

**SECULARIST
OF THE YEAR****DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A NOMINATION, OR BOOK A SEAT**
(Places limited and this will be the only notification to members by post).
See page 5

NSS speaks out at the Council of Europe: Protect Free Expression



The NSS has spoken out strongly in the Council of Europe against proposals to introduce a “code of conduct”, or possibly even new legislation, that would protect the sensitivities of religious believers. A hearing was held in the French Senate building in Paris in May in which witnesses were called upon to give evidence on ‘Free Expression and Respect for Religious Beliefs’. The Society was invited to lead the session on the freedom of writers and artists from religious demands

A report of the hearing will be sent to European legislators, so it could directly influence whether or not a law is introduced on this matter – which might, of course, apply to the United Kingdom. The invited audience comprised politicians, academics, journalists, religious representatives and secularists. The NSS was pleased to be given the opportunity to address this influential audience on such an important topic.



The French Senate Building, the venue

Keith Porteous Wood represented the Society. He spoke out passionately against religious leaders’ calls for the introduction of a Europe-wide code, or even legislation to enforce “respect for religious feelings”.

Invited contributors included sociologist and writer Professor Caroline Fourest and Lord Russell-Johnston, both of whom took a strongly secularist position. In complete contrast was Russian Orthodox Bishop Feofan, from Stavropol, who asserted it should be mandatory throughout the world that religious sensitivities should not be offended. And the

international standard he wanted applied was to be based on the principle of not giving offence even to the sensitivities of the religion most easily offended.

Keith’s main concern was to win over those – a worrying 80% of the audience – who claimed that while they supported freedom of expression, they nevertheless thought religion should be respected. Most of them appeared to be unclear about what they meant by “should”. Was it simply a social convention that they were advocating, or was it to be the subject of some legal proscription?

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Inevitably, there was much discussion of the Danish cartoons. Contrary to general expectations, the longer these were debated, the more balance of opinion shifted away from calls for greater censorship.

Several speakers pointed out the furore over these cartoons had not been spontaneous, but had arisen some months after their original publication. The clear implication was that the fierce controversy had been engineered, a view reinforced by observations that some versions of the cartoons, circulated outside Europe, had been altered to make them even more offensive to Muslims.

By the end of the hearing, quite a number of the 80% “middle ground” seemed to have come to realise a legal enforcement of “respect” should only be used to maintain public order and, of course, to ensure conformity with human rights obligations.

The problem lies however with those who have not been exposed to a debate such as the one in Paris. And it seems very few politicians, campaigners and journalists are sticking up for freedom of expression – and even these are largely our Honorary Associates.

We all need to do everything we can to make others aware of the dangers, and to expand the fight to retain our freedoms. Unless many more are prepared to take up cudgels, these precious liberties will be lost, and at an incalculable cost. ■

FREE SPEECH:

Our campaign to protect free expression stepped up a gear when Keith Porteous Wood spoke in a rally in Trafalgar Square in March. The rally had been organised on an *ad hoc* basis by a group of webloggers (a weblog is a kind of online soapbox, where opinions can be expressed in electronic text-based conversation). NSS council member Nick Pullar was actively engaged in the organisation of the event.

Also on the platform were NSS Honorary Associates Evan Harris and Maryam Namazie, and human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell. All delivered stirring speeches.

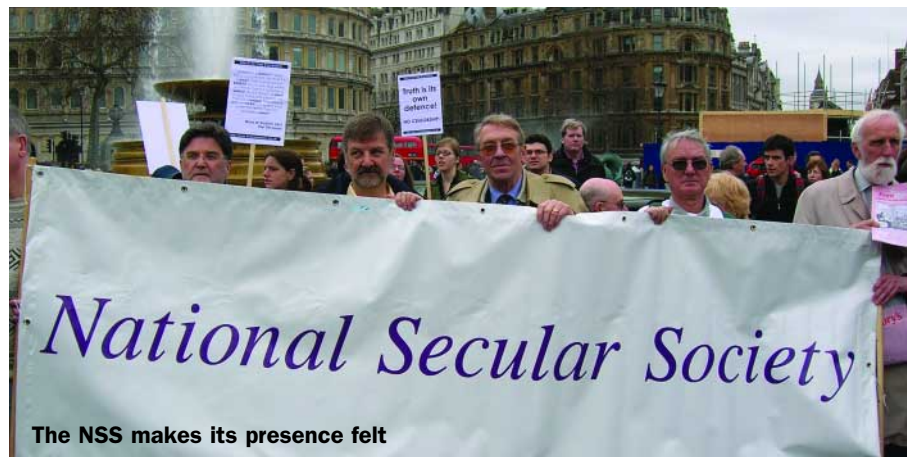
In his speech Keith said: “Freedom of expression is under threat in a way not seen in this country since WWII. ... Just ask yourself why the British media are among the few in Europe not to

have republished the Danish cartoons.

