

## ACTION

### Religious discrimination in Switzerland

Raelians are becoming second zone citizens in Switzerland.... Protests are organized this coming Thursday. ( more about your local actions from your national guides)

Here is the story: A bar owner refused a few months ago to serve a beer to a raelian in Geneva, because he was raelian. He served everyone around but not Philip Chabloz, leader of the Swiss Raelian movement. The federal court ruled the case in favor of the bar tender and condemned Philip to pay SF4000 !!! Unbelievable!!!

Rael , leader of the Raelian Movement asks the 65000 members of the Raelian Movement to protest in front of Swiss embassies and consulates to denounce the religious discrimination against the Swiss raelian.



Here is the press release sent yesterday :

**APARTHEID IN SWITZERLAND !!!!**

**RAEL STARTS A WAR AGAINST SWITZERLAND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION LAWS**

Geneva, Feb 22, 2005: It's true, and it seems that no one in the world knows about it, but it is still perfectly legal under Swiss law to discriminate against serving or hiring depending on one's race or religion.

Recently a member of the Raelian Religion ([www.rael.org](http://www.rael.org)) was denied a beer in a bar in Geneva, Switzerland because of his religion. This is no exaggeration! It happened! He sued the bar and lost, both in first case and the appeal, then went to the Federal Tribunal, which is the Swiss version of the Supreme Court - and lost again! Even worse he was penalized by having to pay \$3000 in court fees!

After this event, Rael, leader of the Raelian Religion asked the Swiss attorney if there was any higher authority able to reverse this decision, and the answer was "no" and the

attorney explained that Swiss while law makes it a crime to physically attack someone for their race or religion, but that there is no civil law protecting the rights of races or religions! It's true! Recently a black woman was refused a job because she was black, went through all the legal procedures and also lost for the same reason. Can you imagine the lawsuits if this were to happen in the US?!

So this is perfectly legal in Switzerland in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to write "forbidden to Jews", " "forbidden to blacks" or "forbidden to gays" on the door of bars or shops !!! All the world must react to force Switzerland - which was still recently harboring the money stolen from Jews by the nazis in its banks, to change these scandalous laws and adopt a legislation making civil discrimination what it is: a monstrous crime. Rael ask all countries, banks and businesses of the world and especially peoples belonging to racial, religious or sexual minorities to boycott Swiss products and tourism as long as this country doesn't change these laws and to protest these medieval laws by writing and emailing the Swiss government.

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS



**Donna Newman is our Beloved Prophet's assistant when He is in Miami**

The wonderful Donna has been nominated as our Beloved Prophet's assistant when He stays in Miami. If you want to reach Him, while He is there, please contact Donna who will make all necessary arrangements.

Thank you Donna for your dedication to our Beloved Prophet !!!

### **A New Planetary Responsible for Legal Matters**

Leon Mellul has been nominated this week as the new responsible for legal matters in replacement of Claude Sanfourche. He is also, as you may know, continental guide for Middle East.

Our Beloved Prophet thanked personally Claude Sanfourche for his wonderful job during many years of fantastic dedication.

Our best wishes dear Leon in your new mission.....



## NEWS AND VIEWS

(Also seen everyday on <http://www.raelianews.org> )

### **Nudity in Idaho**

The city of Boise, Idaho passed a law in 2001 that forbids complete nudity in public unless the display has "serious artistic merit". A US strip club has managed to sidestep laws

banning total nudity in public by offering customers the chance to make drawings depicting its dancers. The club charges \$15 for a sketch pad, a pencil and a dance performance... very clever!

Rael and the more than 60,000 members of the Raelian Movement ([www.rael.org](http://www.rael.org)) are supporting the clever way in which Chris Teague sidestepped nudity laws and hope that others will follow. \*

### **Human cloning will not be a crime against Humanity**

But special interests still overshadow science in policy making

Political manoeuvring and religious pressures have dominated the decision making process around the human cloning debate at the UN as well as at the US Congress for the past 5 years.

A few days ago, the UN called on countries to ban all forms of human cloning "incompatible with human dignity." The American religious right claims victory, the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) stays concerned .... and patients who could be cured are still dying and suffering!

