

# The Cowtown Humanist

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A Chapter of the [American Humanist Association](#) and allied with the [Council for Secular Humanism](#)

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## HEMLOCK SOCIETY'S PHIL MCCLURE SPEAKS ON RIGHT-TO-DIE ISSUES

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### SCIENTIFIC CREATIONISM AND INTELLIGENT DESIGN CHALLENGE THE EVOLUTIONARY CONSENSUS

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## HUMANISTS HEAR PROFESSOR PHIL MCCLURE ON THE PRACTICALITIES OF SELF-DELIVERANCE AND ASSISTED SUICIDE FOR THE DYING.

*O beloved Pan and all ye other gods of this place, grant to me that I be made beautiful in my soul within, and that all external possessions be in harmony with my inner man. May I consider the wise man rich; and may I have such wealth as only the self-restrained man can bear or endure - Do we need anything more, Phaedrus? For me that prayer is enough.*

-Socrates

Socrates was the first person we know of by name to take the hemlock and, according to Plato, he died peacefully in a matter of a few hours. Perhaps his serenity in the face of death, choosing quality over longevity, was bolstered by a belief that death allowed two possibilities: 1) a deep sleep—and how many things in life are more satisfying? Or 2) an afterlife spent discussing great moral issues with the seven Greek philosophers of legendary fame. Most of us probably cannot expect to spend eternity in the exalted company of Thales. Socrates *et alia*, if in fact there is an afterlife, but perhaps we can hope, along with the chorus of Mozart's *Così fan tutti*, that

"the breezes may be gentle" (*soave sia il vento*).

After invoking Socrates' prayer to Pan, North Texas Hemlock Society's Phil McClure spoke to 16 humanists about the objectives of his organization and the practicalities of assisted suicide. The North Texas Hemlock Society is affiliated with the national organization, Choices-in-Dying. Formerly known as the Hemlock Society, the name change was made to give the organization a softer image: Hemlock is not now a preferred option for exit from life. (Socrates, you may remember, had a reputation for a formidable indifference to pain and discomfort, if

you are thinking about hemlock as the drug of choice.) The local Dallas-based affiliate offers the assistance of ten "caring friends" to those members needing and wanting to cut short a painful and meaningless existence. Since helping someone to commit suicide in Texas is a crime, permissible assistance is carefully circumscribed.

The Denver-based Hemlock Society was founded in 1980 by Derek Humphrey, an English journalist, who himself in 1975 assisted his wife to take her life, a felony in Britain punishable with up to 14 years of imprisonment. The authorities decided not to prosecute, apparently

influenced by the fact that she was a terminal cancer case who otherwise faced months of untold suffering (doctors were unwilling to help shorten her misery) and by the fact of the close relationship between helper and assisted. More circumspect thereafter, Humphrey was also to aid his father and a brother-in-law to take their lives. In 1992 he left the Hemlock Society to found the Euthanasia Research and Guidance Organization (ERGO), based in Eugene, Oregon.

Approximately 31,000 Americans out of an annual death rate of 2,250,000 commit suicide each year. Although the taboo concerning suicide has been largely lifted in recent years, the suicide rate has remained fairly constant. Talking about it and disseminating information among the public obviously have not caused a rush to self-destruction. Nor has the availability of doctor-assisted suicide made any big difference in the suicide rate in the three countries (The Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland) that have legalized this option for termination of life. For the great majority of people, regardless of the status of their health, Woody Allen's quip about death still holds: "It's alright. I just don't want to be there when it happens."

