



# The Mockingbird

*Speaking Mirth to Power since 2005*

A Quarterly Newsletter

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**Monday Edition**

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**Washington Detention**

*Our reporter meets men in dark suits, bright lights, and delivers the Unitarian Universalist message*

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**The Kowalski Code**

*Notice how Rev. Kowalski's message, while long-winded and confusing in parts, would up being a lot like Red Green's?*

*"Remember, I'm pulling for you. We're all in this together"*

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**Nullam pellentesque**



*There was a sign on the door of a local UU church that said: "Bible Study after service today. Bring your own bible and a pair of scissors."*

**You may be at SI if**

*You've had ice cream for every meal since your arrival in Gambier.*

*You came to Church Camp for the beer tasting and to discuss Evolution.*

*You think a colorful wristband gets you free food.*

**Price, Two Cents**

*Stories so good, we don't have to give them away. Get your two cents' worth today!*



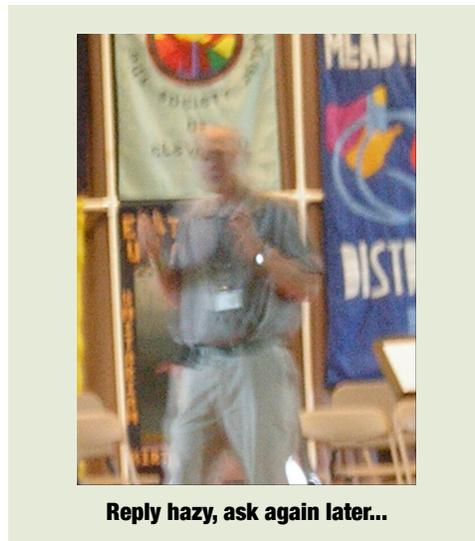
## The Kowalski Code

*"Is morality and ethics based on some written code, or is it more innate?"*

The theme speaker got off to a good start, discussing the finer parts of Abstract Impressionism as exemplified by the only female member of the group of Swiss Impressionists, Madam Elle E. Phant. To this critic, however, the whole talk seemed rather abstract, but my impression was of a man striving to communicate his animal feelings to the assembled crowd.

Perhaps because of the sensitive nature of the topic, however, this communication was accomplished in a vague and oblique manner, things hinted at but not baldly revealed, through the mists, and darkly. But the audience listened attentively, or at least quietly, as the speaker had re-

quested Rosse Hall to be kept in tropical conditions, to provide more verisimilitude to the story's setting.



**Reply hazy, ask again later...**

It should also be noted that the Summer Institute Committee for Olternative Living Konditions (SICFOLKS) once again have scheduled the morning Nap Workshop for the same time as the Theme Talk this year, as part of the SI 24/7 experiment.

As Rev. Kowalski continued his presentation, it seemed that there was an

underlying message, a subtext beneath the plain meaning of his words, a hidden code. Our team of crack cryptographers and computer scientists here at *The Mockingbird* are hard at work on the text of Rev. Kowalski's text and previous sermons published, to see if such hidden meanings may be found. More on this story later...

## Lunch Can be Fun

In previous years, the SI Planning Committee has encouraged you to sit at tables marked by the month or the date of your birthday. It's a clever way to make new friends. We at the Mockingbird would like to continue this SI tradition and suggest the following lunch table categories:

- Colonoscopy
- Wears Dentures / Partial
- Vasectomy
- Ingrown Toenails
- No Underwear

Lunch at SI can be so much fun. Describe your meds! We can't think of a better way to build community.

# UU's Tell us What They Think

*We get letters. And we sit in the office and make fun of them before we print them.*

## Morning Service

What's all this I heard this morning preaching to the choir? What a confusing set of stories. The leaves were nice to start with, all tree-huggy and such, but then Rev. Ash-Man described the trees where the old ones must burn off before the next generation can sprout and grow. That doesn't sound much like

what I heard in my Universalist Sunday School, you know? And what are all these youth plotting in their little circles all around the campus, huh? Makes me nervous.

