

taxes should be abolished and husbands should be the head of the household, with women and children subservient.

Robert Simonds is president of the California-based Citizens for Excellence in Education and the national Association of Christian educators. Simonds is quoted as saying, "Our job is to evangelize. Our schools are the battleground." Simonds explains, "The National Association of Christian Educators is a group of professional educators in our public schools. Over 500,000 born-again Christians working from inside of the system to change it and return the Christian ethic of morality and excellence to education and to bring public education back under the control of the Christian community."

I wonder if God's law, Exodus 21:15-17 should govern our family life and if Isaiah 13:16 is an example of Christian ethics, or if Proverbs 22:15 should become part of the school curriculum.

If the Reconstructionists want to use the death penalty on adulterers, there are some famous fundamentalists who are on their way out. I would imagine that there are some parents who may not want the schools to be a battleground for evangelists.

Now that the citizens of Lake County have been exposed to the philosophy of Robert Simonds, I would like to offer some from Thomas Edison, "I do not believe that any type of religion should ever be allowed to be introduced into the public schools of the United States."

That should help some folks to see the light.

Jim Strayer
Ormond Beach

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune ran a story in November, '93 about a comic book store manager who was convicted of displaying material harmful to minors in a section not reserved for adults. His sentence was one year on each of two counts, the maximum allowable by law. A letter from our man in Sarasota published the following month brought up an incontestable point...

Sheriff, judiciary tough on comics

Up from the depths of the River Road rest area, out of the rear seats of the X-rated movie house, into the local comic book store ride Sheriff Geoffrey Monge's Marauders. While the homes of countless elderly citizens are burgled on a daily basis they fear not, for they know that Monge's Marauders are on the watch, keeping tacky comics off the local bookshelves.

And the local judiciary supports the Sarasota County sheriff. A local merchant is sentenced to two years in prison, and probably the loss of his livelihood, for the retail display of materials harmful to minors. Can merchants displaying the Bible expect the same treatment? The stories of the Bible depict sodomy, bestiality and atrocity.

In recent months, two local clergymen, one a priest in Fort Myers and the other a minister in Sarasota, have been convicted of having sex with little girls 13 and 5 years of age. Over an 8-month period the priest repeatedly molested his little victim, exposed himself to her and had sex with her in his home, on cruise ships, and at various motels across South Florida. The minister could have received a 100-year sentence for raping his 5-year-old victim four times but the county prosecutor said that the fact that he admitted his crime went in his favor. His church bishop, who covered up this travesty, goes to this day unpunished. The priest was sentenced to six months and the minister to one year.

Do I detect a double standard here? Do men of the cloth receive special dispensation from our local judiciary? Are they somehow exempt from the laws that govern the rest of us? If Timothy Dean Parks had put his collar on backward in May 1992 when he opened his comic book store, could he have gotten only a six-month sentence?

Edward J. McDougall, Sr.
Sarasota

Front page quote from:
Thomas Jefferson

ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA

Dedicated to the absolute separation of State and church

Volume III Number 1

January, 1994



Renewal time again

The beginning of the calendar year is renewal time for membership in Atheists of Florida.

Inside this newsletter, members will find a renewal form and return envelope. All renewals should be sent back to Miami. The questionnaire on the back of the form is optional and is only used to gather statistical information about our members. We hope everyone will renew since we expect to get plenty accomplished this year. Also, the state/church struggle seems to continue to escalate and we want you to stay informed.

Forum

The Atheists of Florida Forum, hosted by A of F Chairman Albert E. Lyngzeidson, will return with 12 more tapings this year. There's never a shortage of topics to cover, and if you have ideas, we'd love to hear them.

Speakers Bureau

The Tampa chapter has launched its speakers bureau with two engagements in January. Feedback has a consistency of two ideas: interpretation of religion and "no atheists in foxholes." But it is becoming increasingly encouraging to find a greater percentage of people in

Who said it?..