Dr. Jack Kevorkian is the name to which most knowledgeable Americans link doctor-assisted suicide. Kevorkian, a retired Michigan pathologist, had been helping terminal patients to commit suicide for sometime when in 1990 he publicly advertised his role in a bid to coerce medical opinion into acceptance of this form of death in extreme cases. Up until that time, Michigan had no law prohibiting assisted suicide. That soon changed and Kevorkian was to be charged for a subsequent assisted suicide and sentenced to prison in 1997. Dr. McClure emphasized that Choices-in-Dying does not favor a confrontational approach on this issue: Assist quietly, not overtly breaking any laws, and in the meantime work to change state laws. This approach has had at least some

limited success. In the ensuing years no one has been charged and in one state, Oregon, the law has been changed, against strong religious opposition, by referendum to allow for assisted suicide under carefully prescribed conditions. Washington and California are states where ballot initiatives have been narrowly defeated.

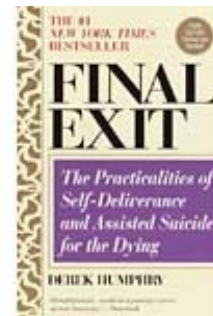
Euthanasia (Greek for "good death") comes in four varieties:

- **Passive euthanasia:** The disconnection of life-support equipment ("pulling the plug") usually involves no ethical or legal problems provided you have signed a Living Will and a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.
- **Self-deliverance:** Legal and widely accepted ethically, it is performed by the agent although the presence of family member or close friend is advisable.
- **Assisted suicide:** You obtain lethal drugs, usually from a doctor. It is a felony for the person supplying the drugs. In 1996 two U.S. appeals courts ruled in favor of physician-assisted suicide, however, the Supreme Court overruled these decisions.
- **Active euthanasia:** Injection of lethal drugs by a physician. Currently it is legal only in The Netherlands although it is becoming more widely accepted as ethically legitimate among the medical profession.

The means to end-of-life currently preferred by Choices-in-Dying is the plastic bag with barbiturates. The so-called 'party balloon kit' available at the K-mart will do for the former; the latter is somewhat more difficult to come by since the authorities have tightened enforcement of laws restricting the prescription of powerful drugs.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**  
*Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying.* By Derek Humphrey.

The #1 New York Times bestseller in 1991, *Final Exit* was recently issued in a revised and updated version "to provide new information about the legality of euthanasia and assisted



suicide. ...It updates where to get proper drugs and exactly how to carry out

the quickest, most peaceful way to make a final exit. Finally, it gently talks to a person considering self-deliverance about alternatives, planning, and the means to make every death a 'good death' at our time of greatest need." As one who has watched close relatives and friends suffer months and even years of painful and pointless existence, and one determined not to undergo the same indignities, I can recommend this book as indispensable to anyone who has no religious scruples against self-destruction. Until reading *Final Exit*, I had assumed that Keats' "easeful death" was, well, rather easily gotten. Not so. It takes a lot of careful planning and knowledge about the various options. We would all probably prefer to die making some heroic gesture, but those deaths mostly occur in fiction and the movies. Death to the living is seldom a great aesthetic experience, except perhaps when a great artist such as Plato makes it so. The rest of us will have to settle for something more banal. This book will help toward the right decision for you, if the quick and painless passing we all yearn for is denied.

## HASSAN TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Syed Fayyaz Hassan, Secretary General of the American Muslim Alliance (AMA), Southwest Region, will speak "On Being a Muslim in America" at our November 18 meeting. The AMA seeks to organize the American Muslim community to participate in public affairs, civic discourse and party politics. Syed was chair of the Civil Rights Conference held on October 25th in Dallas and was one of three panelists of the Patriot Act Forum at First Jefferson on November 4. He has been host of a radio show called "Political Awareness" focusing on political education for the Muslim community. A native of Pakistan, he came to the United States in 1987 and became a naturalized citizen in 2001. He holds a masters degree in economics from Michigan State University and is currently employed at American Airlines as a senior analyst. He resides in Arlington with his family.

