



CREATION AND FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

by John D. Morris

Early in 1992, ICR won a stunning victory in Federal Court. The state of California had attempted to close the ICR Graduate School, branding those who believed in creation as non-scientists regardless of their scientific credentials and accomplishments. But, by God's grace and with His help, we eventually won three court battles reestablishing Christian/creationist education on a strong legal foundation.

Today many Christian schools and even attorneys are unaware of this precedent-setting ruling and its benefits for all Christian schools. Thus, the time seems right for a rehearsal of the events and details of the ruling of this important case.

The ICR Graduate School was founded in 1981 and given official state "approval" to operate in July. As it grew in size and matured in quality it pursued "accreditation" from the Transnational Association of Christian Schools. Its

influence through publications, debates, and research was widening. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to us various doctrinaire anti-creationists (i.e., anti-Christian also) launched an international campaign to stifle the Institute and its Graduate School, viewed by Isaac Asimov as "public enemy number one." Rightly assuming that a strong creation movement gives "credibility" to Christianity and dangerously weakens evolutionist control over America's worldview they stacked the files of the Department of Public Instruction in Sacramento with what one state employee called a "two-foot thick stack of outrage" against us. Chief perpetrator was Superintendent of Public Instruction, Bill Honig, darling of the teacher unions and political left in general.

At this same time, Honig was recruiting prominent evolutionists to produce California's new "science framework" for teaching science in the public schools.

This document, aggressively integrated evolution throughout the entire curriculum and has led to similar documents across the country. It led to the uproar in Kansas in 1999, for instance, and is the basis for the current argument in Ohio. A masterpiece of propaganda and deceit it has done incalculable harm. A major offensive against Christianity was underway and they felt ICR, with its bevy of strong arguments and qualified spokesmen, had to be silenced.

In August of 1988 a team of scientists arrived at ICR to evaluate our application for the state's newly mandated "re-approval." Even though the team was predominantly evolutionist, including one outspoken evolutionist who had asked to be on the team even though he had contributed to the "two-foot stack" mentioned above, they voted 3 to 2 *in favor* of re-approval. Two months later Honig pressured one member to change his vote and announced to the press that we had been denied by a 3 to 2 vote. Closure loomed! Honig demanded that we take all creation teaching out of our classrooms. But, we are a private Christian school which had never taken one dime of public money. How could they do this?

In an attempt to survive without a lawsuit, we bent as far as we could but refused to buckle. Honig sent another team in August of 1989 to "verify" that creation was no longer a part of our curriculum. A team of five investigators was hand-chosen, four of whom were nationally known anti-creationists. They were accompanied by a state lawyer and two anti-creation education bureaucrats, one of whom was well known in humanist circles. Needless to say they voted 4 to 1 and issued, in their words, "the death penalty" on ICR's Graduate School.

Coincidentally, ICR's pursuit of full accreditation through TRACS was successful in February of 1990. The TRACS team, fully aware of state scrutiny of ICR, was extremely rigorous in their evaluation,

and found ICR's teaching of the highest caliber. Obviously, the problem with the state was of perspective, not of quality. The state was not merely withdrawing our accreditation, they were denying our right to exist regardless of quality and were beginning to squeeze other Christian schools in the state also. Perhaps they expected us to simply accept this ruling and close, but in May of 1990, after every other avenue was exhausted, we filed a lawsuit in Federal Court claiming abridgement of our religious freedom, freedom of speech, academic freedom, and civil rights. Soon similar suits were filed in State District Court and Administrative Law Court, dealing with violation of the State Law and its Education Code, citing numerous improper actions and unprecedented and perhaps illegal "dirty tricks" on the part of the state administrators and lawyers.

