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## Religious Discrimination

Sir - I am a brother of City of Liverpool Circle and a Barrister.
I have become increasingly concerned about the possible dangers attached to the Government's proposals to create new laws on Religious Discrimination and Hatred. Though they sound acceptable and indeed innocuous such laws could be used to stifle free speech and could, in my view, end up inflaming religious tensions rather than reducing them.
I had an article on the case published in "The Times" Law section on Tuesday 9th November 2004.
Because of my concerns I have developed a web site, www.religionlaw.co.uk dealing with the subject of Religion and the law in England. It contains relevant legislation both civil and criminal, government and organisations reports and details about legal cases. I have included information about a controversial case taking place in Australia where a Christian Church is being sued by the Muslim Council of Victoria over allegations that the Church "Vilified" Islam. Details on the case are on the site at http://www.religionlaw.co.uk/interaus.htm
The web site was created for me by Scott Murphy who is the 15 year old son of Cyril Murphy of Ormskirk Circle.
I already have one web site which I have run for some years www.harassment-law.co.uk. It deals with the law of Harassment, Bullying at work and Anti-social Behaviour and I set it up after writing the legal text book "Harassment Law and Practice". I have found it a useful way both of developing professional work for myself and also doing my bit for "pro bono" free legal advice.

**Neil Addison**
City of Liverpool Circle

## Catholic Faith Exploration

Sir - The brothers of Tandridge Circle and their wives were recently given a stimulating presentation by local parishioners, Mike and Maureen Goldsmith on CaFE - Catholic Faith Exploration.
Briefly, CaFE is a new video based programme developed by Catholic Evangelisation Services which was set up in 1996 with the encouragement of several Bishops and serves as a practical response to the Pope's call for a New Evangelisation.
Parishes and other organisations looking for a practical approach to evangelisation will find CaFE to be very useful and stimulating and, at the same time, very enjoyable.
A programme of videos backed up with simple and effective training material is delivered to groups in a welcoming and hospitable environment.
Modules developed to date include - Knowing God Better, Exploring the Catholic Church and Catholics Making a Difference. They have also produced a Baptism programme, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Birmingham, and are currently filming a multi media programme for young teenagers as an aid for youth workers in parishes and schools.
The programme is well recommended and information can be obtained directly from Catholic Evangelisation Services at All Saints Pastoral Centre PO Box 333, St Albans, Herts, AL2 1EL Tel 01727 822 837 email - info@faithcafe.org or visit the website at www.faithcafe.org

**John Baron**
Tandridge Circle

## Seeing the Light

Sir - When I was first President of Meopham Circle some 20 years ago, it was well known that I would have nothing to do with golf, arguing that Catenian activities were more important. However, since taking up the sport some five years ago, I now believe it is a great opportunity for Catenians and their friends to meet socially. Therefore, when presented with the trophy for 'Best Improved Golfer for the Year' in Province 7, while feeling very proud, I also felt like Saul/St Paul must have felt, in that I have seen the Light, and am now a great advocate of the game.

**Peter Stevens**
Meopham Circle

## Tour of Southern Africa

Sir - It was most interesting to read the article on the 2004 Tour of Southern Africa. It was unfortunate the tour was restricted to past and present members of Grand Council. The rank and file members of the Association also care about the welfare of our brothers in Southern Africa, and were keen to be represented as in the past. I have been on five of these tours and taken great interest in the African Circles. This was not the first time on a tour that the touring party has had to stay in brothers' houses in Zimbabwe. On the 1980 Tour with Grand President Dick Last we had to stay in brothers' houses due to uncertainty during the elections. Brothers of Southern Africa we, the rank and file members, do care about you and continue to pray for you.

**Bernard Smith**
Weald of Kent Circle

# God's Job

*For his RE homework, an eight year old had to explain God. Not an easy task for any of us but it gave him no problem:*
*"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones who die so there will be enough to look after things on Earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think that's because they're smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up valuable time teaching them to walk and talk. He can leave that to mothers and fathers.*
*"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on since some people like priests and things pray all the time, not just at bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or watch TV because of this.*
*"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy so you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mum and dad's heads and asking him for something they said you couldn't have.*
*"Jesus is God's son. His Dad appreciates everything He's done all the hard work on earth so He has told Him He doesn't have to go on the road any more. He can stay in Heaven. So now He helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things that are important for God to take care of. Sometimes He just takes care of them Himself without having to bother God.*
*"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they've got it worked out so that one of Them is on duty all the time. You should always go to Church on Sundays because it makes God happy and if there's anybody you want to keep on the right side of - it's God. He put me here and He can take me back any time He pleases."*

***Taken from "Closer to Heaven" by the well known Catholic comedian and broadcaster, Don Maclean, KHS and published by Hodder & Stoughton, 338, Euston Road, London, NW1 3BH. Price £6.99.***
*Don was one of the speakers at the Banquet during last year's Annual Conference in Liverpool for which he received a prolonged and well deserved standing ovation.*