



Think & Believe

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Seeing Through the Smoke Screen

By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

We recently received a letter from an anti-creation organization that hides behind the camouflaged name of The National Center for Science Education (NCSE). The name sounds great, but its intent is strictly poison. The primary purpose is to oppose creationist activities and to sway public opinion against the efforts of creationists who seek to put science back on a rational basis. The NCSE doesn't want students to even hear positive scientific evidence for creation, much less allow them to make up their own minds concerning evolution or creation.

Unfortunately NCSE received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation to strengthen its efforts "in behalf of science education." That's a bunch of smoke! They intend to use their funds to hire a director who must be "knowledgeable about the creation/evolution controversy" and to support the following activities as stated in their letter (editorial comments in brackets):

1. Textbook evaluation [to censor any positive creationist material and make sure evolution is marketed nicely]
2. Preparation of AV and other educational materials [to enhance evolutionary teaching with an anti-creation slant]
3. Teacher training [to add to the already biased education students get in public colleges and universities]
4. Publication [of dogmatic, evolutionary anti-creationist materials]
5. Public Relations [to make sure people know the "truth" about creationism]
6. Fundraising [for more bigoted anti-creator activities]

We are not insinuating they misrepresented their goals in order to receive the grant. Unfortunately public bias often favors their goals as stated. This is the result

of the very distorted information coming from anti-creationists such as the material we regularly receive from one of NCSE's own directors.

NCSE's Committees of Correspondence intend in part to silence creationists in the classrooms through massive letter campaigns to "proper officials." They wish to prevent creationist speakers from being heard and to bring public opinion against sympathetic teachers. We have heard of some fine educators who are no longer employed with public institutions because of this negative publicity.

It is time to stop this nonsense of hiding behind "academic integrity" and "separation of church and state" to screen out all Christian thought and influence in public education, while subtly pushing their own humanistic religion. May we encourage you to take an active role in your area?



*A Petrified Hat?? See
Spotlight on Science*

NOTES & QUOTES

■ In spite of abundant evidence against evolution, it is still tenaciously defended as the only explanation for origins that should be allowed or even mentioned in the science classroom. Creationism is seen as a real threat. In 1982 we received a letter from Isaac Asimov, a confirmed atheist, requesting funds for the anti-creationist activities of the American Civil Liberties Union. Here is how he perceives the creationists:

- These religious zealots . . . are marching like an army of the night into our public schools with their Bibles held high. . . . And they pose a very a real threat in a society that esteems academic freedom and enlightenment over dogma and moral righteousness.

■ Anti-creationist symposiums have been started expressly to counter the creationist movement. A report from one stated the following:

- . . . this single meeting had converted nobody [probably because they had no good proof to offer, as usual] . . . [however] . . . We are building a communications network of people who can organize a letter-writing campaign in the schools or localities and who can fill busloads of colleagues to visit legislature while it is in session. We have names of volunteers to serve on a steering committee that will coordinate the efforts [against creationism] of scientists, educators, clergymen[!], lawyers, and parents.

■ Dr. Henry Morris in *Creation and the Modern Christian* (see Book Review) quotes John A. Moore, an anti-creationist biologist, from a paper delivered at the National Academy of Sciences as to his hope that the public schools will be utilized to polarize the society against creation:

- If we do not resolve our problems with the creationists, we have only ourselves to blame. Let's remember, the greatest resource of all is available to us — the educational system of the nation.

■ Does that make your blood boil? The schools, which were originally set up in this country to complement the teaching of the home and of parents, are being used to undermine many of our viewpoints. Some even see their role as great change agents:

- I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new

faith: a religion of humanity that respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values [totally based on evolution] in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level — preschool day care or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new — the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never realized Christian ideal of "love thy neighbor" will finally be achieved.

(John J. Dunphy, "A Religion for a New Age," *The Humanist*, January/February 1983, p.26)

■ Lest anyone think that the humanists have such good ideals, we need to look at what they profess to believe and teach as stated in their own Humanist Manifestos (1933 and 1973):

- Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.
- Humanism believes that man is part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process [evolution from ape like creatures].
- We find insufficient evidence for the existence of a supernatural. . . . As non-theists, we begin with humans, not God — nature, not deity No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.

"Academic freedom" in the classroom, although a great sounding ideal, has been used along with "separation of church and state" in order to effectively silence the Christian voice in public institutions but allow the anti-God voice to be clearly proclaimed. A few years ago, we were asked to speak to the science club at a local high school. We were not allowed to speak on campus for their evening meeting because of the nature of our material, but we were informed that the next meeting, featuring a professing "witch," was allowed. Academic freedom?

We are thankful for the many fine Christian teachers still teaching in the schools of America, but they are in a minority and face an uphill battle all the way. Committed evolutionary humanists want them out of the classroom. Let's support them with regular prayer and words of appreciation.