Meanwhile the Clonaid team celebrates as if the UN votes along this line in the final vote next Fall, the Clonaid team should be able to go around without any problem... except in France, of course;-)

### **How can women remain catholic?**

Pope John Paul II has launched a new book in which he controversially compares abortion and the Holocaust saying that both abortion and the mass murder of six million Jews came about as a result of people usurping the "law of God" beneath the guise of democracy.

The Prophet Rael made the following comment this week: The criminal catholic church leader dares to compare the tentative of genocide against a minority carefully premeditated by the nazis with the individual choice of women of all races who just use their individual freedom to decide when or if they want or not to have a child. In other words he says that every woman deciding to have abortion is like a little Hitler. How can catholic women stay catholic and not apostasy (debaptize themselves) from the catholic church after such a statement?

### **Our support to Natalie Portman**



Last Tuesday, while recording a scene of Amos Gitai's new movie "Zone Franche" in Jerusalem, Natalie Portman attracted more than the attention of orthodox Jews. They became quite angry as the scene included passionate kisses in a car.... not far from the Western Wall!!! The actress and the director were kicked out of the area.

The Prophet Rael declared today: There is no homage more beautiful to our beloved creators the Elohim than love and pleasure as they created us for that!

## **Sex toys banned in Alabama, guns okay**

A decision issued on Wednesday by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals says Alabama doesn't have to lift its silly, arcane 1998 law banning the sale of sex toys as there is no such thing in the Constitution *as a right to sexual privacy*. So under this law one could stroll down Alabama streets selling semiautomatic rifles and dildos, and be arrested for the dildos.

Obviously the state's pro-gun lobby is much more powerful than its pro-vibrator lobby. We strongly support the calls for massive civil disobedience ;-)

On a more positive note, the city of Tilburg in Netherland, near the Belgium border, installed its first vibrator automatic dispenser. At any time of the day now, you may buy sexual toys there and sexy lingerie.... Tilburg could become a new popular destination for Alabama residents... will vibrators pass the security check on the way back? J

**Our support to Christine Wheatley**, a trainee barrister, who lost her position in a shortlist to be a New Labour candidate in Birmingham, UK, when the party officials discovered she had been a prostitute in Paris for a few months when she was young.

She said she was no more ashamed of selling encyclopaedias in Germany than her own favours on the Boulevard St Michel.

The Prophet Rael declared today: This is a perfect example of prejudices against sex workers. Of course it is so disturbing for conservatives religious people who absolutely want to show that sex workers are always exploited women without brains....but somebody who is highly educated and wants to become a politician that's too much for them as it destroys their argumentation and stereotype !

All Raelians should send her their support!

We also recommend that you read the article about Prostitution in the teaching section of [Raelianews.org](http://Raelianews.org) and in a previous contact

## **LEGAL SUCCESSES**

### **The apologies of Mague Magazine**

We received today a letter of apology from Frédéric Vignale of Mague Magazine, published in its entirety below. The articles published in this magazine about us were particularly "disgusting..." so we won't reproduce them here, but whether these apologies are sincere or not, they at least have the virtue of existing. Our philosophy, as taught by our creators in the messages that they transmitted to Rael, is very clear in cases of this kind. To be forgiven for a mistake, apologies are a first step, but it is also necessary to repair and especially compensate the wrong that has been committed.

Our Beloved Prophet declared today: "If he commits to create a column in which he fights against intolerance, discrimination, and hatred towards religious minorities in France - called sects in contradiction with the recommendations of the UN - denouncing the losses of jobs of their members, the losses of custody of children, the losses of contracts etc... I will withdraw the suit. If his will to repair and to defend minorities is sincere he deserves to be listened to. I will let the legal Responsible in France decide."

Here is the letter :

This message is addressed to Raël. I have been warned this day by the Judicial Police of the regulatory commission of a complaint made by Raël regarding an article published in my newspaper THE MAGUE, January 7, 2004, "Raël or the Unsuccessful Artist." This article is no longer on line since some time ago.

I am anxious to let know you that I recognize the insulting character of this article and that I regret having published such a thing.

I promise to no longer attack Rael or his interests publicly and I regret the turn that the event took.

