Announcement of a new newsletter

We are pleased to announce a newsletter that the Center for Inquiry is launching with this issue, both in print and online.

It is sponsored by the Center for Inquiry/Transnational (CFI), which is a rapidly expanding movement. CFI now comprises twenty-four Centers for Inquiry worldwide and twenty Communities. We span North and South America, Asia, and Africa, and are growing everywhere. Our purpose is to cultivate the public appreciation for science, reason, and freedom of inquiry in every area of human interest, and to work for secular and humanist values.

At a time when fundamentalist religions have engulfed the planet in conflict, violence, and bloodshed, it is important to work for a more peaceful and prosperous world where the outlook and ideals of secular humanism and naturalism are appreciated, a democratic world which respects freedom of conscience and personal self-determination, freedom, equality of concern, and human rights.

The Center for Inquiry is a federation of centers and communities, the voice of reason, the cultivation of the arts of compromise. It emphasizes the need for education and for an appreciation of an open society. It does not compete with any other intellectual organization. Its long-range goal is the realization of a New Enlightenment for humankind.

—Paul Kurtz, Chairman
—Norm Allen and Hugo Estrella, co-directors

INDIA

Center for Inquiry/India (CFII) opened for the first time in India with headquarters at Hyderabad on February 19, 2006. The inaugural session was held in the Administrative Staff College of India with several events.

Prof. David Triggel, Dr. Austin Dacey (USA) and Dr. Amardeo Sarma (Germany) participated as special guests and presented power point items on homeopathy and astrology.

Dr. P.M. Bhargava, vice chairman of the knowledge commission and retired scientist from the Cellular Biology institute, Dr. N. Jayaprakash Narayan, founder of Lok Satta institute; Dr. N. Bhaskararao, founder of the media center in Delhi; Dr. Santi Sri, professor of international studies at Pune University; Dr. Aruna Subhash; Chandana Chakravarthy, social worker; and Dr. M.V. Rao, the retired vice chancellor of Agriculture University spoke and presented papers.

The day-long event was attended by 150 active participants from various organizations including the Indian Radical Humanist Association, the Indian Secular Society, the Atheist Center, Jana Vignana Vedika, and Manava Vikasam.

Atturi Ashok (power point presentation and recording of events) C. Bhaskararao, Ramana (website arrangements), and I. Muralidhar, executive director of CFII helped make the inauguration a great event.

Dr. Narisetti Innaiah, chairman of CFII, conducted the day long event.
Special messages from Dr. Paul Kurtz, Justice Raghavendra Jahagirdar, CFI Poland, CFI Argentina, CFI Russia, CFI China and others were presented.

The successful inaugural events were covered prominently by the media.

**Women and Secularism**

A national conference on Women and Secularism with special charts depicting the deplorable conditions for women in India was conducted on April 23, 2006 in the press club of Hyderabad. Dr. Santa Sinha, Magasaysay presented a special paper while Sangeeta Mall, a prominent radical humanist from Bombay, brought the present condition of women to the attention of the nation. V. K. Sinha, editor of the *Secularist* magazine collaborated with CFII to make new points for bringing women into the secular fold.

A special magic performance by Suresh was an eye opener to everyone, showing how women are being cheated by cult leaders that exploit their beliefs.

Several women’s organizations participated. Representatives included Sandhya, Dr. Singh, and Dr. Vijaya.

Dr. N. Innaiah and I. Muralidhar conducted the conference to a successful end.

**Seminar on Child Abuse by Religions**

CFII conducted a national seminar on September 3, 2006 at Hyderabad which was inaugurated by Daggupati Purandareswari, the minister for human resources in New Delhi. She promised to bring proper legislation to protect children from belief systems.

Dr. N. Innaiah, the chairman of CFII, presented a discussion paper on the subject. C. Narasimharao helped to bring out special charts showing the miserable exploitation of children by all religions.

Media persons participated very actively in this seminar. Ravi Prakash of TV channel 9, M. Nageswararaao, the principal of a journalism school and a few others presented papers and views that brought the issue to the attention of the nation.

Dr. P. M. Bhargava, Chandana Chakravarthy, and several organizations from child welfare contributed their thoughts to the seminar.

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CFII has put out publications in Indian languages in order to reach the common educated population. Paul Kurtz’s *Affirmations*, *Courage to Become* (translated into Telugu by N. Innaiah), and Taslima Nasrin’s *Shodh* (translated by V. Komala) were exhibited at the CFII events.

