

# features

## Scientific creationism?

By Tom Jeffries  
Of The Print

"The state does not prescribe what should be specifically taught in science or other courses. That decision should be left to local school boards," was State Attorney General Jim Brown's decision on whether the theory of scientific creation should be taught alongside the theory of evolution in public schools.

Scientific creationism is the theory that creation and the evolutionary process were begun and monitored by God. Three College biology instructors were consulted for their opinions.

"I wonder how people would feel about the mandatory teaching of evolution in church?" said science instructor John Snively when asked how he felt about both theories being treated equally in the classroom. "From a personal perspective, I would never teach scientific creationism as an alternative to evolution. I spent my time in church, but I also spent 12 years in college and learned a lot about alternate explanations that are much more satisfying and rational to me," Snively said.

"Besides, from a scientific point of view, you cannot teach a belief. We don't teach any theories based on beliefs, we base it on tested hypothesis. I couldn't teach creationism and be serious. It's not in the realm of science. I don't see how you

can teach a science class and inject beliefs. As a taxpayer, if public schools were to adopt this I'd fight the whole process.

It simply doesn't belong in the classroom. There's not enough to back it up," he added.

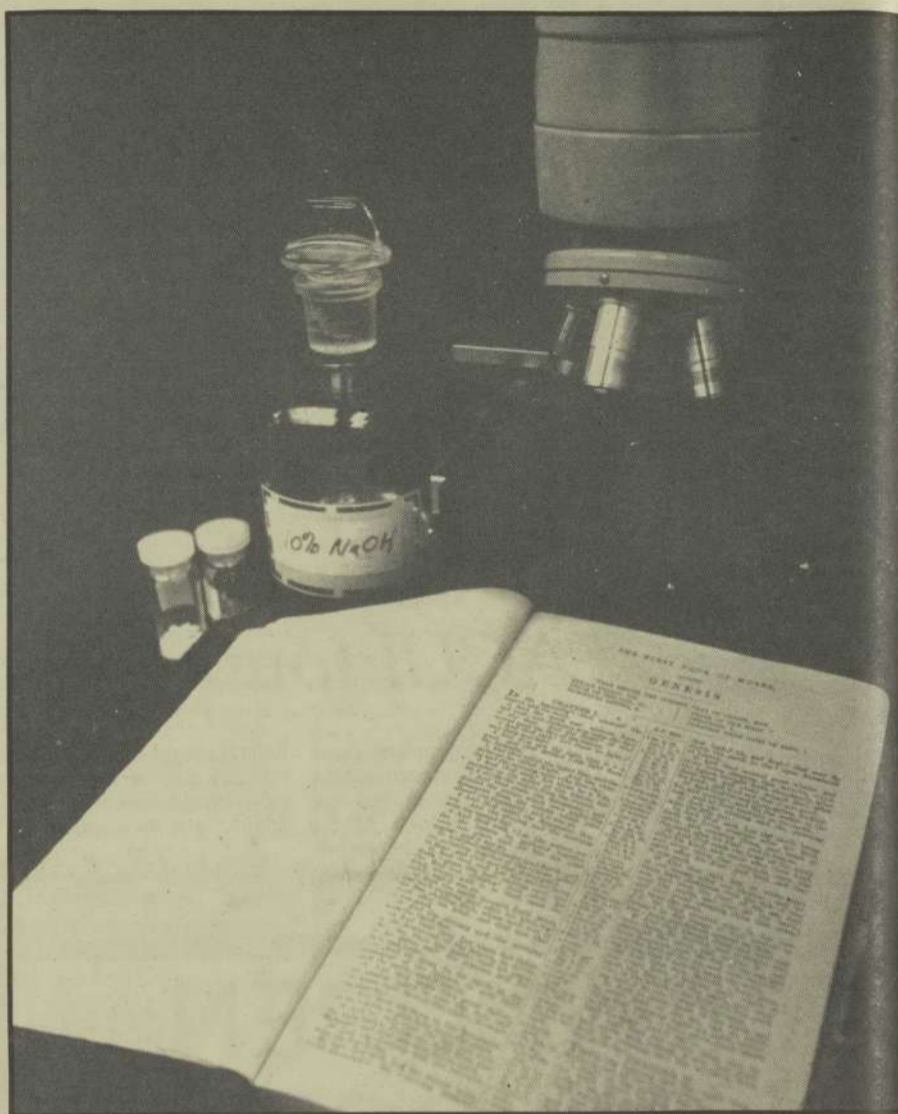
"I don't feel it should be taught in the classroom," echoed biology instructor Deryl Hampton. "It should be taught in church. Science classes should contain science."