I would like to find an amicable arrangement with you. My newspaper changed tone some months ago and from now on I will no longer use this kind of process against the Raëlian Movement nor other topics that attack peoples' integrity.

I apologize to Raël.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Cordially,

Frédéric Vignale

## **Good News for Clémence Linard**

By judgment of the administrative court of Melun on 15/02/2005, the decision of the case of the Schools of Vincennes pronouncing the layoff of Clemence L. "for disciplinary reasons" has been reversed. The court recognizes discrimination.

Recall of the facts: following the broadcast of (the French TV show) "Special Report" in which she appeared, Clemence received her employer's letter (the case of the schools of Vincennes) stating that she could not occupy the function of coordinator anymore. They clearly referred to the parliamentary report and to her paragraphs on the movement. The town proposed a change in administrative services, which Clemence refused, as this change was similar to a demotion.

The judgment states: "The vice-chairwoman responsible for withdrawing Ms. Linard's contractual assignments, even just as a transitory solution, disregarded the freedom of opinion granted to the public agents and proceeded to commit discrimination against religious or philosophical opinions contrary to the principles affirmed in the declarations of the French, European and universal human rights..."

The layoff is therefore canceled... The fine is 1000 euros.

This decision is especially important in that a penal complaint is also in progress for discrimination.

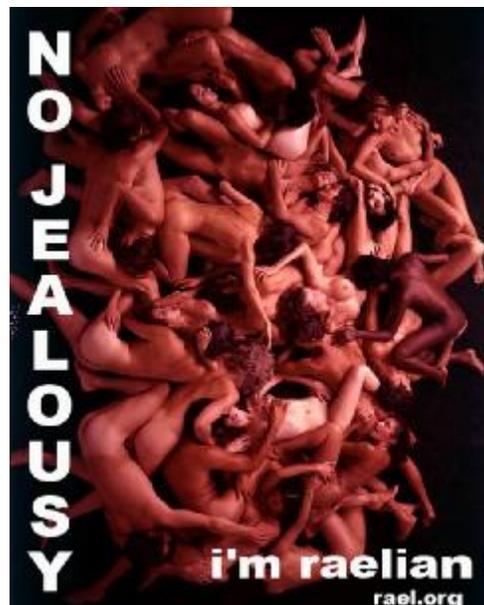
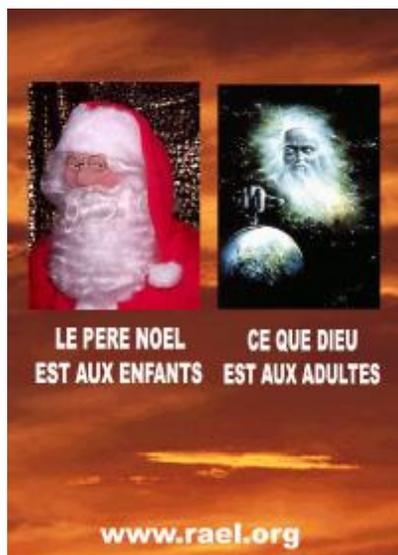
## SELECTION D’AFFICHES

During the winter festivals in Les Embiez, France, The European raelians had a lot of fun designing the posters they will use this coming Spring.



Here is our selection... Our Beloved Prophet especially liked the "Love the Differences" one.

Enjoy....



## FESTIVAL RAELIANO- MEXICO 59

Norma et Esteban are making the final preparation for their festival in Mexico on " La Isla de la Piedra" from March 19 to March 27....

They will not be able to translate for non spanish speaking participants this year..... this is why the advertisement below is only in Spanish...J

Hola a todos los Raelianos y Amigos de Habla Hispana:

Deseo ofrecerles la maravillosa oportunidad de asistir al Festival Raeliano de Mexico.

Vengan a tener una experiencia única y super divertida..!! ¡ 8 días de placer, amor, fraternidad, armonía, auto-descubrimiento, sorpresas, arte y mucho mas!!..

¡Descubran las maravillosas enseñanzas del Profeta Raël!. Aprendamos a despertar nuestro potencial, nuestras mentes y a llevar vidas llenas de felicidad y armonía!!