Those members unable to attend the Patriot Act Forum missed a well attended and well presented program at First Jefferson. The other panelists were Donald Jackson, Herman Brown Professor of Political Science at Texas Christian, and John E. Collins, a Dallas attorney who practices General Civil Trial Law. Briefly to summarize the session: In times of national stress the U.S. government has tended to react to perceived threats to the nation's safety with draconian measures--most notably, the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, the detention of thousands of "Copperheads" in the border states during the Civil War, Attorney General Palmer's persecution of communists, anarchists and other "subversives" after World War I, and the detention of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II. With hindsight the foregoing have been generally seen as excessive curbs on civil and political rights. It is incumbent on us as good citizens to oppose those provisions of the

Patriot Act that give latitude for the undermining of basic liberties and any other unconstitutional measures, particularly disregard of its "habeas corpus" provision, the administration may use in the so-called "War on Terrorism", which could last as long as a generation or more. Stay informed, make your voice heard and vote.

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither."

--Benjamin Franklin (1759)

## EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES: RELIGIOUS RIGHT STRIKES BACK

On November 12 the last two lectures of the Evolutionary Studies series were shown at Westside. Until the 1970s opposition to the teaching of evolution in the public school systems had come almost entirely from groups of obvious religious motivation. The First Amendment's "establishment clause" easily dealt with that threat. Now, however, armed with tons of money and, well what doesn't money buy, having founded research foundations with cadres of PhDs from academically respectable schools, the opponents of Darwinian evolution are engaged in a two-pronged campaign that both characterizes secular humanism as a religion and denies that its own explanation of human origins, scientific creationism, invokes the Divine. So far, the courts have not bought their arguments, however, that could all change if the Bush administration has its way on the appointment of only judges favorable to "conservative" values to the several federal courts. Imperiled is not only science-based biology in the public schools but also two other targets of the Christian right: *Roe v. Wade* and prohibitions against state funding of religious activities.

## More on Creationism

### ID Supporters Play Dirty Pool in Poll

One of the latest tactics of "intelligent design" proponents in their battle to water down the teaching of evolution is to announce results of questionable polls it claims were taken at major scientific institutions. In an attempt to influence the New Mexico State Board of Education, the pro-creationist Intelligent Design Network sent a news release to board members on July 28 announcing the results of supposed polls it said represented attitudes of local scientists concerning the teaching of evolution and intelligent design in New Mexico's schools. It claimed that, inter alia, scientists at Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories favored the teaching of ID by a margin of 5-1. Apparently this poll existed mostly in the minds of the creationists. Sandia's president and director, C. Paul Robinson, after learning of this claim, issued a statement denying that any of Sandia's 8,000 employees had been polled and that "of the 16,000 people at Sandia, Los Alamos and the three New Mexico state universities who...purportedly were given an opportunity to participate, only 248 people actually chose to participate in such a poll."

Such is Intelligent Design supporters' understanding of scientific polling. *Skeptical Inquirer*, Nov./Dec. 2003

## Full Court Press Compiled by Jim Cheatham

### SCALIA RECUSES HIMSELF FROM "PLEDGE" DECISION

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has recused himself from deliberations of the "pledge of allegiance" case at the instigation of

the plaintiff. Michael Newdow, the Sacramento doctor who is challenging the “under God” part of the pledge had challenged the appropriateness of Scalia’s participation given his publicly voiced scorn for those favoring the restoration of the original pledge of allegiance. (Freethought Today and wire services)

imprecision. Second, they point out that under Roe v. Wade any abortion law must allow exceptions for the life and health of the mother. This legislation does not. The first attempt in 30 years to make abortion law in Congress will end up, yet again, in the highest court. (The Economist, Oct. 25-31)

of Charles Pickering for a federal appeals court seat after a two-year struggle in which the nominee has been depicted as insensitive on matters of race and women’s rights. Pickering is the fourth of the president’s judicial nominees this year to have failed of confirmation. The Republicans allege the Democrats are unfairly obstructing the president’s choices for the bench; the Democrats retort that Bush is attempting to pack the federal courts with “right-wing” ideologues.

