

NEWS AND VIEWS

(Also seen everyday on <http://www.raeliannews.org>)

MICHAEL NEWDOW new Honorary Guide



Michael Newdow, an atheist activist in the U.S., has been nominated honorary guide this week by our Beloved Prophet.

You may remember his case back 2 years ago when he succeeded for a short while to have the prayer removed from his daughter's school. This was cancelled later by the Supreme Court for some legal details. Michael Newdow didn't stop his actions there and he tried again this month to have the prayer removed from the Bush Inauguration ceremony, without much success, but making sure the American population is fully aware of it.

The Raelian Movement, the largest atheist organization in the world, is proud to welcome Michael as a new honorary guide.

ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Intelligent Design was taught for the first time this week in a Pennsylvania school. Great! The schools of Quebec will be forced to stop giving religious teaching by July. Great! The Swiss Catholic Church is distributing a DVD about priesthood to the children in the French schools of the country, when church and state are supposed to be separated. Terrible!

French students are told not to wear any sign related to their religion while at school because of the separation of church and state. Terrible!

Some could say these are contradictory statements. We applaud I.D. in the U.S. that is actually pushed by Christian associations, and we insist in some other parts of the world that religious teachings should be removed from schools while we want people to wear their kippas, veils and medals as they please. At the same time, we claim to be the largest

Atheist organization in the world, proud of its proselytism and just nominating a renowned atheist as honorary guide.

Let us remind ourselves what the Message of the Elohim says:

“Tu n’imposeras aucune religion à ton enfant mais tu lui enseigneras sans parti pris les croyances diverses qui existent à travers le monde, tout au moins les plus importantes dans l’ordre chronologique : la religion juive, la religion chrétienne et la religion musulmane. Si tu le peux tu essaieras d’apprendre les grandes lignes des religions orientales afin de pouvoir les expliquer à ton enfant. Enfin tu lui expliqueras les grandes lignes du message donné par les Elohim au dernier des prophètes. »

« You will not impose any religion on your child but you will teach him without taking sides the diverse beliefs that exist throughout the world, at least those most important, in chronological order: the Jewish religion, the Catholic religion, and the Muslim religion. If you can, you will try to learn the main ideas of the Oriental religions to be able to explain them to your child. Finally, you will explain him the message given by the Elohim to the last prophet. »

This is quite clear, knowledge about the religions of the past is important as they are the traces of our creator’s actions. All of them remind us of the creation and of their sending Prophets to help us, two important concepts that need to be taught to the young generation, especially as they are exposed to the evolution theory which is telling them that the beautiful creatures around are here by chance, an insult to our creators!!

Yet on the other hand, an education based on one single religion is extremely dangerous as it opens the door to fanaticism. Muslims are beheading people in the streets of Baghdad because they worked for “infidels”, Bush has launched his Iraq War in the name of ‘God’... No need to give more examples, they are every day on our TV screens. By teaching all religions, their similarities will be so obvious that no one will imagine a war in the name of one god against another god.

This is clearly the ideal scenario we want to reach, having all religions taught to children, including the Raelian message.

Before we reach that point, we need to avoid the fanaticism related to the teaching of a single religion, and a solution to that is to reinforce the separation of church and state and make sure that no religion has a dominant say in the schools. But at the same time, proselytism of all religions must be accepted and reinforced, having people show off their beliefs with their kippa or veil anywhere, including at school. This is a fundamental precept of human rights, the right of proselytism, the right to expose your belief without fear or guilt, and the right direction to the acceptance of differences.

In this context, the teaching of Intelligent Design (I.D.) in schools is great as it is not associated with any particular religion and exposes kids to the concept of creation, without the ‘fairy’ aspect of god, if it is well done. This is certainly a major step in the U.S. where the evolution theory is considered as dogma by the powerful scientific community.

