

July 1997 Summit Journal

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From the President's Desk

Mr. Richard Overman, director of Creation Education Resources (Orange Park, Florida), was asked to participate in a forum on teaching creationism in the public schools. The forum was sponsored by Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and the National Counsel of Jewish Women.

His opening statement is worth sharing with others who may have an opportunity to present such materials to a local school board, etc. It is a nice approach.

"The evolution model begins with a preexisting primordial atom that contains all of the matter in the universe. We do not know where this atom came from, but evolutionists accept, by faith, that it existed. This atom then exploded, by processes that we do not understand, and scattered matter throughout the universe. The matter began to organize from disorder into nebula which eventually became the stars, planets and moons. Somehow a single celled life form organized itself on earth. Over time, life continued to organize from disorder into the higher life forms of plants, animals, and humans that we see today.

"The creation model begins with a preexisting intelligent creator. We do not know where this creator came from, but we accept, by faith, that He exists. This creator, by processes we do not understand, created the universe and all that is in it from nothing. Life was created essentially as we see it today with only in-species variations.

"I have just given you a religiously neutral explanation of the creation and evolution scientific models. Both models acknowledge elements of faith and both rest on processes we do not understand. Finally, both can be used to make predictions with which empirical data can be compared.

"The evolution model leads to the following basic predictions:

"1. Matter goes from disorder to order.

"2. There should be evidence of change from one species to another (i.e. transitional fossils).

"3. Earth's history is dominated by uniformitarianism which is the belief that everything changes at a constant rate.

"The creation model leads to these basic predictions:

"1. Matter goes from order to disorder.

"2. There should be no evidence of change from one species to another, only changes within a species.

"3. Earth's history is dominated by catastrophes.

"With this introduction, the public school teacher can explain the differences between empirical and historical science. The teacher can educate the student on how to gather empirical data and use it to evaluate the historical models. In the process, the teacher instills in the students valuable critical thinking skills that will aid the students in evaluating future options.

"Let us now look at various empirical data and evaluate them against the predictions of both models.

"The peppered moth story is one of proportions. Before the industrial revolution, there were more white peppered moths than black ones because the white ones were harder to see against the white bark of the trees. With the industrial revolution, the white bark became darker concealing the dark moths and making the white moths easier for the birds to see. Hence, there became more dark colored moths than white moths.

"We see that the moths did not change, so there is no evidence of change either within species or from one species to another. Only the proportion changes so this empirical data supports neither the creation nor the evolution model.

"When Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980, we saw exciting evidence of how geologic features normally associated with long periods of time can form literally overnight. We saw a 1/40th scale model of the grand canyon formed. We have documented evidence that it was not there one day and it was the next. Very fine stratified layers formed from hurricane force winds in 12 hours. The possible beginnings of a coal bed and the possible beginnings of 'multiple' petrified forest formed in Spirit Lake. From this, we see how features that were assumed to take a long time from uniform processes can be formed catastrophically.

"Darwin observed finches that had different appearances. From this, he supposed that given enough time, the small changes he observed in the finches could lead to changes from one species to another. The finch data, however, demonstrates only change within a species which is a prediction of the creation model but does not demonstrate change from one species to another.

"The fossil record is a record of change within species. Out of the millions of fossils that have been found there are no true transitional fossils. The evolutionists try to claim a few like Archaeopteryx and even make up some like Pro-avis. But, the facts are that the Archaeopteryx was a fully functioning bird. Fossil evidence shows that it could not be a transitional fossil. Polystrate fossils and misplaced fossils destroy the so called 'geologic column' and the geologic column does not exist in its entirety anywhere on earth. Correctly understood, the fossil record is better explained by the creation model than by the evolution model.

"Finally, Newton's second law of thermodynamics, also known as the law of entropy, says that when energy changes form it always goes from order to disorder. In other words, the universe is continually becoming disorganized. This directly contradicts the evolutionary model. The evolution model predicts that the planets and people are the process of matter changing from disorder to order. Evolutionists argue that life on earth could form from disorder because the sun provides an outside energy source. However, any physics student learns that two things are required to overcome entropy. They are an outside energy source and a mechanism for doing work. The evolutionary mechanism for work is missing.

"I could go on but time will not permit. This type of exercise can be carried out for many different types of empirical data. The teacher can introduce the models, guide the students through the predictions, and let the students compare the data to draw their own conclusions. Through this method, the students are educated and not indoctrinated into any particular point of view.

