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Bad Science Produces Bad Consequences

Columbine Redemption calls on all parents, teachers, educators, and concerned citizens to encourage the Texas State Board of Education to do the right thing, and reject proposed Texas biology books that do not teach weaknesses of evolution as is required by Texas law. Texans are fortunate in that the publishers will listen and that state law already specifies this. **All that must be completed is the enforcement of existing law.**

Why should I be interested in what Texas does with its school books? Because **ideas have consequences** and experience shows that some students will take the concept that we are “nothing but animals” and “survival of the fittest” as justification for heinous behavior. **Hitler did it. Stalin did it.** And **Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold**, killers of my daughter and twelve other students and teachers at Columbine High School **did just that.** Harris wore a “*Natural Selection*” t-shirt on the day of the killings and both had taken the evolutionary mindset to the conclusion that they needed to help the process along. They made remarks on video about helping out the process of natural selection by eliminating the weak. They also professed that they had “evolved” to a higher level than their classmates. I was amazed at the frequent references to evolution and equally amazed that the press completely ignored that aspect of the tapes. Further, there are other known cases of similar happenings, though not as high in toll of sons and daughters as Columbine.

With the rise in school bullying, isn't it time we face the logical connection that if we teach 19th century, **discredited, "survival of the fittest" junk science** uncritically in the classroom, why should we be surprised when some students take this corrosive “**kill or be killed**” concept onto the playground or street? Much of this kind of behavior is borne of despair and hopelessness. If today's children are given at least a glimmer of hope that they may be something more than mere animals, today's schools, and tomorrow's culture, and future generations will be better off!

Make no mistake about it, until we face this issue forthrightly, some students will continue to become hopelessly depressed, some to the point of violence. How much better would it be for all of us if they carried a message of purpose and change and triumph to cities, schools, universities, and to everyone they touched in their lives?

Columbine Redemption urgently calls on the State Board of Education to enforce **teaching students both sides** of the greatest controversy of our time, and stop pretending that there is no controversy. **While unintended ignorance is excusable; unwillingness to learn is not, and preventing students from learning is reprehensible.**

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Columbine Redemption is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded by Darrell Scott, father of Columbine victim, Rachel Joy Scott. Darrell has spoken before millions of people through personal appearances, television, radio, and printed media. He delivered a message before the House Judiciary Committee in May of 1999. That speech became one of the most published articles on the internet, opening numerous doors of opportunity, which Darrell has used to motivate, educate, and bring positive change to many young people. Columbine Redemption has a website at <http://www.columbineredemption.com>.