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For this promo night, Saints' inspiration isn't at all divine

By Joe Soucheray

*At first I thought it was a joke and I had to go into verification mode, only to discover that it isn't a joke and that on the night of Aug. 10 the St. Paul Saints are having "A Night of Unbelievable Fun.''*

Joe, it's too bad you never thought of going into "verification mode" before reading and buying into all that bizarre nonsense in your Holy Book; it would have saved you a lifetime of irrational thinking.

*Unbelievable? Get it? Yes, you lovers of the North Woods minor-league sluggers, the Saints are devoting their promotional efforts Aug. 10 on behalf of atheists. It's atheists night at the ballpark. Why, a fellow doesn't know where to begin except that one of the first things that occurred to me was that a ballpark full of atheists is fated to be quieter than most.*

Joe, you've obviously never spent much time around rational people.

*I don't know what an atheist exclaims in disappointment, but maybe five or six of the most common profanities known to believers are out the window.*

Joe, I can give you one because it's one of my personal favorites:

Jesus H Fucking Christ!

Joe, the difference is - when we say it ... we don't have to look over our shoulders.

*An atheist would have no business taking you-know-who's name in vain.*

Joe, see what I mean about "looking over your shoulder?" You couldn't even bring yourself to write down His name for fear of pissing Him off.

What a great way to live.

*Neutral mackerel! Jiminy Crickets! I have an atheist friend who, true to his nonbelief, never swears.*

Joe, isn't that what "you people" are supposed to be doing?

*According to the Minnesota Atheists website, not only will the club have atheist night, but to additionally accommodate atheistic sensibilities the club will wear jerseys that night that say "Aints." The team will be called the Mr. Paul Aints, on the supposition that if there ain't no God there ain't no saints.*

Joe, you've just given me a great idea for a Christian night: the club can wear uniforms just like Crusaders did in the Dark Ages; they can use flat swords as bats; and when they disagree with the ump over a call, they can push him into a small pit of burning kindling. The crowd would love it.

*The S on all banners and Saints signs in the park will be crossed off.*

Joe, imagine what would happen if they tried this in a Muslim nation. Actually Joe, there is no need to imagine, we all know what would happen; the same thing that always happens to those who refuse to worship the local Ghost - death threats.

*The ceremonial first pitch? They've got it covered. David Silverman, president of the American Atheists, will exercise the old atheist wing and chuck it in there.*

Joe, now you've given me another great idea. You Ghost Worshippers have always desperately sought proof that your beliefs are real - not just fairy tales. Well here's God's chance: after Silverman releases the ball, halfway to home plate, Jesus should take the shot, full on in the groin. When the ball drops to the ground with divine pubic hair stuck to the seams, everyone will know that your ghost is the one true ghost ... except for those other two ghosts who are on His team.

*Now, I realize that the Saints have always endeared themselves to wacky promotions, but I needed to know who in God's name had such a severe brain meltdown that they came up with this one.*

Well Joe, as a talk show host it's your job to get to the bottom of these major, breaking stories. So what did you learn?

*Derek Sharrer, the team's general manager said, "We were approached by the Minnesota Atheists. They are sponsoring a national atheist convention in Minneapolis that weekend and wanted to know if they could have a night at the ballpark."*

*Not only did it not occur to anybody in the organization to maybe think twice*

Joe, "think twice" is code for "deny." So why should they deny a night at the ballpark to this group? Is it because they make fun of your invisible friends?

*but Sharrer said, "We were put in a position of realizing that we have worked with so many faith-based groups that it would be hypocritical of us to not work with a non-faith-based group.''*

See Joe, there's the problem. This guy doesn't want to be a hypocrite. How unchristian of him.

*Sharrer said that the club has received a lot of feedback, both positive and negative, but that he believes that over 20 years the club has earned the trust of the fans and that when the team walks the line on a promotion, the fans know the club will do so respectfully. "We've worked with religions," Sharrer said. "We felt that we also have to work with the other side."*

Joe, what I find most interesting is how the concept of fairness and equality is so foreign to you Ghost Worshippers.

*I have never quite figured out what it is that an atheist intends to promote.*

Joe, you're confusing it with religion. Religion promotes itself by proselytizing. The Atheists just want to get together and enjoy a night of fun without the risk of being burned at the stake.

*To me, it's got to be the easiest thing in the world to be an atheist,*

Joe, you couldn't be more wrong. It requires no courage to hide in the middle of a herd of sheep - THAT is the easiest thing in the world. But being part of the most hated group in the world, is without a doubt, the hardest, and requires the most courage.