"We now turn to the question of whether or not it is legal to teach the science of creation in public schools. The Supreme Court has established a 3-part test to determine when the state has crossed the boundary of the separation of church and state. This was established in *Lemon v. Kurtzman* and has come to be known as the lemon test. The three-part test is:

"1. The activity must have a secular purpose.

"2. Its primary affect must not advance nor inhibit religion.

"3. It must not foster an 'excessive governmental entanglement in religion.'

"Now we will apply this test to the teaching of evolution alone, creation alone, and teaching both. First, evolution alone. Does the teaching of evolution alone have a secular purpose? The answer is no. There is so little scientific support for evolution that teaching it by itself is nothing more than indoctrination into the atheistic philosophy. Part 2, is its primary affect to advance or inhibit religion? Yes, teaching evolution by itself advances atheistic religions and liberal theistic religions while inhibiting conservative theistic religions. Finally, does teaching evolution by itself excessively entangle the government in religion? No, it does not involve the government in making religious doctrinal decision. By the lemon test, the teaching of evolution by itself violates the separation of church and state.

"By a similar reasoning, it can be shown that the teaching of creation by itself is also a violation of the separation of church and state. What about teaching both together?"

"Teaching both has the secular purpose of educating students in critical thinking skills so the answer to the first part is yes. Teaching both does not advance nor inhibit a particular religion. The religious aspects of theistic and atheistic beliefs can be discussed so the primary goal is not religious. Finally, teaching both does not excessively entangle government in religion. Therefore, I submit that the only way for the public schools to teach origins in a religiously neutral way is to teach both creation and evolution.

"I will close with a recent quote from Alan Morgan, State Superintendent of Schools in New Mexico who eliminated all references to evolution in their state's standards for science education. Mr. Morgan stated, 'Students will be expected to critically analyze a number of theories. There is essentially no reference to creationism, the big bang theory, or evolution. What we wanted was to avoid the requirement of any specific dogma. The standard says that we want students to have access to a variety of knowledge and then students can make up their own mind.' This, is the essence of education. Thank you."

Month in Review

"Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts that young men often have, but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right. Have faith and love, and enjoy the companionship of those who love the Lord and have pure hearts.

"Again I say, don't get involved in foolish arguments which only upset people and make them angry. God's people must not be quarrelsome; they must be gentle, patient teachers of those who are wrong. Be humble when you are trying to teach those who are mixed up concerning the truth. For if you talk meekly and courteously to them they are more likely, with God's help, to turn away from their wrong ideas and believe what is true. Then they will come to their senses and escape from Satan's trap of slavery to sin which he uses to catch them whenever he likes, and then they can begin doing the will of God."

2 Timothy 2:22-26, LB

"Either we are rational spirit obliged for ever to obey the absolute values of the *Tao* [moral order], or else we are mere nature to be kneaded and cut into new shapes for the pleasures of masters who must, by hypothesis, have no motive but their own 'natural' impulses."

The Quotes of C.S. Lewis, p. 29, from his book *The Abolition of Man*

"And when you turn from the New Testament to modern scholars, remember that you go among them as sheep among wolves."

The Quotes of C.S. Lewis, p. 73, from his book *Miracles*

"T. H. Huxley ['Darwin's bulldog'] dismissed the Gospels themselves as historical records. A curious dismissal indeed, as archeologists had by then [c.a. 1893] unearthed much evidence on behalf of the historical reliability of the Gospels. Huxley had been dead for only two years when no less an archeologist than William M. Ramsay vindicated the Acts of the Apostles [in his *St. Paul the Traveller* and *The Roman Citizen*] as an outstanding accurate document. Archeological evidence about the historical reliability of the Old Testament had steadily increased during the last three decades of Huxley's life and has continued to grow by leaps and bounds during the last hundred or so years."

Stanley L. Jaki, *Bible and Science*, p. 2

Emptiness of Evolution

"Teilhard de Chardin, for instance, would have done much more good if at any time during his scientific career he would have courageously called attention to a crucial point that leading Darwinists now readily admit: The paleontological record was never known to have contained clear transitional forms, let alone a series of gentle gradations leading up to man, and much less to an Omega point. . . After all, they still have to produce one single empirically verified case of a species transforming itself into another (to say nothing of the steps between ever higher units, such as genera, families, classes, etc.)."