Cada año vemos a más y más gente participar de los Festivales Raelianos.. Todos, vengan a aprender el arte de SER, y a re-descubrir al niño dentro de nosotros mismos!

El Festival se llevara a cabo en las hermosas playas de Mazatlán, Sinaloa - México en "La Isla de la Piedra" DEL 19 AL 27 DE MARZO

Para mayor información, favor de enviar un mail a: [latinoamerica@rael.org](mailto:latinoamerica@rael.org)

ESPERO VERLOS POR AHI..

Reciban un gran beso,

Norma

## ARTICLES of the WEEK

### **An article for demythification....**

#### **"Sir Alexander Fleming Twice Saved Churchill's Life"**

The Churchill-Fleming Non-Connection: The story that Sir Alexander Fleming or his father (the renditions vary) saved Churchill's life has been roaring around the Internet lately. We must have had fifty emails about it. Charming as it is, it is certainly fiction. The story apparently originated in Worship Programs for Juniors, by Alice A. Bays and Elizabeth Jones Oakbery, published ca. 1950 by an American religious house, in a chapter entitled "The Power of Kindness."

According to Bays/Oakbery, Churchill is saved from drowning in a Scottish lake by a farm boy named Alex. A few years later Churchill telephones Alex to say that his parents, in gratitude, will sponsor Alex's otherwise unaffordable medical school education. Alex graduates with honours and in 1928 discovers that certain bacteria cannot grow in certain vegetable molds. In 1943 when Churchill becomes ill in the Near East, Alex's invention,

penicillin, is flown out to effect his cure. Thus once again Alexander Fleming saves the life of Winston Churchill.

Dr. John Mather writes: "A fundamental problem with the story is that Churchill was treated for this very serious strain of pneumonia not with penicillin but with 'M&B,' a short name for sulfadiazine produced by May and Baker Pharmaceuticals. Since he was so ill, it was probably a bacterial rather than a viral infection as the M&B was successful.

"Kay Halle, in her charming book *Irrepressible Churchill* (Cleveland: World 1966) comments (p. 196) that Churchill 'delighted in referring to his doctors, Lord Moran and Dr. Bedford, as M&B.' Then, when Churchill found that the most agreeable way of taking the drug was with whisky or brandy, he commented to his nurse: 'Dear nurse, pray remember that man cannot live by M and B alone.' But there is no evidence in the record that he received penicillin for any of his wartime pneumonias. He did have infections in later life, and I suspect he was given penicillin or some other antibiotic that would have by then become available, such as ampicillin. Also, Churchill did consult with Sir Alexander Fleming on 27 June 1946 about a staphylococcal infection which had apparently resisted penicillin. See *Churchill: Taken from the Diaries of Lord Moran* (Boston: Houghton Muffin 1966), p. 335."

Official biographer Sir Martin Gilbert adds that the ages of Churchill and Fleming (or Fleming's father) do not support the various accounts circulated; Alexander Fleming was seven years younger than Churchill. If he was plowing a field at say age 13, Churchill would have been 20. There is no record of Churchill nearly drowning in Scotland at that or any other age; or of Lord Randolph paying for Alexander Fleming's education. Sir Martin also notes that Lord Moran's diaries, while mentioning "M&B," say nothing about penicillin, or the need to fly it out to Churchill in the Near East.

## Belgium confronts its heart of darkness

King Leopold was hailed as a hero for 'civilising' the Congo. Now a remarkable exhibition in Brussels tells the forgotten history of a brutal exploitation that killed millions and shamed a nation

By Michela Wrong ( [Independent.co.uk](http://Independent.co.uk) )

23 February 2005

In the sprawling palace of Tervuren, in a leafy suburb of Brussels, Leopold, King of the Belgians has finally been dethroned. A daunting statue of the hook-nosed monarch has been heaved from centre stage in the royal museum that was his brainchild and built with the proceeds of his African adventure.

The avatar of the former national hero now skulks in a distant corner; in his place are a series of antique black and white photographs of mutilated bodies in turn-of-the-previous-century Congo. One of the stark and disturbing images shows a father from the Nsala tribe contemplating the chopped-off hand and foot of his daughter in front of him. The sepia-tinted horror show is part of "Memory of Congo, The Colonial Era" a remarkable exhibition that has set off a critical re-examination of Belgium's grisly record in its only colonial possession.

