

It would seem that "God" has returned to the public consciousness, with a verve not felt in quite some time. All attempts to account for this phenomenon point the finger at 9/11, suggesting that the religious rhetoric of the attackers has upped the ante and div-speak has become ubiquitous—for and against—whether related to the issue of terrorism or not.

Atheists, for instance, are breathlessly cranking up their intellectual engines, and just when they were in the midst of finding other jobs. Their belief is that God is the problem. Not a philosophical problem. A social problem. Patterning their approach after the "If there were no guns, people wouldn't have anything to kill each other with," argument, they preach that if we could just do away with the idea of God, all would be well. Christopher Hitchens is plugging "God Is Not Great," and Richard Dawkins' "The God Delusion," has spent a good bit of time on bestseller lists.

Meanwhile, leaders of some of the larger religious streams are positively salivating at the sudden relevance of their rhetoric. See, we told you that other kinds of religious people were bad, they cry. Of course you should be afraid, they say, especially of God, but you should be afraid the same way we are.

Catholics have long published



Musings

By Robert Morton-Ranney

lists of legislator voting records on issues they consider central, the American Jewish Committee has been putting out pointed radio spots for years, and Southern Baptists have always worried about whether and where candidates go to church. But there is a new urgency about such concerns now.

The coalescence of religiosity getting the most attention is referred to as the Religious Right. Directly and indirectly, we are reminded over and over again that they're the folks who helped bring us the Protestant work ethic. Be afraid of what will happen to you in the afterlife, we're told, but turn your fear into self-discipline and productivity. That way, you get rewarded here and there. Just look at what it's done for the economy.

Historians will tell you that the themes of all these groups, believers and nonbelievers alike, are the same as ever they have been—pick a century, any century. Our way is the right way. Your way sucks.

Who is benefiting from this new state of affairs? Certainly the membership chair people in

all these organizations. International reports indicate that terrorist groups are doing well in their recruiting efforts, too.

Also benefiting is anyone who would rather have you thinking about whether your view of divinity is superior to whatever al Qaeda may opine than have you thinking about health care, global warming, or the growing disparity of income levels between and among all the different slices of American society you might care to come up with.

Nor should we leave out those who care a little less about the religious side of the new world. It would make no sense to suggest that the war in Iraq was undertaken for religious reasons. Still, the climate in which it was begun was one to which freshly stoked religious energies clearly made their contribution.

Conspiracy theorists are delighted with all the new dots they have to join together. They preach that the attacks on 9/11 were allowed so that a pretext could be developed for invading Iraq, producing a quagmire from which we could not withdraw because, quite simply they will say, there is too much oil at stake. And here's the part where they will claim that Iran is next. After all, when it comes to nonrenewable fossil fuels, two quagmires must be better than one.

Then there's Halliburton. Rebuilding a country can do wonders for a corporate bottom line.

Who is not benefiting? The soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, who have been killed or deprived of the wholeness of their bodies and previous lives, and their families. More Americans have been lost in Iraq than were lost on 9/11. As for Iraqi civilians, estimates of the number of dead range up to one hundred thousand. That is difficult to comprehend. Nor do we want to talk about it. So, as a rule, we don't.



Divers from the New England Aquarium Dive Club search for tropical fish at Ft. Wetherill. The divers help rescue the fish before they die from cold water temperatures. Photo by Adrienne Downing

Local waters teeming with juvenile tropical fish species

By Adrienne Downing

Divers from the New England Aquarium Dive Club performed a tropical fish rescue mission at Ft. Wetherill on Sunday afternoon.

"I just wish someone would tell the fish that is what we are doing," past president, Jean Stefanik, said. "They can be difficult to catch."

The fish eggs are laid in the Florida and Caribbean areas, carried by the gulf stream on seaweed and deposited along the Rhode Island coastline. After hatching, the fish seek shelter in the warmer waters of Narragansett Bay, and particularly among the rocks and cliffs at Ft. Wetherill.

The eggs typically hatch in mid-to-late August, and if the fish are left in the water they will die around the end of October or early November.

"They are, after all, tropical fish, so they can't survive in the water temperature in New England after it turns cold," Stefanik said.

The dive club tries to rescue as many of the juvenile fish as they can and then donates them to different aquariums and private tank owners.

Aquariums do not always have room for all of the fish that are caught, so Stefanik said Jamestown residents are welcome to adopt some of the fish.

"We would love to have people come down and give the fish a home or put them in a display tank somewhere," she said. "It would be great if we could establish that kind of relationship with a school or people in the community who can take the fish."

Divers are not just finding one or two types of fish, either. "There are about 30 or 40 varieties of fish that we see. Some are more common and easier to catch than others," Stefanik said.

"The different types of butterfly fish are the most common, but we have even seen a barracuda." The group caught a lionfish last year, the first catch of its kind in New England.

Snorkelers and children also got in on the fun. "It really is a family event. Because the shallow water is warmer, there are many fish around the edges so even those without scuba gear can see many fish," Al Bozza, programs director for the club, said.

Bozza said he uses the opportunity to educate the children about the fish.

"We get out a seine net and drag along the shore. I show them which ones are the common fish and which are the tropical fish," Bozza said.

Approximately 200 people participated in the dive, a record number of people according to Bozza.

"We have been doing this for about 25 years, and last year we decided to ask some different dive shops and dive clubs if they would be interested. It was amazing how many people didn't know about this area," Bozza said. "So we put the word out and we got about 70 people last year on a bad weather day. This year we sent it out again and we had 175 people register and some came who had not registered."

Although Sunday saw the largest gathering of divers this fall because the group held their picnic in conjunction with the dive, there are divers from the club who dive every weekend between mid-August and early November. Anyone interested in adopting a fish may contact the club through their Web site, www.neadc.org, or visit the boat ramp area in lower Fort Wetherill on the weekends to get the fish.

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A New Advocate for Jamestown



**Enthusiasm,
 Energy,
 Experience,
 Fred Glomb**

Fred Glomb brings accounting, and consulting experience to the Town Council:

- Government Analyst, EDS and Booz. Allen & Hamilton (Washington, DC)
- Commercial Financial Consultant, Coopers & Lybrand (Burlington. MA)
- Small Businessman, Ferguson Animal Hospital (North Providence, RI).

Fred Glomb has extensive education relevant to the Town Council:

- BS in Accounting from University of Maryland
- MBA from University of Michigan
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Fred Glomb has been involved in the community in the last 12 years:

- St. Matthews Church: member of Vestry, and co-leader of Youth Group
- Sports – volunteer coach for Jamestown Soccer Association
- Member of Jamestown PTO.

For more info go to my Facebook group www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5499816283

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