Stanley L. Jaki, *Bible and Science*, p. 146

"Sir Fred Hoyle also suspected that life and indeed the entire universe must be unfolding according to some cosmic plan. The universe is an 'obvious fix,' Hoyle said. 'There are too many things that look accidental which are not.' When I asked if Hoyle thought some supernatural intelligence was guiding things, he nodded gravely. 'That's the way I look on God. It is a fix, but how it's being fixed I don't know.'"

John Horgan, *The End of Science*, p. 109-110

"Blood coagulation is a paradigm of the staggering complexity that underlies even apparently simple bodily processes. Faced with such complexity beneath even simple phenomena, Darwinian theory falls silent. . . The fact is, no one on earth has the vaguest idea how the coagulation cascade came to be."

Michael J. Behe, *Darwin's Black Box*, p. 97

Note: *Darwin's Black Box* is available from Summit Bookhouse for \$25.00, plus \$3.00, shipping and handling.

"Steven Weinberg, like Ed Witten and almost all particle physicists, has a profound faith in the power of physics to achieve absolute truth. But what makes Weinberg such an interesting spokesperson for his tribe is that he, unlike Witten, is acutely aware that his faith is just that, a faith; Weinberg knows that he is speaking with a philosophical accent. If Edward Witten is a philosophically naive scientist, Weinberg is an extremely sophisticated one - too sophisticated, perhaps, for the good of his own field."

John Horgan, *The End of Science*, p. 72

Question: Why are American students continually being brainwashed into believing that religion is based on faith and science is based on truth?

Battle for the Family

"Crime, like poverty, correlates far better with sex and singleness than it does with race. Although single men number some 13 percent of the population over age fourteen, they comprise 40 percent of the criminals and commit nearly 90 percent of major and violent crimes. Even as adults, single men are some five times more likely to commit violent crimes than married men. Single men are convicted of the ultimate sexual violation - rape - five times more often, proportionately, than married men. The reported incidence of this crime rose 28.6 percent between 1974 and 1983, more than any other major offense.

"Violence and crime join with mental illness, mild neurosis, depression, addiction, AIDS, institutionalization, poverty, unemployment, and nightmares to comprise the specialized culture of single men in America. Not surprisingly, the climax of the grim story is death. Of all groups, single males have the highest mortality rate - and suicide is increasingly the way they die.

"Between 1960 and 1977, the suicide rate for young men between 15 and 19 rose 154 percent. Suicide is not restricted to young single men, however. In fact, after the perilous early twenties, the older a man gets without marrying, the more likely he is to kill himself. Of course there are many forms of suicide that go by other names, and single men excel at all of them.

"Single men have almost double the mortality rate of married men and three times the mortality rate of single women from all causes: from automobile accidents and other mishaps, as well as from the whole range of conventional diseases. Most of the illnesses do not become evident until after age forty-five."

George Gilder, *Men and Marriage*, p. 65

Note: *Men and Marriage* is available from Summit Bookhouse for \$13.95, plus \$2.50, shipping and handling

"There was something different this weekend about the crowd at Walt Disney World - perhaps it was the man in a black patent-leather miniskirt and pink-rhinestoned mouse ears amid the family vacationers.

"'I'd like to know how Michael Eisner would explain that to my kids,' an unamused Candice Michaels of Falls Church said, referring to the chairman of Walt Disney Co. as she pointed toward the bare-chested young man in the eye-catching ensemble.

"Mr. Eisner was not there, but the young man in question, who gave his name as Roy, had this suggestion: 'Just tell them it's Gay Days. For three days, we get to be the majority. And if you don't like it, just close those little eyes.'

"Gay Day, or Gay Days as it became this year, has been an annual event at Walt Disney World since 1991, when a group called Digital Queers - a few hundred Orlando-area homosexuals who communicated through computer bulletin boards - chose Disney World as a place to meet face to face.

"This year, the three-day Friday to Sunday event swelled to include about 60,000 homosexual visitors, according to travel agents' estimates.

"In the early years, visitors in Orlando for Gay Day were so scattered that they wore red T-shirts so they could recognize each other.

"But finding like-minded visitors did not pose a problem this weekend. Public and private homosexual-themed parties were abundant, on and off the Disney property, and signs pointed the way to 'Lesbo-a-go-go,' and 'Muscle Beach.'