### **AREA JUDGE DISCIPLINED FOR SEMINARY ADS**

The Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct has disciplined a Tarrant County judge for violating state ethics codes by appearing in advertisements for the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, according to school officials and published reports. County Court at Law Judge R. Brent Keis, who has been enrolled in a lay ministry master’s degree program at the seminary, allowed the school to use a picture of him in his judicial robe for an ad promoting the Lay Studies Program. The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct says a judge cannot “lend the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of the judge or others.” The Baptist Press has quoted Keis as saying that any contemplated sanctions would constitute religious persecution and a violation of his right to free speech. (FWST)

### **HUSBAND CONTESTS NEW ‘TERRI’S LAW’**

The husband of a severely brain-damaged woman has challenged the legality of a hastily passed Florida state law empowering Gov. Jeb Bush to keep her alive. Attorneys for Michael Schiavo said that the law violates Terri Schiavo’s right to privacy and the separation-of-powers provisions of the Florida Constitution. The statute gave Bush the authority to order Terri Schiavo’s feeding tube reinserted six days after a court order allowed her husband to remove it. President Bush said on Oct. 28 that his younger brother did the right thing in ordering the feeding tube reinserted. In this connection, it has not gone unnoted that Florida may yet again be the deciding state in the 2004 election, in which event a big turn-out of the religious right could provide the edge. Religious conservatives have reportedly taken heart from this victory to take a more aggressive stance on other “vital” issues, specifically, school prayer, display of the Ten Commandments, and state funding of religious education.

Waiting in the wings is still another very controversial nominee to a federal appeals court: Janice Rogers Brown. She received only a tepid endorsement from the ABA (none thought her well-qualified for the job); the New York Times has called editorially for her rejection for lack of qualifications and for her right-wing rhetoric on the California state bench. Among her choice bon mots are:

- ❑ “The result of government is a debased, debauched culture which finds moral depravity entertaining and virtue contemptible.”
- ❑ “Turning a democracy into a kleptocracy does not enhance the stature of thieves. It only diminishes the legitimacy of government.”
- ❑ Brown calls her approach to judicial interpretation “classical conservatism,” not ideological activism.

### **CONGRESS BANS IT, BUT NOT TOO PRECISELY**

By a vote of 64 to 34, the Senate has passed the first federal ban on an abortion procedure since Roe v. Wade in 1973. It now goes to the White House for signature. The bill prohibits what it calls “the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion”, by which it means the partial delivery of the fetus before it is destroyed. President Clinton twice vetoed similar bills. A show of strength by pro-lifers in Congress, it is expected to be a rallying point for the 2004 campaign. Critics point out that very similar legislation passed by Nebraska was struck down in the federal courts partly on grounds of

Several legal scholars have cast doubt on the constitutionality of this legislation. It is normally the function of the legislature to establish general rules and the role of the courts to interpret them in specific cases. In this instance, the legislature appears to have taken on a judicial role. (AP, NYT)

### **JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS BLOCKED**

Senate Democrats on October 30 blocked President Bush’s selection

Linda Campbell writes in the FWST: “Republicans etherized more than 60 of President Clinton’s judicial nominees, never giving them the courtesy of a Judiciary Committee hearing, much less an unfriendly one. ...The Senate has approved 167 Bush judges, most without significant opposition. The fiction that radical Democratic federal judges are eviscerating American values is as phony an urban myth as the 40-acres-and-a-mule tax credit. The federal courts are dominated by Republican appointees; nine of the

13 circuit courts of appeals have Republican majorities." She might have added that seven of the nine Supreme Court justices were appointed by Republican presidents. (NYT, FWST)

So, I don't have any faith, but I have a lot of hope...