Motions to dismiss the case were rejected by each judge in each case, and ICR proceeded to depose employees of the Education Department, visiting committee members, and intervening advocates. Our case, which seemed so strong, was buttressed by documentation of wrong doing and bigotry on the part of the state. Each appearance before the Court was ruled in ICR's favor and soon our approval had been reinstated and the negative reports thrown out. All that

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remained was the Federal lawsuit, testing whether or not a state regulatory body can require a private school to hold a particular state-mandated philosophy. Sensing great defeat and embarrassing public disclosure, the state attorney offered to settle out of court. We refused. We insisted on a formal “declarative judgment” which would have national application and strong precedent. A wonderfully deep and wide ruling resulted which stands as firm testament to God’s sovereign power and His gracious answer to prayer.

The ruling is reproduced in its entirety in the “*Back to Genesis*” section of this *Acts & Facts*. However, let me call your attention to a few points in particular.


Point C: Allows any private school to design its curriculum and course content as it desires.

Point E: A private school may specify statements of belief and purpose and use them as a guideline for hiring faculty and accepting students.

Point F: Specifically reaffirms that First Amendment rights extend to Christian schools.

Point G: Private schools may teach creation as correct. Also required is education in evolution. This was at Honig’s insistence, but it would be irresponsible for a school not to teach about this dominant view of scientists. (They also should teach why it is not correct!)

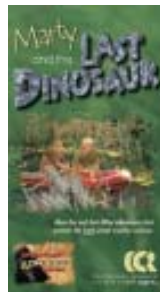
Point H: Extends the ruling to private K–12 schools and home schools.

These statements, while they do reflect some give and take typical of court actions, nevertheless provide powerful protection for all schools. The Lord powerfully intervened on behalf of all Christian education. Throughout the process we had prayed that these enemies of the cross would themselves fall into the pit they had dug for us (Proverbs 28:10). It happened just that way. 




From New York

“*Marty’s Fossil Adventure* and *Marty and the Last Dinosaur* will be enjoyed by many families. I first understood how the Bible and science fit together as a result of an ICR seminar in Georgia in the early 1990s. It had a significant impact on my spiritual life. I have tried to purchase a creation science book every year since then to combat the cultural flood of evolutionary materials. The videos will be a fun and entertaining way to share the creation science message both with other Christians in our home school group and with unchurched kids in the neighborhood.”



From New Jersey

“Your publications and ministry are very dear to me. I have loved many of the physical sciences and geology since I was young. I am a Christian now, and it ‘all makes sense’ finally, thanks to you! It’s such a pleasure to receive your materials—a meeting of the mind *and* spirit. I mentioned elsewhere that the more I read about the secular viewpoint of cosmology, for instance, the deeper my faith gets. Thank you for your work! Finding out many years ago that I didn’t have to abandon my love for science, and ‘my brain,’ was absolutely *wonderful!*” 



FOLDING A PROTEIN—CORRECTLY

History has shown that very few are successful in the supposedly simple task of properly refolding a roadmap.

But a correct folding process must be done continuously to a major group of tightly folded, complex molecules called proteins. These intricate structures are made of many amino acids, and “occupy a central position in the architecture and functioning of living matter.”² Virtually all living things have two basic groups of protein: regulatory proteins called enzymes (that control life processes such as respiration and digestion), and structural proteins (making up digestive organs, skin, muscle, etc.).

The cells in our body must daily fold many thousands of proteins correctly to accomplish life’s functions. Incorrectly folded proteins result in some of the most distressing human diseases and “errors in this process generate misfolded structures that can be lethal.”³

Protein folding involves the fascinating chemical reactions that continually occur within people, plants, and animals. This process “is one of the most challenging and important areas of inquiry in biochemistry.”⁴ According to a researcher in IBM’s computational biology center, “It is absolutely amazing—the complexity of the problem and the simplicity with which the body does it every day.”⁵