CFII participated in media and public discussions on astrology, geomancy, alternative medicine, superstitions, cults, and separation of church and state. Furthermore, they presented these matters to state and central ministers and the concerned authorities for implementation. Whenever the ministers participated in religious functions in an official capacity, CFII protested and warned them that they were violating the Indian constitution which envisages the spread of scientific spirit as a fundamental duty.

The office of CFII is located at A 60 Journalist Colony, Hyderabad, India.

I. Muralidhar, C. Bhaskararao, V. Komala, Ramana, and Atluri Ashok are giving their full attention to CFII. I. Muralidhar is the executive director for CFII.

—Narisetti Innaiah

**SENEGAL**

The Center for Inquiry/Senegal kicked off in July 2006, with a project called “Science & Art Activities” in order to develop the critical thinking of young Senegalese students. They worked in different groups and developed their conception of “humanism, critical thinking and pseudoscience” through music, theater, poetry, painting, and other creative activities.

We are now evaluating the results, and each group has to present its work as a form of entertainment.

One member of CFII/Senegal, Cheikh Sow, the coordinator of the “Science & Art” activities, was in Mauritania recently to present a piece of theater on “Religion & Critical Thinking.” Mauritania (bordering Senegal at the north) is 99 percent Islamic, so it was not very easy for him. However, it was a very fruitful experience for all of us.

—Fadel Niang

Members of the Center for Inquiry/Senegal display one of their banners.
MALAWI

A potential Center for Inquiry is in its initial steps in Malawi.

“I would like to share with you some documents about our newly formed organization—the Association for Secular Humanism. We hope to have our registration certificate in the near future. Meanwhile, we are operating as an action group.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for the regular issues of Free Inquiry magazine and the AAH Examiner. We will be grateful for any other literature on humanism, especially books by Paul Kurtz et al.

We are also interested in starting a chapter of the Center for Inquiry on Campus. My colleague, Wilson Jere, and I are working on this. However, we would like our organization to work as a national Center for Inquiry.

—Paul Munyenyembe

Excerpts from the Malawian humanist founding act:

“... Commitments

We are committed to contributing towards building a rational, well-educated, prosperous, non-superstitious, liberal, democratic, tolerant, corruption-free, scientifically informed and technologically advanced society in Malawi. To this end, we will expose and combat superstitious beliefs, promote science and reason, justice, human rights and democracy.

We are committed to encouraging belief in ourselves.

We will attempt within our limited resources to provide social services in the education, health and cultural sectors. Specifically, we will contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS, provide reproductive health services, and promote science education and youth cultural activities.

We will play our role in environmental protection and sustainable use of our natural resources. . . .”

UGANDA

CFI/Uganda and the Uganda Humanist Effort to Save Women—UHESWO—share efforts and news from the field:

Prostitution in Uganda is illegal. Since 2004, parliament has been discussing whether sex workers should be legalized and very high taxes imposed on them. Unfortunately, most members of parliament are not supporting prostitution. They say that their immoral earnings create a lot of shame for a God fearing nation (Uganda) whose motto is “For God and My Country.” Sex workers’ rights are not respected in Uganda and they have no one to defend them from abuse.

Most prostitutes in Kampala are girls younger than thirty-five. They join the sex trade due to a variety of problems such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education. Some are orphans and others are divorced. These girls reside in the slums of Kampala, the only place where they can find sufficiently inexpensive housing. In the evening, they travel from the slums to the streets of the city to work.

On August 25, 2006, Shamim, a UHESWO member courageously visited these girls with me in Bwayise, a suburb of Kampala. What follows is a brief summary of that visit.

We purposely arrived earlier than we were expected to discover what the girls do during their free time. Everybody was busy. Some were breast-feeding their undernourished babies, others were chewing drugs, and many of them were preparing themselves for duty. We scouted in one corner while two active girls were trying to gather their friends.

As we were still waiting, we were greatly disturbed by a choke-inducing smell. We did not know where it was coming from at first. When we turned around, our eyes landed on three naked, carefree, beautiful, young girls who were smoking pipes with erotic gestures. They say that this helps them...
to get more customers. I was scared and I wanted to run away, but I realized the challenges I had to meet as a young women’s leader.

