

John Cole

The man charged with administering National Parks and enforcing many parts of the Endangered Species Act adds, "Nobody's told me the difference between a red squirrel, a black one or a brown one." While seeming to reject evolution, Lujan expressed a naive faith in adaptation when he observed, "All species adjust to change. I can't give you any specific examples, but I'm sure that biologists could give you examples of fish that all of a sudden here comes saltwater intrusion and slowly they adapt to a saltwater environment."

A Long, Hot Summer at NCSE

Creationist Cases Blooming

Eugenie C. Scott

“Scientific” creationist attacks on public schools have suddenly taken a sharp surge upwards during the summer of 1992. Hot spots include the northwest and the middle west, with California of course not far behind. The NCSE office has had a long, hot summer. More details will be forthcoming in future issues of *Reports*, but for now, here is a “smorgasbord” of “current events:”

graders should take biology. Bad news: they decided the textbook in use, Holt, Rinehart and Winston's *Modern Biology*, was "too difficult." (Holt is considered a very middle-of-the-road textbook by most biology teachers.) Teachers recommended another Holt book, *Biology Today*, but that did not pass muster with the school board, either. Unanimously, the board rejected *Biology Today* because the it had the audacity to "treat evolution as a fact," which, incidentally, is called for in California's state curriculum.

Creationist Cases, *continued on p. 3*

HESPERIA, CA Good news: the Hesperia board of education decided that all tenth

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Antievolutionists continue to contradict optimists who would like to think that we're about to enter the 21st Century. Unscientific and antiscientific ideas abound in our society.

The coming Millennium has already inspired Millenarian thinking such as the writings of Hal Lindsay (*The Late Great Planet Earth*)—i.e., that the “End Times” are approaching with a “promise” of Armageddon (and that’s from the *optimists!*). The Lubbovitcher Rebbe recently declared that the Messiah is among us, so Jews, he says, should be ready to celebrate the end by 2000 (he hints that *he* may be the one).

We can expect a lot of craziness in the next few years because of the calendar. As an example of this, an environmental policymaker recently asked me for information about the projected effect of the millennium on the Earth’s magnetic field and climate. I was taken aback, at first, but I then tried to explain that “2000” was an arbitrary number—why not use the Jewish calendar, for example? 2000 is not even an accurate date if you accept it as meaning the number of years since the birth of Jesus—which scholars now treat as 4 to 7 years “B.C.” if they accept it at all! (And for that matter, 2001 C.E. begins the next millennium, not 2000.)

But this guy persisted—interested in my argument about the calendar, certainly, but still concerned. “Could you give me some references on that?” I was asked.

Examples like this show the need to keep trying, I think, rather than the futility of trying. (However, hair-pulling and discreet screaming may well be in order. . . .)

But on to some good news—The NCSE Computer Bulletin Board is in business, thanks to sysop Jim Kutz of Cleveland! For information about how to log on, see Jim’s article on page 8. It’s running courtesy of Cleveland Freenet and NCSE volunteers in Cleveland. It will allow computer connections all over the world.

In a few months, NCSE will publish a detailed index to the first ten years’ *Creation/Evolution* journal compiled by Ken Saladin. This will also be posted on the computer BBS for wider reference.

John Cole

Erratum, Mea Culpa, & Oy!

Christopher Toumey was accidentally omitted from the biblio of an article in Issue 30 of *C/E*, and the next journal issue will include a proper correction. An article of his was also omitted because of layout requirements and will appear in the next issue, so he is doubly aggrieved! I do apologize. The reference was to his excellent 1987 University of North Carolina Ph.D. dissertation, *The Social Context of Scientific Creationism*. Rutgers University Press will be publishing a book version in coming months, and NCSE will publish the details when it is in print.

Letters

Creationism is very much alive and well in South Africa, the hand of these fundamentalists being strengthened by the fact that there is little separation between church and state here. Not for nothing has the Dutch Reformed Church, the church to which most of the supporters of the ruling National Party belong, been called the National Party at prayer! And just as the church has in the past supplied the theological underpinning of apartheid, so the church has also been a vituperative opponent of evolution in particular and science in general. As I have been involved in a few writ-

ten debates with creationists, you will no doubt understand that *Creation/Evolution* has been of great value to me and that receiving this journal is of great importance.

L. W. Retief
Bellville, South Africa

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A couple of comments on issue 11(4):

The article on John Peloza states that "Interestingly, the creationist 'establishment' does not seem to have embraced Peloza." On more than one occasion I have heard Peloza as a guest on

The Bible Answer Man radio show, produced by the Creationist Research Institute (based in San Juan Capistrano, where Peloza teaches). Recently, readers were urged to write letters to the judge handling the appeal of the case and to make a showing in the court room. Although *The Bible Answer Man* usually deals with doctrinal matters and cults, evolution is a major topic of interest, and the CRI cooperates with the Institute for Creation Research. ICR staff occasionally appear on the program, while CRI president Hank Hanegraaff's [courtroom] testimony was

the subject of *ICR Impact* 205 (1990).

On p.20, there is a story on Marilyn vos Savant's reply to a letter critical of evolution from John Weldon of Chattanooga, TN. I suspect that this is the same John Weldon who is an associate of television evangelist John Ankenberg, whose show originates in Chattanooga. By the way, the new evolution series produced by *The John Ankenberg Show* (see *Reports* 10(6):18) still has not been broadcast [as of late April].

Thomas J. Wheeler
Louisville, KY

Creationist Cases *continued from p. 1*

"Most members of the Hesperia Unified School District Board of Trustees don't believe evolution correctly explains how there came to be a variety of species on earth. Instead, they contend that the Bible's account, known as creationism, is the true explanation," wrote the *Hesperia Daily Press* (6/10/92, B1; all quotes from this article.) "My concern is that if we approve this book—knowing the kind of community we live in—we are going to have problems," stated board president Jack Hamilton. His colleague, Lori Nielson, "said she could accept no book that mentions evolution. 'If parents want their children to know about this, *they should teach them at home*'" (my italics).

STANWOOD, WA In March 1992, 9th grade biology classes in Stanwood were treated to a guest lecturer: ICR spokesman Dr. Donald Chittick, speaking on "scientific" creationism. Parents found out about it when students reported hearing about "new science that isn't in our textbooks," including the existence of human and dinosaur footprints together, "and did you know, Mom, that scientists don't believe in evolution anymore?" Chittick also showed students a videotape about how science correlates directly with the Bible.

The biology teacher who arranged this has been teaching creationism for years, according to a newspaper article. Parents protested to the school board, which after a series of meetings, decided they would invite no more creationist speakers. A request for a policy statement on creationism is currently pending.

ASTORIA, OR An Astoria citizen, Mark Tanguay, challenged the middle school science textbook because it "didn't teach the creation theory alongside evolution theory when outlining the origins of humankind" (all quotes from *The Daily Astorian*, 5/29/92). 113 people signed a petition supporting his position. Due to a technicality, Tanguay's challenge to the textbook was rejected, but he returned within a month to request a curriculum change. "Tanguay said many people have called him to support his efforts. He said a representative of the California Institute for Creation Research has agreed to review his curriculum proposal when he finishes with it." NCSE member Jim Davis has kept up a lively debate in the local newspapers.

(NAME WITHHELD) MI In this small Michigan community near Flint, a biology teacher is facing pressure from a school board member because the advanced placement genetics book he has assigned his students this fall "teaches evolution as a fact." This newly-elected board member supports other religious right causes in addition to anti-evolutionism.

ANOKA-HENNEPIN CO., MN In the second-largest school district in Minnesota, creationists requested that the school board teach "scientific information that casts doubt on the theory (of evolution)" (*Star Tribune*, 6/12/92). " 'In the south-west corner of the state, they (science teachers) just don't want to talk about evolution,' Clark [Dick Clark, from MN Department of Education] said. '*They don't even mention evolution in*

Creationist Cases, continued on p. 5

Supreme Court Rules In Prayer Case

Eugenie C. Scott

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“... there
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~

A narrow 5-4 vote upheld one of the most basic Supreme Court precedents on church-state separation. The Rhode Island case, *Lee v Weisman*, concerned prayer at public school commencement ceremonies (see *Reports* 11(3):9). Despite civil libertarian fears and religious right hopes, given previous positions of several justices, the Court did not follow the advice of the Bush Justice Department. The administration argued that the Court should change the procedures by which it had since 1971 determined whether a law or regulation violated the “establishment clause” of the Constitution.

