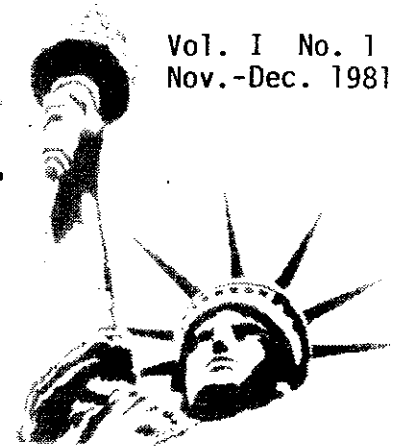


the voice of MICHIGAN REASON



MICHIGAN ALERT

Bellaire

A three member committee of fundamentalists requested the Bellaire local school board in April to include scientific creationist textbooks in their curriculum to present creationist theory as an "alternative" to evolution. After studying the issues school superintendent Gary Wright recommended the inclusion of these materials for library reference but not for classroom use.

Genesee County

In similar action a Fundamentalist science teacher in Clio convinced the school board, with the help of his principal, to purchase new textbooks sponsored by the Institute for Creationist Research in the spring of this year. The school board reviewed the thirty new books in preparation for their use for this fall and found them unacceptable and the books have been placed into reference in the library.

Genesee County

The Reverend David Wood, head of the Michigan chapter of the Moral Majority recently visited Flint, Mich. for a television interview on Flint channel 12 and for a newspaper interview with Betty Brenner, religion editor of the Flint Journal. His stated goal is to form a local branch of the Moral Majority for every precinct in Genesee County (twelve chapters).

Essexville

The New Right recently formed a parents' group devoted to protecting "basic" family values. The group, called "Steps Toward Exerting Parental Supervision (STEPS)", has targeted sex education for elimination from several school systems in the tri-City area. The Essexville case has been satisfactorily resolved by a poll conducted by school board personnel that showed most parents desire a continuation of the present program, contrary to the claims of the new right. While the situation seems to have quieted in Essexville, pressure continues to be brought to bear in surrounding districts, primarily due to the efforts of Betty Lewis, vice president of the Michigan Alliance of Families. This pattern makes one wonder whether the controversies are isolated incidents or are coordinated.

Flint

The Flint area, termed by Howard Simon of the American Civil Liberties Union to be the "book ban capitol" of Michigan, has been the site of numerous censorship attempts. According to The Flint Voice, Aug. 21, 1981, most of these attempts have been unsuccessful, but a few have resulted in the permanent and temporary banning of small numbers of materials from Genesee County libraries.

On August 13, 1981, the Genesee District Library Board rebuffed a small group of citizens whose list of prospective banned books, purportedly "tainted by humanism", had grown to over 30. After several meetings with the book-banners, the library board moved to dismiss the self-appointed censors and to maintain the current list of library materials, thus abiding by American Library Association guidelines.

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PENDING MICHIGAN LEGISLATION

Lansing

House Bill #4017, otherwise known as the "school prayer" bill, would require local school districts to set aside time for so-called "voluntary" prayer. The bill is currently pending in the House Education Committee. VOR President Lynne Silverberg, State Secretary Howard Simon, and State Action Committee Chairperson Eli Master met with Lucille McCollough, Chairperson of the House Education Committee in early September. Religious leaders and professional educators were also present. Ms. McCollough recommended a letter be written to each committee member. The VOR's letter recommended the bill be referred to a special subcommittee for determination as to its constitutionality.

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AUTUMN HAPPENINGS IN MICHIGAN

Sept. 19 - VOR Speakers' Bureau training session, conducted by Sherwin Wine, concentrates on speaker's areas of specialization and on presentation techniques.

Sept. 22 - Flint Chapter discusses plans for Nov-Dec training sessions. Featured speaker is Harold Ford local ACLU chairperson.

Sept. 24 - Meta Baba, VOR Treasurer and Wayne State University anthropologist, speaks at a state VOR rally, attended by John Moore professor of education at MSU and one of Michigan's leading Creationists in Jackson, Michigan.

Oct. 6 - VOR team of Lynne Silverberg (National President), Marilyn Rowens (Education Chairperson), and Walter Greene (Speakers' Bureau) initiate the first of three training sessions for the Macomb County Chapter in order to expand a new VOR chapter in Macomb County.