As the decades roll by and the surviving archives are dusted off and opened up, the European powers that colonized Africa in the 19th century's undignified scramble for land are becoming accustomed to an unpleasant, prickly emotion: shame. Whatever our own Gordon Brown may have said during his recent trip to the continent, the time for

apologising for colonialism's errors is by no means past. On the contrary, humble pie is more firmly on the menu now.

From the horrific tactics used by the British to put down Mau Mau in Kenya in the 1950s to the racist laws the Italians applied with such gusto in the Horn of Africa in the 1930s, more damning evidence is surfacing of systematic white misbehaviour in former Western colonies. But no colonial master has more to apologise for, or has proved more reluctant to acknowledge and accept its guilt, than Belgium.

On the roll-call of Africa's colonial and post-independence abusers, it undoubtedly holds unenviable pride of place. And the fractured, despairing state of the Democratic Republic of Congo today, a ragged hole at the heart of Africa, plagued by civil war, destitution and disease, can be traced back to that uniquely damaging misadministration. Little wonder, then, that when Congo's present leadership recently took the quixotic step of placing King Leopold's statue back on its plinth on the capital Kinshasa's main thoroughfare, it stayed up for less than a day before the authorities thought better of it. If modern-day Belgians have conveniently forgotten the past, the Congolese, who toppled all Belgian statues in the 1970s on a nod from dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, certainly have not.

The extraordinary brutality of the Belgian era owed a lot to the colony's unique status. Most other African colonies were appropriated by governments, regarded as national responsibilities. This vast land mass in central Africa, 80 times the size of Belgium itself, became the personal possession of King Leopold II in 1885. With personal ownership comes a sense of total impunity.

While waiting to inherit the throne of tiny Belgium, Leopold had taken note of how Britain, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands had built their national wealth on foreign territories. He became obsessed with finding his own, an acquisition that would, he believed, turn "a small country with small horizons" into a world power commanding respect. "No country has had a great history without colonies," he wrote. "A complete country cannot exist without overseas possessions."

He looked for openings in Fiji, Sarawak and the Philippines, before a golden opportunity presented itself in the form of the American explorer, Henry Stanley, who in 1877 had braved malaria, typhoid, whirlpools and cannibals to trace the course of the river snaking around the Congo basin.

Leopold recruited Stanley, known as "Breaker of Rocks", as his agent and soon the explorer was establishing trading stations along the river, signing treaties with chiefs who little understood they were giving away their rights, land, and natural resources.

The King was extraordinarily successful in keeping the details of his pet project a secret, bribing foreign journalists and politicians to write glowing accounts and systematically destroying sensitive paperwork. In many ways, that culture of obsessive secrecy has reached out from the past to suck in the modern era, making a form of national whitewash possible.

Leopold famously said when he was forced to hand over the Congo Free State to the Belgian nation: "I will give them my Congo but they have no right to know what I have done there," and proceeded to burn archives.

Congo's appropriation was presented to the world as a philanthropic act, a distorted version of the facts which the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren has faithfully disseminated well into the 21st century, despite a torrent of increasingly sarcastic remarks by modern historians.

In theory, Leopold was simultaneously wiping out the area's vibrant slave trade and spreading Christian civilisation. In fact, the monarch many Belgians still regard as a national hero had his eyes firmly fixed on Congo's ivory, timber, gum and copal. As the motorcar became popular in the civilised world, Leopold's attention turned to rubber, which grows wild in the Congo and was needed to feed the world's growing tyre industry. The entire colony became a vast rubber-tapping enterprise, with villagers set crippling high production quotas by their Belgian superiors.

If they failed to meet the targets, the Force Publique - essentially a mercenary army recruited in West Africa - would be sent in to slaughter the men, burn huts and rape women. These soldiers cut off the hands of their victims, whether dead or alive, as proof for their Belgian masters that their bullets had not gone to waste. If, today, we associate amputated hands as atrocities peculiar to Sierra Leone and Mozambique's rebel movements, it was a white-led force that introduced the practice to the Congo.