When they gathered, I talked to them very briefly. I had planned to talk a lot with them but seeing some of them naked and others chewing drugs, I thought that the girls were mad and not normal enough to listen to me. I told them: “My friends, you are being abused and criticized by many people, but you are human beings whose rights must be respected. You also have the right to make your own choices. On top of that, nobody was born a prostitute but conditions can force one to be. You are still very young and you can still live healthy, productive livelihoods. Your life is very important and your job is full of risks. Hence, be careful and use condoms”. I then gave Lifeguard condoms to each girl.

I don’t know how I attracted the girl’s attentions. They calmly and freely told me that most of them were Muslims and never got a good education. Muslims don’t take girls’ education seriously. During the discussion, they told us about the problems they experience. These include being forced into live sex by drug addicts. Indeed, some of them were pregnant without knowing the men responsible. They said that impotent men hurt them with sticks, which they use instead of coital sex. Other men scare them with pistols, knives and hammers so as to cheat them. Stubborn men wear two condoms and others put on polyurethane bags instead of condoms.

They still reported that policemen are as dangerous to them as the impotent men. They arrest them and expose them to the public in the newspapers. This causes them to be despised and discriminated against by the community.

By the time they completed outlining all their problems, tears had already rolled down the cheeks of some of the girls, which made me realize that some girls are prostitutes just because they have no alternative. They said that condoms are expensive, yet each needs an average of thirty-five condoms a week. They requested that UHESWO provide them with condoms if possible.

It was becoming dark. We took photos with a few of them. Most of them suspected me to be like missionaries who come to spread Christianity with guns hidden in their gowns. Some couldn’t risk being seen in the newspapers the following day, so they refused to take photos with us.

UHESWO is planning to start rehabilitation education in the future for these young women so that they can quit the sex trade and live healthy, productive, and sustainable livelihoods.

—Betty Nassaka

Betty Nassaka, founding chairperson, UHESWO

A FEW MORE NEWS ITEMS FROM AFRICA

In January 2007, the Cameroon Freethought Association held the first major humanist conference in French-speaking Africa. The theme was “Secular Humanism and Freethought: Toward a True Enlightenment for Africa?” Representatives from France, Liberia, Nigeria, the United States, and other nations were in attendance.

Since the conference, members of the Cameroon Freethought Association have formed the Center for Inquiry/Cameroon. They plan to spread humanist ideals and foster skepticism among Cameroon’s youth.

African humanist leaders and groups have been actively promoting humanism throughout the continent. Leo Igwe of the Center for Inquiry/Nigeria visited humanists in Senegal, The Gambia, and Sierra Leone. Igwe reports that there are humanists in Senegal, but most of them are in the closet. The country is predominantly Muslim, with Catholics comprising about 5 percent of the population.

While in Senegal, Igwe met with Fadel Niang, the head of the Center for Inquiry/Senegal. Niang has expressed concern that though Senegal is secular in theory, it is not so in practice. Muslims are striving for political influence and power, and making some progress in this regard.

For several years, AAH has supported the Humanist Association of Bakau in The Gambia. Now, Igwe has established contact with another Gambian humanist, Ebou Sohna, with an interest in forming a group. Igwe gave him some humanist reading materials and promised to send him more.

In Sierra Leone, Igwe met with Karim Noah of the Nigerian Humanist Association of Mano River Union (HAMRU). HAMRU plans to work with college students and teachers in efforts to promote science and critical thinking. The group is also concerned with promoting human rights and social justice.

Humanism is spreading throughout the African continent. For example, many Kenyan humanists believe that the institutions of higher learning in Kenya are being greatly influenced by humanists and humanist ideals. Paradoxically, however, organized religion has never been more popular in Africa. There is much work to do in Africa, but humanism seems to be there to stay.

—Norm Allen

Norm Allen, Executive Director, African Americans for Humanism
IBERO-AMERICAN HUMANIST FEDERATION FOUNDED AND CFI/BUENOS AIRES OPENING

At the recent second Ibero-American Conference on Critical Thinking, organized by the Center for Inquiry through its local organization in Peru and the Spanish-language humanist magazine Pensar, secular humanists, skeptics and rationalists from all over the Spanish-speaking world gathered at the prestigious Universidad Mayor de San Carlos (the first university of the American continent) in Lima.