“Most of the threat comes from an unhealthy and growing alliance of religion and the state. Salman Rushdie’s *The Satanic Verses*, Jerry Springer the Opera being broadcast by the BBC and the Sikh play *Behzti* being staged in Birmingham have some disturbing factors in common. All these protests were religiously motivated and involved either violence or threats, and yet no prosecutions were taken out against those known to have broken the law in connection with them.

This gives a powerful and worrying signal: that the authorities do not value freedom of speech and will do nothing to protect it, especially if protests are religiously motivated.

Keith pointed out that: “Few know that a conviction for the most trivial Public Order Offence – including



NSS SPEECH TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE

In his speech, Keith acknowledged that blasphemy was no longer the repressive tool it used to be in Europe, but said that it is sneaking back in a new guise: “Blasphemy has a new cloak. Its new name is ‘respect’.

He continued: “A tide of demands for censorship is now engulfing Europe. The Vatican rails constantly against films, books, TV programmes and art exhibitions which it considers ‘disrespectful’.”

Mr Wood declared that “sometimes religion deserves to be disrespected” and gave examples.



He went on to draw attention to the dangers of self-censorship before concluding: “Freedom of expression is, I believe, the main bulwark of democracy. If we take it away, or simply fail adequately to protect it, we remove the means to safeguard the other democratic freedoms.”

You can read all of Keith’s Council of Europe speech online here: <http://www.secularism.org.uk/speechbykeithporteouswoodtocounc.html>

Or we can supply members with a printed version. Please send a stamped, addressed envelope to NSS Speech, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

The Battle Intensifies



Dr Evan Harris MP addresses the rally

'insulting behaviour' – can bring a maximum jail sentence of seven years, if the offence is deemed to be 'religiously aggravated'.

"The Government have gone to immense lengths to curtail freedom of expression in Racial & Religious Hatred legislation. It took a hugely powerful coalition to defeat them, and even then we only succeeded in doing so by just one vote, on 31 January this year.

"We must never reach the stage in Britain where people are sent to prison for expressing an opinion that causes no harm to others. Giving offence or causing insult should never be a crime in a country that values free expression. We see the awful consequences of where such law-making leads in other countries around the globe.

"The line in the sand must be drawn, and it must be drawn here, today, by us. And we must keep the valuable alliance we have built today to fight every further threat to our freedom of expression."



Keith Porteous Wood about to deliver his speech

Shortly before Keith started to speak he noticed that the police were interviewing a member of the public who was holding up a small placard carrying reproductions of some of the Muhammad caricatures. We understand that someone complained to the police about this. The rally was good-natured and there was no threat to public order, but the police were there in force and had high-definition recording equipment.

The speakers were naturally concerned about the interest being taken by the police in the placard holder and Dr Evan Harris MP spoke to the police. We were informed that the protester, Reza Moradi, was "told a summons would be issued for his having insulted a person at

the rally because his placard had some of the Mohammad caricatures on it".

This must be a very worrying time for Mr Moradi. Even as this bulletin is being finalised, 12 weeks later, he does not know whether he will be charged and, if so, with what. We have gone to some lengths to make sure Mr Moradi is properly represented. He recently wrote to us and we reproduce an extract in the box [below].

You can read all of Keith's Trafalgar Square speech here: <http://www.secularism.org.uk/nssfreedomofspeechrally25march20.html>

Or we can supply a printed versions if you send a stamped, addressed envelope to NSS Speech, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL ■

Reza Moradi writes

Keith Porteous Wood, from the National Secular Society, has found an excellent pro bono lawyer for me. We have already met once to go over the case; he is now following it up for me. The police have not yet sent the case to court because they say they are still gathering evidence. I am still waiting to receive their summons.