"But it does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods, or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg...Constraint may make him worse by making him a hypocrite, but it will never make him a truer man...Millions of innocent men, women, and children, since the introduction of Christianity, have been burnt, tortured, fined, imprisoned; yet we have not advanced one inch toward uniformity. Answer on back page.

agreement that religion is a private affair and should be kept completely out of government.

Board Members

We are optimistic that we will be able to increase the Board of Directors to 18 members as nominations continue to be received. Next month, all current members will receive a special mailing which will allow them to vote on the candidates of their choice. Board members will serve for three years.

Man-a-sota Atheists

A of F member Ed McDougall, Sr. (see Letters this issue) is giving serious consideration to forming a chapter in Sarasota, which is in Manatee County. Any persons in that county who are interested should get in touch with Ed at 922-8200.

Correction

In the previous newsletter, we reported that Atheists United had agreed to plan a national convention for 1995. In fact, directors of that organization agreed to determine from within their membership if they would be able and willing to produce such a convention and then make the announcement. Although it looks very promising, it is not yet confirmed.

"The objection to Puritans is not that they try to make us think as they do, but that they try to make us do as they think."

H. L. Mencken

8 January 1994

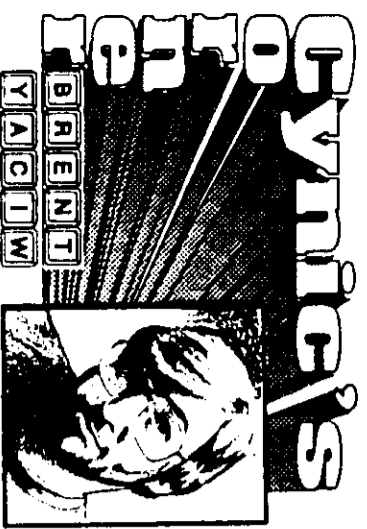
Atheists of Florida

ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA

P.O. Box 530102
Miami, FL 33153-0102

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

A CARTOON RECENTLY APPEARED in a local newspaper, promoting a religious agenda. A child was at the blackboard, and the teacher asked him to write a three letter word beginning with "g" that wasn't allowed in school. The child, no doubt filled with propaganda, wrote "god" instead of "gun" as the teacher intended, which supposedly shocked the teacher: as I suppose such ignorance should.



"And a child shall lead them . . ."

For the moment, let's ignore the legal mis-comprehensions of a child, and the logical approach that has liberated us from theism. Let's pretend there is a god; that god is a he as the J.C. club claims; and that all those omni-words really apply.

If god is omnipresent, what possible difference could it make if mere mortals banned him from somewhere? Since he's omnipotent, how could such a ban possibly be enforced? If he wanted to, couldn't he show up anyhow? Speaking of omnipresence, since god is a he, isn't he rather immoral hanging out in girls' locker rooms, bathrooms, showers, etc.? After

all, our own State Attorney, the self-righteous Willie Meggs, has told us all that public nudity is immoral and indecent and he intends to enforce new city and county ordinances in Tallahassee banning even partial nudity. Since god's a he, we must assume he has normal urges, and since viewing nudity incites violent sex crimes — Minister Meggs says so — can we expect a rash of god-rapes?

Actually, isn't this how J.C. came about? I know Mary wasn't married to Joseph, but he was at least her boyfriend; was Mary raped? Did she consent to being impregnated? Inquiring minds want to know! Perhaps if Willie Meggs spends some time answering these questions, which is certainly no less a waste of time than most of his recent activities, he'll quit harassing people who are good, fun-loving citizens who happen to think there's nothing inherently

indecent about the human body or sex.

But back to this school thing. Okay, we've got this god guy peeking in the girls' locker room, hanging out in general, obviously still as sexist as ever. Why would a kid think he wasn't allowed in school? Perhaps McKown's Maxim has something to do with it: "The invisible and the non-existent look very much alike." So since the kid can't see this god, he thinks he's not there. And anything not there isn't allowed. No, that can't be right. There are no gaks in school, and he didn't write that. Nor guks, guds, gops, gyts, or any other three-letter nonexistent things. Obviously, someone somewhere told this kid that there was a god, and he wasn't allowed in school. Being a child, he couldn't recognize the obvious paradox of being told that god was omnipresent and yet not allowed somewhere by puny little humans, whom he must of course obey. Which one is god here?

