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Letters

A complicated case

You report incorrectly that District Judge Ad-
rienne Duplantier found that the Louisiana
creation-science law violates the First Amend-
ment of the Constitution ("Creation law void-
ed," SN: 12/4/82, p. 358).

The case is more complicated. The judge
ruled that the statute violates the state con-
stitution. Specifically, the court held that pur-
suant to the state constitution, only the state
Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
and not the legislature had the power to fix cur-
riculum. This issue was raised by lawyers rep-
resenting the BESE, which had switched sides
from that of defendant to plaintiff.

The decision will undoubtedly be appealed
by the state's Attorney General. If the original
finding is upheld, well and good, if it is struck
down, the case will return to Judge Duplantier's
court for resolution of the federal constitutional
claims.

While not as dramatic as the Arkansas vic-
tory, the decision is significant because there
are many states with similar constitutional
provisions which remove curriculum decisions

This Week

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Research Notes

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Articles

26 The Shape of Wings to Come

Cover: With the help of new materials and technologies, future
airplanes may look radically different from current aircraft designs. The
dual-fuselage and delta-wing aircraft are designed to carry large car-
goes, while the ring-wing concept offers potentially lower drag and
lighter weight. New propeller designs also promote fuel efficiency.
(Illustrations: Lockheed-Georgia Co.)



Departments

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from the influence of political pressures. NABT
is pleased with the decision and the role it has
played as co-plaintiff.

Wayne A. Moyer, Executive Director
The National Assn. of Biology Teachers, Inc.
Reston, Va.

Readers should know that the judge noted
that the Louisiana Supreme Court might uphold
the Balanced Treatment Act under the state
constitution. Lawyers are appealing Judge
Duplantier's immediate decision without trial,
and are requesting court certification of the
Balanced Treatment case to the Supreme Court
of Louisiana, which means that a full trial still is
expected.

John N. Moore
Professor Emeritus, Natural Science
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich.

Misused words

In the article "Reagan's MX 'Peacekeeper'
Draws Fire" (SN: 12/4/82, p. 356) a word is used,
possibly repeating Reagan, which I think should
have been avoided. It is: christened, as in "Rea-

gan christened them his 'peacekeepers.'" If it is
a direct quote, it should have been set off in
quotation marks, as the word "peacekeeper"
was so aptly done. If not, a different word could
have been used.

Many present-day Christians take affront at
usage of this word in connection with a weapon
of potentially terrible mass destruction and find
it to be insensitive, callous and unnecessary.
Yes, I know, it is frequently used in naming bat-
tleships or even pleasure boats, but that does
not make it any more acceptable.

Another word much misused lately is "de-
fense," as in "defense" spending, when "mili-
tary" or "Pentagon" would be much more accu-
rate and appropriate.

Words induce pictures in peoples' minds.
Used often enough they may lead to actions,
which some perhaps deliberately want, but
which others decry.

Karl E. Buff
Mtn. Home, Ark.

Correction: The article on changes in properties
of deep water in the North Atlantic (SN: 12/18 &
25/82, p. 392) should have specified a slight de-
crease, not increase, in temperature.

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