



COWTOWN HUMANIST

Volume Nine No 1 – February 2007

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at The Unitarian-Universalist Church
901 Page Ave, Ft Worth - This month's meeting will be held on February 14th at 7 PM

Many of us dine together at Luby's Cafeteria, 2001 8th Avenue prior to our meetings (it's just south of Elizabeth Ave) All are invited to join us at 5:30 for eating and discussion of topics we all seem to enjoy chewing, along with our food.

George Cramer, one of our members and constant supporter, died last month at the age of 76. He was a good friend of the Humanist movement and will be a loss to us all. We'll miss you George!

The guest speaker at the February meeting will be Mr. Pepe Johnson, from the Military Equality Alliance, an advocacy group promoting acceptance of gays and lesbians in our armed forces. For more info go to:
www.militaryequality.org



Pepe Johnson

The following was sent in by Michael Little, to whom I bestow a hearty thanks, Mike.

This morning there was a knock at my door. When I answered the door I found a well groomed, nicely dressed couple. The man spoke first:

John: "Hi! I'm John, and this is Mary."

Mary: "Hi! We're here to invite you to come kiss Hank's butt with us."

Me: "Pardon me? What are you talking about? Who's Hank, and why would I want to kiss His butt?"

John: "If you kiss Hank's butt, He'll give you a million dollars; and if you don't, He'll kick the snot out of you."

Me: "What? Is this some sort of bizarre mob shake-down?"

John: "Hank is a billionaire philanthropist. Hank built this town. Hank owns this town. He can do whatever He wants, and what He wants is to give you a million dollars, but He can't until you kiss His butt."

Me: "That doesn't make any sense. Why..."

Mary: "Who are you to question Hank's gift? Don't you want a million dollars? Isn't it worth a little kiss on the butt?"

Me: "Well maybe, if it's legit, but..."

John: "Then come kiss Hank's butt with us."

Me: "Do you kiss Hank's butt often?"

Mary: "Oh yes, all the time..."

Me: "And has He given you a million dollars?"

John: "Well no. You don't actually get the money until you leave town."

Me: "So why don't you just leave town now?"

Mary: "You can't leave until Hank tells you to, or you don't get the money, and He kicks the snot out of you."

Me: "Do you know anyone who kissed Hank's butt, left town, and got the million dollars?"

John: "My mother kissed Hank's butt for years. She left town last year, and I'm sure she got the money."

Me: "Haven't you talked to her since then?"

John: "Of course not, Hank doesn't allow it."

Me: "So what makes you think He'll actually give you the money if you've never talked to anyone who got the money?"

Mary: "Well, He gives you a little bit before you leave. Maybe you'll get a raise, maybe you'll win a small lotto, maybe you'll just find a twenty-dollar bill on the street."

Me: "What's that got to do with Hank?"

John: "Hank has certain 'connections.'"

Me: "I'm sorry, but this sounds like some sort of bizarre con game."

John: "But it's a million dollars, can you really take the chance? And remember, if you don't kiss Hank's butt He'll kick the snot out of you."

Me: "Maybe if I could see Hank, talk to Him, get the details straight from Him..."

Mary: "No one sees Hank, no one talks to Hank."

Me: "Then how do you kiss His butt?"

John: "Sometimes we just blow Him a kiss, and think of His butt. Other times we kiss Karl's butt, and he passes it on."

Me: "Who's Karl?"

Mary: "A friend of ours. He's the one who taught us all about kissing Hank's butt. All we had to do was take him out to dinner a few times."

Me: "And you just took his word for it when he said there was a Hank, that Hank wanted you to kiss His butt, and that Hank would reward you?"

John: "Oh no! Karl has a letter he got from Hank years ago explaining the whole thing. Here's a copy; see for yourself."

From the Desk of Karl

- 1. Kiss Hank's butt and He'll give you a million dollars when you leave town.**
- 2. Use alcohol in moderation.**
- 3. Kick the snot out of people who aren't like you.**
- 4. Eat right.**
- 5. Hank dictated this list Himself.**
- 6. The moon is made of green cheese.**
- 7. Everything Hank says is right.**
- 8. Wash your hands after going to the bathroom.**
- 9. Don't use alcohol.**
- 10. Eat your wieners on buns, no condiments.**
- 11. Kiss Hank's butt or He'll kick the snot out of you.**

Me: "This appears to be written on Karl's letterhead."

Mary: "Hank didn't have any paper."

Me: "I have a hunch that if we checked we'd find this is Karl's handwriting."

John: "Of course, Hank dictated it."

Me: "I thought you said no one gets to see Hank?"

Mary: "Not now, but years ago He would talk to some people."

Me: "I thought you said He was a philanthropist. What sort of philanthropist kicks the snot out of people just because they're different?"

Mary: "It's what Hank wants, and Hank's always right."

Me: "How do you figure that?"

Mary: "Item 7 says 'Everything Hank says is right.' That's good enough for me!"

Me: "Maybe your friend Karl just made the whole thing up."

John: "No way! Item 5 says 'Hank dictated this list himself.' Besides, item 2 says 'Use alcohol in moderation,' item 4 says 'Eat right,' and item 8 says 'Wash your hands after going to the bathroom.' Everyone knows those things are right, so the rest must be true, too."

Me: "But 9 says 'Don't use alcohol.' which doesn't quite go with item 2, and 6 says 'The moon is made of green cheese,' which is just plain wrong."