--Ann Druyan in the Skeptical Inquirer (Nov./Dec. 2003)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### TOP OF THE NEWS

Compiled by Jim Cheatham

#### BUSH PUSHES FAITH INITIATIVE IN DALLAS

President Bush sought to energize his push for faith-based programs on October 29, touting an Oak Cliff church's community outreach program as a model for religious groups seeking to cure social ills. "Government has no business funding religious worship or teaching....However, our government should support the good work of religious people who are changing America." Wednesday's event comes as the White House is trying to shore up its support among evangelical Christians going into next year's presidential election. Karl Rove has noted that 4 million evangelicals failed to vote in the 2000 presidential election. (FWST)

#### TAKING ST. PAUL'S HOPE, NOT HIS FAITH

To me, faith is antithetical to the values of science. Not hope, which is very different from faith. I have a lot of hope. Faith is saying that you can know the outcome of things based on what you hope is true. And science is saying in the absence of evidence, we must withhold judgment. It's so hard to do. It's so tempting to believe in the lie detector or in heaven or that you know who you are based on the day of the month that you were born. It's a sort of unearned self-esteem. It's an identity that you can slip right into, and it's tremendously reassuring.

#### UNDERSECRETARY TAKES ON SATAN

Religious groups on October 23 asked President Bush to reprimand a top Pentagon official who has publicly described the war on terrorism as a conflict between Judeo-Christian values and Satan. Wearing his Army uniform, Lt. Gen. William "Jerry" told an Oregon religious group in June that radical Islamists hate the United States "because we're a Christian nation...and the enemy is a guy named Satan." In January he told a Florida audience that a Muslim Somali warlord was captured because "I know my God was bigger than his. I knew that my God was a real god and his was an idol." He has also been quoted as telling an Oklahoma Baptist audience: "Why is (George Bush) in the White House? The Majority of Americans did not vote for him. I tell you this morning that he's in the White House because God put him there." President Bush has denied that Boykin's comments represent U.S. policy. Rumsfeld has noted that they were made in a private capacity, albeit in Army uniform. The Pentagon is investigating. Noting the administration's recent efforts to get international support for the rebuilding of Iraq and reining in the North Korean nuclear program, The Economist writes: "America has been sending out bizarrely mixed messages. This week, it was diplomatic in policy but publicly protective of the most toxic and dangerous ideas. The president should make clear which message he wants to send—preferably by firing General Boykin." Don't hold your breath. (NYT, LAT, The Economist)

#### WHAT THE USA PATRIOT ACT MEANS TO YOU

Under this sweeping legislation, the government can:

- ❑ Collect information about what books you read, what you study, your purchases, your medical history and your personal finances.
- ❑ Search your home and not tell you.
- ❑ Label you a "terrorist" if you belong to an activist group.
- ❑ Monitor your e-mails and watch what internet sites you visit.
- ❑ Take away your property without a hearing.
- ❑ Spy on innocent Americans.
- ❑ Put immigrants in jail indefinitely.
- ❑ Wiretap you under a warrant that doesn't even have your name on it.

--ACLU's Civil Liberties, Fall 2003

#### HoFW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Russell Elleven, at Westside UU Church after our regular monthly meeting.

Attendance Dolores Ruhs, Mike Haney, Michael Rivera, Jeff Rodriguez, Russell Eleven, Jim Cheatham, Reed Bilz

Treasurer's Report Dolores Ruhs reported that our balance is \$564.99.

Minutes The minutes of the last board meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Adopt a Street. Kimberly Rivera has volunteered to coordinate the street pick-up. Accordingly we will renew our contract with the city and schedule a pick-up in December or January.

**Editor's Note:** The pick-up will be held Saturday, February 7 according to this editor's significant better other half. The date was chosen to commemorate Darwin Day, February 12.

Meetings Reed suggested we get someone from the Home School Association to speak at our November meeting. We will have a holiday dinner on December 16, 2003, and Dolores will purchase meat and pay for it from the treasury. Jim Cornehlis will speak in January on the Patriot Act.