This 1971 *Lemon v Kurtzman* decision requires in part that the courts look at the purpose for which a law or practice is enacted: whether its purpose is to advance or inhibit religion rather than promote a thoroughly secular interest. Virtually every court case regarding the teaching of creationism has been decided in whole or in part on the “purpose prong” of *Lemon*. Legislatures and school boards have been guided by this case for two decades. Thus it was with a sense of relief at NCSE when in late June the Supreme Court upheld lower court decisions in *Lee v Weisman* that prayers at commencement ceremonies were unconstitutional—and that the *Lemon* decision remained intact.

Voting to uphold the *Lemon* precedent (as somewhat expected) were the liberal Justice Blackmun and centrist Stevens. Justice O'Connor had been considered “iffy” on the topic, but she joined them. Somewhat surprisingly, Justice Souter also joined the majority, and the majority opinion was written by the generally conservative Justice Kennedy. However, the decision was narrow and the dissent ferocious.

The Justice Department had requested that the Court use *Lee* to re-evaluate the “*Lemon* test,” especially

the “purpose prong,” and substitute a more relaxed test of whether individuals were being “coerced” into participating in religious expression. Said Solicitor General Kenneth W. Starr, “Civic acknowledgements of religion in public life do not offend the establishment clause, as long as they neither threaten the establishment of an official religion nor coerce participation in religious activities.”

To almost everyone’s surprise, Justice Kennedy brushed aside that request, writing, “We can decide the case without reconsidering the general constitutional framework by which public schools’ efforts to accommodate religion are measured.”

The Court has traditionally held that public schools are places where religious expression must be carefully controlled. “As we have observed before, there are heightened concerns with protecting freedom of conscience from subtle coercive pressure in the elementary and secondary public schools. . . .” In cases having to do with creationism, for instance, an individual teacher’s free speech rights must take second place *in the classroom* to the students’ rights not to be proselytized in school. Obviously, a teacher or anyone else may promote religious beliefs outside the classroom.

In response to the State’s contention that prayers at commencement were not coercive because attendance at graduation was voluntary, Kennedy wrote that prayers at commencement were inherently coercive, because “Everyone knows that in our society and in our culture high school graduation is one of life’s most significant occasions.”

The decision in *Lee* is a welcome one for those attempting to keep science classrooms free from sectarian religious influence. □

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Virtually every court case
regarding the teaching of
creationism has been decided in
whole or in part on the “purpose
prong” of *Lemon*.
~

Creationist Cases *continued from p. 3*

class because they know what's coming and they just don't want to deal with it'"(emphasis added).

The board passed a "compromise principle" saying that evolution should be taught as a theory, "not as an absolute scientific principle." Once again, evolution is being singled out for special treatment. As science is practiced today, *no* theory is an "absolute scientific principle." It would make just as much sense to say that "gravitation should be taught as a theory, not as an absolute scientific principle," but such a "compromise" would be considered scientifically unnecessary. It is also scientifically unnecessary for evolution to be so treated, but no religiously-based lobby is promoting anti-gravitation.

NCSE has for over a year been warning about new creationist euphemisms such as "intelligent design theory," "abrupt appearance theory," and the like. Anoka-Hennepin's controversy is a case in point: here we don't have creationism being requested, but "evidences (*sic*) against evolution." When such "evidences" are examined, surprise! They are identical to the arguments offered in "scientific" creationist literature: dust on the moon, the shrinking sun, etc. Calling innocently for "evidence against evolution" is merely "scientific" creationism in sheep's clothing.

KIRKWOOD, MO The science curriculum here was recently revised by about 20 teachers and administrators. Board member Randy Moore proposed that a section on evolution be amended with a statement distinguishing between "macroevolution" and "microevolution." In creationist-speak, these terms usually refer to descent with modification (macro), which they do not accept, and natural selection (micro), which they usually do.

Moore's statement admits, "There is general support for the concept of macroevolution within the scientific community," but he goes on to say, "However, there is evidence both for and against it, and it remains a subject of debate which should be examined. A dogmatic approach to macroevolution should be avoided."

Of course, there is no "debate" within the scientific community over whether evolution has taken place, though there is ample debate over how it took place, what evolved from what, and so on. The Kirkwood controversy offers a variant of the Anoka-Hennepin (and elsewhere) approach of not arguing for the teaching of "scientific" creationism *per se* but teaching the "evidence against evolution." More on Kirkwood later.

Whew! A long, hot summer, indeed. NCSE will keep you posted on these and other developments. □

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"If parents want their children to know about this, *they should teach them at home.*"
~

No Place Like Home. . . .

USA Weekend, a newspaper supplement modelled after *Parade*, reported in May 1992 on a 1988 Gallup Poll. Only 50% or fewer US adults could identify outline maps of Ohio, Missouri, New Jersey, Michigan or Massachusetts. A huge number could not locate the US on an unlabeled globe.

Last one out, please turn off the lights. . . .

Extra-Terrestrial Life (The Search)

NASA sponsors a project called SETI—Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.

A curriculum project has been developed for schools by an extensive team including Dr. David Milne, the longtime evolution advocate who has often published in *Creation/Evolution*. Interested readers should contact Dr. Milne c/o 2035 Landings Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043.

Maitland A. Edey dies at 82

Maitland Edey, coauthor with Donald Johanson of the 1981 bestseller, *Lucy: The Beginnings of Humankind*, died on May 9th, 1992. Edey joined *Life Magazine* in 1945 and edited Time-Life Books 1960-1972 where he was responsible for some of the innovative popularizations of evolution and nature topics in those book series. After retiring in 1972, he wrote six of his eleven books.

Lujan *continued from p. 1*

Syndicated columnist Anthony Lewis commented a week later that he was amazed at Lujan's comments and also amazed at the lack of press or public reaction to them. A decade ago, there was a fair amount of outrage when Interior Secretary James Watt and his associates made similar comments. □

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“Because
evolution
is a
controversial
theory, use
the word
‘adapt.’”
~

The Caleb Campaign for Creationism

One organization dedicated to spreading religion in the schools is the Caleb Campaign which Colorado director Bill Jack calls “a creationist youth ministry.” The Caleb Campaign distributes religious tracts and their newsletter, *Issues and Answers*, which features testimonials by athletes, a comic strip with a superman-like Christian high school hero and a heavy dose of creationism. Their tactics include training children as “youth pastors” who then distribute literature and otherwise proselytize their classmates.

In addition to schools, the Caleb Campaign targets museums which give informal tours led by docents. Young missionaries espouse creationist or Biblical interpretations of museum displays and literature, interrupting and embarrassing museum guides with creationist questions. There is nothing wrong with asking things like “How do you know it’s that old?” Unfortunately, however, many tour guides respond with frustration and anger when they either do not know the answers or when they find they are suddenly involved in a debate over creationism. Anyone who has ever seen a creationism debate can sympathize—few guides or teachers or professors are trained in debate. Amateur tour guides are often ill-trained in the subjects they describe, let alone in debate skills. (Excerpted from a report by Al Martin.) □

Sea World Chickens Of The Sea

Eugenie C. Scott

Member Brad Lepper sends an excerpt from a training manual for tour guides at Sea World in Orlando, FL, originally published in the *Orlando Sentinel* Sunday magazine. It presents a list of negative-sounding “buzzwords” and their alternates for tour guides to use when dealing with the public. “Sick” animals should be referred to as “ill,” “captured” animals as “acquired,” “sex” is “courtship behavior,” “captivity” becomes “controlled environment,” and so on.

At the bottom of the list is an important no-no: guides should not say “evolve,” “Because evolution is a controversial theory, use the word ‘adapt.’” Of course, *evolve* and *adapt* refer to completely different scientific concepts, but, hey, we wouldn’t want to upset the public, now, would we? In the words of Arnold Clark, “All education is an invasion of privacy. It forces people to look at the world around them and to search within themselves.” □

Creationism on Cable TV

John Cole

“Local Access Cable” is a wildcard in the American media, and “scientific” creationists use it.

Creationists are a staple of “Christian” cable TV and some local church broadcasts. But religious broadcasts have been reduced or eliminated in many television markets which used to offer them as public services or at extreme discounts.

Even big-time televangelists such as Jerry Falwell and Oral Roberts have reportedly seen their television empires shrink. Jimmy Swaggart and Jim and Tammy Bakker have hit *really* hard times. However, religious broadcasting is bigger than ever, and the majority of it is Christian literalist and/or fundamentalist; other faiths seem to be less willing or able to pay for television and radio exposure.

