

Chart of World History by Edward Hull in her AP World History classroom. According to the chart, the universe was created in 4004 BC, and human history began with Adam and Eve.

Posting such a timeline in a classroom funded by public dollars violates state education laws. "That is not in line with Oregon's content standards in terms of social studies or science," said Oregon Department of Education spokesman Gene Evans.

A parent, Colleen Bauman, approached HomeSource Director Theresa Thompson about the timeline. "My daughter came home and said, 'It was weird, there was a timeline up with Adam and Eve on it,'" Bauman said. "In this climate, this is not the time or the place to even have a [religious] graphic [in a publicly funded school]."

HomeSource staff took down the timeline immediately, and Bauman was comfortable with that. "At this point my family has no problem with what happened at all," she said.

But another HomeSource parent, who asked not to be named, felt uncomfortable about religious undercurrents in the program, calling it "so overtly Christian."

HomeSource was founded in 1996 by a coalition of parents, the Bethel School District and the Oregon Department of Education. Today, it serves about 600 home-schooled students in 11 Lane County school districts, including Springfield, Eugene 4J and Bethel.

The nonprofit has an annual operating budget of about \$1.2 million, funded mainly by tax dollars. HomeSource teachers are not required to be certified, and classes are intended to supplement the learning of home-schooled students in grades K-12. Because HomeSource receives public funding, it is

prohibited by state law from teaching religious doctrine in the classroom.

"We don't teach religion," says HomeSource Executive Officer Paula Praus-Williamson, "but we have a family atmosphere. Our goal would be to make sure that people are comfortable."

Praus-Williamson pointed out that HomeSource declined one resident's offer to teach a class on biblical creationism because it would have crossed the secular line. "The teachers know very well that they don't teach religion here," she said.

But Praus-Williamson stopped short of calling the timeline inappropriate. "It wasn't being used to teach religion," she said. "[Smith-Gillespie] was using it historically to teach AP History. They didn't even address that part of the timeline. It just happened to be there." — Kera Abraham

WYDEN UNDER PRESSURE

Supporters of peaceful solutions to world problems are planning on giving Sen. Ron Wyden a "wake-up call" at noon Thursday, Nov. 10. Activists will be turning in petitions with 400-plus names that call on him to support bringing our troops home, close all military bases in Iraq and use the power given to him under the Constitution to stop the funding of the Iraq war. They'll also be holding a mini-rally with signs and chants "loud enough to be heard in Washington, D.C.," says organizer Michael Carrigan.

The action is being sponsored by the September 24 Coalition. For more information contact CALC at 455-1755 or e-mail caldev@efn.org

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• A news brief last week ("Lee Returns to Eugene") incorrectly stated that the late Sen. Morse cast the lone vote of dissent on the Tonkin Gulf Resolution that expanded the Vietnam War. Sen. Ernest Gruening of Alaska also voted against that resolution. Also, U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee canceled her appearance at the "Gender, Race and Militarization" conference due to unforeseen congressional duties.

• Regarding our news brief last week on

the local TrineDay book publishing company facing a lawsuit, Editor Russ Becker of TrineDay tells us the suit was actually filed by former Green Berets, members of the Special Forces Association, and not the association itself. Becker says the association does "seem to be the driving force behind it, having published something we think is libelous about the book in their newsletter a few years ago." He adds, "The suit asks for money damages, and so is an *indirect* attempt to shut us down via a bankrupting award. The First Amendment would, I hope, bar any direct attempt to silence the press."

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

LISA PONDER

"I'm not just a grave-stone carver," says memorialist Lisa Ponder. "I'm a person who preserves stories of individuals and communities." A seventh-generation American, she learned her own family stories on childhood visits to a cemetery in Red Lick Mountain, Arkansas.



Ponder herself grew up in Chicago. "My equivalent of a babysitter was art classes at the Art Institute," she recalls. When viola studies at Oberlin ended with a tendon injury, she studied economics and later graduated from the University of Texas Law School. She came to Eugene in 1982 to study the history of legal reform. She also had three sons and became a stay-at-home mom while writing a book about abolitionist Lydia Child. In 1992, she went back to school in graphic design at LCC, where she discovered stone-carving in an internship. "I was fascinated by the texture, color, and shape of stone," says Ponder, who started her own business, Heritage Stone, in 1998. "Even the typeface affects the perception of the story." Ponder's community storytelling projects include the basalt Kalapuya Talking Stones at Alton Baker Park and the granite paving stones and marble slabs at the Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza.

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