During the event, which followed the 2004 Conference held in Buenos Aires, a general sentiment for establishing a formal network of similar organizations slowly came to reality. The group of representatives from diverse countries discussed the best ways to achieve the goals of organized humanism in order to gain visibility and strength. Keeping that in mind, and aiming to explain what humanism means for Ibero-America today, some participants took the responsibility of writing a manifesto. The draft, which was deeply discussed and enriched with the participation of tens of humanists through an ad-hoc Internet discussion list, was finally formulated and is being circulated for ratification all over the region in Spanish as well as in English.

Some paragraphs follow:

“. . . Acknowledging the urgency to place the human being as the measure of all things and the end of every social action. Understanding that, as humans, we belong to the material world, therefore it is there where conditions for a further equality and personal realization should be fostered. Understanding that we have evolved to a level that makes it impossible to live tied to superstition and dogma thus facing the need to find our proper place as a part of the Universe. In doing so it’s necessary to use the growing knowledge we are given by science and its method. We are also determined to promote the widest legal recognition of our right to decide on our bodies as well as on the ways we express our sexual and affective choices.

We call forth, therefore, all those who feel the need to join us in these efforts. They find their roots in the historical struggle for human freedom, the one that was fought by our original peoples, as well as for those millions of immigrants and others who dreamed these lands to be the home for emancipation and happiness.

At the San Marcos University, in Lima, first home of science in the Americas, we found this Federation and ratified our commitment with critical thinking and Freedom. . . .”

Right after the Conference, which was a real success not just because of the high quality of the speakers, but also considering the agreements and plans for the future of the newly founded network, the Center for Inquiry/Buenos Aires opened its office at the Argentine Scientific Society, the first civil society organization in Argentina that was born to promote science and its popularization in that country, with premises at the elegant Buenos Aires Recoleta neighborhood. The Chilean group, in time, started its Internet presence for the promotion of humanism and allowed the access to material that otherwise is hard to find in Spanish.

The future steps are the establishment of CFIs in other parts of the region, such as Venezuela and Colombia, and the organization of an upcoming conference to be held in Brazil in 2008.

CFI/ARGENTINA REPORTING

In September 2006, Argentinian authorities approved the legalization of the CFI/Argentina office. It was a long process, beginning in Argentina in April 2006, and even earlier in the USA, in October 2005.

During last October we set the CFI/Argentina office at the Scientific Society of Argentina building, in downtown Buenos Aires.

Activities: 2006

- We helped with the organization of the 2nd Congress on Critical Thinking held in Perú, August 3–5, 2006.

- From October 9 to October 30, 2006, we co-organized, together with the University of Buenos Aires, a series of lectures called “Science and Myths.” In the first lecture CFI/Argentina was presented to the public with brief words explaining our goals regarding science, reason, critical thinking and the need for humanistic secular ethics. Some of the lectures presented included:
  - October 9: “Experiences of a Scientist in the Paranormal World” by Dr. Celso M. Aldao, physicist of the University of Mar del Plata, and investigator of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Investigations.
  - October 23: “Myths in Oncology” by Dr. Ernesto Gil Deza, director of the Investigation and Teaching Department of the Henry Moore Institute, Buenos Aires.

- Over 300 people attended the lectures organized by CFI/Argentina, and the series of lectures was announced in several journals, like Clarín, La Nación, Página/12 and on the official Web site of the Ricardo Rojas Center (University of Buenos Aires).

- On November 21, 2006, we held a monthly seminar, “Introduction to Critical Thinking and Psychology of Deception” by Alejandro J. Borgo and magician and investigator of the paranormal Enrique Márquez. The seminar was an introduction to a more extensive course we are planning for 2007, and it deals with critical thinking applied to religion, fundamentalism, politics, economics, pseudoscience and mass media.
Activities: 2007

CFI/Argentina’s director, Alejandro Borgo, has been invited to three television shows to debate with pseudo-scientists, priests and faith healers, in some cases exposing their fallacies and frauds.

After the seminar on Critical Thinking, we will have nearly two months of lower activity because of the summer. But in February and the beginning of March, we are starting a media campaign in order to work as a source of information for TV, radio and journals, on items related to science, religion, and all issues related to CFI.

We are planning to hold the same seminar in the province of Mendoza. We are also planning an extensive course for physicians on alternative medicine and science, and are helping with the organization of the third Ibero-American Congress on Critical Thinking to be held in Brazil in 2008.