One Congolese historian, Professor Ndaywel e Nziem, has estimated the death toll during that era at a staggering 13 million. While that figure seems impossibly high, there is little doubt that vast areas of Congo were left depopulated. The proceeds of Leopold's looting funded many of the grandiose monuments that grace Belgium today: the Royal Palace at Laeken, Brussels' Cinquantenaire arch, Ostend's seaside arcade and golf course were all paid for with Congolese blood and sweat.

The brutality of the Leopold era, which prompted Joseph Conrad to write *Heart of Darkness*, was eventually exposed thanks to the efforts of British journalist Edmund Morel and the homosexual diplomat Roger Casement, who got the information they needed to create a scandal from missionaries working in the Congo.

In 1908, faced with growing controversy over the brutalities, the ageing Leopold was forced to reluctantly hand his prized possession - a territory he had never bothered to personally set foot in - over to the Belgian government. But Belgium's exploitation did not end with Leopold's rule, it merely entered a new chapter. The energetic extraction of copper and cobalt in the southern Katanga province replaced the ruthless extraction of rubber as Congo's main *raison d'être*.

Belgian officials were known for their enthusiastic use of the *chicotte*, a murderous whip made of plaited hippopotamus hide, and although the Belgian government undoubtedly invested in Congo's infrastructure, it also kept the country in a deliberately infantilised state. The primitive Congolese needed to "evolve" before they could be trusted with their own destiny, white officials believed.

When Brussels, taken by surprise by the nationalist fervour sweeping Africa, reluctantly granted independence in 1960, the country had only 17 university graduates and was clearly unprepared for self-rule.

Some of Leopold's regal arrogance undoubtedly communicated itself to his successors in the Belgian government, who did not see why Congolese independence should mean the loss of precious mineral resources. In a brazen bid to perpetuate colonial rule by other means, Belgium encouraged Katangese leader Moïse Tshombe to secede, pulling the carpet from under the feet of Patrice Lumumba, Congo's first elected prime minister.

The behind-the-scenes role subsequently played by Belgian officials in Tshombe's torture and assassination of the charismatic Lumumba was exposed to withering public light in 2001 by Ludo de Witte, author of *The Assassination of Lumumba*.

Lumumba, still seen by many Congolese as the great nationalist leader they never had, was beaten relentlessly, shot along with two aides and his body then dissolved in acid, to ensure it was never found.

After publication of de Witte's book's and an official inquiry, a Belgian parliamentary commission concluded that the country bore "moral responsibility" for Lumumba's killing. Belgium's Foreign Minister formally apologised to the Congolese people and Lumumba's family for his country's "apathy" and "indifference".

For many Congolese, who see their own history as one long series of cynical manipulations by outside powers with designs on their nation's extraordinary natural resources, that apology marked something of a symbolic turning point. But there are still plenty of retired Belgian administrators and right-wing historians working and writing in Belgium today who believe their country did a fine job in Congo and deserves to be congratulated rather than vilified.

The fact that the most popular recent book written on King Leopold's depredations, Adam Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost*, was the work of an American outsider rather than a Belgian speaks volumes about the deliberate amnesia Belgium developed on the actions of its beloved king.

Marc Reynebeau, who has written a political history of Belgium, is among those to highlight the national importance of the horrors on show at the controversial royal museum. "Belgian colonisation of Congo is seen as horror and violence," the author said. "The pictures of children with chopped-off hands are the ultimate symbols. It took Belgium a century to recognise that past. The exhibit 'Memory of Congo' is the first impetus for change, the first time Tervuren recognises the horror. But the real work has yet to start."

Although the museum in Tervuren may be belatedly changing, it seems likely to be a long time yet before Belgians look at statues of Leopold II - instantly recognisable with his indomitable hooked nose and spade-shaped beard - with anything other than respect.

*Michela Wrong is the author of 'In the Footsteps of Mr Kurtz: Living on the Brink of Disaster in the Congo', published by Fourth Estate. Her second book, 'I didn't do it for you: How the world betrayed a small African nation' has just been published*

|