Cave Formations

In geology, things aren't always as they seem nor as they are taught in schools. We are told that the formation of caves with their beautiful stalactites and stalagmites takes tremendous amounts of time. Consider, however, the following observations:

- A bat was found preserved (trapped?) in a stalagmite. Either this was a very slow bat or deposition rates are faster than assumed. Even though caves provide a good atmosphere for slowing the decay of a dead bat, this does seem to be stretching the limits of credulity.
- The Milwaukee Public Museum has an underground wing which was closed due to leakage. After a period of time, workers were surprised to find 6 foot stalactites. Based upon commonly assumed rates of deposition, one can reach the conclusion that the Milwaukee museum must be at least 7200 years old. This should come as a surprise to its builders.
- One problem for Chicago is the growth of stalactites in its sewer system. Periodically the large lines must be purged of these obstructions before the city literally "plugs-up."
- A limestone cave in Australia is named the "It Wasn't There Last Year Cave" because it only took one rainy season to form. Evidently it is quite large.

Tremendous amounts of time are not needed to form these cave features, rather, proper conditions. It is obvious that conditions in the past must have been drastically different than today to have formed caves such as the famous Carlsbad Caverns. Their informative displays admit that a much greater amount of water poured through the caverns at one time. Conditions on the earth shortly after the Flood would have been ideal for the rapid formation of caves. As the waters receded, a much greater amount of erosion would have cut deep canyons as well as great underground caverns. The great amount of minerals present in the upper layers and the higher water table would certainly provide ideal conditions for the formation of stalactites.

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Petrification

An immediate thought when one sees petrified wood (wood turned to stone) is the tremendous amount of time needed to make the transformation. Once again, this thought is programmed by our past education and is not consistent with observation:

- A woman was buried in about 1900 in Nevada. Fifty years later the family decided to move her remains to a family burial plot. They were amazed how heavy the casket was, and upon investigating found a great deal of petrification had already occurred. There was a high water table in the area and much mineralization.
- After a presentation in eastern Colorado, we were told of an incident where the family cat died and was buried by the children (with a proper funeral procession). A few years later, the children, captured by curiosity, uncovered the cat to see what was left. To their amazement, some of the bones were apparently petrified. The family sent them to a lab at a university. Having not mentioned the circumstances of the "discovery," they were informed that the bones were those of a cat which lived several million years ago and was ancestral to our modern cats.
- A display at the Institute for Creation Research includes a set of car keys encased in rock similar to sandstone. Although this isn't "petrification," it either shows rapid solidification of rock or that these may have been the keys to Fred Flintstone's rockmobile.
- Another part of a display at ICR shows square iron nails encased by petrified wood. Since it is hard to drive nails into rocks, we would assume the wood was rather recently petrified.
- Chicken bones have been petrified in the laboratory in a year's time.
- A miner's hat which lay in a spray mine in Australia turned to stone in less than fifty years. Calcium carbonate (limestone) replaced the hat. It is now on display in a mining museum.

Obviously, time is not the key ingredient for petrification. Proper conditions (such as those we can imagine during and following the Noachic flood) can greatly accelerate the process.

Book Review

Dr. Henry Morris has authored a tremendous number of books on the creation issue. His latest, *Creation and the Modern Christian*, is possibly his most pointed warning of current anti-creationist activity and most clear call for Christians to be alert and active in all phases of education. Sufficient current information about evolution is well documented and presented in a way that the non-science enthusiast will easily understand. This is a book that you must read. (Available from Alpha Omega Institute for \$9.95 including postage.)

Recent Events

Family Camp was an exciting time of in-depth creationism teaching coupled with a lot of good free time for families to re-group and enjoy fun activities together. Most took that big step off the 140 foot cliff and learned the freedom of being able to trust in very adequate safety precautions, in the expert Camp Redcloud staff assurances, and (last but certainly not the least) two strong, securely anchored ropes. Everyone had great things to say about this unique camp. Join us next year as we offer another opportunity. Write to us soon and let us know of your interest. We may schedule more than one excellent family vacation with a purpose.

Two great opportunities to reach key groups of leaders were with the Youth With a Mission Discipleship Training Schools. One was on board their ship, the *Anastasis*, while it was in dock in Victoria, B.C. This was a great group who eagerly absorbed all 17 hours of instruction spread over the week. An equally responsive group at the Cimmaron, Colorado base seemed ready to spread the message throughout the world as they sought to use all available tools for effective ministry.

If we gave an award for interest, we would have to give it to a group of people in Tofino, B.C. This was quite a small community, but interest at the Tofino Bible Church was very keen.

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 5 Orchard Mesa Christian Church
Grand Junction, CO
9:00 A.M. 243-5306
- Oct. 12 Colorado Evangelical Free Church
Grand Junction, CO
9:45 A.M. 243-0402
- Oct. 26 Monument Baptist Church
Grand Junction, CO
6:00 P.M. 242-9403
- Oct. 30- Hayden, Craig, Steamboat Springs
Nov. 3 tentative dates — call us for exact times and locations.
- Nov. Bible Center Church Paonia, CO
8-9 Full Seminar 527-4955 or 527-4169
- Nov. Redlands Community Church
21-22 Grand Junction, CO
Area Wide All Day Seminars and Youth Night 245-9020

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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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