Maybe it wasn't meant quite that way. Maybe what the person who said it meant to say, and not being trained in child development was incapable of saying so that the child would understand, is that we humans were not allowed to make any references to this god guy.

Oh, but that's wrong too. All schools start off with a pledge to a piece of cloth, into which has been inserted the words "under god." Not that this belongs in a public school, but it's there. And standard curriculums include plenty of American and British literature that mentions a god. No, the "g" guy is still there, at least in name. Of course, this god guy is supposed to be everywhere and know everything (don't forget the other "o" word, omniscient), remember, so anytime the kid or anyone else wants to talk with the "g" man, all they have to do is think something and he'll know. In fact, he knows before it's thought, if he's omniscient. No need, or excuse, for disturbing the class or having some type of ceremony.



Atheists of Florida, Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization designed to heighten public awareness about atheism and to provide intellectually stimulating contacts for the membership. Membership dues should be sent to the chapter of interest. Direct general correspondence to: Miami Chapter / P.O. Box 530102 / Miami, FL 33153-0102. Contact phone is (305) 936-0210. Annual dues are prorated on a four-month basis, with annual renewals due by January 1.

Jan—Apr	May—Aug	Sep—Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Couple 30.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual 25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Student (under 25 yrs) 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 24.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 4.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 12.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 2.00

Newsletters: correspondence should be sent to: Tampa Bay Chapter / P.O. Box 130753 / Tampa, FL 33681-0753. The A of F newsletter, published ten times per year, is provided free of charge to our members as a medium of exchange. Letters from members are published on a space-available basis. Articles may be edited for clarity or length.

Atheists Of Florida, Inc. is affiliated with the national Atheist Alliance for purposes of information exchange.

Officers:
 Albert E. Lyngegaardson, Chairman
 Charles Zerkow, Vice President
 Kyoko Endo, Secretary
 Charles A. Rose, Treasurer
 Albert Holme, Coordinator
 State Board of Directors:
 Steven Miles, Louis Miller
 Florence Morgenthau, Daniel Striel
 Brent Yaciv, Newsletter Editors
 Ed Golly, Brent Yaciv

the Court has held that official aid to religion is unconstitutional if it promotes religion or a particular faith, or if it allows government and religion to become "entangled." Five of the current justices have objected to those conditions as being too restrictive, but they have never agreed on a new formula.

The Supreme Court is expected to issue a final decision by next summer.

And... Abortion rights advocates have argued in the Supreme Court that some abortion foes have joined in a "nationwide campaign of terror" and are violating a federal racketeering law. But anti-abortion activists told the court that subjecting them to the racketeering law would harm their right to political protest.

For our fellow atheists who don't know about RICO, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization statute is Title IX of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. RICO defines "racketeering" in an extremely broad manner, and it includes many offenses that do not ordinarily violate any federal statute. One of the many offenses defined as racketeering includes "Obstruction of (state or federal) justice." When you add to that the fact that the protesters are forming organizations for which they are collecting money, then clearly those people fall within the RICO range.

The National Organization for Women and the Clinton administration said lower courts wrongly threw out a NOW lawsuit that had invoked the disputed law against Operation Rescue and other abortion foes. A decision is expected in July.

NOW explained to the court that some protesters have used "forcible, violent conduct...any means necessary, including terrorism." While lawyers representing the groups NOW sued argue that Congress never intended to stifle political dissent when it passed the RICO Act, it is clear that obstruction of justice is involved when protesters block abortion-clinic access and stimulate mob violence.

So although lower courts have ruled that a RICO lawsuit cannot succeed unless the defendant had an economic motive, the Justice Department contends that requiring an economic motive for RICO enforcement threatens to cripple efforts to catch terrorists.