Local cable access provides virtually unedited time to anyone who shows up with a tape, and reports indicate that “scientific” creationists use it as much as they can. Combined with TV satellite technology, this new medium is able to reach a huge audience “off the record” to traditional TV monitors.

Monte Cole reports from Nebraska that “scientific” creationism is a steady, repeated topic on local access TV there. Ransie Traxler reports from Illinois that satellite broadcasts are similarly besieged by creationism—especially the argument that “scientific” creationism is being discriminated against in violation of free speech guarantees.

Maybe local access cable and obscure satellite channels are marginal, but creationists seem to be exploiting them relentlessly.

We’d like to hear reports about local programs, local audience estimates and news, etc.

Who watches? Who counts them? Who knows?

We don’t know the extent of these broadcasts—or narrow-casts. Could you let us know what your local area schedules? □

COMING UP . . . This Fall, NCSE will publish an index of the first ten years’ issues of *Creation/Evolution*, so stay tuned!

Evolutionary Anthropology, a New Journal

Reviewed by John Cole

Evolutionary Anthropology has published volume 1, number 1 this spring. The 8.5" x 11" magazine format on slick paper may look like just one more magazine, but the articles are reports on professional research by an interdisciplinary body of scholars trying to synthesize current information in a non-journalistic professional manner. Rather than report on their specific latest research detail, authors write review articles on topics of their specialty.

Articles in the first issue: Richard G. Klein, *The Archaeology of Modern Human Origins*; Henry McHenry, *How Big Were Early Hominids?*; Eric Alden Smith, *Human Behavioral Ecology*; Patricia C. Wright, *Primate Ecology, Rainforest Conservation, and Economic Development: Building a National Park in Madagascar*. There are also news, reviews, and meetings columns.

Articles are documented with copious references via footnotes but written to read smoothly at a level I would gauge as "professional but accessible to the educated layman." One target audience is pre-college teachers. The writing is clear and at least somewhat cleansed of insular jargon because of the interdisciplinary target audience. John G. Fleagle is Editor; Associate Editors are Jane Buikstra, Fred Grine, Kristen Hawkes, Sarah Hrdy, Kenneth Weiss and John Yellen—all well-known to archaeologists and physical anthropologists, as are the inaugural-issue authors.

38 pages include 2 advertising pages and both sides of both covers. Six issues per year are \$36 (\$54 foreign), \$30 student (\$48 outside the US), \$145 for institutions from Wiley-Liss, PO Box 2575, Secaucus, NJ 07096-2575, USA.

The publisher obviously hopes to fill a niche and make the magazine self-supporting and profitable. I recommend it highly, judging from the first issue, and wish them well. The steep library rate is unfortunate in this age of slashed library budgets, however. Such high institutional journal prices are a common way to subsidize cheaper individual rates and to make up for the fact that a library subscription will be read by many people who might otherwise

subscribe directly, but the budget crunch on libraries is making the tactic potentially counterproductive to wide dissemination of periodicals such as this to readers who really need them. As a consumer I certainly don't prefer paying higher individual rates, instead! □

Human Nature

Patrick McKim

California Polytechnical Institute
San Luis Obispo, CA

There seem to be two fallacious attitudes which are widely held, even among NCSE supporters, that need to be corrected. The first is that evolution is essentially about the past and has no particular relevance to issues of the present. The second error, related to the first, is the notion that while evolution is central to fields like geology, paleontology, and biology, it sheds little (if any) light on the psychology and behavior of modern humans. In the hope of correcting these mistakes, I would like to alert readers to a remarkable new journal, *Human Nature*, and an interdisciplinary society, the Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES).

Human Nature is edited by Jane Lancaster, a primatologist at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Journal articles reflect "an interdisciplinary biosocial perspective," which is to say they proceed from evolution-oriented research. Among the topics covered in early issues are infanticide and child abuse, anorexia, male aggression against women, AIDS, and the evolution of violence. Forthcoming issues will include articles on feminism and evolutionary biology, animal culture, female mate selection, and menstrual taboos.

The journal is published by Aldine de Gruyter, 200 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY 10532—\$60 for individuals, \$115 for institutions.

HBES includes members from anthropology, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, economics, biology, philosophy, law, and the arts. This year's convention is at the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque, 23-26 July.

For more information, write Margo Wilson or Martin Daly, Dept. of Psychology, McMaster University, Hamilton, ONT L8S 4L9 (Canada). □

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Forthcoming
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articles on
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and
evolutionary
biology,
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female mate
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and
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taboos.
~

NCSE Computer Bulletin-Board Instructions

Jim Kutz
(aa387@cleveland.freenet.edu)

The NCSE read-only computer bulletin-board on the Cleveland Free-net is up and running!

This bulletin-board contains a variety of articles and information supplied by NCSE, including the text of *NCSE Reports*. A detailed index for the first ten years' *Creation/Evolution* journal will be posted later this year. This information will be retained for reference on an ongoing basis.

No special knowledge is required to navigate the Free-net system, once you connect. The system is entirely menu driven and user friendly. The only navigational command you need to remember is 'go skeptic', which takes you to the menu containing the NCSE board. Once you are on-line, you will be able to sign up for a password which will allow you to send and receive e-mail both on The Cleveland Freenet and (SEE BELOW) over a number of other systems.

Please contact us by e-mail as soon as you are able. Our e-mail address on The Cleveland Freenet is **xx029**.

The NCSE Bulletin Board can be accessed in any of three ways.

Direct Dial Access

The Cleveland Free-net has forty dial-in modem lines, soon to be expanded to seventy-two lines. Anyone may dial in as a visitor at (216) 368-8888. Traffic tends to be heavy, so you may want to auto-redial until you get through.

Almost any modem will work. The modem settings required are the same as for most other large systems, namely eight data bits, no parity, and one stop bit. The system adjusts automatically to modem speeds from 300 baud to 2400 baud. Some of the lines can also connect at 9600 baud. If your terminal program has an option for 'auto detection' of baud rates, have it turned on so that you get the fastest connection possible.

Some of the Free-net modems also support automatic error correction and data compression (v32.bis). You don't need to worry about that, though, be-

cause Free-net automatically negotiates a connection.

Once you're connected, hit the RETURN key twice. You should then see a 'welcome' screen followed by a menu.

Telnet Access through Internet

If you have direct access to Internet through a university or other institutional computer system, you can 'telnet' directly to the Cleveland Free-net, thereby avoiding busy signals and long-distance charges. A few of the larger local BBS systems also offer telnet access to their subscribers. Contact your local system administrator to find out whether you can 'telnet', and if so, how to go about it from your location.

Here are the telnet addresses for Free-net:

freenet-in-a.CWRU.EDU
freenet-in-b.CWRU.EDU (best choice)
freenet-in-c.CWRU.EDU

Electronic Mail Access From Other Networks

If you can't reach Free-net directly, you may be able to get the information you want by electronic mail. Free-net has electronic mail connections with a number of other widely used networks via Internet, including CompuServe, America Online, Bitnet, Fidonet, RBBSnet, and a variety of other networks. If you're on a network that has a 'gateway' to Internet, you can reach us there. Contact your network administrator and ask how to get a message through to the following Internet address:

xx029@cleveland.freenet.edu

If you're on a network other than Internet, your system administrator may need to 'customize' that address to include the necessary routing information for the gateway nearest you. If you can't get through, send a U.S. mail letter to The NCSE Computer Bulletin Board c/o The South Shore Skeptics, P.O. Box 5083, Cleveland, OH 44101.

Written material for the BBS will, for legalish reasons, be posted directly by NCSE—we're reprinting things also published in hard copy, for now; send comments on diskette to the NCSE office or to the NCSE publications editor, who welcomes (and shamelessly begs for) letters and articles. □

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CompuServe,
Bitnet,
Fidonet,
RBBSnet,
etc.

Kudos for NCSE Supporters

In May 1992, Columbia University awarded an honorary doctorate to NCSE Supporter Johnnetta Cole, President of Spelman College in Atlanta. In a separate commencement ceremony, NCSE Supporters received two of the four Columbia Teachers College Medals for Distinguished Service to Education—Dr. Cole and Harvard professor Stephen Jay Gould. Supporter James D. Ebert received an honorary doctorate from Duke University. In June UCLA awarded Gould its highest honor, the UCLA Medal.

