

I just read the LA Times article. I was not comfortable with it and the major discomfort was the use of the term, "accommodationist" and what it implied.

I think it's inaccurate and reincarnates the image of Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister who kowtowed to Hitler after the latter's invasion of Czechoslovakia back in 1938. We are not weak, nor ineffectual in proclaiming our identities as Secular Humanists, neither individually or collectively. Who has done more to advance the sum, substance and worth of Secular Humanism than Paul Kurtz in our lifetime? We certainly do have some new kids on the block named Dawkins, Hitchens, Harris, etc. and, for the most part, I welcome their emergence and enjoy their books and lectures because, after all the noise dies down, they each have something of worth to contribute.

It is well known that it takes multiple bullets to stop the charge of the heavily armored rhinoceros. That example is analogous to the need for multiple approaches to advance the major premises of all non-believers in our efforts to cut into the domination of religiosity in our country. Each faction of non-belief, each faction of Secular Humanism, has common central premises, but also different degrees of emphasis on how to achieve their goals. It's important now not to be so hung up on our relatively minor differences that we become divided in our common major quest; namely to diminish in our society the harmful domination of religion.

Major principles of Secular Humanism are Reason, Rational Thought and Science based Empirical quests for the truth. We believe we can advance our cause by civil discourse that is strong, firm, repetitive, articulate and coherent. We believe that our messages, delivered in a civil fashion, are likely to be better understood AND responded to affirmatively by theists than by ridicule, confrontation and loudness. There is even credible behavioral research to support these methods of communication.

Does such an approach make us "accommodationists" or just more effective and influential in our efforts than the other modus operandi? If we believe in thinking and acting with reason, logic and rational thought as our descriptors, then let it be reflected in our actual behavior.

Stan Friedland Ed.D.
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Dr. Stan Friedland is in his 58th year in education and considers himself a "lifer". During his career, he was a teacher, guidance counselor, high school principal (15 years), graduate school professor (Adjunct, 4 universities) and presenter of some 500 workshops nationally. He has written some 20 plus articles for educational journals and has had his own television show on education for 8 years. Dr. Friedland holds a doctoral degree from Columbia University and also has authored 3 non-fiction books not on education.