

REVELATIONS



Is his brain possessed by Devils?

Surely, somewhere in New Jersey there are real problems that need addressing.

Nonetheless, a state legislator has decided to worry about the name of the pro hockey franchise, the New Jersey Devils.

"I've always cringed when people say they're going to see the Devils," said State Assemblyman Craig Stanley, a Baptist deacon.

He plans to introduce a resolution calling on the team to change its name.

That'll happen right after hell freezes over, said Lou Lamoriello, team CEO.

"I can assure you the Devils name will never change."

Let's have a pint and talk about God

Wine, not beer, was his beverage of choice, but Jesus, the Bible makes clear, was known to toss one back from time to time.

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, on McKinney Avenue in Uptown, hopes to carry on the tradition this summer with a series of religious discussions at a popular Dallas pub.

"Theology Live! Spirited Conversations" will meet at 7 p.m. on Mondays in June, beginning June 13, at the Ginger Man, 2718 Boll. The gatherings are part of the church's effort to reach out to the largely young and upscale Uptown community.

In the first session, the Rev. Michael Mills of St. Matthew's Cathedral will discuss faith and suffering.

For details, call the church, 214-521-5101.

Muslim council offers free Qurans

Amid all the hubbub about Qurans and commentaries and retracted *Newsweek* reports, the Council on American-Islamic Relations has a novel idea: Why not find out what's in Islam's sacred text before forming an opinion on it?

The council will send a free Quran to anyone who asks. Go to www.cair-net.org or call 1-800-78-ISLAM.

BOOK OF NUMBERS

The 10 largest U.S. religious denominations:

- 1 Catholic 67,259,768
- 2 Southern Baptist 6,439,603
- 3 United Methodist Church 8,251,175
- 4 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 5,503,192
- 5 Church of God in Christ 5,449, 875
- 6 National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. 5,000,000
- 7 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 4,984,925
- 8 National Baptist Convention of America 3,500,000
- 9 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 3,241,309
- 10 Assemblies of God 2,729,562

Source: 2005 Yearbook of American & Canadian Churches



The meats — chicken, beef and goat — in these dishes from Tawa Cafe in Richardson meet halal standards.

The HALAL way

More U.S. restaurants and stores stock foods that meet Muslim dietary laws

By MICHAEL KRESS
Special Contributor

Comparing halal and kosher, 3G

When Shaheda Sayed was growing up in Southern California in the 1960s, her father would occasionally drive 100 miles to slaughter animals so his family could have meat. That's because the family, devout Muslims, only ate food that was halal — permitted for Muslims. And, in those days, it could not be found in U.S. stores.

"We never ate in McDonald's," Ms. Sayed said.

So when she grew up, Ms. Sayed decided to address the problem.

In 1998, she and her brother

co-founded Crave Foods, a company that produces halal hamburger patties and frozen prepared dishes, including chicken rolls and spicy wings. The Los Angeles-based company soon will expand its product offerings to include hot dogs and Philly cheesesteaks.

Halal is an Arabic word meaning "permitted." It's used to describe acceptable behavior under Muslim law. When applied to food, the term refers to dietary

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RICHARD MICHAEL PRUITT/Staff Photographer

Worshipping to a different beat

Professor shares global music to unite diverse Christians

By FRANK TREJO
Staff Writer

Amid the hand clapping, finger snapping and body swaying that filled Holy Covenant United Methodist Church in Carrollton during a recent Sunday service, some important lessons were being learned:

Christians exist in every corner of the world, and while some of their music and customs may be unfamiliar, their goal is the same.

"One of the greatest challenges of the 21st century is learning how to relate to each other, especially to those we think are different from us," said the Rev. C. Michael Hawn as he led the mostly white congregation at Holy Covenant into an hour of global Christian music.



MEI-CHUN JAU/Staff Photographer

The Rev. C. Michael Hawn leads a global music service at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church last month.

tian music.

From bowing and shaking hands in a traditional Asian greeting, to dancing to drum beats and singing — not just in English, but also Spanish and Swahili — members took up the

challenge of experiencing different forms of worship.

That is what Dr. Hawn, professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology at Southern

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Q&A WITH OLIVER THOMAS

'Schools are not there to be the church'

Oliver "Buzz" Thomas has emerged as a voice of reason in the contentious issue of religious expression in the public schools. Mr. Thomas is a lawyer, an ordained Baptist minister and a school board member who has written extensively on the subject.

Along with Charles C. Haynes, he co-authored *Finding Common Ground: A Guide to Religious Liberty in Public Schools*, which has become the First Amendment handbook for many schools around the U.S.

He recently visited Dallas to train school district personnel on the topic. He spoke with Special Contributor Mary A. Jacobs. Here are excerpts.

Question: From your perspective as a Christian, why is religious freedom so important?

Answer: I think it's important that the Christian community recognize and respect the role of the

public schools and recognize that the schools are not there to be the church. That's the church's job and the family's job, to address faith formation.

The schools are there to do two things — to give kids the academic skills they need to be successful and to prepare them to be good citizens, including teaching them civic and moral values. That's a good thing that the Christian community ought to want to support.

Question: You work with schools around the U.S. What are some of the biggest areas of controversy right now?

Answer: We still haven't figured out how to teach origins in public schools — at least how to handle this very controversial issue, specifically neo-Darwinian evolution, the scientific approach, and then creationism or intelli-

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