This list was compiled from reading one newspaper; there are probably other names we should list. Our congratulations to NCSE-ers for their recent honors (and apologies to those we have overlooked!). □

Another NCSE Member Receives MacArthur Fellowship

NCSE member Gunter Wagner, a professor of biology at Yale University, has been named one of 33 MacArthur Fellows for 1992. Wagner's research has been in developmental biology and population genetics.

MacArthur prizes, popularly known as "genius awards," amount to \$150,000 to \$375,000 over a five-year period for people selected as "exceptionally gifted individuals." They are nominated by a secret panel of 100 and awarded by a selection committee and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Board.

Dr. Wagner is the latest of a series of NCSE members to receive a MacArthur Fellowship, and we extend our congratulations. □

Two Videos from NCSE

Two NCSE videos for classroom use are being distributed by the University of California Extension Media Center: *How Scientists Know about Human Evolution* and *How Scientists Know about Punctuated Equilibria*.

Of the first video, University of Colorado Professor of Anthropology Darna Dufour writes, "This is how we should be teaching science. The crucial theme of 'How We Know' is consistently developed in the video. It is an excellent survey of human evolution for all students in introductory anthropology or biology."

Reviewer Marcia Clarke, a science teacher at Mercy High School, San Francisco, writes, "This is excellent. It's simple, clear, direct, and very useful. It stresses concepts and processes rather than quantification, so it really holds students' interest. It lays a broad foundation that enables a junior or senior high school teacher to go off in many directions with it."

The video takes the viewer step by step through the reasoning and decision-making processes used to determine a fossil's place in the evolutionary record. It shows the various scientific disciplines brought to bear on data and demonstrates clearly that fossils are not assigned to categories in the haphazard or intuitive way critics often claim.

The "punk ek" video shows Stephen Jay Gould explaining how fossil data led them to develop their ideas challenging orthodox gradualistic evolution. They explain their ideas clearly and show how their view grew out of Darwinian theory and is in no way "anti-evolutionary," as creationists frequently claim.

Reviewer Jere H. Lipps, Director of the University of California-Berkeley Museum of Paleontology, praised the tape. "A crisp, enlightening explanation of how science works. High school and college biology students will be excited to see how two eminent scientists looked at the fossil record and developed an alternative way to account for it."

Both videos are being sold and rented by UC Berkeley Extension Media Center, 2176 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704 (510-642-0460). Rentals are \$40 per title; sales are \$175 each. The "Human Evolution" catalogue number is #38102; "Punctuated Equilibria" is #38110.

Most schools in the country have access to UC audiovisual catalogues. Interested readers might want to mention these tapes to local teachers. □

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"... an excellent survey of human evolution for all students in introductory anthropology or biology."
~

Back To Genesis in West Virginia

Karl D. Fezer
Professor of Biology
Concord College, Athens, WV

The ministry of the Institute for Creation Research reaches more people now that it runs "Back to Genesis Seminars." These typically two-day sessions sometimes attract thousands of people to weekend meetings—the high-tech descendant of revival meetings. They are held all over the country.

I attended one held October 25–26, 1991.

I first saw the event promoted the previous May at a weekend seminar featuring *Genesis Flood* co-author John C. Whitcomb in a church 90 miles from Charleston. Later, glossy fliers reached me from various sources. Several weeks before the event, a Concord College student invited me to another local church to see a creation/evolution film. This film, with the service built around it, served the dual purpose of generating interest in the forthcoming Charleston event and edifying those who couldn't make it to Charleston. Perhaps 200 people attended this local service.

The film shown, *The Genesis Solution*, was mostly a Ken Ham sermon, augmented by diagrams and cartoons. Ham has become the ICR's most ardent evangelist. His message: Evolution is the *foundation* of all challenges to God's word, and those who know God's word should not tolerate alternatives.

Later, at the end of the Charleston program, we were told that this film had 106 similar showings in West Virginia.



OH, OGH! NOT SCIENCE FICTION AGAIN?

The Charleston seminar was preceded by a "school assembly" Friday morning for grades K–6. According to a page-one story in *The Charleston Gazette*, 2500 children in the Municipal Auditorium heard Ken Ham ask, "Did dinosaurs get on Noah's Ark?" and "Was the earth formed millions of years ago?"—with the children shouting back "Yes!" and "No!" respectively. ICR staffers said about 80% of the children were home-schooled or from Christian private schools in West Virginia. According to the *Gazette*, "some parents took their children from public schools to attend the 90 minute seminar. A few public school teachers may have taken their entire classes, but neither county nor ICR spokesmen were sure."

The Seminar itself, also held in the Charleston Municipal Auditorium, began Friday evening and continued through Saturday evening. It consisted of nine 45–60 minute lectures—three each by Ken Ham, John Morris, and Duane Gish—plus three films. Ham lectured on "Genesis 1–11: An Overview," "Genesis and the Decay of the Nations," and "Genesis Evangelism." The three speakers scheduled 8 additional sermons or talks Sunday.

Ten days before the event, the *Gazette* published a critique by me in which I gave specifics about a number of instances of dishonesty and nonsense perpetrated by ICR. Apparently it made an impression, because each of the three speakers referred to it at least twice. John Morris told the crowd that Fezer attends creationist meetings and disrupts them. Since the latter claim is false, I spoke to him privately and asked him to retract his statement, which he did in his next lecture.

All speakers kept promoting various books for sale on more than a dozen tables in the lobby and on more tables behind curtains on the auditorium stage. Ample time was allowed between lectures for the perusal and purchase of books. The front page story in *The Charleston Gazette* was accompanied by a full-color portrait of the greenbacks in a book-table cashier's money-box. A subsequent letter from ICR's Mark Looy complained about the erroneous impression created by this picture and told of how little money they make from book sales.

~
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alternatives.

Incredible Creationists

At the last lecture ICR's Ken Ham announced that costs had been covered by prior church contributions and by a collection taken Friday evening, and that no further collection was needed. He claimed

the event had reached 6000 people, including 3500 children, and that the total for the weekend would rise to 7000. I estimated peak Saturday attendance to have been about 1200. □

Christian Leadership Ministries on Campus

In Spring and Summer 1992, Christian Leadership Ministries (CLM) has been circulating a long letter and a "National Survey of Christians." CLM is a branch of the well-known Campus Crusade for Christ, founded and led by Bill Bright. CLM's director, J. Stanley Oakes, has as his "mission" the task of evangelizing college faculty rather than students.

NCSE has always firmly supported the rights of people to their own beliefs and the right to proselytize—but not in the public school classroom. College students are usually considered to be adults, so professorial bias becomes a clearer matter of "academic freedom." There are supposed to be limits to academic freedom which can be used to protect students from incompetence or undue pressures from teachers—sexual harassment is the most obvious example, but religious harassment can be a problem, as well.

Oakes writes that "... Christians are under the most ferocious and vicious attack ever on American college campuses." He quotes evangelist James Dobson: "*Nothing short of a great civil war of values rages today throughout North America.*"

With 60 paid, fulltime field staffers, Oakes wants to reach every "Christian" professor in America, because a network of only 11,000 professors "will be able to share the Gospel with 4,400,000 students this year!" His goal is to reach 13 million college students each year via their professors.

Many NCSE members are uneasy about using college classrooms or professorial authority to evangelize. Campus Crusade for Christ has not stressed creationism, in the past; rather, they have been vaguely in the "Old Earth Creationism" camp. However, one of their prominent speakers, Texas A&M professor Walter Bradley, lectures widely on "The Scientific Evidence for the Existence of God," for example. Does this ever constitute an unfair use of professorial status to influence students?

This is a report without a tremendous punchline. I am not speaking for NCSE in any official way in raising the issue of college campus proselytizing,

although I do think there should be some logical limits so that professors do not abuse their power. I'm not at all proposing that campuses ban speakers favoring religious viewpoints but rather urging that both faculty and students keep clear the differences between personal beliefs and disciplinary knowledge. □

New Creationist Group

Paul Lewis gave me two copies of *NCSE Reports* (10(5); 10(6)), and I read them. It was interesting to see how skeptics view creationists, and I was glad to see that you worry about us.

I enclose a copy of *Creation in the Crossfire*, which is published by the South Bay Creation Science Association. I am its editor, and my wife is copy editor. *Creation in the Crossfire* began in February '92 as a special section in our monthly newsletter. You might find this development alarming, since this is strictly a grassroots publication. We hope to expand our readership to churches throughout the South Bay.