We want to make sure this case gets its day in court and that with your support – with the support of all those who seek justice when our civil liberties and freedoms are under attack – we will win and raise the banner of unconditional freedoms higher than ever before.

We fight both the political Islamic movement and the laws that support it and provide it with cover to make sure there can be no justification and excuse for such attacks on human values again.

I will keep you posted. I will be needing your support in defence of free expression and against political Islam's encroachment on universal values.



More religious censorship

In both the Paris and Trafalgar Square speeches, we pointed out that each religious abuse of freedom of expression that went unpunished would simply encourage others to go yet further. Since then, several paintings of Hindu deities, part of a London exhibition by the artist M.F. Hussain, have been vandalised. The exhibition was prematurely closed because the organisers were receiving intimidating messages from militant Hindu organisations. NSS Honorary Associate Lord Desai was one of the few to stand up and publicly denounce the censorship, which he blamed on a Hindu group. He was abused for his stance, particularly in the Indian press.

<http://www.secularism.org.uk/nssfreedomofspeechrally25march20.html>

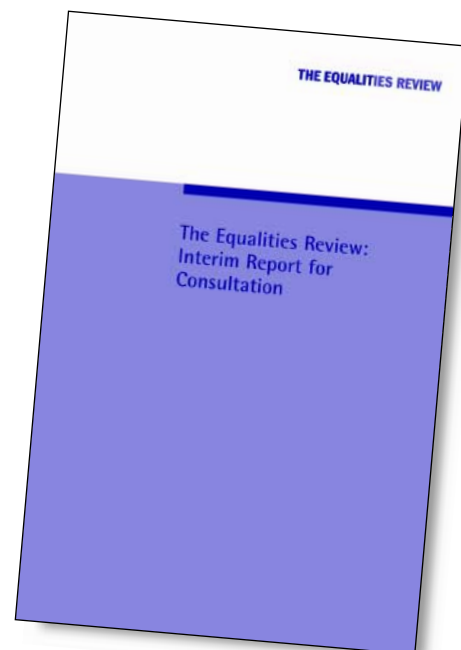
Equality Time

Council member Anna Behan continues her excellent endeavours in presenting an NSS perspective on a working party concerned with various aspects of implementing the Single Equality Body. This challenging work requires analytical and negotiating skills. A balance of assertiveness and diplomacy is needed as the non-religious and religious share a single "religion and belief" strand. Keith Porteous Wood and Council member Peter Vlachos have assisted Anna.

The NSS has responded to a consultation on the Equalities Review, investigating the causes of persistent discrimination and inequality in British society. Anna Behan and Keith Porteous Wood visited the Cabinet

Office to put the Society's case. We provided them with a great deal of insight and statistical information in relation to the non-religious.

We criticised the Government's obsession with seeking the views of religious leaders, and their mistaken assumption that all those in minority communities are religious. We tried to raise awareness that, for many, religion can be the problem rather than the solution. Religion can often be a cause of oppression, or a source of pressure applied to enforce



Religion can often be a cause of oppression, or a source of pressure applied to enforce oppression rooted in culture



Anna Behan

oppression rooted in culture, such as female genital mutilation.

We wish we could assure you that the interim report of the Equalities Review, to which we also responded in painstaking detail, <http://tinyurl.com/kyhn4> led us to believe that our views had been taken on board by the review team. Sadly, this is not the case, so far at least.

The Society also responded to a consultation on new regulations aiming to outlaw discrimination on the provision of goods and services on the grounds of sexual orientation. We told the Government it should only permit exemptions for religious groups – the very ones most likely to

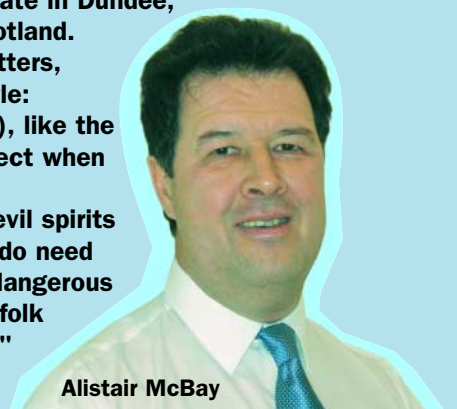
discriminate – in the most extreme cases. We also complained that the regulations on sexual orientation www.secularism.org.uk/uploads/354490238bcfb74166350806.pdf would not be subject to amendment in Parliament, where the most blatant exemptions could be excised or modified. In drafting the Regulations, the Government should therefore minimise exemptions to ensure vulnerable people are protected.