Researchers decided to build a computer that would mimic what most all of our 75 trillion cells do within seconds in terms of linking amino acids and then folding the long chain into proteins. They soon realized the enormity of the problem: such a supercomputer does not yet exist! This one-million microprocessor supercomputer, called Blue Gene, is currently being built to run 500 times faster than the fastest supercomputer today. “IBM estimates that the folding model for a 300-residue protein will encompass more than one billion forces acting over one trillion time steps. Even for Blue Gene, modeling such a folding process is expected to take about a year of around-the-clock processing.”⁶

The point that creation scientists make is that such “an incredibly complex and fundamental problem as protein folding”⁷ could hardly be the result of chance, natural processes (such as mutations), and time. Indeed, having to build a twenty-first century supercomputer that will be “40 times faster than the combined power of the 40 quickest supercomputers in the world today”⁸ speaks of something (Someone?) far beyond random genetic mistakes and natural selection!

References

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4. Stryer, L., *Biochemistry*, W.H. Freeman and Co., NY, 1995, p. 417.
5. Lohr, S., IBM Plans a Supercomputer, *The New York Times*, December 6, 1999.
6. Borman, S., *Chemical & Engineering News*, December 20, 1999, p. 35.
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8. *Op cit.*

RATE GROUP PREPARES RESEARCH ARTICLES FOR THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CREATIONISM

Abstracts for nine research articles by the RATE group have been accepted (subject to review) for presentation and publication at the Fifth International Conference on Creationism to be held in the summer of 2003 near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The RATE group has been offered a special session to present the nine papers over a two-day period. Titles of the nine papers and the names of the primary authors are listed below.

- Radioisotopes and the age of the earth—Dr. Larry Vardiman
- Helium diffusion rates support accelerated nuclear decay—Dr. D. Russell Humphreys
- The relevance of Rb-Sr, Sm-Nd, and Pb-Pb isotope systematics to elucidation of the genesis and history of recent andesite flows at Mt. Ngauruhoe, New Zealand—Dr. Andrew A. Snelling
- Radioisotopes of the diabase sill at Bass Rapids, Grand Canyon, Arizona: An application and test of the isochron dating method—Dr. Steven A. Austin
- Whole-rock and mineral K-Ar model and isochron, and Rb-Sr, Sm-Nd, and

- Pb-Pb isochron, “dating” of the Somerset Dam layered mafic intrusion, Australia—Dr. Andrew A. Snelling
- Theoretical mechanisms for accelerated radioactive decay—Dr. Eugene F. Chaffin
- Radiohalos—A tale of three granite plutons—Dr. Andrew A. Snelling
- Measurable ^{14}C in fossilized organic materials in the geologic record: Confirming the young earth creation-flood model—Dr. John R. Baumgardner
- A creationist interpretation of the Allende meteorite—Dr. Donald B. DeYoung

Much more detail than can be addressed here will be presented at the Fifth International Conference on Creationism. If you would like a short, four-page preliminary abstract of the nine papers, you may request a copy by writing to the Institute for Creation Research, RATE Abstracts, P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021. The conference will be held at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh in August of 2003. Individuals wishing to register for the conference may contact Creation Science Fellowship, Inc., P.O. Box 99303, Pittsburgh, PA 15233-4303. Donations to RATE research may be identified by a reference to RATE and sent to ICR. 🌿



L to R—Row 1: Dr. John Baumgardner; Dr. Larry Vardiman; Dr. D. Russell Humphreys; Dr. Eugene Chaffin. Row 2: Dr. Andrew Snelling; Dr. Steven Austin; Dr. Donald DeYoung. Row 3: Dr. John Morris; Dr. Kenneth Cumming; Mr. William Hoesch; Dr. Stephen Boyd.

Meeting Highlights

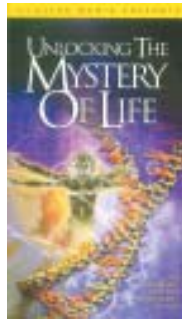
North Carolina

A delightful “Case for Creation” seminar was held at the Mount Harmony Baptist Church on the weekend of April 12–14. Although the seminar was essentially for this local church, Mr. Wayne Johnson had published it well, and approximately 15 churches sent representatives.