So this is why we will distribute DVDs outside the schools of Switzerland telling the children what a Raelian guide is, hoping that Jews will do the same letting them know what it is to be a rabbi, and so on. We will defend I.D. teaching in the U.S. and

everywhere around the world and propose that our guides assist in this teaching as we will definitely have a lot of materials. We will support the right to expose one's beliefs in any way and fight all religious discrimination. And we shall promote as often as possible the creation of spiritual centers for the teaching of all religions while walking proudly in the streets with T-shirts declaring. "There Is No God" J

This is also why this week,

- A renowned atheist, **Michael Newdow**, was nominated honorary guide (see above),
- Our support was sent to the **mayor of Istanbul** with his project to build a swirling dervish statue surrounded by a church, a synagogue and a mosque, on the same land. We added to our congratulations the idea to also have an atheist center built on the same land,
- Our congratulations was sent also to **Kent Brownridge**, General Manager of Wenner Media, publisher of Rolling Stone Magazine who declined to run an advertisement for a new translation of the Bible aimed at young people, saying that they are not in the business of publishing advertising for religious messages.
- Our support was sent to **Gerhard Haderer**, an Austrian cartoonist, who has been condemned by a Greek court in Athens to 6 months in jail for one of his cartoons representing the life of Jesus. Apparently his vision of the life of Jesus was not orthodox enough J. There is no separation between church and state in Greece and the orthodox religion is the official religion, obviously dictating what can be said or not. We encourage him to fight up to the European Supreme Court as this is clearly against the European Constitution.

A QUESTION OF PHYSICS

Received from Gerard, unknown source.

Here, below, is the translation of a chemistry question offered up at the University of Washington. A student's answer was so deep that the professor shared it with his/her colleagues, via the internet, and it is why we have the pleasure to read it today.

Question bonus: Is Hell exothermic (heat releasing) or endothermic (heat absorbing)? Most students expressed their belief by using Boyle's Law (gas expands as it cools) or its variants.

However a student had the following answer:

First of all, we need to know how Hell's mass varies over time. We therefore need to know at what rate the souls enter and leave Hell. I think that we can assume without risk that once it enters into Hell, the soul won't come back out. Therefore, no soul leaves.

In addition to the calculation of the number of entering souls in Hell, we must have a look at the different religions that exist around the world today and how they work. Most of these religions affirm that if you are not a member of their religion then you will go to Hell. As more than one religion that expresses this rule exists and as people don't belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. Now let's look at the speed

of the volume change in Hell because Boyle's Law specifies that for the pressure and temperature to remain identical in Hell, the volume must enlarge itself in proportion to the entry of the souls.

This leaves us with two possibilities:

1. If Hell expands to at least the speed of the entry of the souls in Hell, then the temperature and the pressure in Hell will increase indefinitely until Hell explodes.
2. If Hell expands to a speed superior to the speed of entry of the souls in Hell, then the temperature will decrease until Hell freezes.

Which to choose?

If we accept the assumption that Teresa replied to me during my freshman year that, "Hell will freeze over before I sleep with you," and considering that I slept with her last night, then the hypothesis must be true and I am sure that Hell is exothermic and already frozen. The corollary of this theory is that as Hell has already froze, it no longer accepts any more souls and finally no longer exists... There remains only paradise, proving therefore the existence of a divine being. This explains why, last night, Teresa didn't stop shouting, "Oh my God!"

HE WAS THE ONLY STUDENT THAT RECEIVED AN 'A'.

THE SWASTIKA IS A SYMBOL OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

The European Raelian Movement is organizing protests as German politicians have called for Nazi symbols to be banned throughout Europe after Prince Harry was pictured wearing a swastika to a fancy costume party. The Swastika is an old symbol that can be found in many old civilization drawings as it is part of the Elohim symbol. It is a Buddhist symbol found in most temples. So are they going to ask the Buddhists to abandon their symbol or the synagogue of Verona in Italy to remove it's swastikas as well? J

Here is an extract of an article giving interesting details about this peaceful symbol that should be rehabilitated.

From : http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/4183467.stm

Origins of the swastika

The EU has been urged to ban the swastika because of its Nazi associations with hate and racism. But the symbol was around long before Adolf Hitler.

The swastika is a cross with its arms bent at right angles to either the right or left. In geometric terms, it is known as an irregular icosagon or 20-sided polygon. The word is derived from the Sanskrit "svastika" and means "good to be". In Indo-European culture it was a mark made on people or objects to give them good luck.

It has been around for thousands of years, particularly as a Hindu symbol in the holy texts, meaning luck, Brahma or samsara (rebirth). It can be shown both clockwise or anti-clockwise and the way it points in all four directions suggests stability. Sometimes it features a dot between each arm.

