

**Peoria Times-Observer  
DeBlog with Dewayne Bartels**

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Peoria, Ill. –

Recently the editor of one our other newspapers got in contact with the leader of a brand-new effort to free Matt Hale.

Hale was leader of The Creativity Movement — formerly known as the World Church of the Creator.

He led the group from his East Peoria home.

In Nov. 2002, Hale lost a trademark infringement lawsuit that eventually led to his downfall. He went to court and things did not go so well for him there and he was accused of threatening the judge.

In April 2004, Hale was convicted of one count of solicitation of murder and three counts of obstruction of justice.

Hale was well-spoken and charismatic, unlike so many of those who would hope to carry his torch.

That can be seen clearly in the responses to the questions my co-worker posed. I will interpret the answers provided. You will find my interpretation following the answers.

Q: What is your name?

A: For my own safety and the safety of my associates, I must remain anonymous.

Interpretation: “I, and the rest of us, fall into the category of wuss.”

Q: What town do you live in?

A: Somerville, Massachusetts

Q: Are you part of the Creativity Movement? If so, how long have you been a member?

A: No, I am not a member of the Creativity Movement.

Interpretation: My mom says I can’t join anything until I finish cleaning up the basement.

Q: Do you know Matt Hale personally? If so, how? How long?

A: No, I have never met Matthew F. Hale. However, I greatly admire him and the church’s founder, Ben Klassen.

Interpretation: “I have no life.”

Q: Have you been in contact with him since he has been incarcerated? If so, what have you talked about?

A: No, I have not been in contact with him. Only Hale's parents are allowed to visit him and write him. Also, Hale is allowed only one 15 minute long telephone call a month.

Interpretation: "I have a photo of Matt under my pillow. It is stained with my tears of longing to be in his presence."

Q: Is Matt aware of the Free Matt Now group? What does he say about it?

A: More than likely, no. Hale is in solitary confinement.

Q: Who thought of the Free Matt Now effort?

A: I came up with the idea of this particular campaign. However, people have been campaigning for Hale's release since 2003.

Q: When did this effort start?

A: July of 2008.

Q: What does the group intend to do to free him?

A: The goal of this campaign is to raise public awareness in regards to Matthew F. Hale's current situation and to petition the federal government of the United States of America for his immediate release.

Interpretation: We want to free Matt, but we have to get over this thing of being too scared to attach our names to what we believe in?

Q: How many are part of this effort? Who are they?

A: We are a growing campaign. Most of our supporters are in the United States of America, but we also have supporters in Greece and New Zealand. As far as their affiliations go, I am not at liberty to disclose such information.

Interpretation: "We are four guys who live in our mother's basements and outgrew going to Star Trek conventions. But, we bad."

Q: Why do you think it's important to free Matt?

A: In the United States of America, our right to freedom of speech is under attack. Matthew F. Hale is currently sitting in a prison cell for simply speaking his mind.

Interpretation: "It's a conspiracy, I tell you, a conspiracy to silence one of the greatest minds of our time. I haven't met Matt. I don't know Matt. But, I think he's so cool."

Source: <http://www.peoriatimesobserver.com/opinions/columnists/x1768856048/Oh-Matt-Hale-we-miss-thee>