



Think & Believe

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Discrimination: A Dangerous Trend!

By Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

In Soviet Russia, a student was recently denied his engineering degree because of his membership in the Evangelical Baptist Church. In another instance an outstanding Christian student was expelled. The director of the conservatory stated, "I am not concerned in the least as to whether or not she is a good student. I am more concerned about her ideology." Discrimination? Certainly, but you would expect that in Russia! That wouldn't happen in America — or would it?

A Ph.D. candidate in zoology at a major AMERICAN university completed his coursework with almost straight A's before his professors discovered his creationist viewpoint. After much discussion they decided they would let him graduate only if he took four more courses in evolutionary biology. When he completed these courses and became "more firmly convinced of the validity of creationism than ever before," the professors violated their written agreement and denied his degree.

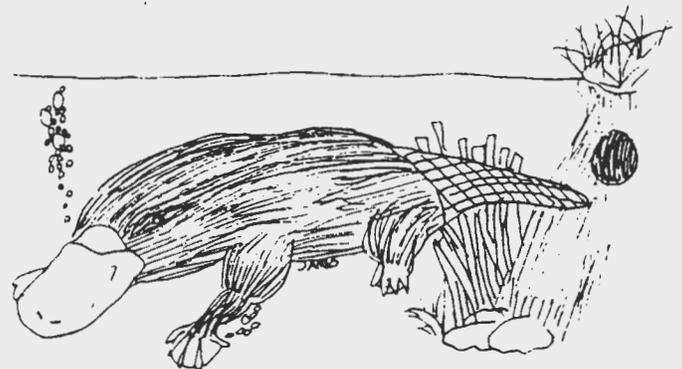
A chemistry professor at a major state university was denied tenure and dismissed because he openly supported creationism. The Dean claimed he had "damaged the image of science" for the university. When local businessmen objected, the professor was offered a job as a file clerk at the university.

A well-known physicist (not a Christian) received death threats after he supported teaching both evolution and creation. A biology teacher was selected to receive the High School Teacher of the Year Award until it became known that he taught two models of origin. A leading researcher lost his grant when his work began to imply instantaneous creation.

Yes, these cases happened in "The Land of the Free." Unfortunately, they are not isolated cases. Dr. Jerry Bergman in *The Criterion* discusses the extent and openness of discrimination. His examples are cases where personal beliefs are the issue, not incompetence or negligence. Many of the individuals in question have top academic records, have published extensively in their fields, and are fully qualified for the positions they held, but refuse to endorse evolutionary dogma.

The trend is dangerous! Individual rights are being eroded for all Americans. Which group will be targeted next? Bergman ends his book with the following thought. It would be wise for all to consider the implications:

They came after the Jews and I was not a Jew, so I did not object. They came after the Catholics and I was not a Catholic, so I did not object. They came after the trade unionists, and I was not a trade unionist, so I did not object. Then they came after me, and there was no one left to object.



*The platypus, an odd but obviously designed creature
(See Spotlight on Science)*

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Discrimination against creationists in the classroom and on the job is a real problem. The following quotes are taken from Dr. Jerry Bergman's book *The Criterion* (1984):

- The Christian science student can almost expect intolerant opposition in his oral examination for the Ph.D. degree. . . . It can be very subjective and the prejudices of the examiners can influence considerably their questions and evaluation of the answers. (Culp in *The Criterion*, p. 20)
- A student with outstanding grades and recommendations applied to a well-known medical school. In reviewing his credentials, the admissions board noted that one of his former professors stated in a recommendation that the student was a creationist and therefore "could not do scientific research." Several of the board members mentioned that they agreed with the adverse recommendation and that this student should not be admitted to the medical school. If he was admitted, one member stated that the student would not achieve a passing grade in his class, no matter how excellent his work. He would make sure that this student would not graduate. (Bergman, p. 22)
- . . . I have observed that in certain areas of inquiry there is a subtle but rigidly controlled discrimination that is steadily growing in intensity. . . . This discrimination involves the subject of origins. . . . to my knowledge, only persons favoring the creation model have been made victims of discrimination that has resulted in deprivations of civil and human rights. (Ellwanger in *The Criterion*, p. 10)

■ Many times the discrimination extends beyond creationism to involve personal religious beliefs as well.