Oct. 10 - Grand Rapids VOR Chapter Conference, featuring speakers Howard Simon (VOR Secretary), Meta Baba, and Jay Wabeke, offers "A Reasonable Alternative to the Moral Majority" (Grand Rapids)

Oct. 10 - Day Long Workshop/Conference of the Wayne County Chapter features three speakers, Howard Simon, Linda Darga, and Walter Greene III to help launch the Wayne County Chapter of The Voice of Reason.

Oct. 13 - Anthropologist Meta Baba speaks at the second of three VOR training sessions for the Macomb County Chapter.

Oct. 14 - Lynne Silverberg speaks in Jackson for the Jackson Chapter.

Oct. 17 - "The Voice of Reason's Response to the Challenge of the New Right" is a talk given by David Treece (VOR University Mobilization) and Marilyn Rowens (Education Chairperson) for the Youth Conclave in Southfield.

Oct. 20 - At the final VOR training session for the Macomb County Chapter, the Rev. Robert Marshall (Vice-President of Mich. VOR Board of Directors) speaks on the separation of church and state.

Nov. 1 - VOR "Teach-in" session sponsored by the active Ann Arbor Chapter will take place on the Univ. of Mich. campus.

Nov. 1 - Meta Baba (Mich. VOR Treasurer) speaks at the Emerson Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Troy).

Nov. 3 - VOR Oakland County Chapter holds a panel discussion to consider future actions and responses to fundamentalist religions' challenge. Participants include Meta Baba, the Rev. Robert Marshall, Howard Simon, and Sherwin Wine.

Nov. 8 - Walter Greene (VOR Speakers' Bureau) presents a talk at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

Nov. 8 - A talk on "Moral Majority: Threat to Democracy" is being given at the Workmen's Circle group in Oak Park by Beverly Geltner (VOR Education Mobilization).

Nov. 8 - Lynne Silverberg (VOR President) speaks in Clark Lake, Mich., near Jackson.

Nov. 16 - Wayne County Chapter holds session featuring censorship.

Nov. 22 - First of three Sunday Seminars in which tri-city chapter speakers respond to challenge from the New Right. Cecil Frye of the Speakers Bureau is featured at Bay City Presbyterian Church.

For more information about any VOR event, phone The Voice of Reason - 476-1670.

VOR chapters in Traverse City, Flint, Tri-City, Jackson, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Oakland County, Macomb County, and Wayne County are meeting monthly to elect officers, present special programs, and plan activities. Congratulations for fine efforts!

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INFORMATION

Audio and Video Tapes Now Available

Members of The Voice of Reason (VOR) now have an important resource to aid them in learning more about the separation of church and state, personal freedom, and the rise of pseudo-science in America.

The VOR Education Committee, headed by Marilyn Rowens, has a variety of materials available for use by any VOR member, including audio tapes and RCA Video-Select-A-Vision tapes on the following topics:

- . The Secular State - Sherwin Wine
- . Personal Freedom - Howard Simon
- . The Rise of Pseudo-Science - Meta Baba
- . The Nature of Science - Laurence Levine

Study guides in the form of profile papers are also available on the subjects of:

- . The Secular State
- . Personal Freedom
- . Censorship
- . The Rise of Pseudo-Science

To obtain these materials, phone The Voice of Reason at 476-1670, or write:

The Voice of Reason
P.O. Box 16
Franklin, Michigan 48025
Attention: Marilyn Rowens

NETWORK OF SCIENTISTS

The Michigan-based Voice of Reason Science Committee, headed by Laurence Levine, is joining a national network of scientists dedicated to improving the quality of public school classes in evolutionary biology. The network of scientists, which to date involves eighteen states, intends to resist the intrusion of creationism into science curricula.

One arm of the network, the Michigan Committee of Correspondence, is mobilizing Michigan teachers against the impending invasion of creationists

into the teaching of science. Dr. Carl Bajema of Grand Valley State Colleges has been instrumental in the formation of the Michigan Committee of Correspondence. Dr. Mark Weiss of Wayne State University has agreed to act as the committee's contact with the national network. Michigan teachers are receiving information from experts in anthropology and biology. Professional scientists will give expert testimony before public school teachers and school boards that are under creationist pressure.

The Science Committee plans to organize a symposium on the teaching of evolution at both the 1982 National Association

of Biology Teachers convention (Detroit) and 1982 Michigan Association of Science teachers in Lansing.

SOS

The Voice of Reason is in short supply of typists! please contact The Voice of Reason - 313-476-1670.

Lynne Silverberg, National President
 Robert Marshall, State Vice-President
 Meta Baba, State Treasurer
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