*like being left a billion dollars in a trust fund by a distant uncle. You've got nothing to worry about. While the rest of us might be nagged by doubt and various theological complications, the atheist goes sailing through life not even having to get up early on Sunday morning.*

Joe, if you don't think they have anything to worry about then why waste your time writing articles promoting discrimination? Why deny them the same rights you grant to Ghost Worshippers?

Joe, Atheists do have something to worry about ... ignorant bigots like you. Society has taken away your stakes, bundles of hay, and matches, but "you people" have found other methods to attack those with whom you disagree.

*The mystery of transubstantiation alone keeps me up at night.*

Joe, if your life were grounded in reality and provable scientific fact instead of ancient fairy tales ... superstitious nonsense like that wouldn't bother you at all, much less keep you up at night.

*I guess atheism would be a great way to be if you could get there and once there, there is essentially nothing to promote,*

Joe, now you are contradicting yourself. Only a short time ago you were asking what Atheists intended to promote. Now you admit they have nothing to promote. No wonder you stay up at night; your brain doesn't know whether it's comin' or goin'.

*which is why I am always puzzled when atheists race to the scenes of imagined affronts to their nothingness, like, say, a cross devoted to war dead in a village square.*

Well Joe, let me help you out so you won't have to be puzzled; since we all know how much sleep you lose when you are puzzled. Crosses are Christian symbols of ancient execution devices often covered with blood. They are disgusting. However, they are quite legal when placed on private property. The problem occurs when placed on public property in violation of the First Amendment. We nonbelievers defend the First Amendment like you Ghost Worshippers defend your First Commandment. Fortunately, the Founding Fathers ignored God's First Commandment, and replaced it with the First Amendment; and "you people" have been fighting to overturn it for more than 200 years.

*What in the world are they worried about? The cross and its meaning are nothing.*

Joe, the ancient symbol of torture which "you people" value so highly has plenty of meaning. It symbolizes your attempt to assert your domination over the masses. A domination, by the way, which is beginning to slip away; at least, according to every worldwide poll I've seen.

And for a Christian to state that the meaning of the cross is "nothing" shows the typical dishonesty that rational people have come to expect from Ghost Worshippers - and you did not disappoint.

*I did get from Sharrer that it won't stop Sister Rosalind. I guess she still hangs out at Saints games and gives massages. She will probably still have her heart in it, too, because to believe means sometimes you've just got to shake your head and keep moving forward.*

Joe, maybe next time instead of just shaking your head, you might want to consider actually using it ... before moving forward.

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

NEW RECRUITS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DISEASE: ANTI-BACTERIAL 'KILLING MACHINE' DECIPHERED

Scientists have discovered the structure and operating procedures of a powerful anti-bacterial killing machine that could become an alternative to antibiotics. New published research details how the bacteriophage lysin, PlyC, kills bacteria that cause infections from sore throats to pneumonia and streptococcal toxic shock syndrome.

Bacteriophages, viruses that specifically infect and kill bacteria using special proteins called lysins, have been investigated as possible treatments since 1919. However, with the discovery of antibiotics in the 1940's, 'phage therapy' was generally abandoned.

Researchers have spent the last six years deciphering the atomic structure of PlyC to better understand its remarkable anti-bacterial properties.

PlyC is actually made from nine separate protein 'parts' that assemble to form a very effective bacterial killing machine. It actually resembles a flying saucer carrying two warheads.

It operates by locking onto the bacterial surface using eight separate docking sites located on one face of the saucer. The two warheads can then chew through the surface of the cell, rapidly killing the bacteria.

The PlyC, which attacks the streptococci bacteria, was a very promising target for the future development of new drugs.

PlyC, in its purified form, has been shown to be 100 times more efficient at killing certain bacteria than any other lysin to date -- even faster than household bleach.

First identified in 1925, PlyC was purified in the 1960's but its atomic structure proved elusive until now.

Scientists have been trying to decipher the structure of PlyC for more than 40 years. Finally knowing what it looks like, and how it attacks bacteria, is a huge step forward.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

Jonathan Swift (1667 –1745) 77 years.

He was an Anglo-Irish satirist, essayist, political pamphleteer, poet, and cleric who became Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

He is remembered for works such as Gulliver's Travels, A Modest Proposal, A Journal to Stella, Drapier's Letters, The Battle of the Books, An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity, and A Tale of a Tub. Swift is probably the foremost prose satirist in the English language, and is less well known for his poetry.

"It is useless to attempt to reason a man

out of a thing he was never reasoned into."