"I have no particular problem with creation," Hampton added. "A thinking, rational person can believe in God and evolution, but evolution is happening, we can see it, whereas religion has to be taken on faith. Evolution is the single unifying theme in life sciences, it's the basis of modern biology."

I would be upset if creationism were taught in the classroom. It's religion."

"I don't feel there can be any such thing as scientific creationism," agreed instructor Florence Lee. "The two words are mutually exclusive. They're incompatible. Science is based on facts. We have lots of courses about religion, we shouldn't bring it into science."

"Our Constitution is founded on a principle of separation of church and state. We should not bring the church into the public classroom. As a taxpayer and a believer in the Constitution, I would be against it."



Staff photo by Duffy Coffman

## Adams teaches mountaineering

By Steve Lee  
Of The Print

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to climb a mountain or a cliff...just because it was there? Many people have, and the sport of climbing is growing in popularity every day.

There is more to climbing than one might expect. For example, the techniques used in alpine climbing are very different from those used in rock climbing. The cost to get started in each is quite different. But both can be done at any time of year.

### Seek instruction

Since both of these sports can be very dangerous without proper instruction, it is important to know where to receive quality training, at modest cost, and have fun doing it.

Chuck Adams, director of admissions and records, has

just the ticket. He and a couple of his friends run a mountaineering school in Gresham. They teach basic and intermediate mountaineering skills in a course connected with the community education program.

Although Adams isn't teaching any classes this winter, he usually teaches in the evenings and on weekends. His instructors are of high quality, and of them he says, "one is a fireman, and the other works for the Forestry Department," occupations which have trained them well in safety and wilderness skills.

In the past, Adams had taught survival classes to Pacific Northwest Bell crews who work on the many microwave towers situated throughout the mountains of Oregon. He has also taught survey crews from the Department of the Interior and the Federal Highway Commission the basics of mountaineering, rope handling and safety.

"We teach them to use the equipment that they have with them as tools for practical survival. For instance, a hubcap can be used to dig with or as a pan to melt snow in. The wind-

shield of a truck can be used to make excellent snowblocks for use in building an igloo," he pointed out.

### Take action

Some of the more specific skills taught by Adams are: making snow caves, trench shelters and igloos; using snow-cat equipment for uses other than designed (such as using snow-cat seats as insulation from the snow, or using wiring to weave snowshoes); first aid--preventing hypothermia and frostbite, injury maintenance; an emphasis on taking action--doing something, not just sitting there; finding food and drink in the wild (pine needle tea, roots and berries, and how to make snares for small game).

For the time being Adams won't be teaching any classes because he is involved in too many College committees to allow him time away from school. But soon his commitment as a committee member will end, and it is conceivable that during the summer months he will be able to teach a few classes and even make an excursion or two.

Adams said that he hopes to "make a trip to a foreign country this summer. Hopefully, to Switzerland, New Zealand, or to the Himalayas." Last year, the College offered a class in Mt. Trekking, which culminated in a trip to New Zealand...Or would have, had there been more interest. It seems that many people who normally would have been interested in such a class were dissuaded by the \$2,000 course fee.

"This type of an excursion is expensive, so I would encourage all those who would like to go to save up," said

Adams. It would definitely be the trip of a lifetime to travel to a foreign country and see all the natural beauty of those exotic places. If you are interested in an overseas mountain trip, leave your name and number with Adams in the Registrar's Office.

### Low cost classes

For those who would rather stay at home, there is a local group known as the Mazamas who teach basic, intermediate, and advanced mountaineering courses. It is inexpensive for these high quality courses, and Adams recommends them highly. The Mazamas teach during the spring and summer at local high schools. Their course includes a mountain trip at the end, as well as all the techniques you can handle. Their courses are usually filled to capacity each year, so sign up early. Call 227-2345 for more information.