Nowadays it is commonly seen in current and ancient Hindu architecture and Indian artwork, including the ruins of the ancient city of Troy. It has also been used in Buddhism and Jainism, plus other Asian, European and Native American cultures.

The British author Rudyard Kipling, who was strongly influenced by Indian culture, had a swastika on the dust jackets of all his books until the rise of Nazism made this inappropriate. It was also a symbol used by the scouts in Britain, although it was taken off Robert Baden-Powell's 1922 Medal of Merit after complaints in the 1930s.

It is rarely seen on its own in Western architecture, but a design of interlocking swastikas is part of the design of the cathedral floor at Amiens, France.

....

Good Laugh Of The Week

A Belgian artist, **Michel Skutnik**, sent some of his paintings to the Vatican to have them blessed by the Pope so that he could sell them at a higher price on the net, but he never got them back. He said he pleaded hundreds of times to have them returned but finally received an answer saying that a gift to the Pope couldn't be sent back. ;-) Michel Skutnik has been to the police this week to declare the holy theft. J

We will suggest to return them in the future to the real representative of our creators on earth.... He will certainly get them back, and could expect a better blessing. ;-)

Our congratulations also to **Borris Brandt**, a TV producer in Germany who is launching a new reality TV show to find the man with the fastest sperm. The contestants, 12 men, will give their sperm that will be tested during the show to find out which one is the fastest, an indication of who is the most virile of them....The announcement of the show generated massive outrage from politically and ethically correct people. We send all our support to Borris Brandt for his wonderful idea that not only offers fun but also educates the public on basic science.

THE LIFE OF THE MOVEMENT

Fusako ICHIMARU, Japanese Raelian, has her display of Raelian information together with books and the photo of the Maitreya, and stands in front of Shinjuku railway station/department store in Tokyo, twice a week, and has been selling books there for the last 5 years.

"Why did UFO's come?" "If you wish to know the truth, please talk to me" is written in the placard she wears. So far, she has sold 563 books in 5



years. She is a well established presence on this busy street.

Congratulations Fusako for your amazing enthusiasm and continuity.

Our Answers to Newspaper's articles published

Many of our answers to newspapers have been published lately in France thanks to the marvellous work of Lisiane Fricotte in charge of this legal domain.

Here is for example what will be published next week in Telestar:

"Mr. Claude Vorilhon, said RAEL, initiates the present right to respond, to react to this serious unfounded accusation while reaffirming that he condemns with great firmness, under his personal title in his capacity as founder of the Raelian Movement, child molestation, incest in general, and all attacks on the physical integrity of children. Mr. Claude Vorilhon, said RAEL, has already expressed such condemnations publicly, notably in press releases and through the internal publications distributed within the Raelian Movement.

Here is a letter written by Daniel Chabot in response to an article that appeared this week in Quebec, titled, "The Raelian Swindle".

Where is the swindle?

In the "news" section of the Traitdunion.net website, we can find a commentary dated December 17, 2004 entitled, "The Raelian Swindle". The first sentence reads as follows: "The Raelian swindle is the source of numerous dramas one more pathetic than the other." Here is an affirmation, not to say an accusation or maybe even a slander that is far from being banal. All serious readers would like to know it's motives and to know on what objective and founded facts it is supported. Because you will agree that to say that one doesn't share the Raelian beliefs or even that one finds them odd is a very different thing than to say that they are a swindle, "a source of many dramas". But what are these dramas of which we are accused? And if they did indeed exist, why is nothing done to prevent them? Would Mrs. Maryse Peloquin be witness to these without going to the police authorities, making herself guilty of non-aid to a person in danger, all this of course with the complicity of her Publisher Trait de Union? Unless this was another of those publications based on gossips, slanders and lies, especially as we read that, "The most disturbing testimony comes from an anonymous reader."

But let's grant her the benefit of the doubt and let's imagine that it is true, which means that there would be an individual suffering from schizophrenia, who would have known the Raelian Movement several years ago and that would have lived with several difficulties, as much as on an academic, and relational level, than financial, and who finally put an end to his days in despair after having read a book denouncing Raël and after having apostatized the Raelian religion.

To remain objective and honest, it is important to place the most important element that concerns this person at the first priority, his terrifying mental illness that is

schizophrenia. The testimony related by this poor mother insists greatly on the fact that her son was Raelian and on the fact that he suffered from schizophrenia.