"Mainstream tourist venues like Disney's Pleasure Island and the Disney-MGM Studios were booked for all-night parties.

"'Isn't Pleasure Island where they sent all the good boys in "Pinocchio" to make them bad boys?' asked Steven Raintree of Myrtle Beach, S.C., as he walked into a party.

"'Most gays and lesbians are singles, or couples without children, so there's more money to spend on vacations and travel. Businesses recognize that,' said Lara Anderson, head of central Florida's Gay and Lesbian Community Services.

"None of this has escaped the notice of the religious right. The American Family Association and the Assemblies of God Church have already launched boycotts of Disney for what they call its effort to mainstream gay and lesbian lifestyles.

"Last year, the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, threatened a boycott of Disney over Gay Day and the company's practice of extending corporate benefits to homosexual partners.

"But such censure has done little to deter business. Universal Studios Florida and Sea World, two other

theme parks near Orlando, hosted their own Gay Days events this year."

The Washington Times, June 9, 1997, p. 9

"The biggest cover-up in the last quarter-century has nothing to do with Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton or even politics. It has been the cover-up about the impact divorce has had on a generation of children. Now that cover has been blown by the release of a lengthy study of middle- and upper-middle-class families from Marin County, California, by psychologist and divorce research expert Judith Wallerstein and Julia Lewis, a psychology professor at San Francisco State University.

"The folks who gave us 'no fault' divorce and tried to persuade us that it mattered not how we lived, only that we be 'happy,' have inflicted profound unhappiness on countless children abandoned by their parents.

"The report, the result of a 25-year study, traces the effect divorce has had on 60 families, including 26 very young lives - children aged 2 to 6 years when their parents broke up. Wallerstein and Lewis show that far from just the initial impact on children, which fades with time, divorce is a cumulative experience that produces stark emotional scars and shapes the attitudes, behavior and relationships of the children of divorce into adulthood.

"Half of those studied became seriously involved with drugs and alcohol. Many of the children, especially the girls, became sexually active early in adolescence. Though many fathers held degrees in professions that allowed them to make a good living, not one father provided full financial support for his child's college education and one-fourth stopped sending any financial help after the children turned 18. This led to more than half the children studied winding up with less education than their parents.

"Lewis noted that the long-lasting effects of their parents' divorce caused adult children to become 'very, very anxious about marriage (and) fidelity. They don't trust their own picture of marriage,' remembering 'how unhappy one or both of their parents were (and) the infidelity, the depression and sadness.'

"Wallerstein says about the divorce experiences of the group studied: 'There was no transition, no cushioning of the blow. Their loneliness, their sense that no one was there to take care of them, was overwhelming. Such are the core memories of these adults 25 years later.'

"During the period that Wallerstein and Lewis conducted their study, the major media and various interest groups were telling us that divorce is normal and that few are profoundly affected for lengthy periods when their parents split. If ever there was a case of denial, this was it. Many who wanted us to be 'sensitive' about the feelings of other categories of humanity (and the animal and plant kingdom) were far less concerned about the impact of 'the divorce culture,' as author Barbara DaFoe Whitehead calls it in her new book of the same name. Children in single-parent families are six times as likely to be poor, she notes. And children of divorce are two to three times as likely as those in two-parent homes to have emotional and behavioral problems. But who cares in a culture that promotes personal and instant

`happiness' as the only goal worthy of pursuit?

"That attitude has melted much of the glue that held our society together. Some still deny divorce is a catastrophe because many cannot stand to face the reality and consequences of what they've done to themselves, their children and their nation.

"If the report by Wallerstein and Lewis had been about business rather than family, the children of divorce would have the right to file a class-action suit - citing breach of contract by their parents."

Cal Thomas, *The Washington Times*, June 6, 1997, p. 21

"For those parents who still don't realize what is going on [in sex-ed courses] the point to grasp is that their children are viewed as prey. Perhaps the most striking feature of sex-ed is its mendacity. In *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, Robert Bork notes it seems to operate `more as an incitement' than as a caution against sexual experimentation.

"Above all, the disparity between the little that we really need to know about intercourse and the lurid array of materials deployed by the sexolatrists should warn us of an undisclosed agenda. Those (numerous) cases in which parents have been kept in the dark about what is going on, and especially the cases in which children are not allowed to opt out of courses, should teach us the same lesson.