John: "There's no contradiction between 9 and 2, 9 just clarifies 2. As far as 6 goes, you've never been to the moon, so you can't say for sure."

Me: "Scientists have pretty firmly established that the moon is made of rock..."

Mary: "But they don't know if the rock came from the Earth, or from out of space, so it could just as easily be green cheese."

Me: "I'm not really an expert, but I think the theory that the Moon was somehow 'captured' by the Earth has been discounted*. Besides, not knowing where the rock came from doesn't make it cheese."

John: "Ha! You just admitted that scientists make mistakes, but we know Hank is always right!"

Me: "We do?"

Mary: "Of course we do, Item 7 says so."

Me: "You're saying Hank's always right because the list says so, the list is right because Hank dictated it, and we know that Hank dictated it because the list says so. That's circular logic, no different than saying 'Hank's right because He says He's right.'"

John: "Now you're getting it! It's so rewarding to see someone come around to Hank's way of thinking."

Me: "But...oh, never mind. What's the deal with wieners?"

Mary: She blushes.

John: "Wieners, in buns, no condiments. It's Hank's way. Anything else is wrong."

Me: "What if I don't have a bun?"

John: "No bun, no wiener. A wiener without a bun is wrong."

Me: "No relish? No Mustard?"

Mary: She looks positively stricken.

John: He's shouting. "There's no need for such language! Condiments of any kind are wrong!"

Me: "So a big pile of sauerkraut with some wieners chopped up in it would be out of the question?"

Mary: Sticks her fingers in her ears. "I am not listening to this. La la la, la la, la la la."

John: "That's disgusting. Only some sort of evil deviant would eat that..."

Me: "It's good! I eat it all the time."

Mary: She faints.

John: He catches Mary. "Well, if I'd known you were one of those I wouldn't have wasted my time. When Hank kicks the snot out of you I'll be there, counting my money and laughing. I'll kiss Hank's butt for you, you bunless cut-wienered kraut-eater."

With this, John dragged Mary to their waiting car, and sped off.

For more go to: <http://www.jhuger.com/kisshankbutt.php>

Atheists are the new outcast minority – From The Roanoke, VA Times

Robert F. Boyd (Boyd, of Daleville, Virginia was a professor and science writer at Marquette University before his retirement.)

History reveals that, in whatever society we are talking about, minorities are frequently the scapegoats for whatever are the prevailing ills of the day.

Depending upon the society, the minority blame-game may be related to skin color, religious affiliation, ethnicity, sexual preferences, etc. Take your pick: Chinese, Irish, Germans, Hungarians, Asians, Catholics, Jews or Africans. All of them at one time or another were regarded as second-class citizens.

African-Americans continued to bear the brunt of the minority label until segregation gasped its last breaths in the 1960s.

Another minority, homosexuals, were for years regarded as the scum of the Earth, as witnessed by the brutal ways in which they were routinely harassed. Today, many homosexuals have come "out of the closet" even though they have not yet been allowed to enter the rest of the house to enjoy their so-called guaranteed civil liberties.

The most recent bogeyman is the atheist. You know who he is -- the secularist who wants a wall of separation between church and state, the elitist scientist who believes in evolution and not creationism, and the pagan who not only promotes pornography and abortion but also has created a social climate reprehensible to all Christian values.

And if you're a born-again atheist all those labels may apply to you.

Christians in this country believe that unless God is at the center of national life we will be forever exposed to crime, poverty, warfare and disease. Although science cannot prove the existence or absence of God, it has been able to provide some interesting statistics that make one think twice about the existence and importance of God in a society.

Countries regarded as secular or whose populations have by choice abandoned religion have been compared with those who are considered religious. Studies have demonstrated that when one measures life expectancy, literacy, income and education, nations whose populations are religious do poorly as compared to the more nonreligious ones. In addition, studies of non-African countries reveal that nations with the highest rate of homicide are religious.

If you read the newspapers and other communication outlets, evangelicals and fundamentalists are the hot topic, especially with regard to their welcoming of Armageddon. They are coming out of the woodwork like cockroaches and their pied-pipers are numerous.

This was to be expected since their pied-piper figurehead is President Bush.

You can't swing a dead cat without hitting one of them. Thanks to Bush, with help from the religious right and its ilk, the United States for the past six years has been ruled by a faith-based government.

Seizing upon their power in government, the Christian right is attempting to rewrite history as it relates to our Founding Fathers. They claim that America was founded as a Christian nation and that Thomas Jefferson was a decent Christian who really didn't mean what he said about the separation of church and state. Of course this attempt at revisionism is totally false.

Jefferson stated in 1802 in front of the Danbury Baptist Association: "The legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between church and state."

As regards Jefferson's Christianity, he clearly respected Christ as a philosopher and moral leader but described Christianity as "our particular superstition." Perhaps Tom DeLay, the evangelical hammer in his day, inadvertently spoke the truth when Congress rebuffed one of his proposals. He said, "They treat Christianity like a second-rate superstition."

Your officers may be contacted as follows:

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I'd like to solicit articles from members who may wish to contribute anything of interest to our membership.

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For newsletter comments, complaints and/or suggestions.

For more info about us and an archive of our past newsletters, go to: www.hofw.org

Owe dues? – see Dolores Ruhs