

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

Special Events

- **Thu Jan 31** [Game Movie Night Sac State](#)
- **Thu Jan 31** [Singing](#) meets every Thursday
- **Fri Feb 1** [SAAF meeting and discussion](#)
- **Sun Feb 3** [Superbowl Party Stockton](#)
- **Wed Feb 6** [New Member Meetup](#)
- **Sat Feb 9** [Brunch & Atheism Stockton](#)
- **Sun Feb 10** [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
- **Sun Feb 10** [Book Review Sharing](#)
- **Mon Feb 11** [Amer Unit-ed Sep. of Church/State](#)
- **Fri Feb 15** [Drinking Skeptically Stockton](#)
- **Sat Feb 16** [Potluck Game Night](#)
- **Sun Feb 17** [Blasphemy Breakfast Rocklin](#)
- **Sun Feb 17** [Blasphemy Breakfast El Dorado Hills](#)
- **Sun Feb 17** [Blasphemy Brunch Howe Ave](#)
- **Sun Feb 17** [Darwin Day Gala Party!](#)
- **Mon Feb 18** [Book Club](#)
- **Tue Feb 19** [Round Table Open Forum](#)
- **Thu Feb 21** [Freethought Dinner Social](#)
- **Fri Feb 22** [Skeptics in the Pub Sacramento](#)
- **Fri Feb 22** [Godless Game Night Lodi](#)
- **Sat Feb 23** [Highway Cleanup 9:00 AM](#)
- **Sat Feb 23** [Ask an Atheist Sunrise Mall](#)
- **Sun Feb 24** [Freethought Movie Night](#)
- **Fri Mar 1** [SAAF meeting and discussion](#)
- **Sat Mar 2** [Little Free Library planning](#)

Sac Coalition of Reason Calendar: sacramento.unitedcor.org/sacramento/page/events

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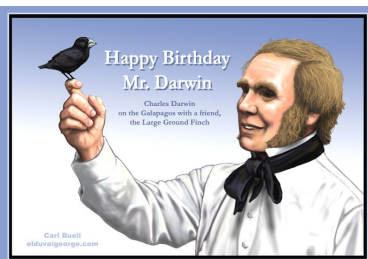
Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2013

Come Join Us for the Darwin Day Gala!

Mark your calendars! February 17, 2013, 2:30—4:30 for our Darwin Day Gala to celebrate Darwin's 204th birthday. Join us in John Smith Hall, La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael.

Featured speaker *focusing* on eye evolution—singers—information tables—food—cake—books—and new like-minded friends!



Darwin held onto his understanding of trait development by nature for 20 years, because of the enormity of the impact. Not being able to hold this knowledge any longer, we now teach his understanding in school. Man is not the center of all existence. There is no need to have a god. But, there is need to have cake! Come enjoy your piece with all of us as we honor Darwin, science and fun.



In this day of so many people denying science, trying to hang onto the notion that man is the end product of a universe built with man in the center of the entire design, along come two scientists to upend that notion. First Galileo found that the earth was not the center of the cosmos. For that he suffered, as you know. Next Charles



Brother Sam, Atheist Evangelist

What a night with Brother Sam!

Sam Singleton goes by “the Gospel According to Merriam & Webster.” “Any argument about the existence of god is just not a worthy topic, unless you are being paid.” He also insists that no one argue unless they themselves are “amenable to persuasion”. Good point.

Our friend, Kimberly, reports: “This is the second time I saw Sam Singleton, and I enjoyed it as much as the first time. His personal life stories that break down the hypocrisies in the bible were my favorite part of the show. The audience participation makes this a unique and humorous experience.” Be sure to catch his performance next time he comes through Sacramento.

Photo by Matt Martin



Facebook.com search for 'Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason'. 'Like' the Sac CoR Facebook page, where you will find a daily variety of news, humor, insights and tools for every person of reason. Our readers represent 20 countries. 40% live in the Sacramento area. Sign up to keep informed! ([Click Here](#)) or go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Area-Coalition-of-Reason/376151155788191>

Really?

From a TV commercial: "We would not have been able to find God's match for us without Christian Singles dot com."

Really? Your god can't do that without a website? How frustrating for god all those millennia before the internet. ... Also telling is that she says *humans* couldn't find their match otherwise, not that *god* couldn't do it otherwise. I doubt people really believe like they say they believe.

