Creationism relevant topic to Dr. Geisler

By SHARON SOUTHER

To Dr. Norman Geisler creationism is a very relevant topic. He's spent the better part of the last 20 years defending it.

"A question of origins is relevant because if man originated by purely natural laws and he is just an animal product of blind forces, then we take an entirely different attitude toward that result than we do if we were created by God and in his likeness," Geisler says.

"I believe there is no true humanism - respect of man - apart from the belief in creationism. If you don't believe you are truly apart from the animals, then why should you be treated differently?"

Creationism debates have led Geisler to an Arkansas state hearing that decided if creationism would be taught in public schools and to his most recent Baton Rouge debate with Dr. Miles Richardson, professor of geography and anthropology at LSU.

"The full questioning of somebody's religious beliefs is irrelevant to the question of is there a scientific, credible basis for believing in evolution," he said.

Perhaps these thoughts stem back to the Arkansas hearing in 1981. While being questioned by lawyers for the evolutionists, Geisler said he felt UFOs might be a manifestation of evil spirits. The remarks were recorded and quickly sensationalized.

The press had a field day, while Geisler claimed evolutionists were diverting the issue.

"It (the line of questioning) had nothing to do with whether there is a creator or no creator. It was an attempt to discredit people when you aren't willing to look at their arguments," Geisler said.

Now, Geisler even questions the judge's fairness in the trial.

"If the judge, incidentally, at the trial would have been fair and objective, he would not have allowed that kind of questioning of witnesses, because it had nothing to do with the topic," he said.

"The topic was 'Is creation science, is there evidence for it, should it be taught in a public school?' The questioning was, 'Do you believe in God, do you believe in devils, do you believe in demons?'" he said.

But Geisler doesn't limit his speeches to creationism. He addresses such topics as abortion, humanism and apologetics. He has written 21 books and has appeared on national television.

Some might claim the philosopher, who possesses a master's degree from the University of Detroit and a Ph.D. from Loyola University in Chicago, might spread himself too thin. Others say Geisler's an expert on everything.

"I don't feel anyone can be an expert on everything, but the opposite extreme is just as bad, and that is learning more and more about less and less until you learn everything about nothing," Geisler said.

"I think we have a desperate need in our day and age for synthesizers - to get an overall perspective - or people who put it all together ..."

"And all I try to do is take the evidence and the premises from the various disciplines and put them all together in a logical order - which is what philosophy is, which is the logical thing to do, which is what I am an expert in," he said.

During the debate, Richardson said he knew how Daniel felt when he faced the lions.

"If Dr. Geisler were a lion, he'd tear me up," Richardson said.

Geisler concentrated on philosophical concepts while Richardson came with a sack full of skulls - literally.

Geisler argued that the universe, first life forms and new life forms are too complex to have been created by natural law.

"No natural law has ever been known to create such specified complexity. This shows the intervention of an intelligent creator," Geisler said. "To believe in evolution is to believe that Webster's Unabridged Dictionary began from an explosion in a printing shop."

Richardson didn't care to discuss God and creationism. He said that was for theologians, not scientists.

"I've seen that guy somewhere before," he said, holding up the 2 million year-old skull. "Must have been in the state Legislature."

Geisler laughed at Richardson's analogy, but claimed the evolutionist was short on facts and 'hazy in theory.

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