

does creationism deserve equal time?

By **RON HUNT**
Of the Emerald

"Scopes II" conjures up full-blown images of monkeys, brilliant scientists, sincere-but-stupid fundamentalists, and the sheer awe of "billions and billions of years."

A federal trial in Little Rock, Ark. — expected to last through next week — is being called "Scopes II."

In this nickname we find the key to the trial and the continuing battle over teaching evolution and creation in public schools.

Equal treatment to both views of the origin of life is

required by the Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science Act, passed in March by the Arkansas legislature, and signed into law by Gov. Frank White. It would go into effect in the fall of 1982.

Claiming the law is vague and unconstitutional, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit in U.S. District Court in May.

"Scopes II" was the tag given the trial by Bruce Ennis, an ACLU lawyer. He thus likens the Arkansas trial to the 1925 trial in Dayton, Tenn., of John Scopes, charged with teaching evolution in opposition to a Tennessee law.

The 1925 trial was a high-

strung affair. Clarence Darrow traded mental blows with William Jennings Bryan. Both sides argued in extravagant terms, calling the other side, respectively, anti-intellectual or anti-God.

The ACLU apparently thinks the Arkansas trial is another case of defending teachers of evolution against anti-intellectual religious freaks. Thus the "Scopes II" designation.

What the ACLU fails to see is that those who oppose the teaching of scientific creationism (which utilizes scientific data that questions evolution and supports creation, without reliance on the Bible) in public schools are religious and anti-intellectual.

Everyone is religious. All of us live our lives with a view of reality. If we didn't live this way we couldn't think at all. Whether

we say that the material universe is all there is or that a spiritual creator exists, we have assumed a starting point for the rest of our thought. This assumption is based on faith.

Creation cannot be proved, but neither can evolution. The origin of life is historical; it can't be proved by experimentation.

Therefore, those who oppose the teaching of both views are religiously motivated. Arkansas state attorneys filed a brief saying the ACLU suit is attempting to censor creationism, "shutting out from the marketplace of ideas" those ideas with which they disagree because they are incompatible with their personal, religious or philosophical views.

Those represented by the ACLU in this case also are anti-intellectual, in a philosophical sense. Charles Darwin once wrote, "The horrid doubt always

arises whether the convictions of man's mind, which has developed from the mind of the lower animals, are of any value or at all trustworthy. Would anyone trust the conviction of a monkey's mind, if there are any convictions in such a mind?"

If evolution is true, how can we trust our minds to observe it? Ultimately evolutionists can give no basis for the intellect; reason cannot come from non-reason no matter how many billions of years they throw into the equation.

Calling the Arkansas trial "Scopes II" reveals the religious, anti-intellectual bias of the ACLU in this case.

Arkansas legislators don't want to censor the teaching of evolution. Neither do they want to censor another view — creationism. The Oregon Legislature should consider a similar balancing act.

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The Reagan administration is "obsessed with having a confrontation with the Soviet Union," a former member of the U.S. State Department said at a press conference Wednesday in the EMU.

Richard Barnet called U.S. foreign policy "mindless" and said he is "very pessimistic" about the short-range prospects of nuclear war.

Barnet, who served as Deputy Director of Research for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency during the Kennedy administration, also spoke at a Wednesday night speech sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum.

"I don't know of a time in my lifetime when I've heard from so many people in knowledgeable positions expressing great worry about the prospects of nuclear war," he said.

Pres. Ronald Reagan is operating on an "exceedingly dangerous assumption" if he thinks a nuclear war could be limited to Europe, said the senior fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies of Washington, D.C., who is currently at work on a book dealing with United States-Europe relations.

It would be equally dangerous to assume that "if we talk tough, stand firm, and have massive armament the Russians will back down," Barnet said.

He said if the United States continues its armament plans, the Soviet Union probably will be "much more adventurous" than now.

"The Soviet Union is exceedingly anxious to avoid confrontation."

On other topics brought up at the press conference, Barnet said:

- "The administration is incredibly short-sighted in cutting back alternative energy, particularly in renewable resources."

- It's "tragic" that the government doesn't see employment as the number-one problem, when unemployment of black teen-agers is more than 50 percent in some areas.

- The assumption that heavy defense spending will lead to more employment is on shaky ground because defense contracts are temporary, affect few cities, and lead only to employment of high-skilled workers in high-technology fields.

- "The political parties at the top are absolutely bankrupt" because they don't have viable economic programs. The Democrats are merely "waiting for Ronald Reagan to stub his toe, which he seems to be doing."

Programs suffer enrollment decline

Fall enrollments for ESCAPE and SEARCH are down from previous levels, but program directors say they are not too concerned.

ESCAPE enrollment was down only 4 percent over fall

term last year, and is therefore in line with the enrollment decrease for the University, director Trudy Flannery says.

Enrollment in ESCAPE, now at 360 students, is "holding fast," she says. Enrollment last

fall, which was lower than that of winter and spring terms, was 375.

Enrollment in the eight SEARCH classes was only 81, according to the University registrar's figures.

Kuhns says he and fellow staff members Mary Hope and Yliana Hermoza are proud that 17 courses and at least 10 winter term workshops have been planned within the last three weeks.

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