Book Club

"No Snowflake in an Avalanche" by Michael Weinstein. Come enjoy a lively group discussing religion in the military, plus spin-off topics that are always just as good! Our [2013 book list is here](#). Open to everyone, Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd, [Feb. 18 at 6:30](#).

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Introducing "Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

Being an atheist in today's world can be very challenging. Atheists are viewed as the least trusted group around. We're considered worse than common criminals. And what is our crime? Our lack of belief.

Since "coming out" in my early 20s, I have learned a lot about interacting with believers. Some of it has been very good, and some has been heartbreaking. I have taken what I've learned and put it to good use helping other atheists like you communicate more effectively by raising their social intelligence.

Social Intelligence affects every one of our relationships. When we realize how much we're all connected to each other and how those relationships affect us, we stop thinking about ourselves as autonomous beings. Instead we start focusing on the feelings and connections we have with each other. We not only have to understand ourselves and how we come across to others but we also have to be able to quickly grasp body language, intonation, and subtleties of speech in order to deal most effectively with people.

Mysticism is an epistemological disease that affects everyone. It progressively undermines one's capacity to think. Social Intelligence helps us identify how mysticism works by recognizing dishonest communication, out-of-context assertions or attacks, and use of non sequiturs. I will show you how to think critically and combat superstition, religion and ignorance all with a grace and style that keeps you in control.

Social Intelligence. It works. We will raise our collective Social Intelligence Quotient (I.Q.) here. [Email your questions](#) about interactions with believers, or other questions, [to Social I.Q. Lady](#). Watch this space for answers.

Andrea Griffith is a Social Intelligence expert. Learn what to say and do to get the results you want.

Stockton Freedrinking, er, I mean, Freethinking

The **Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers** were surprised this January 18th when, at their monthly Drinking Sceptically meetup, they found that they had inadvertently taken over The Abbey Trappist bar. The small pub, in the heart of Stockton's Miracle Mile (the irony of the name not lost on the group), was filled to capacity as members piled in – at one point outnumbering other patrons 22 to 2. A *miracle* indeed. *by David Diskin*
[Next Drinking Sceptically](#) 2333 Pacific Ave, Feb 15.





New Members Meetup—Wednesday Feb 6, 6:30–9:00 pm
Are you new to the Sacramento area freethinking community? Come meet like-minded friendly people at our New Member Meetup. **Coffee Garden**, 2904 Franklin Blvd. [Map here](#). Have a sandwich, soda or coffee as you learn what Sac town offers.

Atheist Win!

The owner of The Coffee Garden spoke to one of our groups that meets there, saying we are his best group that ever uses his side room. He said it twice, with a nod. Thanks, everyone!

Shout Out from Friendly Atheist

What a nice shout out from the well known atheist blogger, Hemant Mehta:

“Several of the local atheist groups in Sacramento, California had the bright idea of putting together a joint newsletter — since it’s not like a person can only join one group and so that not every group has to make a newsletter of its own. Smart idea and a long time coming.

“Every major city with multiple free-thought groups should put together something like this.”