Scouts getting weary

WASHINGTON—According to a report in the *Miami Herald*, the Boy Scouts of America embarked on the unusual step of asking the Supreme Court to hear a case they had won in lower courts. The Scouts were seeking a Court declaration that they have a constitutional right to exclude homosexuals, agnostics, atheists or anyone else who won't go along with "Scouting's core values." But without comment the Court refused to hear the plea or the appeal of Mark Welsh, a boy from suburban Chicago who could not become a Tiger Cub solely because he refused to acknowledge a duty to God.

As our newsletter has been reporting, the Scouts' troubles have evolved into a struggle between two conflicting values: their freedom to choose members without interference, and individuals' right to be protected from bias by state and federal laws.

The Scouts' lawyer argues that government has no right to dictate membership requirements of private organizations. But Welsh's father counters that "They're not the private organization they claim to be. The Boy Scouts is a congressionally chartered organization, advertises that it accepts all boys, and is sponsored by government organizations in many places. It's absurd to allow them to judge the fitness of a boy based solely on whether or not he believes in God."

This is hardly the full extent of the Scouts' legal difficulties. Judges have ordered the group to pay millions of dollars in damages based on claims of sexual abuse, with new abuse cases piling up. At present, nine civil rights cases remain unresolved. Maybe they should seek some advice from the Catholic Church.

Simonds says

Those of you with an ear to the ground have probably heard the name Robert Simonds. Having appeared in *OrmondBeach*, A of F member Jim Steyer shed some light on this most dangerous

character with this letter published in The Daily Commercial.

The citizens of Lake County may like to have some added information about Robert Simonds. Robert Simonds was and maybe still is on the steering committee of the California-based Coalition on Revival. All members must sign a pledge in which they vow to work toward Christianizing America.

Tenets of reconstructionism include: God's law, as revealed in the Bible, should govern every area of life; local government should rule; prisons could virtually be closed if serious offenders were executed and less serious criminals worked to make restitution for their crimes; capital offenses requiring the death penalty should include unrepentant homosexuality; abortion and adultery; pornography in any form should be eliminated; schools should be run by churches; properly

Letters

(continued next page)

thing: accuracy is of no concern to Huse anyway. Let's also note that evolution is usually referred to as "atheistic evolution" and blamed for Hitler's Nazism and Marx' Communism. Interesting, since the two systems are nothing alike -- Hitler's philosophy was based primarily on the theology of Christian Martin Luther, and Marx received the typical indoctrination in religion before he came to his senses and rejected it, based on his observances of social phenomena, not evolution. But when he's right,

Thou shalt not kill...

ABILENE, Texas — It is often puzzling to atheists how a nation which claims to be "Christian" and trusts in a god ends up having the greatest military the world has ever known. If we really do trust in a god, why ever do we need such a military? The god would protect us from any oppressor. And if the Christian superstition *commands* us not to kill, what ever would we propose to do with such a powerful killing machine in the first place?



Ever wonder how military chaplains deal with these questions? As is common among all religions, no questions are permitted. When Chaplain Garland Robertson dared to question the use of military force two weeks prior to the beginning of hostilities in the Persian Gulf war, he ultimately ended up being booted out of the military.

When Robertson's query became public, he ended up clashing with his superiors and other chaplains and was ordered to undergo three psychological examinations to determine whether he had a personality disorder. He became branded a troublemaker and was forbidden to transfer to other bases.

Last September, an Air Force board of inquiry granted him an honorable discharge while maintaining he had exhibited poor leadership. Yet Robertson continues to speak out about the conflict posed when ethical concerns clash with national policy. According

he's right, and I'll happily agree that the Bible isn't compatible with evolution, or logic, or any other rational thought process. Make them waste their money, since your tax dollars subsidize them anyway. For a copy, write to:

Coral Ridge Ministries
P. O. Box 40
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302-0040

It's good for a laugh.



to Robertson, "The most pressing issue is, are we ministers of the church or ministers of the state?"