Dr. Walter Lang, who founded the Bible Science Association, visited our chapter of the association recently and told us that creationism will probably replace evolution as the dominant viewpoint within the next 70 years. That is possible, especially since the hopeless, despairing influence of humanism and evolution has nearly wrecked our public school system and has caused a massive exodus to private schools and home schooling. In the early 1960s there were 1500 private Christian schools, but by the mid-1980s there were roughly 30,000 and increasing. More than ever, parents are demanding tax credits for educating their children in private schools. One day they might succeed in getting them. The more evolutionists and humanists push their propaganda, the greater the exodus will become. You yourselves are your own worst enemies.

Jon Covey, SBCCA
22322 Harbor Ridge Lane #2
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Listing items here or offering to distribute them does not imply NCSE endorsement or agreement; annotations are by the editor or various contributors.

Anon. 1992. Why Adam Had Two Wives. *Ascent* (newsletter), pp. 1-4. Lilith was No. 1.

Aquistapace, Fred. 1992. *50 Ways to Help Yourself, Your Organization, & Your Community*. Sta. Rosa, CA: Eye-Opener Books. Members of Committees of Correspondence may want to check out these nifty ideas for raising money. \$6.95 from author, Box 1531, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

Bailey, W.J., J.L. Slightom and M. Goodman. 1992. Rejection of the "Flying Primate" Hypothesis by Phylogenetic Evidence from the e-Globin Gene. *Science* 256: 86-89. (Bats 'n biochemistry).

Bethell, Tom. 1992. Darwin in the Dock. *The American Spectator*, June, pp. 14, 16. A long-time New Right antievolutionist looks at Phillip Johnson at a meeting and comments on Scott, Padian, Jukes, etc.—doesn't care for us, likes Johnson's antievolutionism heroics. **Available from NCSE for SASE + \$1.00.**

Bizzo, N.M.C. 1992. Darwin on Man in the *Origin of Species*: Further Factors Considered. *Journal of the History of Biology* 25(1): 137-147. The book had been expected to focus on humans but did not. **SASE + \$2.50.**

Darwin on a Disk

Darwin is a \$29.95 HyperCard Stack (an interactive computer format widely used in schools). It includes some of Darwin's own writings and his theories plus reviews by his allies and critics. There is a Darwin biography and a survey of his place in scientific, religious, and social contexts, and an assessment of his impact in the Twentieth Century.

Sounds very interesting, but we haven't seen it. A short review would be welcome (hint, hint, beg, beg).

It is available for *Macintosh* computer users from Chariot Software; call (619) 298-0202 for orders and/or info. ☐

Bruce, Steve. 1990. Modernity and Fundamentalism: The New Christian Right in America. *The British Journal of Sociology* 41(4): 447ff. Haven't seen it.

Brush, Stephen G. 1992. How Cosmology Became a Science. *Scientific American* 267(2), August: 62-70. NCSE Supporter reviews history of Big Bang theory. **Available from NCSE for \$2.00.**

Cartmill, Matt. 1990. Human Uniqueness and Theoretical Content in Paleoanthropology. *International Journal of Primatology* 11(3): 173-192. Argues for more theory, less emphasis on humans.

Colp, Ralph, Jr. 1992. "I Will Do My Best": How Charles Darwin Obtained a Civil Pension List Pension for Alfred Russell Wallace. *Isis* 83(1): 3-26. Sheds light on how Darwin helped his rival.

Culotta, Elizabeth. 1992. A New Take on Anthropoid Origins. *Science* 256: 1516-1517, 12 June. Was ancestor of apes tarsier-like, lemur-like, or some third group? Report from a Duke conference.

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Fox, Richard C., G.P. Youzwyshyn, and D.W. Krause. 1992. Post-Jurassic Mammal-like Reptile from the Palaeocene. *Nature* 358: 233-235. Therapsids lived long after their rumored Jurassic extinction.

The Freedom Writer: The National Newsletter that Defends the Separation of Church and State. ISSN 1059-6372. 4 pp, 6/yr, from Institute for First Amendment Studies, PO Box 589, Great Barrington, MA 01230. \$25/yr; SASE (to them) for a free sample copy. Edited by a former fundamentalist minister, Skipp Porteous.

Gibbons, A., and others. 1992. The Evolution of Sexes. *Science* 257: 324-330, 17 July. A mold with 13 sexes, foetal development, sexual selection, symmetry, etc., and research on whether female primates are necessarily choosy about sex partners.

Resources

- Gibson, William, and Bruce Sterling. 1992. *The Difference Engine*. NY: Bantam. 429 pp., \$5.99. Science fiction look at Britain in 1855 assuming Charles Babbage's computer technology had caught on, Darwin's *Origin* had been published in 1840 and scientists controlled political policy.
- Goodman, Billy. 1992. Directed Mutations: Heredity Made to Order. *Mosaic* 23(1): 24-33. That bacteria may be able to mutate in response to environmental cues could add a wrinkle to evolutionary theory but not a major one. **SASE + \$2.00 from NCSE.**
- Gould, Stephen J. 1992. Eve and Her Tree. *Discover*, July, pp. 32-33. The biggest problem with Mitochondrial Eve is the catchy name, he writes.
- Gould, Stephen J. 1992. Impeaching a Self-Appointed Judge. *Scientific American* 267(1) July: 118-121. Devastating review of lawyer Phillip Johnson's book, *Darwin on Trial*. **SASE + \$1.00 from NCSE.**
- Gutin, J.C. 1992. Why Bother? *Discover* 13(6): 32-39 (June). Latest ideas on one of the hot topics in evolutionary theory, the origin of sex.
- Hastings, Ronnie. 1992. For Your Information: A Creationist Blunder Table. *Bulletin of the Houston Geological Society* 34(10): 39-41. Documentation of various creationist Paluxy Creek claims by NCSE Board member and long-time Paluxy researcher. **SASE + \$2.00 from NCSE.**
- Heppenheimer, T.A. 1992. The Grandest Unification. *Mosaic* 23(1): 34-44. Quantum gravity, wormholes to other universes, and other exotica in contemporary cosmogenesis and astrophysics—explained for the non-specialist. **Available from NCSE for SASE + \$2.00.**
- Holland, J.H. 1992. Genetic Algorithms. *Scientific American* 267(1) July: 66-72. Emulating the process of evolution to solve complex design problems—indirect proof that natural processes can produce new and useful "designs."
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- Klein, Richard G. 1992. The Archaeology of Modern Human Origins. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 1: 5-14. Adding archaeology to mtDNA and paleontology debate, Klein says the stone tools point to an African origin, not multiple origins for *sapiens*. **SASE + \$2.00 from NCSE.**
- Knoll, Andrew H. 1991. End of the Proterozoic Eon. *Scientific American* 265(4): 64-73. Did a rapid increase in atmospheric oxygen make multicellular life possible?
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- Livingstone, David N. 1992. *The Preadamite Theory and the Marriage of Science and Religion*. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society Volume 82, part 3; x+81 pp. \$15.00, pb. 19th Century movement in theology attempting to deal with evolution by proposing a "race" of pre-Adamites; some discussion of 20th Century uses of the idea such as in the Catholic Church.
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- Maxwell, Joe. 1992. New Kingdoms for the Cults. *Christianity Today* pp. 37-40, 13 January. Report on evangelizing Eastern Europe and "threat" of "cults" such as Mormons, Unitarians, Buddhists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hare Krishnas, etc. **SASE + \$2.00.**
- Miller, Louis H. 1992. The Challenge of Malaria. *Science* 257: 36-37, 3 July. The distribution of malaria and the very similar distribution of the genetic factor which resists it—and the resurgence of the disease.
- Nazario, Sonia L. 1992. Crusader Vows to Put God Back into Schools Using Local Elections. *Wall Street Journal* 7/15/92, pp.1, ff. Traces evolution and successful adaptation of Robert Simonds as Religious Right leader & successes of Citizens for Excellence in Education in getting

Resources

members elected to school boards. **SASE + \$0.50 from NCSE.**

Novacek, M.J. 1992. Mammalian Phylogeny: Shaking the Tree. *Nature* 356: 121-125 (12 March). Review article, fairly technical.

Peters, David. 1991. *From the Beginning: The Story of Human Evolution*. NY: Morrow Junior Books. 128 pp, heavily illustrated. \$14.95. "One of the best nonfiction books of the year," says the New York Public Library. **Avail. from NCSE at discount; see centerfold.** An NCSE review is pending.

Powell, C.S. 1992. The Golden Age of Cosmology. *Scientific American* 267(1), July: 17-22. Discussion of the recent discovery of faint background radiation variations supporting "Big Bang" theory.