Anna Behan also responded to a Religion and Belief Strategy Document for the London Development Agency. We sought to make the LDA much more aware of the interests of non-religious people. ■

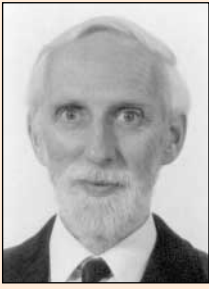
Scotland

Scottish representative Alistair McBay took part in a *Da Vinci Code* debate in Dundee, attended by around 200 people and organised by the Free Church of Scotland. Alistair has an excellent track record of hitting the press with superb letters, both north and south of the border. Here's a sample of his inimitable style:

From Scotland comes the news that the Kirk (the Church of Scotland), like the Vatican, intends to train its ministers in the paranormal so they can detect when some of us hapless Celts are 'possessed by evil spirits'. One Catholic correspondent to the Scotsman newspaper claimed that possession by evil spirits was a distinct phenomenon from psychological illness, so I suppose we do need witchdoctors as well as proper doctors to deal with it. Watch out for a dangerous potion of smells, bells and spells being unleashed on already vulnerable folk north of Hadrian's Wall. In the "would be hilarious if it wasn't so serious" category, this one takes first prize!



Alistair McBay



Secularist of the Year – Nominate and Book Your Place

Message from the President

The 2006 Secularist of the Year event will be on Saturday 7 October at a lavish central London venue. I do hope you will be able to come. It will, as last year, include a delicious three-course lunch – including fine wine, coffee and petit fours – and some top flight entertainment before we present the second Irwin Award. This generous £5,000 prize is sponsored by Dr Michael Irwin and will be presented to someone judged to have made a significant contribution to secularism in the preceding year.

I would like to invite members to tell us their nominations for Secularist of the Year. If you have a nomination, please write to tas@secularism.org.uk or NSS Nomination, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL as soon as possible. Please remember that staff, council members and honorary associates are not eligible for this prize.

Tickets are now available but there is a limited supply. Of course, we want NSS members to have first opportunity to secure them. The cost is £45.00, all-in. Last year there were many disappointed people who left it until the last minute and found all the tickets were sold. Those who did come were unanimous in their praise for the event – one even described it as the “party of the year”. There’ll be lots of excitement, surprises and celebrities. It’s not to be missed. You can buy your ticket securely at our online shop www.secularism.org.uk or send a cheque to NSS Tickets, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. Please state clearly if you want vegetarian or other special diet options.

High Media Profile Still Increasing

The NSS has continued to keep a high media profile. Spokespeople are making numerous radio and TV appearances, helping journalists with research and providing quotes for newspapers and magazines. Terry Sanderson, Vice president of the Society, and Keith Porteous Wood have been our most frequent on-air representatives, followed by President Denis Cobell.

Since the last Bulletin we have had coverage in: National papers in England, Scotland and Wales, sometimes on the front page or with the lead letters in *The Times*, *Independent*, *Guardian*, *Morning Star*, *Mail*, *Herald*, *Observer*, *Wales on Sunday*; ‘Regionals’, such as *Daily Post* (Liverpool), *Western Mail* and *Evening News* (Edinburgh); local papers; and numerous mentions in specialist papers such as the *Times Educational Supplement*. We have been quoted overseas – in *USA Today* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

We are indebted to our Scottish representative, Alistair McBay, for our Scottish coverage. Terry Sanderson, the NSS’s Media Officer, and Keith Porteous Wood have instigated most of the other stories.

The Guardian | Saturday May 13 2006

Saturday Reply

LETTERS & EMAILS

Your report (May 11) shows that the Church of England’s renewed campaign for nearly £1bn of taxpayers’ money over four years to support their crumbling churches is slipping into top gear. No mention is made in this PR putsch of the hundreds of millions already contributed by the public through the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage or the lower rates of VAT for repairs to listed places of worship (denied to non-religious buildings, which are surely part of our heritage, too). But the rattling of this bottomless begging bowl grates, given that the Church Commissioners’ assets run to nearly £5bn, and last year alone the gains on revaluation or sale of assets ran to £0.7bn. It’s time to sell off some more of the 4,000 churches with little architectural or historical merit to fund the deficit not covered by the commissioners.