From the courthouse

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — That portrait of J.C. hanging on the wall of a Bloomingdale High School hallway has been ordered removed by U.S. District Judge Benjamin Gibson. He has received death threats for following the constitution.

Donated to the school in the '60s, the picture finally drew the attention of student Eric Pensinger. He filed suit to have the picture removed on the grounds it violated the constitutional ban on government establishment of religion.

Although the judge ordered the picture removed, it remained covered with a cloth while the school district appealed. In November, lawyers for both sides agreed that the picture could remain if portraits of Lincoln and Luther King were hung nearby. But the judge realized this effectively accomplished nothing and refused to amend his earlier ruling and ordered the portrait removed, arguing that "you cannot compromise constitutional rights."

Wall beginning to shake

WASHINGTON — In a case originating from New York, the Supreme Court has agreed to consider relaxing the strict limits it has imposed on public support for religious groups.

Led in particular by Judge Antonin Scalia, the Court has been leaning toward a more relaxed rule which would let government take a variety of steps to accommodate religion.

Last summer, New York's highest state court struck down a 1989 state law that created a new public school district that served only about 200 disabled children in a Hasidic community. The law set up a "symbolic union" of government and religion, making it appear that the government endorsed that particular religion.



Merrill Lynch

Private Client Group

One Turnberry Place
19485 Biscayne Boulevard
Suite 700
Aventura, Florida 33180
305 933 6222 Dade
800 937 0335 Toll Free

Anthony J. Schleifstein
Financial Consultant

Atheists of Florida CHAPTER MEETINGS:

MIAMI

The Miami Chapter will hold a joint meeting with the Humanists on Sunday, January 23 at the Ft. Lauderdale Main Library, Rooms A and B at 2:00 pm. This year we will be holding a series of lectures at the meetings. The lecturer for January is Dr. Simon V. Glynn, PhD, a philosophy professor at FAU, whose topic will be: Jean Paul Sartre: Existentialism is Humanism. For more information, call the Atheist Hotline at (305) 936-0210.

TAMPA

The Tampa Bay Chapter will meet Saturday, January 29 at the Clearwater East Public Library, 2251 Drew Street in meeting room B from 10:30 am to noon. For more information: Ed Golly 839-7567.

Message from the Chairman Atheism: Its meaning and purposes

Dr. Albert E. Lyngzeitson, PhD

Maybe what they meant was that no authority figure, like a teacher, in a public school can push one person or group's idea of what the big guy is, what he wants, whether or not it is a he or she, or even whether it exists, on children with no defenses or training in logical thinking. Yeah, I'd have to say that's right. Certainly sounds like the right thing for everyone; I'm sure Joe Catholic doesn't want Mr. Baptist, his child's teacher, trolling classes for converts. Nor does Jessica Jewess want her child subjected to Mr. Lutheran's "unoffensive, nondenominational" prayer to J.C. Of course, a child would have to be pretty advanced to understand this; most children simply care about getting what they want, no matter who they trample on. It seems some adults just never grew up.

Request

I have a favor to ask of all the readers. I'd like you to photocopy this column, and every time you read some letter to the editor, or hear some politician, promoting school prayer, send them a copy. In fact, send a copy to the coach who sponsors the "Fellowship of Christian Athletes" at your nearby school, one to school board members, maybe even one to State Attorney Willie Meggs. We need to reach a wider audience, and if these clowns can send me religious tracts (or put them on my door) with tax-exempt funds, I'm sure we can likewise declare the costs of mailing and photocopying educational materials as a legitimate tax-deductible donation. Keep your receipts.

ENTERING MY SECOND TERM as Chairman of the Board for Atheists of Florida, I take this opportunity to reflect upon the meaning and purpose of Atheism.

One of the primary difficulties I have encountered as Chairman of the Board of A of F is finding ways to motivate the many "closet atheists" out there to become politically involved. This is no easy task; atheists are by temperament individualists, iconoclasts, and typically "outsiders" who pride themselves as an "elite" who have not succumbed to the forces of demagoguery, idolatry, and superstition that infect the rest of the populace. Hence, consolidating atheists into a cohesive political unit wherein a sense of solidarity for the atheists cause is fostered is most difficult. In this lonely exposition, I would like to offer some reasons why, if you are a reticent atheist, you should become more vocal and involved in your opposition to, and freedom from religion.

