

SKYHOLE

INSIDE OKLAHOMA CITY'S PREMIER FREETHOUGHT NEWSLETTER

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QUOTE

“

I am an atheist, out and out.
It took me a long time to say it. I've been an atheist for years and years, but somehow I felt it was intellectually unrespectable to say one was an atheist, because it assumed knowledge that one didn't have. I finally decided that I'm a creature of emotion as well as of reason. Emotionally, I am an atheist. I don't have the evidence to prove that God doesn't exist, but I so strongly suspect he doesn't that I don't want to waste my time.

*-- Isaac Asimov
in "Free Inquiry",
Spring 1982, vol.2 no.2, p. 9*

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SILLY SALLY IN THE HOUSE... RAILS AGAINST GAYS, ISLAM

Earlier this month, Oklahoma State Rep. Sally Kern made headlines nationwide when one of her private tirades went world-wide on YouTube™

“Studies show that no society that has totally embraced homosexuality has lasted more than, you know, a few decades. So it's the death knell of this country. I honestly think it's the biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism or Islam - which I think is a big threat, OK? ... And this stuff is deadly, and it's spreading, and it will destroy our young people, it will destroy this nation.”

Fortunately, Rep. Kern has a solution to this imminent threat to our country: HB2211, a bill which promises to stem the tide of homosexual activism by creating public pulpits (limited First Amendment forums) at which students will be given the chance to preach salvation and intolerance to a captive student audience, at taxpayer expense.

In what can only be considered a coincidence of Providential proportions, Westboro Baptist Church rolled into Oklahoma City the day after HB2211 passed the House with a cadre of school-aged children in tow, in order to promote Sally Kern's faith-based message that gays will indeed doom our society. It was as if the gods themselves smiled down and provided us with a perfectly tailored demonstration of how the “voluntary expression by a student of a religious viewpoint” might be fraught with controversy if the student holds views in line with those of the bill's author.

HB2211 provides for the “establishment of a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak” and lays out a model policy mandating that “[s]tudent speakers shall introduce,” football games, opening announcements for the school day, and any additional events designated by the district, such as assemblies and pep rallies. The bill goes now to the State Senate for consideration.



**Westboro Baptist Church members
promote Kern's message of doom**

Jesus Stubbed His Toe for Your Sins

March 15 2008
apost8n8



Imagine with me that an elderly man approaches you with the promise of an additional 100 years of perfectly happy life if you only had to experience horrible pain for one hour. Imagine somehow this was a guaranteed deal with no strings attached or hidden agendas. Any ounce of skepticism you might have could be met with satisfactory answers and evidence. Would you do it? Would a relatively small amount of pain for 1 hour be worth the guarantee of thousands and thousands of wonderful days to follow?

Here's another thought. Imagine that your bank account balance has more figures in it than you can count. Let's say that you make Bill Gates look like a third-world beggar. Imagine you have the opportunity to donate \$10,000,000 to a charity that could somehow guarantee to end all disease in children. Let's say somehow it was really a sure thing. Not maybe, not with lots more work, but your action ensures the outcome. Would you go ahead with it? Sure it might mean you can't put those gold plated toilet seats in you private 777, but you'd probably go ahead and do it, right? While it's a nice gesture, is it really that worthy of praise? In fact I'd say if you didn't do it you should be considered a pretty horrible person.

What if you happened to be the son of God, the actual creator of the universe? What if you have existed forever and know that you will continue to exist forever. If you were given the chance to save thousands, millions, or billions of people from suffering by subjecting yourself to temporary pain and suffering would you? What are a few days of suffering for a being that exists for all eternity? It's really not such a sacrifice to spend an infinitesimally small amount of your existence in pain

when there is so much to be gained for it. In fact it's no sacrifice at all when you know that you will survive it and the pain will end and you will continue in bliss.

John 10:17 - King James Bible

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. (Unconditional love, huh?)

Jesus did not DIE for humanity's sins; it's more like he stubbed his holy toe. This is the extent of his sacrifice. A stubbed toe is the equivalent of this most sacred act so central to the core of Christianity. This is the act that is said to redeem all of the world's most horrible instances of cruelty, injustice and depravity.