Keith Porteous Wood
National Secular Society

Two lead letters from *The Guardian* and *The Independent*

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING

Sir: Roger Bolton – himself a religious broadcaster – demands that there should be more religion on TV. Well, he would, wouldn’t he? But why should there be? Just because the churches think it would be good for us? Or because there is a genuine demand for it?

To hear Roger Bolton tell it, you’d think people were clamouring at the gates of Broadcasting House demanding more “spiritual enlightenment”, but the last research on this topic from Ofcom showed quite clearly that religious programming was the least watched and the least valued genre in broadcasting. The reason Channel 4 and ITV are clamouring to dump it is because they can’t get advertisers for these programmes because hardly anybody watches them.

Mr Bolton wants a dedicated religion correspondent for the BBC news programmes. What is Robert Piggot – who is commonly described as the religious affairs correspondent when he appears on the news?

And more religion on the *Today* programme? Have you listened to it lately? It already feels like a broadcast edition of the *Church Times* on some days.

What Mr Bolton appears to want is not more information about religion (which is often not very pleasant), but more religious propaganda. Well, that’s not what the viewers want. Ofcom also discovered through its research that when religious programmes were broadcast on terrestrial channels, those homes that have digital switched over almost in their entirety to something more interesting. Broadcasters (and newspaper editors) must not give in to the enormous pressure being put on them by vested religious interests. We don’t want more of it, we want less.

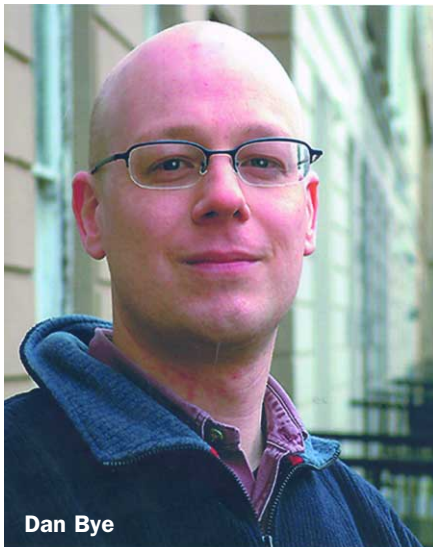
Terry Sanderson
NATIONAL SECULAR SOCIETY

IN BRIEF

■ **NSS President, Denis Cobell**, sparked debate when he called for the date of Easter to be fixed. He was invited on to the Radio 4 Sunday programme as well as appearing on several other radio stations to make the case that Easter should go the way of Whitsuntide and become a fixed holiday.

Denis appeared on Sky News and spoke on Radios 4 and 2 and Radio Coventry. He also spoke to Farnham Humanists, Hampstead Humanists and a meeting of staff at the British Library.

■ **Dan Bye** (Council member) spoke on “The Meaning of Atheism” to Nottingham University Humanist Group



Dan Bye

■ **Nick Pullar** (Council member) took part in a debate on free speech organised by the Young Fabians at the Houses of Parliament.

■ The Society proposed a motion at the annual general meeting of Liberty, asking the organisation to actively campaign for the **abolition of the blasphemy law**. This motion was enthusiastically greeted by members and was remitted for further consideration by the Executive Committee. Several NSS Council members attended.



■ The NSS has been prominent in defending **Jerry Springer – the Opera** as the touring production makes its way around the country to a chorus of Christian complaints. When the show opened in Cardiff, the Archbishop of Wales called for it to be banned on the grounds it “incited religious hatred”. We described the claim as naive and laughable, calling on the Archbishop to provide evidence of any such incitement.

■ The Society was instrumental in bringing about the cancellation of a three-day visit to a school in Lancashire by Australian **creationist** John McKay.