Pensar Magazine

In Argentina we are making efforts to sell subscriptions and in fact, most subscribers are from Spain, the USA and Argentina. I think we should encourage the rest of the representative members of our magazine to recruit subscribers.

CFI/Argentina Web Site

We have acquired the domain www.cfiargentina.org. The Declaration of the Ibero-American Humanist Federation will be online, as will information regarding our activities and news related to science, reason, humanism and some general news of the CFI/Transnational.

Alejandro Borgo, Director, Center for Inquiry/Argentina

CFI/TRANSNATIONAL, EUROPE—NEW CENTERS IN ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS

New developments are taking place at the CFI/Transnational.

Since November 2006, two Co-Transnational Directors, Norm Allen, Jr. and Hugo Estrella, have been appointed in order to coordinate, promote, and support the activities of the existing CFIs and help create new ones.

Estrella has recently relocated to Pisa, where the first Italian CFI is being organized. A country with such a long-standing tradition of secularism and freethought, despite the permanent confrontation with the Catholic Church, Italy will have its center in the beautiful town of Galileo Galilei, which is also the seat of one of the most prestigious universities in Europe. The integration of CFI/Italy into the diverse secular organizations of that country is happening at a rapid pace, and will certainly add its particular approach to the everlasting struggle for a freer, open society and for the independence of scientific research from dogmatic influence. This center is also going to be the hub for CFI’s activities in Europe and Latin-America.

So far, we have been present at a number of important activities, such as the event “Talks on Secularism, Multiculturalism, and Human Rights” organized by the CGIL (Italian General Confederation of Labour—New Rights section). CFI was introduced at the round table “The Pope and Islam,” organized by the prestigious Fondazione Critica Liberale (whose President was the famous late philosopher Norberto Bobbio) and the Lelio Basso Foundation, in Rome. A warm welcome to CFI was given by the representatives of the European Liberal Foundations that held their annual meeting connected with this event.

We are also working on the conformation of the European CFI Network, and helping start new Centers for Inquiry all over the Continent. With the presence of CFI’s Chairman, Dr. Paul Kurtz, a humanist conference took place in The Netherlands in the last week of October. Following the interest of Dutch humanists for opening a Center for Inquiry there, the above-mentioned conference served as the launch event for its establishment. Under the co-ordination of the well known humanist philosopher Floris van den Berg and with a board of remarkable personalities from the Dutch and Belgian Humanists, CFI is now present in the Low Lands. We wish them every success in the revival of Secularism in a place that has always been a source of pride for world-wide humanists.

—Hugo Estrella

Hugo Estrella, Co-director, CFI/Transnational

CFI/NETHERLANDS

A New Center for Inquiry: Low Countries Toward a Planetary Enlightenment

A new branch of the Center for Inquiry/Transnational is in the process of establishment in the Netherlands and Belgium, which together comprise the Low Countries.

According to Jonathan Israel in his works Radical Enlightenment and The Enlightenment Contested, the Low Countries are the birth place of the early, radical and atheistic Enlightenment of the seventeenth century of which Spinoza is the most important thinker. Spinoza, and Descartes for some time, both lived and published in Holland. Its comparatively tolerant political climate made the thriving cities of trade a haven for freethought. It seems, therefore, natural that in the present day a cosmopolitan, transnational, secular humanist organization propagating science and reason—both ideals of the Enlightenment—establish a branch in the Low Countries.

In Belgium and the Netherlands there are already many freethought, humanist and skeptical organizations. Skepsis (from Belgium and the Netherlands, respectively), are both organizations for the critical examination of claims of the paranormal. Both are founded as daughters of the American CSI-COP (now the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry), The Dutch Freethought Organization De Vrije Gedachte celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2006 with a two-day symposium “Neither
God, nor Authority" in Amsterdam. Paul Kurtz was the keynote speaker, lecturing about the positive agenda of secular humanism. In the Netherlands there is also the Humanist Association (Humanistisch Verbond) which is much larger than De Vrije Gedachte. The Freethought Association is more of a think tank. The Humanist Association is much more practical and lenient toward religious and spiritual temptations. So, one might ask, is there a need for another organization which (for an outsider) looks the same as the ones already in existence? And, a more fundamental question: is there a need for humanist organizations in societies in which so many ideals of the humanist agenda have been realized, like equal rights for women, the social acceptance of homosexuality, the legalization of cremation, abortion, euthanasia, and sexual freedom? The reason support for organized humanism and freethought in the Low Countries has declined in the last decade is that it has by and large become redundant. The humanists seem to be inclined to think that religion in Europe will disappear soon. But due to a worldwide Islamic revival, religion returns. Not only Islam, but Christianity reappears. And, not to forget, besides the traditional religions there is a lot of New Age "make up your own nonsense" spirituality. It might be the case that the humanist utopia of the Low Countries will not be like that forever. It is easy to look the other way while the sign of the times is still so easily discarded.