"Some local-government posters displayed in classrooms could not possibly be shown in [*The Washington Times*]. In fact, the embarrassment of normal people in dealing with this subject has contributed to a broad news-media blackout about the horrible details. This has enabled the sex educators to take advantage of the very reticence that they are trying to break down.

"Judith Reisman's parents, old-line communists, were shocked by the sexual revolution. But then, like communists everywhere, they aspired to `build a new society.' The sexologists have no such reconstruction in mind. Their goal - conscious or not - is merely to destroy the old."

Tom Bethell, *The Washington Times*, May 29, 1997, p. 16

Other

"American television viewers today will be greeted with a grisly reminder that perhaps millions of religious believers worldwide, especially Christians, face `persecution, slavery, torture and murder' for their faith.

"The graphic TV spot, unveiled by the conservative think-tank Empower America, is the latest move to defend believers abroad.

"'Very little is being done to address the issue,' said William Bennett, former education secretary and current president of Empower America. 'We don't think it is just one more thing for the government to look at. This cries for attention.'

"At a news conference debuting the 60-second spot complete with images of mutilation and lynchings, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, Connecticut Democrat, and Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, also said the problem is a leading human rights issue.

"'As Americans, we have a unique obligation to speak out and act against religious persecution,' said Mr. Lieberman, who appears on the video with Mr. Bennett.

"The spot opens with words about persecution and murder, with Sudan, Egypt, China, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan named as being responsible for such abuses.

"'You probably didn't know,' Mr. Lieberman says on screen, 'that this century has seen more anti-Christian persecution than any other.'"

The Washington Times, May 29, 1997, p. 5

Someday there may be a sequel to this TV spot showing the intellectual persecution of America's Christian children in the public school arena. There the battle is not blood and bullets, but values, ideas and worldviews. Order our publication: *Clergy in the Classroom* for \$10.95, plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

"Standards of goodness should be relaxed. The new standards should be less demanding than those espoused by the ancient philosophers and their followers. The less exacting standards for a democratic age would be satisfied by behavior less strenuous than fidelity to the stern old virtues, such as self-sacrifice and self-denial, virtues that require self-control. From now on, the self would overflow.

"The problem with virtues as understood by the likes of Aristotle is that they require us to act against many impulses of our nature. That is difficult, so not everyone can do it as well as everyone else. It would be better, more egalitarian - more democratic - to redefine virtuousness as doing what comes naturally. So goodness can be defined as the spontaneous feeling of compassion in response to the suffering of others.

"The problem with virtues as the ancient philosophers understood them is that virtues are the result of habituation. So some people - well brought up people, sometimes called ladies and gentlemen - have more of them than other people.

"You see the problem: If virtues are largely the result of artifice - of nurturing - then what becomes of the most important dimension of egalitarianism, an equal entitlement to self-esteem? Surely equality must encompass the equal right of everyone to feel good about himself or herself. Hence Rousseau's

revolutionary insight: a democratic morality must be based on capacities broadly distributed across mankind - compassion and sincerity.

"Compassion turns out to be a form of self-flattery. This is so because we respond to the suffering of others by being sensitized through our own experience of suffering. As our relentlessly self-referential president might put it, I feel your pain because I feel mine. And the negative experience of suffering becomes, Rousseau said, the basis of something positive - social cohesion. We are united by our shared need for therapeutic attention."

George F. Will, *Newsweek*, April 28, 1997, p. 88

"China will soon deploy a new mobile strategic missile, with multiple warheads, that poses a significant threat to U.S. forces in the Pacific and parts of the continental United States, *The Washington Times* has learned.

"According to a classified Air Force report, the newest generation of Chinese strategic missile, known as the Dong Feng-31, 'will narrow the gap between current Chinese, U.S. and Russian ballistic missile designs.'

"The DF-31 ICBM will give China a major stride capability that will be difficult to counterattack at any stage of its operation, from pre-flight mobile operations through terminal flight phases,' the report says. The report, produced last fall by the National Air Intelligence Agency, is labeled 'secret.' A copy was made available to *The Times*.

"The report concludes that China's effort to build an advanced ICBM capability is 'steadily increasing.'

"It will be a significant threat not only to U.S. forces deployed in the Pacific theater, but to portions of the continental United States and to many of our allies,' it says.