We will hold election of new officers in May 2004. The next board meeting will be after our January regular meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Reed K. Bilz, Secretary

## JOIN US BEFORE THE MEETING

Join us prior to the regular HoFW meeting November 18 at 5:30pm at Luby's Cafeteria, 5901 S Hulen Street, Fort Worth. Just north of the Hulen/Granbury Rd intersection..

### WHAT CAN I DO? by Michael Rivera

#### FAIR TRADE

Coffee, tea, and chocolate are traded as commodities in the global marketplace and often sold by growers at a loss. For small farmers, access to market or price information is difficult and as a result, many small farmers become more and more dependent on middlemen. In bad times, many lose



their only property: their land, and thus, their livelihoods.

The Fair Trade Labeling Organization (FLO), certifies and upholds standards for price and fairness for farmers and producers of coffee, tea, and chocolate. Among others, the standards stipulate that buyers must pay a price to producers that covers the costs of sustainable production and living, with enough left to invest in development. In short, it guarantees that farmers get paid a price that is enough to feed their families, and send their kids to school instead of into the fields. TransFair USA is the only independent, third-party certifier of Fair Trade products in the United States. It works with importers and manufacturers in this country to document business practices, providing a reliable consumer guarantee that indicates what coffees, teas and chocolates have been purchased from producers according to international Fair Trade criteria.

If you'd like to help, buy your coffee, tea, and chocolate with the Fair Trade label whenever possible. Fair Trade is not a brand name, the certification can appear on many different "brands" of coffee, tea, and chocolate sold through a variety of stores and outlets. You can order Fair Trade Certified products directly via the Internet from The Fair Trade Coffee Company at <http://fairtradecoffee.org>. Westside UU church has also started a Fair Trade Coffee Crusade and orders can be placed through Kimberly & Michael Rivera.

NOTE: I receive no money from product sales; Westside Church will receive a portion of the proceeds of sales through the church.

Got a suggestion to reduce suffering, improve society, or develop global community? Send it to Michael Rivera.

## BOOK CORNER

*Rogue Nation :American Unilateralism and the Failure of Good Intentions.*

By Clyde Prestowitz.

**Rogue** (rōg) *adj.*—  
No longer obedient, belonging or accepted, not controllable or answerable; deviant, having an abnormally savage or unpredictable disposition.

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary



"Rogue" is favorite terminology with this administration to demonize certain "baddies" who play by different rules. Is turnabout fair play? A lot of people have come to think about us in this way. Clyde Prestowitz thinks they have a pretty good case. Criticism of this kind comes from an unlikely source. Prestowitz is a Presbyterian elder who was reared in a "born again" Christian home; he founded the Conservatives Club at Swarthmore College; he supported the Vietnam War; he worked as a Scott Paper executive in Belgium; he served as Counselor of the Department of Commerce during the Reagan years. Globe-trotting has apparently transformed the provincialism usually characteristic of such a background. Other curriculum vitae suggest a receptivity to other points of view: exchange student in The Netherlands, language student in Japan, junior diplomat in Rotterdam, a Chinese wife, trade negotiator. He is best known outside governmental circles for his criticism of "free trade" policies. Now with his own think tank, the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington, he remains well

plugged-in to circles making and influencing policies both at home and abroad.

Prestowitz sees a tension in U.S. foreign policy between the desire to go it alone and the need to obtain international cooperation to foster a world more or less in the image of ourselves. U.S. foreign policy for the first 115 years basically took its cue from Washington's Farewell Address: Stay out of foreign entanglements. World War I brought a sea-change in our approach to the rest of the world: Wilson hoped to see the United States cooperate with other Western nations to secure the post-war settlement. Cabot Lodge (father of Henry Cabot) and other, mostly Republican, senators blocked U.S. participation in the League, not as isolationists, says Prestowitz, but to preserve U.S. freedom of action. Again with FDR the U.S. was to revert to a policy of cooperation, at least most of the time, to secure the overthrow of fascism in Europe and Asia and then in the post-war era to contain the menace of totalitarianism while working toward economic globalization.

