

Duquesne University

Duquesne Scholarship Collection

Hallowed Secularism

The Collective Works of Bruce Ledewitz, Adrian
Van Kaam C.S.Sp. Endowed Chair in Scholarly
Excellence and Professor of Law

5-13-2008

May 13, 2008: The Future of Secularism

Bruce Ledewitz

Duquesne University, ledewitz@duq.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/ledewitz-hallowedsecularism>



Part of the [Constitutional Law Commons](#), and the [Law and Philosophy Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Ledewitz, B. (2008). May 13, 2008: The Future of Secularism. Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/ledewitz-hallowedsecularism/130>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The Collective Works of Bruce Ledewitz, Adrian Van Kaam C.S.Sp. Endowed Chair in Scholarly Excellence and Professor of Law at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hallowed Secularism by an authorized administrator of Duquesne Scholarship Collection. For more information, please contact beharyr@duq.edu.

Title: The Future of Secularism

Date: 2008-05-13T06:27:00.002-04:00

5/13/2008--I saw the future of secularism without religious influence last night and it was not pretty. My local community group, in a community 56% African-American, selecting half of its board, elected seven whites in a takeover by the more affluent portion of the neighborhood. The history of this action began when the existing Board did not, in the opinion of many of my white neighbors, oppose sufficiently the efforts of the Salvation Army to expand its services a few blocks away. The fear of the homeless originally motivated this effort. It's not that the people involved are evil or that the prior group running the organization had done such a good job in the past. It's that, when I looked around the hall last night, I noted the complete absence of the Church. This important institution in the black community was not there. Nor were the progressive voices of the religious left. In the absence of this restraint and source of hope, what are people left with? Fear of the other. Self-interest. Greed. Materialism. So, this new slate did not even feel it symbolically necessary to include more than one woman or any blacks. At least it did include gays. Where there is no vision, the people perish. It's hard to have vision in a secular world.