Atheism is therapeutic

In being an active and involved atheist you will help the many unfortunate theists who are victims of religious addiction. Like a "junkie" who needs his fix of opium to cope with the stresses of life, the theist needs to believe in a mythical charade of hopeless illusions to cope. They need help to be saved from this mental torment and atheists should be benevolent in offering this help. To quote Joseph Lewis, "The human species has suffered for centuries and is still suffering from a mental disorder known as religion, and atheism is the only physician that will be able to affect a permanent cure". "Religion is a common form of mental illness" — Freud. "Religion is the opiate of the masses" — Marx.

(continued next page)

Atheism is empowering and liberating

The characteristic which is the distinguishing mark of humans, as compared to other animals, is the propensity of humans for mindless superstition and pointless ritual. By liberating the victims of religious dogma from their obsession with prayer, worship, and bogus ritual, you can perform an invaluable service for humanity: freeing the human intellect from the shackles of oppressive delusions and allowing it to flourish in the atmosphere of free thought.

Atheism is tolerant

R.M. Maelver wrote: "The greatest evils inflicted by man upon man over the face of the earth are wrought not by the self-seekers, the pleasure lovers or the merely amoral, but by the fervent devotees of ethical principles, those who are bound body and soul to some larger purpose, the nation, the "race", the "masses", the "brethren", whoever they may be (*More Principles and Actions*). The amount of human anguish, suffering and despair that has been the result of religious zealotry and dogma far surpasses the evil caused by any secular ideology. Without exception, every odious manifestation of institutionalized injustice has been caused by religious ideologists; racism, sexism, and nationalism have all been actively promoted by religious zealots. Atheism, by instilling in people an acceptance of tolerance, can be a crucial force for fostering understanding and mutual cooperation in men and women of different ethnic, cultural, and political backgrounds. There can be no peace on earth until the influence of religious dogmatism is eliminated.

Atheism is supremely ethical

Religion is an attempt by the superficial to masquerade as an imitation of the sublime. Religion is insidious; it is a surreptitious influence to affect a systemic deterioration of the human intellect. The more "religious" a person is, the less capacity he has for clear, critical thinking. Religion distorts and corrupts human potential by exchanging precious intellectual capacity for "faith" in imaginary idols.

Atheism, by teaching people to be emotionally self-reliant and ethically autonomous, operates upon a supremely ethical principle: to allow the human personality to flourish unhindered in a milieu of free-functioning and development.

Atheism is political emancipation

Baron Hothbach writes: "If we go back to the beginning, we shall find that ignorance and fear created the gods; that fancy, enthusiasm and deceit adorned or disfigured them; that weakness worships them; that credulity preserves them; and that custom respects and a tyranny supports them in order to make the blindness of men serve its own interests."

There can be no underestimating how religion as a political force has stunted, retarded or stifled every attempt at the betterment of human life. It has accomplished this via a myriad of methods: by inciting ethnic violence through the mechanism of "nationalism" (witness Bosnia); by tolerating economic injustice and exploitation (witness South America); by causing horrendous suffering and despair to millions of men and especially women by an unrelenting and brutal campaign against the pleasures of the body (witness the sexual perversion resulting from puritanical and prudish condemnations of sexual pleasure, and the agony caused to millions of female infants each year by genital mutilation carried out in the name of religious insanity).

As atheists, we all have a moral imperative to do whatever we can to minimize and ameliorate the pernicious effects of religion. The reason we have this heavy burden is because more so than anyone else we recognize the immensity of the evil created by institutionalized organized religion.