Yet, it is necessary to know that schizophrenia is a genetic pathology that touches 1% of the world population, about 600,000 people in France and 70,000 in Quebec, and for which one records a rate of suicide twenty times superior to the one of the general population [1]. Otherwise, the rate of suicide of Raelians, as in most minority religions, is lower than the one of the general population. Therefore, is this pathetic drama attributable to the fact that the young man was Raelian or to the fact that he was schizophrenic? He was, according to his mother's testimony, Raelian for twenty-two years. However, after only a few days of having read an anti-Raelien book, he took his life. Could it be that despite his illness, the hope that he found in the teachings of Rael allowed him to live and operate more or less normally during all these years? Could it be that reading a macabre book such as the one by Mrs. Péloquin took away his hope while destroying what he believed in for so many years? Unfortunately, we will never know but the question deserves to be asked!

However, another fact is that when Raelians are diagnosed with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, they are removed from the structure of the Movement. It doesn't evidently prevent them from staying Raelian in their heart if they wish it, as mental patients of all sorts can stay Catholic, Muslim or Buddhist. However, they are excluded from the structure of the Raelian Movement, which can sometimes lead to distress. But what would those who look down on Raelians say if we kept mental patients among our leaders. We can already imagine the critics complaining that Rael abuses poor people whose illness makes them incapable of good judgement...

Finally, the fact that this boy sent an act of apostasy to the Raelian Movement proves that contrary to malevolent gossips, one can abandon the Raelian Religion freely at all times!

Unfortunately, this type of tendentious testimony doesn't call this to attention. The reader must increase his vigilance and wonder where is indeed the swindle to be found and who profits from it.

Daniel Chabot
M.A. in Psychology and Raelien Bishop

RECOMMENDED ARTICLES OF THE WEEK

You may read an interesting article at this address:

http://www.technologyreview.com/articles/05/02/issue/feature_aging.asp (sorry too long to be reproduced here in full) regarding Mr De Grey and his theory about aging. As we do, he believes that aging is a disease that can be cured.

Our congratulations are also sent to the author of the following article... you will understand why while reading! Hope you enjoy it!

Source: Hawaii reporter

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?d1011c88-bf55-496e-90ab-b7c40a777dc0>

Skewed Ethics on Biotechnology

Shoots from the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii - January 17, 2005

By Paul Driessen, 1/17/2005 9:18:58 AM

Tsunami survivors and millions of others could benefit from a marvel of modern science: golden rice. By adding two daffodil genes to common rice, researchers made it rich in beta-carotene, which humans can convert to vitamin A.

This miracle rice could help reduce widespread Vitamin A deficiency that causes up to 500,000 children to go blind every year – and 2,000,000 a year to die from diseases they would likely survive if they weren't so malnourished. Just a few ounces a day will do wonders.

Unfortunately, thanks to anti-biotechnology zealots, the rice is still not available. Even if it were, these unfortunate children would probably still go without. The activists would simply reprise their 2002 tactics, which convinced Zambia's government to reject 26,000 tons of U.S. corn that had been sent as food aid, because some of it was genetically modified (GM).

They spread rumors that it was poisonous, and might cause cancer, or even AIDS -- even though it was the same corn Americans have been eating safely for years. So the government locked it in warehouses, while parents and children went hungry.

"We'd rather starve than eat something toxic," intoned President Levy Mwanawasa. Of course, amply provisioned by planeloads of European delicacies, His Corpulence was hardly starving. Finally, desperate people broke into the warehouses and took the corn.

Today, 14 million people still face starvation in southern Africa. Worldwide, 800 million are chronically undernourished. Nearly 30,000 (half of them children) die every day from malnutrition and starvation. And three billion people -- half the world's population -- try to survive on less than \$700 a year, coaxing crops from the earth with farming methods that haven't changed in a millennium. Biotechnology could help reduce this human misery.

In addition to fortifying plants with vitamins, genetic engineering can produce crops that grow better in dry, saline, nutrient-poor soils that prevail in much of Africa. It can replace staples devastated by disease -- including Kenyan sweet potatoes and Ugandan bananas. It might soon enable plants to produce vaccines against killer diseases like diarrhea and hepatitis B.

