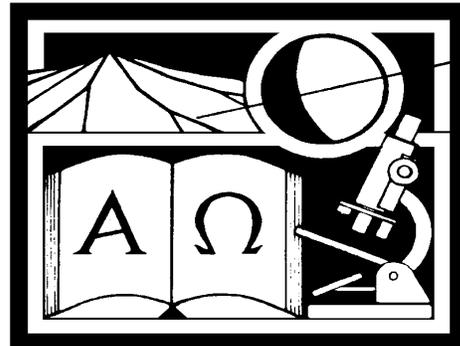


# Origins Insights

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



October 1999

## Kansas School Board Angers a Nest of Hornets

By Bob Harsh

On August 11, 1999 the Kansas State School Board announced a decision to **not require** any Kansas public school to teach evolution as unchallenged fact and to **not include evolution questions on any state tests**. Unless individual school boards prohibit their teacher from teaching about evolutionary theory, Kansas' educators can continue teaching evolution as fact in their classrooms. I predict that very few biology teachers in Kansas will be making any changes at all in their lesson plans. Although a slight majority of high school biology teacher believe evolution offers a better explanation of origins than does creation, the majority do not place a lot of emphasis on teaching it. In fact Linda Holloway, the chairwoman of the State Board of Education does not advocate the ceasing of teaching about evolution.

"I would be frankly surprised if any district throws evolution out," said Linda Holloway, the chairwoman of the state board. "That is certainly not my intent. I have no problem with the teaching of evo-

lution."

On the other hand, **I hope that rabid evolutionists will make such a big uproar** that

the discussion of the question of the validity of evolution will be brought **out of the closets** of science establishment dogma

### MEETING INFORMATION

#### OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENT

**HOSTS:** Bob Ivey and Reid Moon

**TOPIC:** The Tower of Babel: What does the Bible say about the origins of language and "races" or people groups?

Although the story of the Tower of Babel is only mentioned once in the Bible, the legacy of the event has had a profound impact on the origins of language and of the so-called "races." In the October meeting Reid and Bob will make a lively and informative presentation on the Genesis account of the Tower of Babel. We will look at some evidence of its existence and discuss how the dispersion of the sons of Noah by God and the confusion of language has resulted in the various people groups that populate the world today. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Don't miss this meeting and the chance to learn the answers to questions such as: - Did the Tower of Babel really exist? - Is the confusion of language a good or bad thing? - Who was Nimrod? - What was the first language?

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 19, 1999

**TIME:** 7:30 PM

**PLACE:** Mars CMA Church

into the fresh light of scientific inquiry! Our friends at the ACLU may just come to our aid and provide some fuel for the fire.

The American Civil Liberties Union says school districts could face lawsuits if they attempt to teach creationism in wake of the state school board's recent decision to de-emphasize the teaching of evolution. The ACLU, in a letter Friday to school superintendents, warned the districts about adopting "religiously-based standards" in teaching science. [Hanna, John. 8/14/99. ACLU May Sue Over Evolution Decision, Associated Press]

Some scientists and even the Governor have expressed a deep concern for the welfare of the students.

Kenneth Miller, a Brown University biology professor and staunch advocate of teaching evolution, told the WSWS, "I think it's a dramatic step backward for science education in Kansas. What they have done is to cut the heart out of science, which is evolution." [White, J. 1999. World Socialist Website, 8/13/99]

Some scientists really do believe the party line that evolution is the most important common thread in the fabric of biological science.

The campaign to change the Kansas guidelines was led by board member Steve Abrams, a former state Republican chairman. It began after a 27-member state committee of scientists drafted new standards which acknowledged that evolution was a "broad, unifying theoretical framework of biology." Abrams denounced the

draft, saying, "it is not good science to teach evolution as fact." He was joined by Scott Hill, a farmer.

The new standard includes a reference to so-called micro-evolution, a term coined by

***What they have done is to cut the heart out of science, which is evolution." [White, J. 1999. World Socialist Website, 8/13/99***

creationists, which refers to the genetic adaptation and natural process within a species. But it excludes any mention of "macro-evolution," the understanding that all life evolved from common ancestors. Also removed was any reference to the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe. Instead, teachers are instructed to "suggest alternative explanations to scientific hypotheses or theories" and a reference is made to the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens in Washington state, which creationists claim undermines scientific evolutionary theory because it showed geological changes can happen very quickly (i.e., within a Biblical time frame rather than over millions of years) [White, 1000]



It is a breath of fresh air to know of the courage of Steve Adams and the *mere farmer*, Scott Hill. Of course a left wing source like the World Socialists would like to distract the debate by claiming the creationists are not all that bright. But I always thought that farmers were pretty smart.

Half of the members on the Kansas Board of Education are right-wing fundamentalists. It is chaired by Linda Holloway, an Evangelical Christian and former Kansas City school teacher. [White, 1999]

In the mind of Mr. White, **right-wing/ fundamentalist/ evangelical Christian/ and farmer** are all meant to paint a derogatory picture of the creationists. Mr. White added more valuable insight:

The apparent success of the fundamentalists, then, is not based either on the strength of their ideas or any broad popular support, but on the rightward shift of the political establishment. For the most part, the masses of people remain confused and passive, unaware of the dangers posed by the escalating attack on public education and democratic rights as a whole. [White, 1999]

I could not have said it better! It seems to me that White is describing the process of acceptance of evolution by the American public back in the 1920's. But what is the real reason evolutionists are so upset?

