

PUBLIC DEBATE SHORT ON FACTS

By Samuel J Alibrando author of “Nature Never Stops Talking”

After watching news and reading coverage in several papers, I have noticed patterns that I never expected from the scientific community. Instead of doing what I thought scientists did best, which would be giving scientific answers, they are doing practically everything but that. I now anticipate their tactics and I keep seeing them fulfill my predictions with uncanny consistency.

It should be very confusing to the masses that believe evolution to be true that a school board in Kansas who wants to hear both sides of the issue was boycotted by the evolution side. The Kansas Citizens for Science [a state group] called for evolution advocates to stay away because it is “religious creationism trying to make its way into schools.”

When is a scientist not interested in facts? My guess is when he has an agenda. When is a scientist offended by any criticism or challenge to his theories? Again I would guess when he fears being proved wrong? Which isn't the scientific way.

As one article stated [TIMES REPORTER George Diepenbrock in the Southwest Daily Times in the article *Both Sides Need To Be Present At Science Hearing*] “line up as many scientists and biologists as possible at the hearing and let the public hear the evidence.” That journalist makes sense to me.

When questioned as to why they [the scientists] refused to be questioned but were available daily to criticize the opposition to the media the scientists' answer in part “... because the theory has been taught in Kansas and American schools for decades...”

That sounds more like “Don't question what we already do.”

Can you imagine a defense attorney telling the judge that they are boycotting any court appearance because everyone already knows his client has been innocent for years?

Can you imagine a political debate where the incumbent side boycotts it declaring that everyone already knows that no one should challenge the incumbent?

It is outrageous arrogance in an attempt to hide how totally afraid and insecure they are in a real contest with a level playing field.

Athlete: “I ran in the last 5 races in the past 5 years and always won. I wish to be declared the winner this year too, but I'm not running. I want my victor's crown based on people's assumptions that I am the fastest.”

I congratulate the Kansas School Board, on ignoring the heaps of threats heaped on them from scientists that don't want evolution challenged. Heaping threats and name-calling just isn't my stereotype of scientists but this is the conduct I keep seeing in the press. I guess we are all shocked that scientists resort to scare tactics and smear campaigns when we all thought they were the purists loving only evidence and facts. Instead of winning public support with good research they are acting like the kind of politicians that would rather criticize their opponent than state their own platform.

In Topeka [Journal-World Scott Rothschild *Taxpayers To Pay Tab For Debates* 04-17-05] The State Board of Education scheduled several days of hearing in May regarding allowing criticism of evolution in the classroom. They wanted witnesses from both sides. Guess what? The American Association for the Advancement of Science,

based in Washington, D.C. has declined to participate in the forum. Want to hear their reason?

"The concept of evolution is well-supported by extensive evidence and accepted by virtually every scientist," Alan Leshner, chief executive officer of the group said in a letter. "Moreover, we see no purpose in debating interpretations of Genesis and 'intelligent design,' which are a matter of faith, not facts,"

Reader, do you see a pattern here? Well, you will keep seeing it.

Other "scientific" responses from the pro-evolution side includes criticism of wasting taxpayers money by State Board of Education member Bill Wagnon who is against the whole idea. "It's a raid on the state treasury, I think it's outrageous."

Do you see what is missing here from the evolution side? Scientific information. Information girding the credibility of evolution. Where's the beef? Finger-pointing, accusations and boycotting is no argument. These are tactics. I only hope the average American can see through this.

I can hardly believe I have cause for growing cynical about scientists. I should think the legitimate scientists would want to disown these so-called spokespersons of science work hard at swaying public opinion through political tactics instead of scientific data.

Samuel J Alibrando is author of Nature Never Stops Talking coming out in August 2005
www.NatureNeverStopsTalking.com