wrote up a "short" version of his ideas (he had planned a much longer work) as *The Origin of Species*. When this was published in 1859, it immediately ran through several reprintings and did indeed produce a sensation. As well it might, because it is plain today that it outlined the essential feature of the "Secret of Life." It needed only the discovery of genetics, originally made by Gregor Mendel in the 1860s, and, in this century, of the molecular basis of genetics, for the secret to stand before us in all its naked glory. It is all the more astonishing that today the majority of human beings are not aware of all this. Of those who are aware of it, many feel (with Ronald

Reagan) that there must be a catch in it somewhere. A surprising number of highly educated people are indifferent to these discoveries, and in western society, a rather vocal minority are actively hostile to evolutionary ideas."

Is Hell Exothermic (Gives Off Heat) or Endothermic (Absorbs Heat)?

Using Boyle's Law (gas cools off when it expands and heats): First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With the birth and death rates increasing as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added. This gives two possibilities:

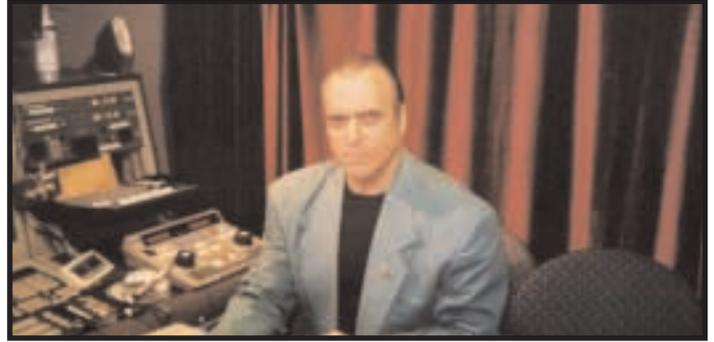
1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.
2. If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over. So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by some unnamed woman, "it will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then #2 cannot be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and will not freeze.

NYC-ATHEIST ACTIVITIES



August 8 — Sunday Brunch

Members and guests of NYC Atheists enjoying our Sunday Brunch.



August 19 — Cable Show

Dennis Horvitz, NYC Atheists Cable Show Host — preparing for the show.



August 22 — Street Tabling

L to R: Pat Berger, Peter Kramer, Jay Gumbiner, Judy Sager, preparing for the opening of the Madison Avenue street fair.



August 26 — Forum

L to R: Bob Morgan (Goal 3 Chair) and Panel — Ben Forman, Harvey Osgood, and Mat Shotkin.

NYC ATHEISTS: SPECIAL 2004 YEAR END MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

First Name: _____ **Last Name** _____

Street Address: _____ **Apt No.:** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Email: _____ **@** _____ **Phone:** (____) _____ - _____

NYC Atheists Inc. is a non-profit (501c), non-partisan, and educational association with the purposes and goals:

1. To promote the total and absolute separation of church and state
2. To educate and inform the public about Atheism
3. To provide a forum for examination and discussion about Atheism
4. To develop and engage in educational, cultural, charitable, and social activities that are beneficial to the members of NYC Atheists Inc., the Atheist community, and the community at large.

YOUR 2004 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

\$ 10 — SPECIAL 2004 YEAR END MEMBERSHIP — \$ 10

DONATION: \$ _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

**CHECK PAYABLE TO: NYC ATHEISTS INC. – SEND APPLICATION TO:
NYC ATHEISTS INC. MEMBERSHIP — COOPER STATION P.O. Box 93 NY, NY 10276-0093**