Ritvo, Lucille B. 1990. *Darwin's Influence on Freud: A Tale of Two Sciences*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 267 pp, \$30.

Rivera, Maria C., and James A. Lake. 1992. Evidence That Eukaryotes and Eocyte Prokaryotes Are Immediate Relatives.

Science 257: 74-76. and news article, Researchers Find Organism They Can Really Relate To, p. 32. Controversial research showing peculiar unicellular Eocytes are more closely related to the cells of higher organisms than to other bacteria. **SASE + \$1.50.**

Roberts, Michael B. 1986. The Roots of Creationism. *Faith and Thought* 112(1): 21-25. View that modern young-earth creationism does not have roots in 19th Century British and American "orthodox churches" but rather with George McCready Price. By a British clergyman and distributor of NCSE literature. **Large SASE + \$2.00.**

Sansom, I.J., M.P. Smith, H.A. Armstrong and M.M. Smith. 1992. Presence of the Earliest Vertebrate Hard Tissues in Conodonts. *Science* 256: 1308-1311. Earliest vertebrates pushed back ca. 50 million years to Late Cambrian, 515 million years ago. Technical; news article summary by D.E.G. Briggs in the same issue, pp. 1285-1286. **SASE + \$1.00 from NCSE.**

Sarkar, Sahotra. 1992. Thinking of Biology: Sex, Disease, and Evolution—Variations on a Theme from J.B.S. Haldane. *BioScience* 42(6): 448-453. Does sex produce genetic variability as a defense against parasites?

Shreeve, James. 1992. The Dating Game. *Discover*, September, pp. 76-83. New dating techniques and the controversial push-back of "modern" human origins.

Smocovitis, V.B. 1992. Unifying Biology: The Evolutionary Synthesis and Evolutionary Biology. *Journal of the History of Biology* 25(1): 1-66. History.

Smuts, Barbara. 1992. Male Aggression against Women. *Human Nature* 3(1): 1-44. Sociobiological analysis of cross-cultural differences using evolutionary theory. **SASE + \$3.50 from NCSE.**

Stewart, D. 1992. Petrified Footprints: A Puzzling Parade of Permian Beasts. *Smithsonian* 23(4): 70-79, July. More tracks.

Thelin, Gail, and R.J. Pike. 1992. *Landforms of the Coterminous United States*. Map 1-2206, with brochure. USGS, Branch of Distribution, Box

25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225. \$5.00 ppd. Digital US topographic relief map almost 5' wide. ("Awesome," to quote a young [re]viewer; "Bogus—NOT!").

Thewissen, J.G.M. and S.K. Babcock. 1992. The Origin of Flight in Bats: To Go Where No Mammal Has Gone Before. *BioScience* 42(5): 340-345 (May).

Tobias, Phillip V. 1992. Piltdown: An Appraisal of the Case against Sir Arthur Keith. *Current Anthropology* 33(3): 243-294. With comments on the article by a number of other scholars.

Torrens, Hugh. 1992. When Did the Dinosaur Get Its Name? *New Scientist* 4 April, pp. 40-44. Dinosaurs and the evolution debate in the 1840s. **SASE + \$2.00.**

Toumey, C.P. 1990. Sectarian Aspects of American Creationism. *International Journal of Moral & Social Studies* 5(2): 116-142. Like the title says. □

Dinosaurs in National Parks

Dinosaurs are the subject of a quarter of the summer 1992 newsletter for National Park Service managers, *Park Science*.

Eight of the 32 pages discuss fossils and trackways at various parks. Recent research on tracks, population estimates, and biomechanics at Lake Powell and Dinosaur National Monument is summarized and illustrated. Copies are available from the NCSE Resource Center for \$2.00.

CORRECTION. In the last issue (*Reports* 12(1): 14) a "Resources" reference to Hillis, *et al.* was confused and confusing, as more than one correspondent has noted.

"Experimental Phylogenetics: Generation of a Known Phylogeny," by David M. Hillis, *et al.* in *Science* 255: 589-592 (31 Jan. 1992) reports on a dramatic experiment. Few evolutionary histories have been traced in detail, step by step. In this experiment, a virus was exposed to a mutation-causing agent, and the actual phylogenetic lineages were traced and "mapped." The goal was to test the effectiveness of methods for inferring phylogeny and ancestral genetics. "The results of this study directly support the legitimacy of estimates for phylogenetic estimation. . . ." The observed "family trees" had evolved in the same ways that simulated, theoretical phylogenies do. (Still available from the NCSE Resource Center—SASE + \$0.50.)

Review

Darwinism in the Press: The Evolution of an Idea, by Edward Caudill. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 1989. 161 pp, hardcover; \$24.95.

Caudill surveys press coverage of evolution over the past century and a half in the U.S. and Britain. He deals at length with the role of evolution in the 19th Century development of social science as well as scientific racism—the latter an important factor fueling some aspects of antievolutionism such as William Jennings Bryan's crusades.

The book strains to avoid "value judgements," although the author obviously takes evolution for granted, whether or not he understands it in detail. The result is the journalistic "On the one hand, and on the other hand . . ." pretence of non-judgement. Caudill the reporter seems a bit bemused by scientists' "bias" in favor of what they think is correct—they don't share his vague, intellectual "equal time" approach. He doesn't like formal denunciations of creationists, for example, even though he clearly thinks they're terribly mistaken.

Scientists and educators hoping to influence public debate should read this book. It illustrates clearly the different agenda of the reporter versus the scholar or

researcher. Caudill notes, rightly, that the press tries to reflect public tastes (and sometimes advertisers' tastes, I would suggest); it may attempt to shape political opinion or echo it; promoting sound science education is not always the same thing as "good journalism" because it is usually seen as one more (fairly small) advocacy group position. JRC

Especially for Teachers

AAAS. 1992. *Sourcebook for Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education* 1992. AAAS Publ. #91-38S. AAAS Books, Box 753, Dept. A55, Waldorf, MD 20604. 224 pp + 4 indices. \$12.95 + \$4.00 shipping. A directory of more than 2500 science education and public science programs and organizations and key personnel. (\$10.35 for AAAS members.)

2061 Today. Project 2061, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. 6 pp. quarterly newsletter about science education reform. Free?

Anthro Notes. A FREE publication from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. 3/yr. Frequent items on evolution and archaeology. For teachers, especially.

BSCS: The Natural Selection, a 10 pp. newsletter. Biannual. FREE from Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, 830 North Tejon St., Suite 405, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. BBS: 719-578-9127. Aimed at teachers with "how-to" resources.

Marine World Foundation. 1991. *Marine Mammals*. Booklet of ideas for teachers of K-3, 4-6, and 7-12 grades. Strongly evolution-oriented. Write Ann Monk, Director of Education, Marine World Africa USA, Marine World Parkway, Vallejo, CA 94589. FREE.

NASA. 1992. *Educational Horizons*. FREE newsletter with synopses of science news from NASA and info about seminars, workshops, and other ways for educators—or anyone—to interact with NASA, receive publications, lesson ideas, etc. Contact Elsie Weigel, Editor, Education Publications Branch, Education Division, NASA, Washington, DC 20546.

Keeping Tabs

Dinosaurs and Creationists

John Cole

Bible-Science Newsletter is now *Bible-Science News*.

"What about Dinosaurs?" is the lead article in the *B-S News* 30(3). The gist of the article is that dinosaurs fit easily on Noah's Ark because juvenile specimens showed up, two by two (and presumably, not many pairs were needed, since only "kinds" count).

Conspicuously missing is any claim about Paluxy Creek, Texas, dinosaur and human footprints. B-SA has previously championed these claims, long after other creationist publications backed off (without actually admitting defeat, of course) after investigations by serious scholars such as Glen Kuban, Ronnie Hastings, Steve Schaeferman, Laurie Godfrey, and John Cole.

B-SN half-heartedly raises some new possible examples of human and dinosaurs living together (allegedly mysterious bone and fossil deposits—noticibly undocumented and tentative). But the new phraseology is extremely (and deservedly) cautious. This less brash approach is welcome, although it does not signal any sea change—deep down, B-SA is still shallow.

Rev. Carl Baugh is still plugging away at Glen Rose, Texas, but his B-SA friends seem to have abandoned or ignored him, as did the Institute for Creation Research several years ago when it clumsily backed off from the John Morris book, *Tracking Those Incredible Dinosaurs . . . and the People Who Knew Them*. A future *Creation/Evolution* article will chronicle Baugh's ongoing but discredited claims. □

ICR Attacks Asimov

John Cole

The June issue of "Back to Genesis," published by the Institute for Creation Research, is an offensive attack on the late Isaac Asimov. Ken Ham writes in "Asimov Meets His Creator" that Asimov believed in "a religion of death," and as a result he is now burning in Hell. Ham sheds crocodile tears about this but clearly is gloating.