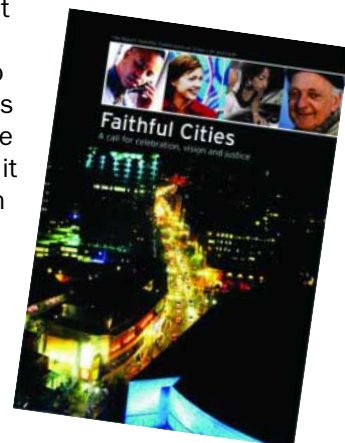
■ We won the right for non-believers to have similar privileges if they wanted to attend a community school, rather than a nearer “faith school”. Either everyone should benefit from these privileges, or no-one should. Around a dozen local authorities around the country have scrapped, or are planning to scrap, **transport subsidies** for those wanting to attend religious schools rather than a nearer community school. In Hertfordshire, however, where local religious groups organised a strong protest against such plans, the NSS actively supported the Council.

■ The Archbishop of Canterbury claimed in a speech “**faith schools are not divisive**”. The press picked up our retort that the Archbishop was being disingenuous and self-serving – and that religious schools are self-evidently divisive.

■ We complained about the huge amount of religious pressure brought to bear in the House of Lords over Lord Joffe’s **Assisted Dying Bill**. We pointed out that the massed ranks of Bishops who turned up for the vote highlighted the anti-democratic nature of religious representation in the Lords.

■ **Prisons:** Keith Porteous Wood met the Chaplain General to express his alarm at the burgeoning influence of religious groups – some of them quite extreme – in prisons.

■ We objected to the prospect of the onward march of “**faith-based welfare**” following the publication of a report, *Faithful Cities*, claiming religious groups were best able to provide social care. We demanded the government ring-fence any money given to religious groups for this purpose to ensure that it is not spent on proselytising. We also called for guarantees that there would be no discrimination in service provision by religious groups – particularly when public money is involved.



■ The NSS asked Honorary Associate Graham Allen MP to write on our behalf to Media Secretary Tessa Jowell MP, in response to a letter sent to her by the Church of England and the Catholic Church. It demanded that the **BBC’s** Royal Charter, which is being reviewed, be amended to formally require a substantial increase in the number of religious programmes. The NSS pointed to research showing religious programmes to be the least valued and least wanted on TV.

Exciting New DVD & Book

The NSS has a new and exciting DVD available: **Why Atheism?** – six films about people who don't believe in God. The first film shows young people cogently explaining their rejection of religion; the second shows a Muslim, a Hindu, a Jew and a Christian, all of whom have abandoned the faith of their upbringing and turned to atheism. There is a moving film about a young man who lives in Belfast, showing the deep religious divide that still mars life in that city.



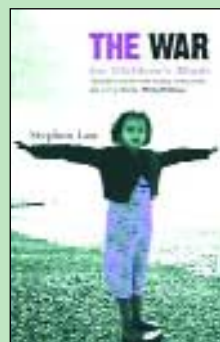
Michael Rosen conducts a debate in a Catholic sixth form college in which he challenges students to justify their beliefs. We then have an exploration of the non-religious alternatives to weddings, funerals and baby namings. Finally, an extended interview with NSS honorary associate Philip Pullman chronicles his own movement away from religion and his fears for the future of rationalism in society.

You can order the film securely from our on-line shop www.secularism.org.uk or to get it post free (saving 50p) send a cheque for £16.99 to NSS, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL.

NEW BOOK: The War for Children's Minds

by Stephen Law

This exhilarating new book makes an excellent case for an end to the authoritarian, religion-based education of our children. Instead, argues Stephen Law, we should turn to the values of the Enlightenment for the basis of our efforts to instil morals and ethics. We should resist calls



from those who want a return to the Victorian-style schooling which discouraged independent thought and free enquiry. We should embrace and celebrate a liberal approach, rejecting the arguments of those who want to fill our children's heads with unquestioned religious dogma.

Hardback £14.99. Buy it online or by post (saving postage of £1.20) from the same address as above.

PROFILE: NICK PULLAR

Nick joined the NSS Council in November last year. He is an IT Manager.

In 2001 Nick took over running *Skeptics in the Pub* – a monthly discussion group which meets to mull over all things “skeptical”. Nick has appeared numerous times on radio and television in both New Zealand and the UK promoting critical thinking, atheism and scepticism and has written many articles about these subjects.

He won the Bertrand Russell Award for significantly advancing the cause of the New Zealand Association of Rationalists and Humanists in 2000. This followed many years' service as a Councillor and activity in the atheist and sceptical community there. He was the inaugural president of the Freethinkers' association at the University of Auckland, from which he graduated with a MA (Hons) in Philosophy.