Harbinger of a reversion to American "exceptionalism" was a paper written at the end of the Bush *pere* administration by a study group under then Secretary of Defense Cheney and headed by Paul Wolfowitz that called for a policy of preventing the rise of any challenging power. With the advent of the Bush *filis* administration implementation of this policy, given the U.S.'s overwhelming military power, assumed we should pretty well order the world the way we want it.

For its first 7½ months the new administration indulged a virtual orgy of treaty bashing (Kyoto accord, land mines treaty, small arms convention, Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention, International Criminal Court, etc.), chip-on-the-shoulder diplomacy (China), an undisguised disdain for the UN, and neglect of NATO and other

international institutions. Despite so much nose-thumbing at the rest of the world, September 11th brought enormous sympathy in most of the world (*nous sont tous Americaines* – Le Monde). Two years later all of the sympathy has been dispelled, and then some.

A U.S. imperium would be a lot more plausible if the U.S. followed the virtues it preaches. Not only in this administration but in previous ones, Democratic and Republican alike, the U.S. has almost cavalierly disregarded its own political and economic philosophies. While we have preached free markets and fiscal responsibility, to some extent imposing them on developing countries through the IMF and other international lenders, in practice the USG intervenes in both capital and goods markets, the former whenever a so-called systemic failure threatens lenders; protection for domestic producers, particularly in agricultural markets, whenever electoral considerations begin to prevail. Prestowitz quotes approvingly the remark of an unnamed British diplomat: "America always preaches rule of law, but in the end it always places itself above the law." He also notes how domestic lobbies have swung U.S. policy to an almost uncritical acceptance of Israeli treatment of the Palestinians, in the process antagonizing virtually all of the Muslim world (1.3 billion), and to tacit encouragement the Taiwan independence movement thereby antagonizing the mainland (another 1.3 billion).

Not many people outside the U.S. would credit our political establishment with the degree of Olympian detachment required to run a world empire successfully. Prestowitz recommends we eschew "American exceptionalism" though not American power, however, use it in a multilateral framework that acknowledges the rights of others to participate in global decision-making.

Prestowitz has written a very readable overview of U.S. foreign

policy that deserves careful study by all and sundry.

**Publisher:** Basic Books; (May 13, 2003)

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## HoFW Events

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For an up-to-date listing of meetings and events, see the [calendar on the HoFW e-list group page](#).

### November Meeting

The next regular HoFW meeting will be November 18 at 7:00 pm at West Side UU Church. Syed Hassan, Secretary General of the American Muslim Alliance (AMA), Southwest Region, will speak "On Being Muslim in America". Mark the occasion down in big red letters on your calendar.

### Board Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors is set for January 20, 2004 after the regular monthly meeting at Westside Church.

### December HoFW Winter Celebration

The regular December HoFW meeting will be replaced by a celebratory dinner at 7pm, Tuesday, December 16 at West Side Unitarian Church. No speaker, just good food and conversation. Bring a side dish to share.

### Darwin Day Trash Bash

Our next Adopt-a-Street pick-up will be February 7, 2003 at 10 a.m. Kimberly Rivera coordinate this effort. The meeting place is at the Osteopathic Family Medicine Clinic parking lot on the corner of Granbury Road and South University Drive. The address is 3750 S University Dr, Fort Worth. Contact [Kimberly](#) or [Michael Rivera](#) with questions.

## YOUR OFFICERS, AND HOW TO REACH THEM

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### Call to Humanists

Is there something we forgot to mention in the newsletter? Do you have a comment or suggestion? E-mail [Michael Rivera](mailto:Michael.Rivera) with:

- Newsletter story ideas.
- Photos for the newsletter.
- Events to include on the newsletter or Internet Group.
- Subscribe/Unsubscribe requests.

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HUMANISTS OF FORT WORTH

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