- Frankly, I don't like holy people, fundamentalists, especially Baptists, Church of Christ types, Pentecostals or other 17th century retrogressives. If we find out we hired one, especially if they start talking to the other research scientists about their beliefs, I terminate them within the month. Usually they leave without much of a protest. And I've never had one bring suit even though firing on religious grounds is illegal, and I

know that it is. But who cares — several guys I told straight out. "We don't want any creationists working in this lab, so if you don't turn in your resignation letter tomorrow, we will have to fire you." (Quoted in *The Criterion*, p. 54)

■ Why don't the victims of this discrimination file suit? It seems they have a valid case. Unfortunately, the courts have been very reluctant to question the "professional opinion" of the "experts." Then too, universities and major corporations have time and money on their side. As one executive said to an employee:

- Take this \$2,500 and jam it. We're a multimillion-dollar corporation, and if you sue us — even if you win — we can drag it out for years on appeal until you're dead and you'll never see a penny. (Quilter in *The Criterion*, p. 55)

■ Bergman says that in most cases teachers are not terminated because they were actually "teaching" creationism or religion but simply because of the individual's own personal beliefs. According to him, several universities felt it was their "right" to protect students from creationists and, in one case, from "fundamentalist Christians."

■ Some professors seem to take their responsibility to "protect" students from creationism very seriously. Bergman (p. 28) quotes Macbeth's account of an incident at an Ivy League college. Several biology professors read an article exposing some of the problems with natural selection and decided to put it on the reading list for students. When a student went to the library to read it, he found it had been cut out of the journal. It was later discovered on the desk of the head of the department. When pressed by the instructors for an explanation, he said:

- Well of course I don't believe in censorship in any form, but I just couldn't bear the idea of my students reading that article.

■ If evolution is truly a "fact," what do evolutionists have to fear by their students hearing creationist information. Surely the "facts" will speak for themselves — or is that what they are afraid of?

■ Bergman's book is a real eye-opener to the type and extent of religious discrimination going on in this country today. (Special price this month, \$6.50 including shipping.)

The Amazing Platypus

When specimens of the duckbill platypus were first sent to England in the late 1700s, many English scientists thought it was a fraud. It plainly didn't fit well in any of the categories of animals known at that time. Was it a bird, a reptile, a mammal or a combination of all of these?

The platypus is an extremely interesting creature. It has fur like a mammal but it lays soft, leathery eggs like a reptile. Usually 1-3 eggs are laid in a nest built by the mother platypus in a special chamber of a long, sloping burrow dug into a stream bank. The mother platypus then incubates these eggs by holding them against her body with her tail until they hatch about 10 days after laying. The young are then fed with milk, but not through teats in the ordinary manner of mammals. Instead, enlarged milk glands secrete milk directly onto the fur.

Probably the most well-known feature of the platypus is its "duckbill." The bill is used to "shovel" into the debris at the bottom of streams and scoop up shellfish, worms, shrimp, and water insects. The fascinating thing about the bill is that it has a highly sensitive electronic detector which works somewhat like a metal detector and picks up the weak electrical emissions of its prey. Thus, the platypus is able to forage for its food with its eyes and ears tightly shut, relying instead on this electrical detection device.

In addition to the above characteristics, the platypus has some other very interesting features. It has a combination of claws for digging and webbed feet for swimming. The webbing can actually be rolled up into its palms while digging! Its broad, beaver-like tail is useful not only in incubating eggs, but also in swimming. The male even has a special poisonous defensive "spur" on its hind leg, with venom similar to that of a snake.

The platypus is truly an odd creature. Some evolutionists have proposed that it evolved from mammal-like reptiles separately and before other groups of mammals. However, this would require the evolution of hair and milk-production twice, purely by random mutations (ACCIDENTS!) and natural selection. Besides that, it is very hard (impossible?) to explain the origin of highly-tuned electronic systems such as the platypus' bill on the basis of ACCIDENTS!

The platypus gives every evidence of being a specially designed creature, possessing an interesting combination of "stock" parts arranged in a unique way by a creative and intelligent Designer.