Bt corn and cotton combat insect predators. Bugs that feed on the plants ingest proteins that attack their digestive systems, leaving other insects untouched. Farmers can greatly reduce pesticide use, thereby protecting crops, people and "good" bugs. By eliminating pests like corn borers, which chew pathways for dangerous fungal contaminants, Bt corn plants also reduce fumonisin and aflatoxin, which cause fatal diseases in animals, and cancer, reduced immunity and birth defects in humans.

GM crops also reduce soil erosion, by allowing farmers to use herbicide-resistant plants (like RoundupReady soybeans) and no-till farming methods. Other crops enjoy longer shelf-life, even without refrigeration -- a vital consideration for some 2 billion people who still don't have electricity, because radicals also oppose power generation facilities.

By increasing crop yields, gene-spliced plants can help poor farmers earn a decent living, grow more nutritious food for their hungry people -- and save wildlife habitats. According to Dr. Norman Borlaug, Nobel Prize-winning father of the first Green Revolution, if the world had been forced to

use organic farming or 1960's agricultural technologies to produce as much food as it actually did in 2000, "we would have had to double the amount of land under cultivation." Millions of acres of forest and grassland habitats would have been plowed under, destroying biodiversity, to feed famished people -- or millions more would have starved.

Modern biotech methods are precise, predictable refinements of plant breeding techniques that have been used for centuries to modify the genetic makeup, size, flavor, quality and other traits of nearly every food we eat. Studies by the National Academy of Sciences and others prove they're safe for people and planet.

But Greenpeace still claims that gene-spliced organisms, "pose unacceptable risks to ecosystems and have the potential to threaten biodiversity, wildlife and sustainable forms of agriculture." A child would have to eat 15 pounds of cooked golden rice a day to get his minimum daily vitamin A, ever-inventive Rainbow Warriors prevaricate.

We need a moratorium on all GE crops, "including those already approved," the Sierra Club insists. Biotechnology threatens "a form of annihilation every bit as deadly as nuclear holocaust," rants professional malcontent Jeremy Rifkin.

No wonder Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore says the campaign against genetic engineering "has clearly exposed the environmentalists intellectual and moral bankruptcy." Their specious, speculative "concerns" simply have no basis in reality. They're based on the radicals willingness to say virtually anything to further their cause, and on their incessant abuse of the so-called "precautionary principle". If they can foresee a possible danger, no matter how remote, they demand that new technologies be banned until proponents can prove they will never cause harm. This means ultra precaution against distant, theoretical risks to healthy, well-fed Westerners - at the expense of real, immediate, life-threatening risks to Earth's poorest, most malnourished people.

Yet the media report their absurd claims without question or comment. Politicians and bureaucrats cite them to justify new regulations, more delays in approving new products, and trade barriers to protect subsidized farmers from "unfair" foreign competition. And "socially responsible" foundations, EU governments and organic food companies continue to fund the activists - \$500 million between 1995 and 2001, and \$175 million between 2002 and 2006, according to the Wall Street Journal and other analysts.

People are starving and dying while these organizations talk about far-fetched, hypothetical risks to the environment - and then claim they're moral and ethical for doing so.

"I appreciate ethical concerns," Kenyan plant biologist Florence Wambugu says. "But anything that doesn't help feed our children is Unethical."

Thankfully, the tide may at last be turning. The European Union finally approved a biotech corn variety for human consumption. India's government acceded to poor farmers, demands that they be allowed to continue planting GM cotton. Brazil did likewise when it realized its farmers were not about to give up their RoundupReady soybeans. And China has been able to slash pesticide use by 70-80 percent in Bt cotton fields.

Will golden rice, Ugandan bananas, Kenyan sweet potatoes and dozens of other potential life-saving crops be next to gain global approval? Will Green zealots finally recognize their scientific and moral decay, as some have belatedly done on DDT to control malaria?

The misery and death toll is already unconscionable. It's time to oppose Eco-Imperialism, and return science, ethics and compassion to agricultural and environmental policies.

Paul Driessen is senior policy advisor for the Congress of Racial Equality and author of *Eco-Imperialism: Green Power · Black Death* (www.Eco-Imperialism.com). He will moderate two panels at CORE's biotechnology conference, to be held at the United Nations on Tuesday, Jan. 17. The public is invited. Copyright 2005 - Paul K. Driessen