Ham quotes an anonymous letter writer to make his point. "As far as I know, he [Asimov] never

made a profession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. As far as I know, he is now experiencing the judgment described by the Lord Jesus. . . ." Ham adds in his own voice that "Asimov read creationist books. He read the Bible. He had ample opportunity to kneel before the Creator and Savior. He refused." Instead, he preached evolution—the "Tree of Death" used by Nazis and communists. Asimov, an emigre Russian Jew, was indeed not a born-again Christian—and certainly not a Nazi!

In the same issue, John Morris accuses astronomers of "willful ignorance and unbelief" for trying to convince each other the Universe began with a "big bang" rather than a recent, divine creation.

Ken Ham has emerged as the ICR's bulldog in recent years, dropping most of the pretense of "creation science" and getting down to hard core evangelism. This should trouble apologists for creationism in the classroom, because it admits that the movement is flatly sectarian rather than "the other side of a scientific debate."

Such fire and brimstone polemics would seem not to be a healthy addition to classrooms. The tone is moralizing, simplistic and gloating. It strikes me as poor theology as well as poor science, although sectarian theology does not belong in the public schools, good or bad. While not surprising, it's rather sad to see minor league pundits strut and try to dance on the graves of others. □

Orthodox Jews vs. Darwin and Pepsi?

The *Today Show* reported on June 1st that opposition has arisen in Israel to Pepsi Cola billboard advertising which features the familiar tableau of hominoids and hominids marching in a line up to modern *sapiens*—in this case, swigging a Pepsi. Older orthodox Jews are reportedly offended by the ad content because it legitimizes evolution, but Pepsico has apparently declined to remove the billboards for fear of offending the younger and/or nonreligious Israeli majority who take evolution for granted. The incident shows how even whimsical references to evolution can still stir passions in a seemingly modern science-oriented society. □

Asimov is
now burning
in Hell?

Keeping Tabs

Televangelist Promotes *Of Pandas and People*

Eugenie C. Scott

Televangelist James Dobson's group, "Focus on the Family," is a leading proponent of the religious right agenda. In the summer 1992 issue of his *Citizen* newsletter, Dobson directs his supporters to march down to the school board and demand *Of Pandas and People* be used when evolution is taught. *Pandas*, of course, is a creationist "intelligent design" book intended as a supplement to high school biology courses. It was submitted for state adoption in Idaho and Alabama, and, with NCSE and committee of correspondence help, was rejected in both states (see *Reports*, 11(1):10-11; 10(1):8-10; 10(1):16-18; 9(6):5; 9(2):21).

A source at *People for the American Way*, the first-amendment advocacy organization, tells us that when Dobson's newsletter exhorted its readers to go after the "Impressions" elementary textbook reading series, calls began pouring into PFAW for help. The books were considered "Satanic" and "anti-Christian" by some religious-right proponents. Dobson is reportedly heard on 4000 radio broadcasts each week. If his forces take his bidding seriously, a fresh burst of anti-evolution activity may be right around the corner. (See cover story, this issue.) □

Burglary Report

David Duke, who ran rather invisibly for the Republican Presidential nomination, *formerly*, he says, was a Ku Klux Klan leader. *Formerly*, he was associated with a white supremacist outfit calling itself the National Association for the Advancement of White People, which he says is a nonracist organization (although their newsletter says it is racist and proud of it).

The NAAWP has in the past spoken up for creationism, so I wrote David to ask his stand on this issue. I have received no reply. However, I *have* just received a letter from "Empire Publishing," the nonprofit, tax-exempt organization which publishes *The Klansman*. They want my financial support, since they think I'm a member of a "threatened race" in this country.

The only logical explanation of my hearing from an organization Duke has disavowed is, of course, that his office has been burglarized and his address database stolen. This would also explain why I haven't heard from him. JRC

Students for Origins Research Cocoons, Emerges

John Cole

Currents in Science, Technology, & Society 1(1), Winter 1992, has arrived; it is the new publication of Students for Origins Research. Its lead article, "Scientific Literacy in America," by Editor Mark Hartwig, echoes many of the points NCSE has raised . . . but it subtly diverges. We all agree that better science education is needed, but Hartwig steers the argument into an attack on the California Science Framework and its supposedly unscientific insistence on the teaching of evolution. While a devil's advocate argument that "The Framework could be improved" is unexceptionable, Hartwig's harumphing is nitpicking; like it or not, evolution is a major tenet of modern science—one of the basic organizing principles of science, in fact.

CSTS 1(1) has 12 slick (meaning shiny, as well as 'professionally-produced') pages. In addition to the lead article, there is an interview with Phillip Johnson, author of *Darwin on Trial*, an article on euthanasia (they're agin it), and a review of Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park* (they recommend it highly—me, too, but not always for the same reasons).

SOR has become "Access Research Network," a moniker which sounds more value-free. Address: P.O. Box 38069, Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8069. □

Erasmus Darwin

I. Asimov

Asimov's Biographical Encyclopedia of Science & Technology. NY: Doubleday, 1982 (2nd ed.).

[Erasmus Darwin, b. 1731, d. 1802] had the deplorable habit of writing long, didactic poems that had some interest as far as scientific content was concerned but no discernable poetic value. . . . The accomplishment for which he is most famous, however, is his being the grandfather (by his first wife) of Charles Darwin. . . . [In addition he was the grandfather of Sir Francis Galton, a "father" of statistics and, less productively, of eugenics, a dubious topic today, made more so by the fact that genetics was an unknown idea when it had its heyday.]

Keeping Tabs

Darwin Torches L.A.! (sic)

John Cole

Believe it or not, this was the headline in the *Bible-Science News* I just received (Volume 30, No. 4).

Just when most people were coming around to the fact that Murphy Brown's baby caused the explosion, Paul Bartz reports that it was caused by—Charles Darwin! And the teaching of evolution today, of course. As columnist Dave Barry says, I'm NOT making this up.

(On 28 June, Dave Barry revealed another angle other journalists have missed: namely, that the TV character's baby was born May 18th, *while the riots broke out April 30th*. In other words, perhaps the Los Angeles tragedy caused Ms. Brown's baby?)

The poverty of the Bible-Science Association imagination, the embarrassing lack of sensitivity and "Christian charity" revealed by their opportunistic use of tragedy, is amazing. There is another, gloating note about Isaac Asimov's death. "Charles Darwin's intense hatred of Christianity" is the subject of a long article. (Darwin, in fact, became an agnostic with regret rather

than hostility; Asimov, although not a believer, was an enthusiastic student of religion.)

The *B-S News* also devotes much space to the recent news about evidence for the "Big Bang." They belittle (rather than analyze or debate) the entire argument, unhappy with the implications of further evidence for an ancient Universe. They quote NASA scientist John Mather, who said "This is the Universe God gave us to look at, and we might as well find out what it is and how it works."

The *B-S News* replies that the "Bible offers accurate information about what God is and how He works. *Why bother with research paths that are ruled out by Scripture?*" (my emphasis).

Stridently anti-intellectual, the B-SA seems to be hardening its position on the fringe of the creationist movement after publicly trying to claim a more mainstream position. For example, recent years have seen its founder, Walter Lang, and other stalwarts eased out in favor of ostensibly more moderate and modern personnel. It looks like old times at B-SA, now—more openly an evangelical "ministry" (their term) than ever. □

Bible-Science Association View of Ecology

Eugenie C. Scott

In the most recent *Bible-Science News*, the editor takes aim at the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Conference on the Environment, accusing its participants of being "eco-doomers" unnecessarily crying wolf. The article assures us that we need not be concerned over the greenhouse effect, the loss of biodiversity, or the general going-to-hell-in-a-handbasket state of planet earth. God will provide. "Yes, extinctions have taken place through history. However, Scripture has honestly told us that the entire creation groans under the burden of sin. Despite the effects of sin, the Lord will not return to a dead Earth. Humankind will be here to greet the Lord." (*B-S News* 30(5):12)

I saw a T-shirt the other day that said, "*Homo sapiens* is not the only species on the planet. It just acts that way." I guess the *B-S News* sees nothing wrong with humankind being the *only* species here to greet the Lord. □

Mutation Fights Heart Disease

John Cole

A mutation in the A-1 protein has been identified by researchers as an effective "antidote" to the dangers of high cholesterol, according to the *New York Times* (13 Aug.). The mutation is known only in the gene pool of Limone, a long-isolated Italian village.