The Smoking Cigar

Paul Ackerman, in his excellent book *It's A Young World After All* (1986, available from us for \$6.95), uses an analogy of a smoking cigar to explain some of the methods of dating the earth that indicate a recent creation. He makes the point that if a cigar is burning in an ash tray, it is apparent that it has not been burning for very long. Most certainly if someone for some reason wants to convince another that it has been burning steadily for at least a year, some very well confirmed observations must be ignored. Cigars just don't burn that long.

For the same reasons, some very obvious scientific observations must be ignored in order to believe the earth and our solar system are billions of years old. For example, on a close pass of Jupiter by the Voyager probe, volcanic eruptions were recorded on Io, one of the moons of Jupiter. *Life Magazine* in May 1979 reports:

The big surprise of the Voyager was Io, one of Jupiter's inner moons. Instead of being cold, dead and otherwise moonlike, Io proved to be literally bubbling with volcanoes.

Why should this be such a big surprise? Why would scientists expect the moon to be cold and dead? If the solar system is really billions of years old like most evolutionists propose, the fire on a relatively small object such as Io should have burned out and cooled a long time ago. However, since it is still burning we can apply the "smoking cigar principle" and conclude that Io and our solar system in general is quite young.

This conclusion, however, is unthinkable for evolutionists since they are committed to a very old age of the earth. Remember, evolution takes a long, long time. In order to escape this dilemma and explain the unexpected observation, several ad hoc explanations were quickly suggested. Even though a logical explanation may be discovered, none, so far, are really reasonable. They remind you, instead, of a man who arrives home after a year long trip, and finds a burning cigar in the ashtray who then ignores the obvious and tries to convince himself that he must have left it burning a year ago.

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✻ Upcoming Events ✻

By the time you read this we should be in the middle of a major speaking trip to the midwest. We've scheduled time for speaking in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. We're also planning plenty of study time so we can include the very latest material in our videotape series. Hopefully we will be able to get a portion of that video seminar completed.

It's not too early to begin planning for fall and next spring. Our schedule is already filling up. Let us know soon if you'd like to consider scheduling a creation seminar in your area. We now have an easy to follow packet of information to help you.

**Creation Family Camp
August 23-29**

There's still time to sign up for the Creation Family Camp at rustic Camp Redcloud high in the mountains of beautiful Colorado. You won't want to miss this time of fun, fellowship and recreation. It's a vacation with a purpose. Activities include a full creation seminar, plus plenty of free time for relaxing and enjoying the great outdoors — horseback riding, mountain biking, rappelling, jeeping, hiking, fishing, canoeing, or just plain loafing! All this plus great food at a very reasonable cost (\$300 for a family of four for the entire week). Write or call for more information or send in \$50 deposit today!

P.S. HOMESCHOOLERS: This is a great educational experience for the whole family and several have already sent in their registration!

**Alpha Omega
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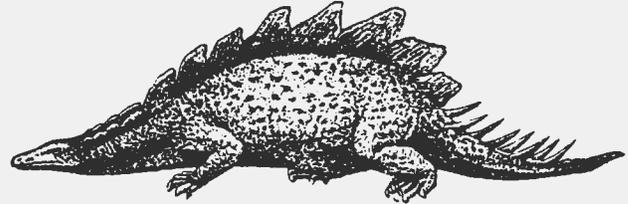
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Would you like additional information about any one of the condensed articles or on another subject that we haven't even touched upon as yet? Write to us and we will gladly send you some.

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✻ Book Review ✻

Hot off the press!! The book you've been waiting for is now available, *The Great Dinosaur Mystery and the Bible* (1987) by Paul S. Taylor. Many people think dinosaurs "prove" evolution, and many children are conditioned to accept the whole theory of evolution based on the teaching they receive about dinosaurs. This book answers most of the questions children and adults ask about dinosaurs and clears up a lot of misconceptions. It offers a reasonable explanation of how dinosaurs fit into God's creation. This is a



resource every Christian family with or without children should have. It makes a great gift for your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbor children, and of course for us adults as well. It has easy to read print and excellent illustrations. (Special price this month, \$9.00 including shipping.)

****CAUTION**** If you order one and read it, you will probably have to order many more for friends and relatives and schools!!

✻ Don't Forget ✻

**Family Camp
August 23 - 29**

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