



$$E = mc^2$$

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Oklahoma & North Texas

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His eyes were locked on my front bumper, his feet rooted to the asphalt. To my right, a wall of trees. To my left, an oncoming car. Slam on the brakes? Too late. Bump-bump, thump-thump went his little body under my Maxima.

In a moment his life flashed before my eyes: how he frolicked all over the neighborhood with his little friends, how he helped my daughters with their bird feeder, how he tormented the neighbor's cat, and how he loved climbing trees. I felt so sad, remorse even, that I had taken his life.

For all the guilt I felt, I still did not stop. I didn't call 911. There would be no funeral and no proper burial. In fact, my feelings subsided rather quickly after I prayed to God: "I'm sorry he lost his life this way, but thank you, God, for the gift of squirrels, for the fun and frivolity they bring to our lives. Thank you for your beautiful creation."

Albert Einstein is most prominently remembered for his work on the equation $E=mc^2$, but the average person does not know what the equation means. Let me enlighten you. Equality is for mankind, but not for chipmunks, too.

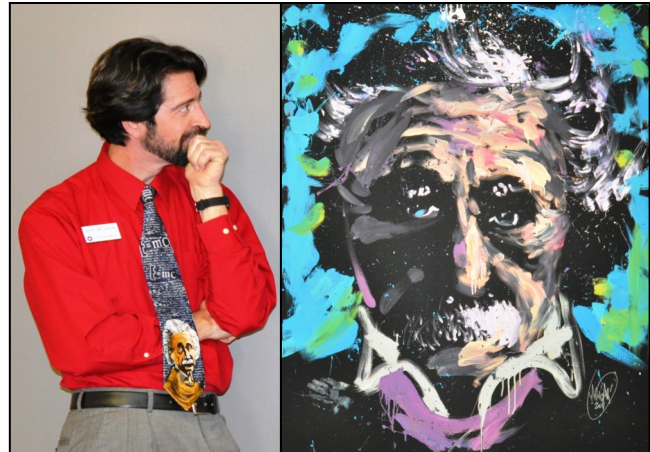
Once this "equation" is accepted, interesting corollaries present themselves. For example, if our human nature is the thing that we have equally that demands *we* be treated equally, then shouldn't unborn humans have the same right to life, since they are also human? Isn't abortion a human rights violation?



When I make the case for equal rights for *all* humans to students at the University of Georgia (UGA) and at other campuses, I sometimes highlight the moral difference between squirrel squishing and aggressing against *people*. After all, people are valuable not simply because they are alive, but because of what they are: human beings made in the image of God.

I hope you enjoyed this playful introduction to JFA's material on equal rights. See www.jfaweb.org/Equal-Rights for a careful exposition of the material along with source citations.

-John Michener



This portrait of Albert Einstein hangs in the Tate Student Center at UGA, just outside the conference room where we held a seminar for the Students for Life club.

Biblical Basis for Equal Rights and Human Value

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (Genesis 1:27-28)



From the Assembly Line to the Marketplace of Ideas

The outreach signs that Penelope and Nadia made last summer have made it to campuses around the region throughout last fall and this spring.

Making the Case for Equal Rights

We teach volunteers in the JFA training program to formulate Einstein's equation for equal rights like this:

1. Do we deserve equal treatment?
2. Doesn't that mean there is something the same about us?
3. What is the same about us?

These opening questions give volunteers an opportunity to talk about abortion and to share their faith.



Springing into Action

Students from the Salt and Light Leadership program at Christian Heritage Academy (CHA) joined us for a spring break mission trip in March. Left, Keawe, a junior at CHA, makes the case for equal rights and human value during an outreach at the University of North Texas.

Note: Did you notice the big typo in this letter? If so, point it out, and coffee will be on me next time we get together.