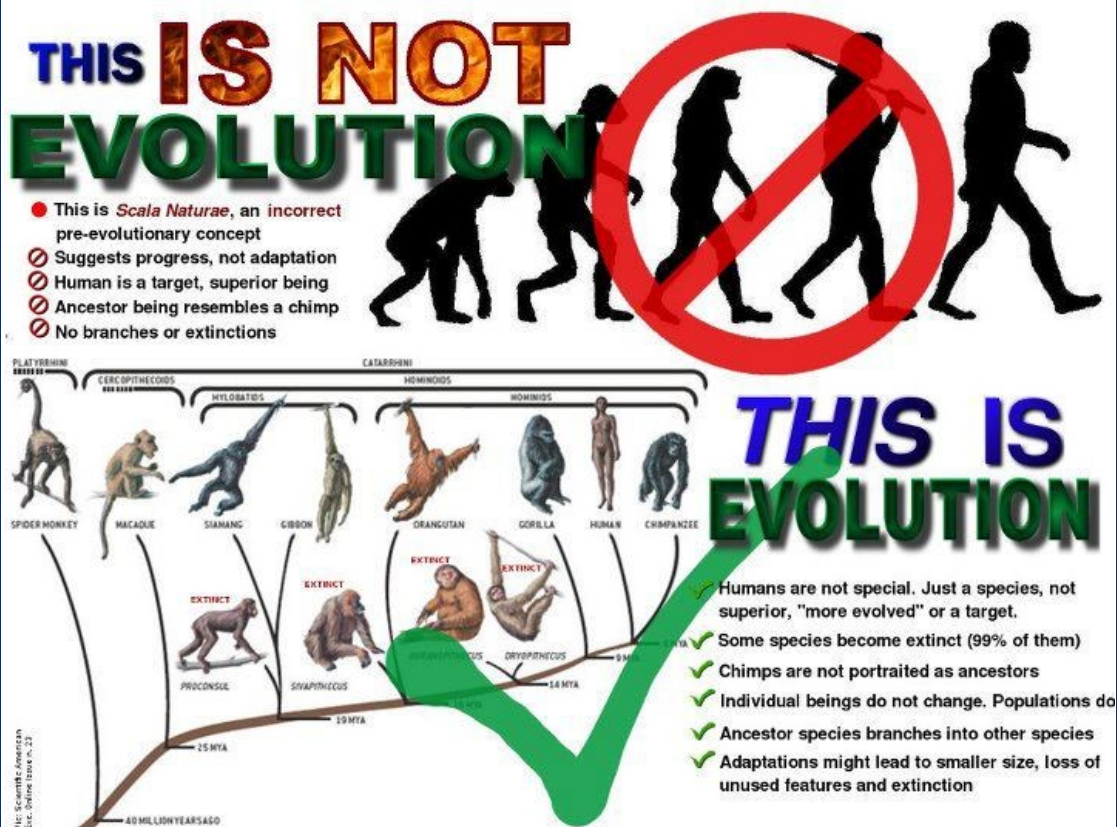
Bill to Create Darwin Day in House Committee

Representative Rush Holt of New Jersey introduced to the House a bill called “Expressing support for designation of February 12, 2013, as Darwin Day and recognizing the importance of science in the betterment of humanity.”

This bill, with five co-sponsors, has been sent to the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. Part reads, “Whereas Charles Darwin is a worthy symbol of scientific advancement on which to focus and around which to build a global celebration of science and humanity intended to promote a common bond among all of Earth’s peoples. ... Resolved, That the House of Representatives--
(1) supports the designation of Darwin Day; and
(2) recognizes Charles Darwin as a worthy symbol on which to celebrate the achievements of reason, science, and the advancement of human knowledge.”

Zazie provides us with this great link to tell your Representative to support this bill. Just enter your zip code! Click on or enter the link below:

http://action.americanhumanist.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=12299



Some popular 'Meet, Eat n Drink' Addresses and Maps:

Feb 9 10:00 am, Brunch and Atheism: Panera Bread 10718 Trinity Pkwy Stockton [Map here](#)

Feb 17 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch: Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)

Feb 19 7:00 pm Freethought Roundtable, Coffee Garden 2904 Franklin Blvd [Map here](#)

Feb 22 6:30 pm Skeptics in the Pub: Hoppy Brewing Company 6300 Folsom Blvd [Map here](#)



Blasphemy Breakfasts

Either 9:30 or 11:00, depending on location, join us for breakfast at various spots around Sacto every 3rd Sunday of the month. Rocklin Mel's 9:30; or 3788 Pardee Ct in El Dorado Hills 9:30; or Mel's on Howe Ave at 11:00. Good eats, good people.



Highway Cleanup

[Sat, Feb 23, 9:00 AM.](#)

We provide supplies, secular people provide the time. Come help clean up our stretch of highway. Elkhorn Blvd 'Park & Ride', W of 99, 1 mi. N of I-5/99 split.

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Skeptic's Corner—The Amazing Randi's Life on Film

How easily we are fooled. James Randi, known as "The Amazing Randi" as a magician, is now our nation's greatest debunker of the paranormal. Why did he leave his top status as a famed magician? Deceivers who conned the public, claiming their tricks were supernatural, often sweeping tons of cash from grieving or gullible people, has led Randi in his later years to call hoaxers on their tricks.

He has appeared on national television, often duplicating the so-called mystical tricks that other guests had just done to impress the audiences. He can replicate all those séance writings and manifestations. He can make you think ghosts are in the room, or that he can read your mind, or speak with the dead. But, unlike those he debunks, he will always tell you he is using tricks.