--Emily Latella

*Dear Ms. Latella, Have no fear, we're pretty sure the message this morning had nothing to do with sending Universalists*

*to places which they would be honor-bound to deny. The youth are merely discussing the places to best purchase toilet paper rolls by the case. Your trees may be in danger, but a good wind will bring it all down, rest assured.*

--Editor

## Ask Kenyon:

*Q: Why is the Pub closed, and pub activities relo-*

*cated to Gund Cafe-beeria?*

A: Record numbers at the UU campus caused unprecedented weight in Pierce-Dempsey, causing soil instability and threatening the collapse of the building. This necessitated major work to reinforce and shore up the foundation. Well worth the cost! The profit from wine and

beer sales is phenomenal! How do you think we built that obscene new athletic facility? This is off the record, right?

A Unitarian is just a Quaker with Attention Deficit Disorder.

Does drinking decaf make you a UU Lite?

## Reporter Detained in Washington

Melon E. Ashcan, Washington Bureau



I had to decide this year between attending SI and going to visit my son in DC where he is working for a GOOD lobbying firm. So, I went to see Ben. We were standing on the Mall, and I asked where the BIG DC UU church was. Some "suit" nearby perked up his ears, and walked over. He said he overheard our talk about Unitarian Universalism, and asked my name. He pulled a list out of his breast pocket and checked it for my name. Sure enough, I was there, he said. He asked me come with him for some

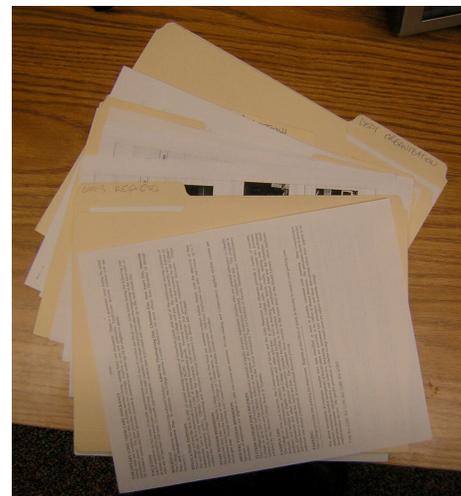
questions. When I refused, I was encircled by "suits", "G-men" to be sure. Not wanting to cause any problems I went with them. They sat me in a dark room with one glaring light aimed, of course, at me. They asked me what petitions I'd signed on-line. They asked what marches I'd participated in, particularly since Dubya has been in office. They asked me about bumper stickers. I said "Aren't you guys violating my First Amendment rights?" They laughed. One of them, silhouetted by the light, got up close to me, stinking of cheap after shave and coffee, pounded the table and yelled "So, you're a Unitarian-Universalist... what DO you believe?!" I heard myself talk about a connection to nature, paganism, pantheism, Sophia Lyon Fahs, agnosticism, a connection to a force larger than us and yet connecting us to each other. I talked about the interdependent web of life and respect for the worth and dignity of all individuals. I went on about tolerance and accepting, even embracing, diversity. I talked about the Buddha, Meister Eckhart, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Rainier Maria Rilke. Ied words like God, the Source, the One interchangeably. I mentioned peaceful solutions. I heard myself say things about the great books...the Bible, the Torah, the Koran. I don't know how long I talked. I was into it. I paused to get a sip of water and sat quietly for a moment. No one said a word. I shielded my eyes from the bright light and noticed that all four of the interrogators were asleep. My waxing philosophic knocked them right out. I shrugged and thought "some people just don't get it". I got up, walked to the door, shut off the light and left. I found Ben, we went to have an iced cappuccino at a non-Starbucks place, and planned our next activity. DC was great, but I miss you guys. I'm with you in spirit, believe me.

## Round, Poura Passum

*Poura, notherbeer, Praisem and pass'em, Poura notherbeer, Praise and pass'em.*

## All Points Bulletin

The sirens heard this afternoon resulted from an Orange Alert issued upon word that the elusive scalawag G.I.M Narley had been sighted entering Knox County on his way to meeting his partners in crime. Rest assured, the *Mockingbird* will keep you posted on further developments.



Bulletins, File Photo