ICR’s President, Dr. John Morris and his brother, Dr. Henry Morris III, were the two speakers. They both grew up in nearby Blacksburg, Virginia, and enjoyed “coming back home” for a brief visit. 🌿

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF LIFE

An important new video has just been released by our friends at Illustra Media entitled, “Unlocking the Mystery of Life.” Never has a video so clearly documented the incredible intricacies of



life, and so fully exposed the emptiness of random, naturalistic agents as its cause.

The video is designed to be appropriate for public school classrooms, without any direct references to the identity of the Creator, but its message shines. “As I watched the video for the first time, and witnessed the stunningly beautiful computer animation of cellular processes, and saw the exquisite electron microscope photos of tiny molecular machines in action, I jumped to my feet and shouted ‘Glory!’ A naturalistic explanation is not credible. The Creator’s handiwork will thrill all who watch this video” (John Morris, ICR President).

The video can be purchased through ICR for the price of \$19.95. It receives our highest recommendation. 🌿

Radio Log

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”:

Weekend of:	Title/Topic:
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June 1	Myth That Simple Things Become More Complex Without Intelligent Design
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Evolution claims that everything came about by random chance. For instance, a single cell eventually evolved into man. Things just keep getting better and better, all by themselves. Is this scientific? Stay tuned!

June 8	Myth That Creationists Cannot Be Real Scientists
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When you hear about the evolution vs. creation debate, have you ever noticed that it’s often described as “religion” vs. “science”? Is that true? Listen and learn!

June 15	Myth That Information Comes From Random Chance
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Scientists are learning that all of life exhibits information. Whether it’s the complex code found in our DNA, or the dance of the bee that communicates directions to others—it’s all around us. But where did all this information come from?

June 22	Myth That the Big Bang Has Been Proven
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It seems like we hear a lot about the Big Bang in the media. But is it true? Could a huge cosmic explosion cause the world that we know today? Tune in for the Biblical perspective!

June 29	Myth That Life Came From Non-Living Matter
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Where does life come from? Science has taught us that life always comes from life. But then how does science explain the origin of the very first life? Tune in to find out! 🌿

Stewardship & Trust Services

SAYING “GOOD-BYE” IS HARD . . .

. . . but it is something I believe the Lord would have me do. As of July 1, 2002, I will no longer be in the full-time employ of ICR. I will be available for various assignments, but the Lord is directing me into other fields of service. As I go, I want you to know how much I thank the Lord for each of you with whom I have had contact over these almost twenty years. Your calls, letters, and our visits or times together on one of ICR’s tours, have stretched and encouraged me beyond anything words can describe. Through you and the godly way so many of you live your lives and allocate your resources, our gracious Lord has drawn me deeper into His word, and, therefore, into closer fellowship with Him.

I am also leaving some wonderful friends here at ICR but, I will see many of them at least weekly through church, and I can drop in and see others—something I certainly will do. Only eternity will reveal how much the Lord has used these dear friends to encourage my walk with and dependence upon Him. In this regard, I am so very thankful that looking to Him—His provision for His work here at the Institute—has been our watch-word. It is a policy begun under Dr. Henry Morris and our Chief Financial Officer, Don Rohrer, which continues under Dr. John Morris’ able leadership.

Please be assured that my replacement will continue to maintain the same high Biblical standards that you have come to expect from ICR in the area of charitable estate planning—ICR’s commitment to serving God’s people will not change, even though the personnel may change.

Lord willing, the remaining days the Lord has appointed for me will be invested in His kingdom through our local church and on the mission field. My heart-desire is to be used of Him to encourage brothers and sisters in their walk with Him.

Thankfully, this is not actually “good-bye,” it is “until we meet again”—and what a GLORIOUS day that will be! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!!!

In His matchless love,
Tom Manning

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