

The ACLU's Selective and One-Sided Advocacy: Ignoring Biology Textbooks that Promote Philosophical Materialism

It has been said that selective enforcement of the law is the hallmark of tyranny. It took the ACLU less than two months to file a lawsuit in Dover, protesting a statement read in one small school district that briefly mentions intelligent design. **Yet for over a decade, the ACLU has ignored statements in textbooks used by thousands of students in public schools across the nation, using evolution to promote philosophical materialism (i.e. the view evolution is "random and undirected" and works "without plan or purpose.")**¹ Given that plaintiffs' experts admit that these descriptions of evolution constitute a religious viewpoint, the absence of ACLU lawsuits over such statements is clearly selective advocacy.² *When will the ACLU file lawsuits over usage of textbooks such as these in state schools?*

1. Joseph S. Levine and Kenneth R. Miller, *Biology: Discovering Life* (D.C. Heath and Co., 1st ed. 1992; this language was not removed for the 2nd ed. in 1994), p. 152:

"Darwin knew that accepting his theory required believing in *philosophical materialism*, the conviction that matter is the stuff of all existence and that all mental and spiritual phenomena are its by-products. Darwinian evolution was not only purposeless but also heartless--a process in which the rigors of nature ruthlessly eliminate the unfit."

"Suddenly, humanity was reduced to just one more species in a world that cared nothing for us. The great human mind was no more than a mass of evolving neurons. Worst of all, there was **no divine plan** to guide us." [emphasis added]

Note: *The ACLU claims that deletions of references to "creation" in pre-publication drafts of "Of Pandas and People" indicate that intelligent design is actually religion. Yet textbooks of plaintiffs' expert Dr. Kenneth Miller have promoted philosophical materialism in THREE published versions. Miller defends by claiming these statements were written by his coauthor, and by noting that he later deleted these religious statements.*² *Why has the ACLU not invented a "word-processor conspiracy theory," like they have against "Of Pandas and People," to protest current usage of Miller's textbook by students?*

2. Douglas Futuyma, *Evolutionary Biology* (1998, 3rd Ed., Sinauer Associates), pg. 5:

"Darwin showed that material causes are a sufficient explanation not only for physical phenomena, as Descartes and Newton had shown, but also for biological phenomena with all their seeming evidence of design and purpose. By coupling undirected, purposeless variation to the blind, uncaring process of natural selection, **Darwin made theological or spiritual explanations of the life processes superfluous**. Together with Marx's materialistic theory of history and society and Freud's attribution of human behavior to influences over which we have little control, Darwin's theory of evolution was a **crucial plank in the platform of mechanism and materialism...**" [emphasis added]

3. William K. Purves, David Sadava, Gordon H. Orians, H. Craig Keller, *Life: The Science of Biology* (2001, 6th Ed., Sinauer; W.H. Freeman and Co.), pg. 3 [emphasis added]:

"Adopting this view of the world means accepting not only the processes of evolution, but also the view that the living world is constantly evolving, and that **evolutionary change occurs without any 'goals.'** The idea that evolution is not directed towards a final goal state has been more difficult for many people to accept than the process of evolution itself."

¹ Kenneth R. Miller & Joseph S. Levine's widely used textbook, *Biology* (4th ed. 1998), pg. 658.

² See the testimony of Dr. Kenneth R. Miller on Day 2 of the trial (September 27, 2005).