It is my hope that like other mistreated and oppressed minorities (gay citizens, African Americans, etc.) atheists too will find the courage to boldly and clearly demand their rights. Atheists have fought and died for this country (ironically, their efforts have served to preserve the very forces that are assiduously attempting to undermine freedom from religion), and we cannot afford to be silent when religious fundamentalists endeavor to impose their views upon the public. Atheists must "come out of the closet" and demand that religion be halted in its attempts to restrict intellectual freedom. There are far more atheists, secular humanists, and free-thinkers than is recognized — it is time that they stopped viewing religion as an amusing and basically harmless preoccupation for some. It is time that this "silent minority" made its concerns and claims unmistakably clear. When it comes to preserving freedom there is no short-cut, no easy-out, and the price and enormity of losing our freedom from religion is one that no conscientious human can afford to ignore.

— Dr. Albert E. Lyngzeidelson

The Collapse of Evolution

written by Scott M. Huse
Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI
Distributed by Coral Ridge Ministries,
among others.

book & film REVIEW

Charlatan's web

Brent Yaciv



THIS BOOK TRIES real hard to appear scholarly. The cover is a slick, computer-generated graphic, the printing is clean, the book has loads of well-drawn diagrams and endnotes. However, glancing at the endnote bibliography gives you your second clue as to the reliability of this book (the first was the fact that no reputable publisher would touch it): most of the references are to books published by the "Creation-Life Publishers," or the "Institute for Creation Research," along with the standard religious publishers like Zondervan and Moody. The notes referring to other books are usually comments taken out of context or by religionist commentators on books like Darwin's *Origin of Species*. Humorously, the book copies American Atheist's little book of blank pages in its "Appendix A," which is a blank page purportedly listing facts that prove evolution. Madalyn, here's someone you *should* sue!

Brent Yaciv is currently working on his doctorate in creative writing at FSU and holds a masters from MSF.

want to avoid quoting their real source, a book written by ignorant shepherds wandering through the desert thousands of years ago!

I also love how they twist the Laws of Thermodynamics. For example, the idea that the processes of nature tend to decay, at least in particular systems such as a single organism or structure. Buildings get old and crumble; so do animals, including man. However, this applies to the single system, not to a species. Actually, life itself is proof that *their* "theory" is full of holes, for how many of us were born at our physical and mental peak? Okay, maybe creationists hit their mental peak at birth, but they grew physically.

Another cute example is the numerous references to Pasteur's "proof" that life cannot come from non-life. Actually, Pasteur made a great contribution in letting us know that germs and bacteria don't suddenly spring up in sealed containers. However, he certainly did not prove that under certain conditions, over millions of years, extremely simple life forms could not come into existence in an open atmosphere, subject to variations in temperature, changes in humidity, exposure to different chemicals, energy sources like lightning and sunlight, etc. Pasteur didn't have time to "prove" the impossibility of life from non-life in his minuscule period on earth.

The appendices are interestingly revealing. Appendix C lists a supposed creationist believing scientist who made great contributions. Of course, every one died before 1920, so we have no opportunity to question them about the strength of their belief in creationism, nor ask if their publicized belief was as much fear of Galileo-type retractions and punishments. Appendix B lists the numerous "creation-science" organizations, but of course none of them are known for real science of any other sort. Appendix D is a glossary, with their own definitions; you won't find most of these in Webster. For example, "antediluvian," a word normally meaning simply archaic or obsolete, is defined as "before the Genesis Flood." Right.

There is one chapter with which I am in complete agreement, and it might even be worth your 29¢ stamp to get the book sent to you free if you write an "inquiring" letter. That's the chapter that admits that the Bible and evolution are completely incompatible, and proceeds to give you chapter and verse of the misinformation in the Bible. In fact, it even has the creationist sloganeer's favorite bit of misinformation about evolution, that evolution contends man evolved from monkeys. Though most creationists are evidence enough that we didn't evolve from monkeys since monkeys are smarter, evolution states that we evolved from a common ancestor, which is not quite the same

(continued next page)

MARK ANDREW TROP, ESQ.

Law Offices At Golden Glades
290 N.W. 165 Street, Mezz. 600
No. Miami Beach, FL 33169

944-5239
Facsimile 948-5389