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|  | 3 | This is regarding Austria’s policy of allowing citizens to wear their religious head gear in photos. |
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|  | 5 | And there on his website, it gained a lot of Internet attention. |
|  | 6 | Mostly atheists, fanatics and followers of the Flying Spaghetti Monster now advocate their beliefs and ideals very actively. |

Pastafarianism and the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster

It all started in Kansas in the year 2005, when the Kansas Board of Education issued a statement about teaching Intelligent Design along with the Theory of Evolution to its students or not. Intelligent Design is the idea of one God creating the earth, as opposed to the earth having gone through millions of years of evolution.

A. \_\_\_

In his letter, he introduces himself as a member of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster and a concerned citizen. He argues that if intelligent design was to be added to the curriculum, then so should Pastafarianism, which is the belief that the Flying Spaghetti Monster- an invisible being with the shape and form of pasta noodles with two meat balls- designed the universe and is in fact responsible for everything in the world. It was a cleverly-worded satyr protesting the board’s decision to teach a religious idea alongside science and scientific theories.

The Spaghetti Monster is a parody of the concept of a being that is supernatural. B.\_\_\_\_\_. For example, a scientific process may display data that shows the world has undergone thousands of years of evolution, but in truth, the Flying Spaghetti Monster is there, in an invisible and undetectable form, manipulating the results. It was his intent, according to the letter, to convince the board to teach other alternate theories, like Pastafarianism, along with Intelligent Design, in order to accommodate all beliefs, and that the theory of evolution is considered a belief rather than a fact.

The Kansas School Board made no favorable reply to Henderson’s letter, and so he published it online a few months after sending it to them. C. \_\_\_\_\_ The Spaghetti Monster soon became an internet sensation, and was a widely-used symbol against teaching creationism and like ideas in the curriculum of public schools.

D.\_\_\_\_ Publishing both his ‘hate mail’ and fan mail not only made him and his letter more popular, but it also intensified the fanaticism of the people who have come to adhere to the beliefs and ideals of Pastafarianism.

Henderson explains that the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster has only one dogma, and that is it has no dogma. For a group that claims to be anti-religion, it is quite interesting to see that it is now somewhat a religion for some people. E.\_\_\_\_\_ For example, a man in Austria who declares himself a member of the Pastafarian movement has won against the government, claiming the right to wear a spaghetti strainer in photographs for official and government documents. F.\_\_\_\_\_\_

Although considered a rather subversive religious mockery or parody, the Pastafarians hold their ground, saying they have as much right as everybody else to exercise religious- or in this case, irreligious- freedom.

Adapted from: http://spaghettimonster.com/

KEY

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