■ We responded to a consultation by Ofcom, the media regulator, on whether it should liberalise **rules governing appeals for money** on TV programmes. We were particularly concerned that this would unleash US-style televangelists, with their manipulative techniques, on the growing number of religious channels on satellite and digital TV. We recommended a licensing system to keep them in line.

■ NSS spokesperson Terry Sanderson featured prominently in the debate on religious complaints about the film **The Da Vinci Code**. There had been calls for a ban by some Catholic bishops, but we spoke out



strongly against censorship, rejecting the idea that the film was “blasphemous” and reasoning that it was simply an alternative version of another fictional story.

■ Keith Porteous Wood has been campaigning hard at the **European Parliament** in Brussels, particularly in relation to the Working Party for Separation of Religion and State. Council member Anna Behan has also assisted on European work,

attending several sessions. The Working Party is well served by NSS Honorary Associates. Sophie in 't Veld is the Chair and Michael Cashman MEP is an active and effective member.

■ We joined with the International Humanist and Ethical Union in writing to the President of Pakistan asking for clemency in the case of a UK subject now on death row as a result of a **sharia court decision**.

Mirza Hussain has been in detention for 18 years, and on death row for 16 years, on murder charges which (secular) Pakistani courts have already rejected twice.

■ In May, **Keith Porteous Wood** completed ten years leading the Society's campaigning.

Malcolm Rees

We are very sorry indeed to say that Malcolm Rees, our former Research and Administration Officer, died peacefully on 13 June in a South London hospital. Denis Cobell conducted his funeral at Beckenham Crematorium.

We offer our deepest condolences to his family and close friends.

NEW HONORARY ASSOCIATES

We are delighted to welcome **Sophie in 't Veld MEP** to the NSS's panel of Honorary Associates. Crucially for us, she is Chair of the European Parliament's Separation of Religion and the State Working Party. This provides an excellent platform for her energetic work on secular and other human rights issues. Sophie believes in a Europe based on the values of the Enlightenment and makes clear that she shares the aims and objectives of the NSS. She is a social-liberal MEP for the Netherlands and a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.



Sophie in 't Veld

Recent examples of Sophie's work, often in collaboration with fellow Honorary Associate Michael Cashman MEP:

- Challenging Vatican concordats on Human Rights grounds.
- Berating the European Commission for providing subsidy for the Roman Catholic World Youth Day.
- Reminding the European Commission of its obligation to consult non-religious organisations, as well as religious ones, and criticising them when they fail to do so.

Sophie is happy to take on the 'big guns' and lead the Parliament into areas that have, until now, been regarded as untouchable. She looks forward to working even more closely with the NSS on issues in the European Parliament. Keith Porteous Wood keeps in regular contact with Ms in 't Veld and Mr Cashman to establish how we can best support them, and how they can help us. Keith attends the Working Party.



Maryam Namazie

Also joining our distinguished list is **Maryam Namazie** who was, you will remember from our last Annual Report, the feted winner of our *Secularist of the Year* award for 2005. Maryam is an inveterate campaigner for the rights of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran and for secularism throughout the Islamic world. She is an extremely brave woman who has beaten a path for others to follow. We are extremely pleased she is joining us.

Volunteers

Our profuse thanks to:

JIM NUGENT who has been using his admirable accountancy skills to help finalise the year-end accounts ready for auditing.

BRAD DAVIS of WhiteLight for our magnificent new design and bulletins.

SEAN CLARK and his colleagues at **cuttlefish.com** for hosting and servicing the website.

TIM and DEBBIE BOYCE, JOEL CLOMPUS, BARRY THORPE and MAZIN ZEKI for key work on consultations and other research work.

BARRY THORPE for helping keep our website updated and providing important research material.

MURIEL FRASER for her tireless work keeping **Concordat Watch** on the website updated with articles about these pernicious treaties between the Vatican and various countries.

Our trusty office regulars – CLAUDINE BAXTER, DAVID HOLOHAN, TESSA KENDALL and FIONA WEIR – for keeping membership data up to date, despatching merchandise, and various other office tasks. ROBERT STOVOLD, for programming work on a new membership database. And to PENNY ROGERS and ANDREW HEDGECOCK for proof-reading.

LOUIS CONSTANDINOS for putting **Newsline** onto the website each week.

national secular society **Bulletin**

Issue 33 Summer 2006

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