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Editorial

Creationism against evolution debate rages on

By Dalton Carver
Staff reporter

The creationism versus evolution debate has been raging since before Darwin published "The Origin of Species."

The 1925 Scopes trial pressed the issue, but didn't determine what the law was related to the controversy.

In 1968, the ruling in the *Ep-person vs. Arkansas* case determined that creationism could not be taught alongside the theory of evolution.

The most recent of these debates may be well-known, but both speakers still deserve a proper introduction.

In this corner, from Washington D.C., please welcome the man with the bow tie and seven Emmy awards, Bill Nye the "Science Guy!"

You may know him from his popular PBS television series. Often used in schools, the series only ran 100 episodes, but each had a different scientific topic. Nye is also a comedian and guest professor.

Introducing his opponent, the man from the land down under, president of "Answers in Genesis" and owner of the Creation Museum: Ken Ham! His museum was the setting for the debate,

which supports the belief that the Earth is approximately 6,000 years old.

Ceremoniously winning a coin toss, Ham got the opportunity to give his five-minute introduction first.

He started by asking if creationists could be scientists, which he promptly answered by showing clips of different successful scientists.

Ham made his point of the night by claiming that the terms "science" and "evolution" had been "hijacked" by secularists who wanted to force the religion of naturalism on this generation of children.

He continued by saying that science books were used in the wrong manner, encompassing both observational and historical science.

He ended his first segment by saying, "Creation is the only viable model of historical science confirmed by observational science in today's modern scientific era."

As Nye took to the microphone, he began with a short anecdote about the origin of his bow tie and his grandfather.

He soon got back on track by stating that the terms "observational science" and "historical science" didn't actually exist in

the scientific world.

Nye states that billions of people do not follow Ham's creationism model that the Earth is only 6,000 years old. Aside from these expected statements, Nye made an interesting warning to conclude his opening statement.

He warned the audience that the U.S. would not move forward technologically if science was separated by terms such as "observational" and "historical."

Unfortunately, Ham becomes a broken record after the opening statements. He uses the term "hijacking" several more times, as well as reutilizing the testimonials from creationist scientists. However, he did mention that creationist scientists should not be prejudiced for their beliefs, which was something new.

He also mentioned that students were not being taught to think critically about the situation.

Nye took control of the debate with his solid evidence, as opposed to Ham's Biblical references.

The debate didn't revolutionize either side's thought process. However, it brought the issue to another generation.

The most important thing to take from this debate is that both sides were decently represented.

Ham didn't have as many con-

crete points as Nye, but he did make some good statements. Prejudice because of beliefs shouldn't exist anywhere, let alone the scientific world, where differences should be embraced. Ham makes another decent point that students should be taught to think critically about both sides.

Nye, the overall debate winner, succeeded because he is more popular than his Australian opponent.

His scientific evidence dealing with the layers of the Earth and fossil dating just seemed to hit harder than anything that Ken Ham repetitively mentioned.

I also support Nye's statement of the United States' inability to move forward technologically.

This debate is a step in the right direction. There's nothing wrong with a little disagreement and everyone wins when the public makes informed decisions.

It was a perfect format and opportunity to learn about creationism and evolution. However, one can only stay fixated on the past for so long.

I can only hope that future scientific discoveries will not be hindered by focusing on the past.

Dalton Carver is a junior majoring in communication. You can email him at dalton.carver@sckans.edu or tweet him @DaltonJames.

Editorial

Winter Olympics fall short of Summer Olympics

By Pete Moyer
Staff reporter

Whether it was Michael Phelps' triumphant eight-medal conquest in Beijing or then 16-year-old Gabby Douglas becoming the first woman of color of any nationality to win the gold medal in individual all-around for Gymnastics in London, there's nothing that screams American patriotism like the summer Olympics.

Between the epic track duels featuring "The States" and Jamaica or Spain's rise to challenge some of the top tier teams in bas-

ketball, this in itself represents the competitive nature of the Olympics.

Fast forward two years from any of these epic games, add snow and you get the dull drag that is the Winter Olympics.

The Winter Games are full of events that aren't even heavily publicized in America, giving us a huge disadvantage.

This year, the United States put up a mediocre showing only 49ers receiver Michael Crabtree could appreciate via Richard Sherman, minus the screaming.

Despite leading all countries in

bronze medals won (12), the U.S. finished fourth in total number of medals behind host-country Russia (33), Norway (26) and Canada (25). Brazil, the host country for 2016, didn't get a single medal.

It's not that I'm against the participation of the games. As the unofficial leaders of the world, it's almost mandatory that we participate. But as there is no shortness of athletic prowess in this country, we should find ways to be more dominant in these events.

There are certain states and regions that are head and shoulders above the rest at specific athletic

events. States such as Michigan and Colorado, where winter events take a little more precedence over traditional American sports should be overzealous at the opportunity to overtake some of the world leaders in these type of events.

The three most notable names to even a lackluster Winter Olympics fan: Shani Davis, Bode Miller, and Shaun White, only brought home one bronze total.

See Olympics on page 7