

26 November 1996

New Mexico State Board of Education
Dr. Alan Morgan, Superintendent of Public Instruction
300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87501-2786

Dear Dr. Morgan:

At present, I understand the School Board is reviewing its policy on the public teaching of evolution and creation. The evolution/creation debate is not a discussion about observations of science. It is the clash between two completely separate world views, and it has gone on between people since the dawn of time. Creation, in one form or another, ascribes what we see around us to the purposeful action of design and thus a designer (who is essentially outside of the physical realm). Evolution, in its varied forms, espouses a self-organizing ability of matter that results in all we see, with no need to appeal to purpose or a creator. The observations of science can be fitted into either system.

What I oppose, as a scientist, physician, parent, and New Mexico state resident, is the continued persistence by some well known scientists and educators in promulgating evolution as fact. They do much disservice to our children and our parents. They fail to help our children think critically about the scientific method and how science, philosophy, and religion interface in developing a person's world view of life. While they criticize creationists as attempting to force religion on the public school system - they have already done so by promoting humanism.

Evolution, in a strict scientific sense, is largely falsified - but if taken the way many evolutionists view it, it is assumed and can not be directly tested (the "snapshot" view in time analogy). It is not predictive - e.g., ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny was wrong. It is not productive - moral relativism in the United States based on "survival of the fittest" thinking has caused great harm in our society.

If evolutionists would teach only the scientific method I would have no complaint. If they wanted to set up their own private colleges to teach humanism, Marxism, Hegelism - I would agree. Yet, they choose to force their religiophilosophic opinion, in the name of science, upon my children and others using our tax dollars. This I completely oppose. I appeal to reason that the NM State Board of Education continue a policy of not endorsing evolution. I strongly encourage them to promote teaching the scientific method as a method of observing the world around us. Evolution and creation need to be taught within the context of competing world views. We will then turn out more critically thinking students.

Sincerely,

John G. Leslie, MD, PhD