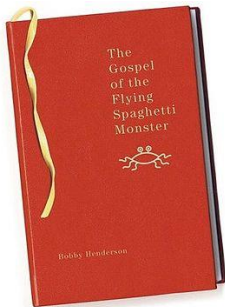


Pastafarianism [and the Flying Spaghetti Monster]

The **Flying Spaghetti Monster** (FSM) is the deity of the religion of the **Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster** [which is also known as **Pastafarianism**]. The "Flying Spaghetti Monster" first appeared 2005, after an academic [named Bobby Henderson from Kansas, USA] protested about the decision by the Kansas State Board of Education to permit the teaching of **intelligent design** as an alternative to **evolution** in public school science classes. Henderson parodied the concept of intelligent design by claiming belief in a supernatural creator that closely resembles **spaghetti and meatballs**. Henderson further called for **Flying Spaghetti Monsterism** to be allotted equal time in science classrooms alongside intelligent design and evolution.



After Henderson published his views on his website, it rapidly became an internet phenomenon and a symbol for the case against teaching intelligent design in public schools. **Pastafarian** "beliefs" are generally satires of creationism. They are presented both on Henderson's **Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster** website, where he is described as "prophet", and in *The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster*, written by Henderson and published by Villiard Press in 2006. The central belief is that an invisible and undetectable Flying Spaghetti Monster created the universe.

More recently, a man in Austria has been given permission to wear a colander on his head in his driving licence photo, after claiming it was a religious headdress. Niko Alm convinced authorities that he is a Pastafarian and that the "hat" is a vital part of his beliefs. Alm, from Vienna, Austria, was reportedly furious that Muslim women were allowed to wear headscarves but that he could not wear a hat. But he then hit on the idea when he discovered head gear was allowed in official pictures for religious reasons.



After finally collecting his driving licence with the new photo, Alm quipped: The authorities tried too often to stop me from following my religious beliefs. But now my religious headdress has been officially recognised by the Republic of Austria."

Entrepreneur Alm belongs to **the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster** — a parody on organised religion. Followers call themselves Pastafarians and their "only dogma is the rejection of dogma". Alm's next move is to get the religion officially recognised.