Now his life story, as amazing as his magic, is told on the big screen. Through Kickstarter, producers raised \$148,000 toward finishing the film. They have spent two years with Randi, interviewed and watched him, collected amazing stories. If you can help them (they went to their second goal of raising another \$100k as of this

writing), [click this link](#). In fact, even if they are over limit, you still might want some of the goodies offered! An autographed "Amazing Deck" of cards, movie poster, movie drink coasters... lots of good rewards. Randi's story is the stuff of role models. He won't settle for flim-flam or woo-woo if it hurts someone. In fact, he



The Amazing Randi on set at The Magic Castle in Los Angeles.

has offered \$1 Million if anyone can perform anything paranormal under test conditions—and no one has in twenty years.

[Become a backer of this film](#), receive some goodies, and feel good about helping spread skepticism. And if you happen to see Randi, I hear he likes hugs.



Freethought Dinner—February 21, 6:15 pm

A fun dinner social for friends and members of the local community of reason. Feed your mind and feed your body, join your freethinking pals at the **Monsoon Café** 1020 16th St, for fine Indian food, good drink and sparkling conversation about all things freethoughty! [Map click here.](#) [Details click here.](#)



Ancient Christian Study Group

Join our small band of prophets-in-reverse. They look back at history, and they're so accurate! Often following a book such as *Nailed, Jesus Interrupted, When Jesus Became God, The Origin of Satan, Jesus Wars, or The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*, our local scholars walk us through fascinating perspective and facts. No prior knowledge is needed, just join in and learn with the rest of us! [February 10, noon, at Shine Café, 1400 E Street](#)

HAGSA Book Review Time

Have you read an interesting book lately? Care to share it with friends? Join us as we all talk about books we'd recommend. Tell your stories about your favorites. Bring a pencil and paper—you'll want to write down titles! Any snacks or drinks are welcome, as always. See you there! [Details here](#)

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Benediction Hurtful to Atheists—Did anyone notice?

The following Letter to the Editor was published January 22 in the Sacramento Bee, following the President's Inauguration:

"I try to do good. I volunteer a lot. I give money to those I love and those I don't even know.

"I am a good, moral friend, neighbor and relative. But the benediction at the president's inauguration hurt me.

"Rev. Luis Leon said, 'We pray that you will bless us with your continued presence because without it, hatred and arrogance will infect our hearts. But with your blessing we know that we can break down the walls that separate us. We pray for your blessing today because without it, distrust, prejudice and rancor will rule our hearts ... We pray for your blessing because without it suspicion, despair, and fear of those different from us will be our rule of life.' He went on further, too.

"That benediction painted anyone not 'blessed' by or seeking the speaker's god as greedy, corrupt, intolerant, war-minded and hateful. Words used for his fellow believers were all about love, unity and inclusion.

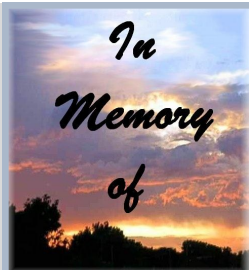
"You know, where I see hatred and divisiveness is from those most holding to a religion. Where I see morality, love and tolerance is from those who know what is right in their hearts. Did he get his lists mixed up?

"Stop painting atheists as immoral. We do good because it is right. Stop hurting us with your divisive words, please." [The Letter to the Editor of the Bee ends here.]

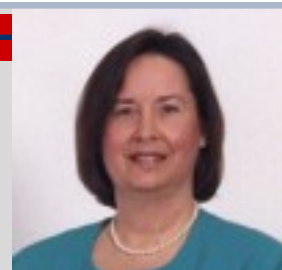
... We need to speak up, fellow freethinkers, every time we see an injustice like this, we need to voice our position. Just look at the President's head bowed, dig-

nifying these divisive words with his silence. Others shown in camera shots during this prayer were seen nodding in agreement. How painful would it be if the prayer spoke such horrible words about any other group, say, a certain race or those who are short, or left-handed people? We can't let our silence condone this. Speak up, every time this happens. Be heard. It matters.





Beverly Church has died unexpectedly. She was a registered nurse, served as vice president of the Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area, co-chair of the AHA Chapter Assembly, Director for AOF and HAGSA, and chair of the annual Freethought Day. Some refer to this go-getter as a “sweetie”.