"William Triplett, former Republican counsel of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a China specialist, said Beijing's new missile poses direct and indirect threats to U.S. interests.

"I'm concerned that this advanced missile technology will reach the hands of terrorist nations, including Iran, at some point down the road,' Mr. Triplett said. He noted that Beijing is notorious for exporting its weapons and military technology to several rouge states."

The Washington Times, May 23, 1997, p. 1

"Swiss bankers may deserve the world's opprobrium for their dealings with Nazi Germany. Great care, however, should be taken, especially by the United States, in criticizing the Swiss government for its policy on Jewish refugees who before and during World War II sought in vain to escape from Adolf Hitler's inexorable genocide.

"However callous the Swiss government was about allowing the endangered Jewish remnant to enter Switzerland, the Great Powers - the United States and Great Britain - behaved far, far worse, both before, during and, for Britain, even after the war when British warships and land troops used force to prevent the handful of death camp survivors from entering Palestine.

"Recreation will not restore the lives of 6 million human beings slaughtered by Germany's willing executioners but at least it might stop finger-pointing by the U.S. State Department. We will never know how many lives might have been saved had the Allies, whose air fleets were bombing Germany, not refused to drop a stickful of high explosive on Auschwitz or Buchenwald.

"Who can ever forget how in the prewar years the passenger liner, St. Louis, loaded with Jews and their families fleeing Germany, was barred from docking at a U.S. port?

"Switzerland, at least, had an excuse - Switzerland was entirely surrounded by Nazi military power, the United States was not - for its callousness about barring the fleeing German Jews. It does not, however, excuse the behavior of the Swiss banking profession then, and now that their scandalous behavior has become public knowledge. Why doesn't the State Department's chief historian, William Slany, write the history of the failure of the United States to help in the rescue of the doomed remnant of European Jewry from a vengeful Adolf Hitler?

"I have another assignment for Mr. Slany. Let us get the full story out of the archives of how, at the request of another mass murderer, Josef Stalin, we forced Russian POWs in U.S. prison camps to be returned to the U.S.S.R., and, if necessary, used force against these POWs? And how some of these POWs committed suicide rather than return to Stalin's Russia? The British Foreign Office has yet to release the full story of its forcible repatriation of Russians, even those who had lived as Russian emigres in France or in Austria long before World War II. Were Winston Churchill and, later, Prime Minister Clement Attlee ignorant of what was going on in the British Foreign Office to appease Stalin?

"By all means, let the Swiss bankers and the Swiss government feel the public outrage at their financial chicanery about the disposition and sequestration of refugee assets. Let's collect on behalf of the dead and the living what is due them or their survivors. But as far as who did what about the German refugees, as it says in the Bible, let him who is without sin throw the first stone.

"Stuart E. Eizenstat, take heed."

Arnold Beichman, *The Washington Times*, May 30, 1997, p. 21

"Are you getting yourself ready for the post-national future, firm in the conviction that the nation-state is an obsolete form of political organization? Thus thinks German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who last year lectured Belgians, 'The nation-state cannot solve the great problems of the 21st century.' Or, indeed, well ahead of his time, thus thought another German, Nazi Joseph Goebbels, who lectured Czechs in 1940, 'I

am convinced that in 50 years' time people will no longer think in terms of countries.'"

Richard Grenier, The Washington Times, May 30, 1997, p. 23

"Following the 'normalization' of premarital sex, divorce and homosexuality, I have been wondering when and which of the few remaining dominoes dealing with personal morals would fall. It appears the next to go will be adultery.

"Several press reports indicate the adultery domino is already teetering. The Air Force brought several charges, including adultery, against Lt. Kelly Flinn, the first female B-52 bomber pilot. Flinn admits to an affair with a married man. The New York Times characterized it as 'violations of the heart.' Wrong organ. CBS's Morley Safer rolled his eyes during a '60 Minutes' interview with Flinn, communicating his view that the idea of punishing adulterous behavior is a leftover relic from the era of witch trials in Salem.

"Today, adultery is largely regarded as less offensive than a politician's broken promise. The breaking of a business contract is more universally condemned than the violation of a marriage contract. Yet, the consequences to a society which lowers its standards for such things is broken homes, broken children and, ultimately, broken society.