A modern road reached the mountain village in 1951, but local families are still very inbred. The gene has been identified in 44 individuals, all of whom descend from one couple who were married in the village in 1644. The gene has been isolated and duplicated in the laboratory, and Belgian and Swedish biotech firms are reportedly interested in developing its commercial potential.

Contrary to some folk beliefs, this is further evidence that not all mutations are harmful or lethal. □

~
"Why
bother with
research
paths that
are ruled
out by
Scripture?"
~

Keeping Tabs

Report from Estonia

*Prof. Erast Parmasto
Institute of Zoology and Botany, Tartu*

The situation in Estonia has been changing little by little in the last few months. There has been a prosperity of all possible and impossible versions of religion, astrology, etc. here (as well as in the other non-Islamic parts of the former USSR) caused by a special phenomenon which may be called "inverted taboo." All religious, pseudo-scientific, etc. expressions were once forbidden or in any case not publicly supported by the communist regime. Now, in conditions of "overall freedom," any attempt to say anything against religious fanaticism or pseudoscience or antisience will be loudly condemned as pro-communist!

Happily, in the past year several publications in Estonia by well-known writers have appeared discussing the problem. Also, some acid "discussion" has appeared between different missionaries who are fighting for the right to recruit people to their "only right" version of belief.

Creationism was not popular here until, alas, last year a very well-illustrated creationist book for small children was published in Sweden in the Estonian language. Books for children are rarely printed in Estonia, now. There is no paper, no money. . . . It is a popular, narrative version of Bible stories. I learned from something like it in my first school years 55 years ago. But this book's Forward stresses that every word in the book is undisputable truth, that there is nothing which may be interpreted or understood as metaphorical. Man was *created*.

So we are living in interesting times now. □

Cults in Eastern Europe

Illustrating the wide range of what should be Viewed With Alarm, "New Kingdoms for the Cults" in *Christianity Today* (13 Jan 1992) reported on "aberrant and unorthodox groups join Christians in filling . . . a spiritual vacuum." They map the inroads of the following alarming groups: Mormons, Christian Science, Unitarians, Zen Buddhists, Hindus, yoga, Bahai, Zoroastrians, Theosophists, Universal Life ("Moonies"), Jehovah's Witnesses,

Hare Krishnas, and Transcendental Meditation, among others. Perhaps we should stress that NCSE is concerned about sectarian inroads in science education but not with sects' life in the temple or ashram! (CT article available from NCSE for SASE + \$1.00.) □

Is "Creation Science" Blasphemy?

*David J. Caplan
Stroudsburg, PA*

Though I am a new member of NCSE, I have read several of your bulletins throughout the past few years. After many talks with fundamentalist Christians, I feel the notion of "creation science" is interesting but actually does a great disservice to the very same Christians who advocate this study. I am surprised that I have never come across this thought in talks with evolution supporters or writings of the NCSE.

When I say "disservice," I mean that the term "creation science" is a term of waste and heresy. As the typical ICR member feels that the Bible is the inerrant and unquestionable word of God, the creation of the Earth and its inhabitants are thus creations of God. The concept of inerrancy is the keystone to their faith and salvation. As scientists, we must question the information we receive in our chosen field of study. Therefore, just as the natural scientist must question nature, so must the "creation scientist" question creation. At least, such research would be a waste of time and effort . . . as they already "know" where we come from and even where we are going. At most, it is high blasphemy due to the concept of Biblical inerrancy.

Ed: Many creationists agree with you and object to "testing" God. However, "scientific" creationists typically admit that they know the answer and do research to confirm it in the eyes of nonbelievers; they certainly are not interested in disproving any of their hypotheses—negative results just seem to tell them they are asking the wrong questions! They sometimes refer to their research as "witnessing," for example, and call their organizations "ministries." NCSE writers have dealt with this issue from time to time, but we try to avoid "theology" except where it is trying to elbow its way into science classes, books, and labs. □

HS Science Journal

John Cole

The Journal of High School Science Research began in 1990 as an outlet for papers by students. Its potential is outstanding—millions of young people, the potential sources of papers, could explore issues and questions exciting to all of science.

Subscriptions are \$15 for two issues per year from Applied Educational Technology, PO Box 193, Tigerville, SC 29688. Guidelines for contributors are available from the same address.

One serious quibble with their standards is that, while I certainly agree that such things as grammar and spelling are very important, I am surprised to see that review criteria are designed to exclude papers so energetically, apparently independent of scientific merit.

Rules such as the following strike me as counterproductive—an exaltation of form over substance: "A paper will not be considered for publication if it contains any of the following errors: 3 or more misspelled words; Unacceptable grammar, punctuation, etc.; Written in 1st person; No biblio. . .", etc. Item 10 is "Topic too advanced for JHSSR." Item 11, "Does not follow author guidelines"—is a catch-22, it seems to me.

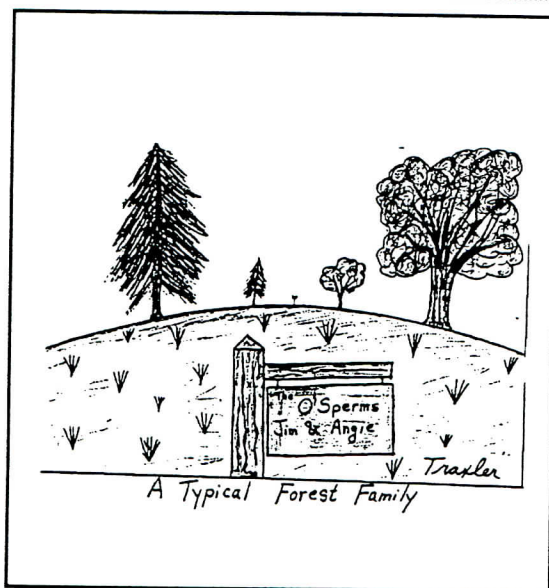
This is a wonderful idea which needs support and work to improve it. (We'll have info about other such projects in future issues.) □

Two Science Teacher Grant Programs

The US Department of Energy (DOE) offers more than 300 research appointments each year to science and math teachers in grades 7 through 12. Research takes place at 25 DOE labs around the US. There is a stipend of \$550 per week for eight weeks, a housing allowance of up to \$1000, and travel allowances. In some cases, graduate college credits are available (and teachers may work out other arrangements with home districts re: in-service training credits and so forth). Up to \$200 in graduate tuition fees is available.

For further info and applications for the 1993 "Teacher Research Associates" (TRAC) program, write DOE, TRAC, Associated Western Universities, 4190 South Highland Drive, Suite 211, Salt Lake City, NV 84124. Completed applications must be received each year by the fourth Friday in October.

A Tandy Corp. program offers awards to 100 teachers and 100 high school students. As "Tandy Technology Scholars," teachers receive \$2500 and students receive \$1000 scholarships. In addition, the top 2% of high school students from participating schools are honored with certificates for their performance in grades 9, 10, and 11. For more information, write Tandy Technology Scholars, PO Box 32897, Texas Christian University Station, Fort Worth, TX 76129. (817) 924-4087. □



Quotables

If we choose to let conjecture run wild, then animals, our fellow brethren in pain, disease, suffering and famine—our slaves in the most laborious works, our companions in our amusements—they may partake of our origin in one common ancestor—we may be all melted together.

Charles Darwin at age 28

Don't set out to teach theism from natural history. . . . You spoil both.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1857

Committees of Correspondence Revival, Birth

Eugenie C. Scott

The New York Council for Evolution Education is once again producing a newsletter. The spring, 1992 issue discussed, among other topics, "Creationism Is Alive in Buffalo" regarding the attempts of two school board members to give "equal time" to creationism. You can subscribe for \$10 to NYCEE, 23 Chelsea Drive, Syosset, NY 11791.

On the other side of the country, in California, the Bay Area Committee of Correspondence for

Science, issued its farewell issue of *BACC-Science* during the early summer of 1992. The northern California group had been virtually inactive for over a year. A new group of southern Californians, however, under the leadership of NCSE member Robert Salomon, has arisen to take its place, and has formed the "California Committee of Correspondence." To subscribe to their newsletter, *The Committee*, send \$5 to NCSE (CCC), Box 9477, Berkeley, CA, 94709-9477.

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