The Low Countries, and most of Western Europe, are a small island of equalitarian wealth and democratic freedom in a sea of nastiness. I do think the ideals of the Enlightenment are universal—everyone wants freedom, or at least the freedom to wilfully abandon it—a humanist movement propagating science, reason and Human Rights, should therefore be cosmopolitan, or, to use words coined by Paul Kurtz: planetary or transnational. By creating a transnational network of people who support reason, science and human rights, an effort can be made to make the world a better place, to decrease the amount of suffering on the planet.

Philosopher Floris van den Berg has been appointed as executive director of CFI Low Countries. On the board are: Prof. Rob Tielman (former president of the Humanistisch Verbond and Fellow of the Academy of Humanism), Dr. Pieter Admiraal (physician and pioneer on euthanasia policy; fellow of the Academy of Humanism) and Bert Gasenbeek (director of the Humanist Archives and Library of the Dutch Humanist University). At present an English-language Web site is under construction. Activities for 2007 include: opening a congress in April; an introductory course on secular humanism (May/June); and a symposium on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

—Floris van den Berg
Floris van den Berg, Executive Director CFI/Low Countries E-mail: florisvandenberg@dds.nl

CANADA

The Center for Inquiry/Ontario, Canada’s premiere venue for humanists and freethinkers, blasted onto the Toronto scene on March 10, 2007. At our inaugural event—"CFI Ontario: A New Canadian Voice for Reason, Science and Secularism"—we welcomed over 200 attendees from across the province and heard from sixteen individuals representing leading humanists from the United States and Canada from literary, entertainment, advocacy and academic circles. We unveiled our "Freethought Celebration Exhibit" and toasted the exciting future that lies ahead for our branch as we take our community outreach, social services, programming and campus outreach initiatives to the next level.

News of the Center’s opening has generated a great deal of interest among the Canadian press. The morning of our inaugural a 3,000 word piece—“When the Ain’ts Go Marchin In” by Christopher Drehe—appeared in the Issues section of the Globe and Mail. This was the second article to appear in the Globe covering CFI/Ontario activities, and a third piece is currently underway as well, not to mention a series of interviews to be broadcast on CBC radio. Additional media interest has been generated by our upcoming event on March 22, “God and Evolution: Is Intelligent Design Ruining Science Education?” which the Toronto Star and Ottawa Citizen are set to cover.

This event will host experts in evolution education and outreach—Dr. Brian Alters and Dr. Daniel Brooks—speaking on the status of science education in our country, and focusing on the seemingly sympathetic stance the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada has taken to intelligent design, denying funding to a proposal to study the detrimental effects of teaching ID by citing the lack of evidence that ID was wrong.

CFI/Ontario has a list of upcoming events that are unlike anything ever put together in our province. Following “God and Evolution” we will host David Koepsell on “South Park and Blasphemy” on March 30, and then at two campuses—University of Guelph and University of Waterloo—as the inaugural events for two new student freethought organizations. On April 5 CFI/Ontario will hold the only two Canadian appearances of Professor Victor Stenger, speaking on his new book “God: The Failed Hypothesis” at the University of Toronto at Scarborough and at Ryerson University. In mid-May we will hold a Robert Ingersoll conference on the history of freethought in Canada and the United States.

CFI/Ontario is also launching a major social services initiative, including the establishment of our center as a designated space for Secular Organizations for Sobriety meetings, as a headquarters for our Coping Without Religion support group and for a newly launched rationalistic program to quit smoking. As well, our community outreach program will be helping to run Earth Day with the city of Toronto in April, and is taking a role in city cleanup and other environmental initiatives.

More information on these events and activities are available online at www.cfiontario.org, or by contacting me at jtrottier@cfiontario.org

—Justin Trottier
Justin Trottier, Director, CFI Ontario
CFI/Transnational, a worldwide federation of Centers and Communities

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