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Ask an Atheist at Crocker Art Museum

Watch for “Ask an Atheist” events in our monthly freethinking calendars.

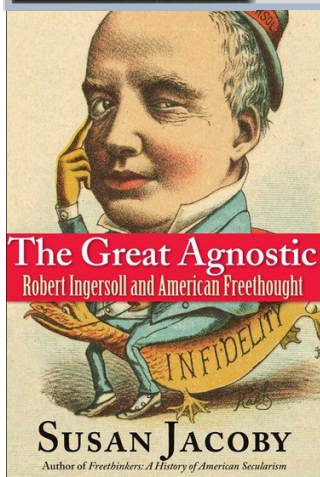


Here you see Walt posing in the fun Norman Rockwell scene set up at the Crocker Art Museum for the exhibit about this great American illustrator and artist.

When you see “Ask an Atheist” it means you are invited to wear a bright blue t-shirt with the words “Ask an Atheist” across the front and back. We walk in pairs at all sorts of events and venues every month. Shirts are available at

events for \$10, are yours to keep, and can be worn anytime you are out and about on your own. You might get a question, but we typically get a thumbs-up, often surreptitiously after their party has passed and won't see! :-)) Join us!

Next “Ask an Atheist” walking in pairs will be Sunrise Mall, Feb. 23, 1:00. Meet in the Food Court next to JCPenneys. Shirts are available there, from Judy, \$10.



The Great Agnostic

Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought

By Susan Jacoby

Known as “the Great Agnostic”, the nation’s most famous orator, Ingersoll raised his voice on behalf of Enlightenment, reason, secularism, and the separation of church and state with a vigor unmatched.

In [this provocative biography](#), Susan Jacoby restores Ingersoll to his rightful place in an American intellectual tradition extending from Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine to the current generation of “new atheists”.

RELIGIOUS LOGIC

BY DAVE DUKE



WWW.BITSTRIPS.COM

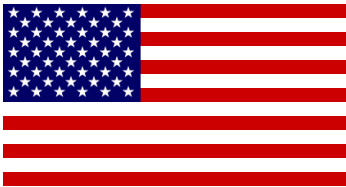
Local Groups to Visit or Join



= member of the Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason. All groups open to everyone.

See more details and calendar at SacramentoCoR.org

| Name | Emphasis | | Tax Ded | | Website |
|--|--|---|---------|-----------------|--|
| Agnostic & Atheist Student Association (AgASA) | UC Davis student group Meets Tuesdays, 6:10 great topics | Y | | Y | agasadavis.wordpress.com |
| Americans United for Sep of Church and State (Sac Chapter) | Promotes individual activism, confronts violations | N | Y | National only | au-sac.org |
| Atheist Student Organization (ASO) | CSUS student group Meets Fridays at noon. | Y | | Y | csusaso.wordpress.com |
| Brights Action | Translate our naturalistic worldviews into constructive actions for school/library/media | Y | Y | Internat'l only | the-brights.net |
| FACTS Church | Church-like hymns, rituals, all the trappings in secular form. | Y | Y | N | factschurch.com |
| Humanist Association of the Greater Sac Area (HAGSA) | Humanist events, speakers, focus is on doing good. | Y | Y | National only | hagsa.org |
| Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason | Directing the community to the various groups of reason. | Y | N | Y | SacramentoCoR.org |
| Sac Area Skeptics (SAS) | Promotion of skeptical thinking, awareness of reality, logical skills. | Y | Y | Y | sacskeptics.org |
| Sac Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF) | Events both social and presented, for growth and fun. | Y | Y | N | aofonline.org |
| Sac City Freethinkers | Sac City College student group Meets Thursdays at noon. | Y | | Y | saccityfreethinkers.wordpress.com |
| Sac Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers (SacFAN) | Meetup for variety of fun, learning, singing, projects. | Y | N | Y | SacFAN.org |
| Sac Organization for Rational Thinking (SORT) | Discussions of rational thinking and science over mysticism and anti-rationalism. | Y | N | N | home.comcast.net/~kitray2/site/?/home |
| Sac Think Atheist | Events, podcast, and forum to fight anti-atheism and gain tools. | N | | N | thinkatheist.com/group/sacramentocalifatheists |
| Secular Coalition for California | Train to engage media and lobby state politicians. Activist resource. | N | N | Y | Secular.org/states/chapters/california |
| Secular Student Alliance or Freethinkers of Sierra | Sierra College student group Meets Thursdays at 1:00. | Y | | Y | secularstudents.org/sierra |
| Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF) | Meetup events, variety | Y | | Y | StocktonAAF.org |
| Sun City Roseville Humanists | Humanist opportunities for our Sun City residents. Meets 1st Sundays from 1:00 to 3:00. | N | N | N | scre.org/sub_category_list.asp?category=98 |