"Infidelity is primarily about lying. That is why it is incorrect to assert that a politician, or anyone else, can be one person in his or her 'public life' and another person in private. If one lies about a marital promise, on what basis do we judge his standard for truth-telling elsewhere? Some politicians who promote themselves as favoring 'women's rights' see no inconsistency in violating their marriage contract through extramarital affairs, divorce or 'annulments.' What about the rights of the woman who has been victimized by her predator husband, whose first responsibility is to preserve and protect his family?

"Most states continue to treat adultery as a misdemeanor, and everywhere it is grounds for divorce. But seeing the dominoes that have already fallen and the deaf ear we have turned to the Seventh Commandment (and all the others), give it time. It won't be long before adultery is taught in our public schools as 'normal,' 'human,' even beneficial."

Cal Thomas, May 21, 1997, essay

"The Kennedy family yesterday presented its prestigious Profile in Courage award to an Alabama judge who ruled that it was unconstitutional to post the Ten Commandments in a fellow judge's courtroom. Some prominent Catholics greeted the decision with derision.

"The annual award was presented in Boston to Circuit Judge Charles Price, on what would have been John F. Kennedy's 80th birthday, by the assassinated president's two children, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy Jr.

"Last year, Judge Price, 56, ruled that Etowah County Circuit Judge Roy Moore may not display a plaque of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom in Gadsden, Ala., and that he may not open court sessions with prayer.

"In February, Alabama Gov. Fob James Jr. threatened to call out the National Guard to keep the plaque from being removed, if necessary.

"'The Kennedys gave the award to the wrong judge,' said Bill Donohue for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. 'It'd be much more in synch with Catholic thinking to award the judge who put the Ten Commandments in his courtroom.

"'If the Kennedys want to remain true to their principles, then they ought to petition the U.S. Supreme Court to remove the Ten Commandments from their building,' Mr. Donohue said. 'The Kennedys have been an embarrassment for many people in the Catholic community, and for them to award this is an in-your-face kind of move.'"

The Washington Times, May 30, 1997, p. 3

Some good news. . .

"Deluged with complaints from evangelicals, the International Bible Society has killed a gender-neutral translation of the New International Version of the Bible.

"The decision announced Tuesday is a major victory for conservative Southern Baptists, who objected to any effort to alter the text, saying it would be a capitulation to feminism and political correctness.

"The International Bible Society sponsors translations of the NIV - the most successful modern English Bible translation sold in the United States. The society said it was clear the majority of its readers don't want the NIV changed."

The Washington Times, May 29, 1997, p. 1

"Last week the new Templeton Honor Rolls recognized and awarded 126 honorees that included colleges and universities, departments and special programs, scholarly books and textbooks, and teachers. In addition, two lifetime achievement awards were presented to Milton Friedman, the Nobel Prize-winning free market economist, and Gertrude Himmelfarb for her book, *The De-Moralization of Society*.

"What these awards show is that there is much to be proud about in many of our institutions of higher learning. More than 800 nominations were considered by a distinguished 27-member executive

committee that included two Nobel winners, a former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a former secretary of state.

"While they do not get the national media attention they deserve, there are many schools that maintain high standards and insist on academic excellence; departments and programs dedicated to serious scholarship and open inquiry; and outstanding professors who year after year challenge their students to confront the great moral and philosophical principles undergirding U.S. society,' Mr. Simon said in his opening remarks.

"As we searched out the best in American higher education, we found that the reports of academia's pending demise are both premature and exaggerated. Indeed, there is reason to be confident, to paraphrase former President Reagan, that higher education's best days still lie ahead in America,' he said.

"And looking through the list of honorees one is immediately impressed, not only by their accomplishments but their acknowledged commitment to traditional, classical concepts in teaching and academic inquiry.

"Among the award-winners is the University of Virginia, including its departments of English, government, economic and religious studies. Each of these departments contains professors who pursue their scholarship without indulging in ideological posturing,' observes the Honor Roll's awards catalogue, which will be available to any parents seeking the best schools for their children.

"Other awards-winners include Claremont McKenna College of Claremont, Calif., one of the foremost business management schools in the country; Hillsdale College, the small Michigan school that has rejected all federal financial assistance in order to remain free of government controls; and Boston University which, under John Silber's leadership, has championed the core curriculum and improving educational standards."

The Washington Times, May 26, 1997, p. 17

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