While there is certainly much skepticism about the reality of Jesus' life, it is historical fact that thousands of real men died on the cross. These were real people that were never going to rise again to live for all eternity. Many of whom probably went up on the cross as a sacrifice for some cause or loved ones with no promise of resurrection or even martyrdom. What of their sacrifice? Who remembers those that truly sacrificed everything? In comparison to Jesus' empty gesture of faking his own death, the dying act of those countless nameless other Roman victims is much more worthy of respect.

I tire of hearing about the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus supposedly made for each of us. The whole story is designed to give you guilt. The idea is that you should believe these irrational stories because you are guilty that someone already paid your way. Guilt and fear are the foundations of faith.

So this Easter, when your local churches are so eager to remind you that the day isn't about colored eggs and that the Easter bunny didn't die for your sins, you must also remember that the ultimate *Fortunate Son* didn't either.



Since you're here... This doesn't even address the hundreds of other criticisms with this central story of Christianity. Why does the creator need blood sacrifice at all? If god is all powerful then isn't this all just a magic show, an illusion, a lie? Please read the stories yourself: See Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21, Acts 1:3-12, and I Corinthians 15:3-8. See if any of it makes sense while remaining intellectually honest? Why do these biblical accounts differ? Could it be that the bible is not literal? Could it be that the bible is written by man instead of God? Think for yourself!

Kansas Protesters Make Even Okies Seem Tolerant By Contrast

Saithington Willoughby

The Tinker Freethinkers and student representatives of Center for Inquiry on Campus at OU attended a Westboro Baptist Church protest, just outside of the Tinker AFB main gate, on Friday, March 14. This protest was held just prior prior to the memorial service for two young children killed in base housing on the previous Monday. While the WBC makes a habit of protesting veteran's funerals, this is the first time that they have publicly thanked God for the murder of innocent young children.

A crowd of counter-protesters gathered across the street from the Westboro Baptists, riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles and looking patriotic and generally intimidating (our presence failed utterly to add to the grizzled veteran mystique, with the possible exception of the good Reverend Real). There was little doubt in anyone's mind which group of protesters better represented the generally prevailing sentiment here in the heartland, although the press might well be given a pass for focusing on the hate-filled rhetoric of the Westboro Baptists.

At one point in the action, a young Marine reservist (wearing a curiously snug-fitting Superman t-shirt) forewarned the police that he intended to walk across the street and rip off the head of one of the Westboro Baptists. It seemed to this humble reporter that such a forewarning greatly reduced his chances of successfully pulling it off, so to speak. True to Marine form, however, the man strode through westbound traffic and managed to get in a minor scuffle with the boys in blue, who dutifully kept the peace for the sake of free speech, thus disproving the time-honored bumper-sticker adage: If You Love Your Freedom - Thank A Soldier.

Oklahoma Atheists would like to thank the following groups:

- Counter-protesters for showing that we Okies know whom to hate
- Police who preserve 1st Amendment rights regardless of creed or mental state
- Westboro Baptist Church for taking Christian dogma to its logical ends, publicly

Editor's note: Rep. Sally Kern hails from Jonesboro, not Westboro. We understand your confusion.



Biker patriots defend Oklahoma pride

CONTACT	EVENTS CALENDAR
Websites: http://www.oklahomaatheists.info/ http://atheists.meetup.com/144/ E-mail: AOK@oklahomaatheists.info Voice-mail: (405) 524-0801 Snailmail: Oklahoma Atheists Post Office Box 700144 Oklahoma City, OK 73107	March 26 First Freedom First Simulcast: 5 p.m. Tinseltown Cinema OKC, OK RSVP: http://www.firstfreedomfirst.org/big-event/ March 28 AOK Dinner: 7 p.m. Galileo's Bar & Grill 3009 Paseo, OKC, OK March 29 AU Conference: 8:30 a.m. Oklahoma City Community College 7777 S. May East D Lot, Entry CU 1&2 RSVP: 405-632-0037