We firmly support the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, including the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" and Article Six "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States".

Save these 2013 dates:

Feb 17 [Darwin Day](#)
May 4 [Freethought Alliance Conf, Anaheim](#)
May 30 [AHA Conf in San Diego](#)
June 15 [SkeptiCon in Berkeley](#)
Oct 12 [Freethought Day Sacramento](#)

Can I make tax deductible donations? **Yes!**
 Many freethinking groups are 501c(3) groups, and would well use your deductible offer. See table on previous page.

We're on the Web!
SacramentoCoR.org



**SACRAMENTO AREA
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Greta Christina in SF photo and story by Matt Martin

The American Atheist of San Francisco (AASF) was proud to present the prominent atheist blogger and national speaker for the secular community, Greta Christina, on January 13, in San Francisco. Greta states that "it feels good to be back in the saddle", and wasted no time jumping into her classic style with a discussion titled, ""Resistance Is Not Futile: Is Arguing About Religion Worth It?"

One particular subject that stood out for me was asking, "If we are successful in converting someone out of religion, do they have a safe place to land?" Greta explained what the Atheist community can do to create that safe landing place for those who base, not only their life-long beliefs, but their identities on their religious ideology.

This wonderful event ended with a "Q&A" session, very insightful audience participation, and social dining at a near-by restaurant for those in attendance. Info on Greta's books and speaking engagements can be found through her blog on the Freethought website. <http://freethoughtblogs.com/greta/>



Eddie Izzard in SF story by David Diskin

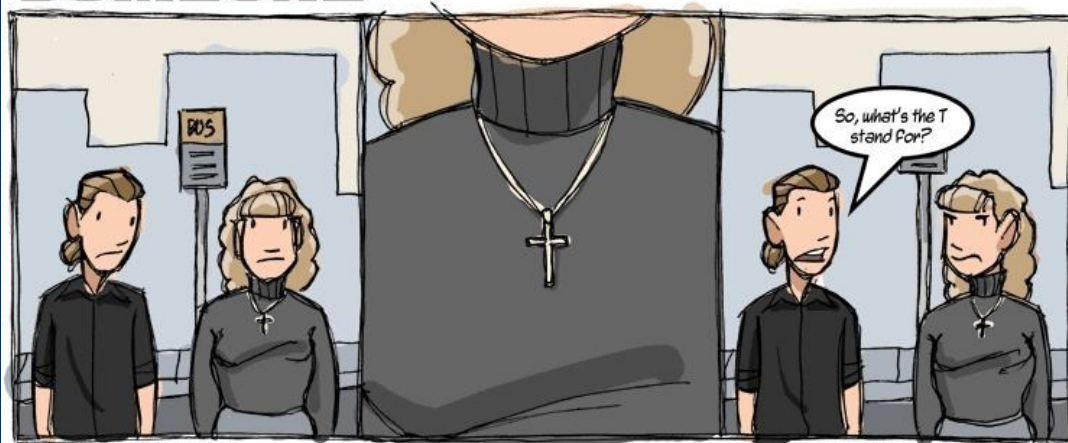
Sacramento CoR members Sarah Strand, Caralee Hickey, Steve Thoreson, and



David Diskin took to San Francisco on the 19th to see transvestite comedian Eddie Izzard. Trying out new material for a future worldwide tour, Eddie was critical of US religion and politics in his trademark rambling, hilarious way.

From a YouTube skit: "The editor of the bible should have put a line through 'how to sell your daughter' don't you think?" ... "If there was a god, the first line should be 'It looks flat, yes, but it's round!'" ... His physical antics make the show hilarious. Such a personality!

HOW TO INFURIATE SOMEONE



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