In opposition there is an increasing concern, particularly among teachers, that scientific thought is under attack as it was 75 years ago during the famous Scopes Monkey trial in

Tennessee. In a recent statement, the National Association of Biology Teachers wrote: "Whether called 'creation science,' 'scientific creationism,' 'intelligent-design theory,' 'young-earth theory' or some other synonym, creation beliefs have no place in the science classroom. Explanations employing non-naturalistic or supernatural events, whether or not explicit reference is made to a supernatural being, are outside of the realm of science and not part of a valid science curriculum." [White, 1999]

The real division is not based so much on the vast evidence for evolution but the premises of the opposing views. One side views their science as allowing for super-natural origins and the other side feels the need to outlaw any super-natural causative agents. Both sides would like to silence the other. The so-called Scopes Monkey trial was all about a Tennessee law that wanted to silence evolution. The National Association of Biology Teachers would like to silence "**non-naturalists**". I hope the debate can happen in the open with the evidence presented based on real science in full recognition of the roll of opposing paradigms that influence the thinking of their proponents.

Of course there are the *theistic evolutionists* who think they have the answer and can't understand what all of the fuss is about.

Who is to say that evolution is not part of God's plan? It is possible that life is impossible without some divine spark to get it going. Evolution doesn't rely on that assumption, but

neither does it preclude it. Even if we did evolve from lower creatures, it is still possible that we are made in God's image and carry a responsibility to act as moral creatures, not as mere survivors in the

***Students are being taught that ... they are just products of survival of the fittest.***

bloody struggle for life. But consider this: There are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand on all the beaches of the world. That knowledge should inspire a bit of humility about our place in the scheme of things - whether there's a God or not. [Charen, Mona. 8/16/99. A Victory For Creationists and For the Ostrich Mentality. Boston Globe]

Of genuine concern on the part of *Creationists* are the dangers to society that the evolutionary naturalism worldview has produced.

"Students are being taught that ... they are just products of survival of the fittest. There's not meaning in life if we're just animals in a struggle for survival. It creates a sense of purposelessness and hopelessness, which I think leads to things like pain, murder and suicide." [Mark Looy from Answers in Genesis as quoted by Charen, Mona. 1999]

Evolutionists look at such statements as groundless and

inflammatory. Creationists have been loosing the cultural war over origin since the Scopes trial in around 75 years ago. I believe that we are now at the stage that a large number of people [not a majority by any means] really do believe that they evolved from apes. The natural outcome is that there is no such thing as a special creature that possesses a soul that will exist after physical death occurs. This leads to a philosophy of hopelessness and no feeling of purpose.

My prayer is that God will use this stirring of the hornets' nest to allow people to really examine the true validity of perhaps science's most powerful misunderstanding. Evolution has been a handy invention of atheists to get millions to question the existence of God. It is time to fight for the truth. Our forefathers dropped the ball in their scientific ignorance or more likely, apathy. Let's hope that the ACLU will continue to stir up the hornets!

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Don't miss it! We have all been invited to an Answers In Genesis Seminar almost right in our back yard! This event has been organized and arranged for by some of our own CSF members.

Let's do all we can to support this worthwhile event by attending and invite as many people as we can.

This Answers In Genesis Conference will be held at the St John Arena in Steubenville, OH. on November 12th and 13th. The contact # is 304-723-7055 or 877-723-7055. Just go to [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) for details.

## Tentative Topics for the calendar year 2000

- JANUARY 18, 2000:** Philosophical and Logical Evidence (Arguments) for Creation - Stephen Rodabaugh
- FEBRUARY 15, 2000:** Genetic / Biochemical Evidence for Creation - Robert Harsh
- MARCH 21, 2000:** Living Things as Evidence for Creation - Dennis Wert
- APRIL 18, 2000:** Cosmic Evidence for Creation (Design) and Catastrophism - William Stillman
- MAY 16, 2000:** Geological Evidences for Creation and the Flood - Chuck Danley
- JUNE 20, 2000:** Evidence for a Young Earth - Jeff Lawther
- JULY 18, 2000:** Anthropological Evidence for Creation and the Flood - Reid Moon
- AUGUST 15, 2000:** Fossil Evidence for the Flood - Robert Ivey
- SEPTEMBER 22, 2000:** SPECIAL SATURDAY FIELD TRIP MEETING; Empirical Evidence for the Flood: Tour of the Carnegie Museum—hosted by Dr. Kurt Wise (Proposed)
- OCTOBER 17, 2000:** Mankind Evidence for being Made In God's Image - Robert Walsh
- NOVEMBER 21, 2000:** Evidence for The Design of the Physical Man - Robert Harsh

**Creation Science Fellowship, Inc.**  
newsletter is published monthly.

**Purpose:** The aim of Creation Science Fellowship is to inform and educate people of the biblical, philosophical, and scientific validity of creationism.

**Circulation:** 500

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