

Back to the Constitution

SIR: In all the discussion that rages about the now famous Tennessee "anti-evolution law" no one has raised the real legal question involved, that question being the constitutionality of the law according to the Tennessee Constitution. That document is interesting and in some respects unique. The following quotation from Section 12 of Article XI might be worthy of comment:

Knowledge, learning and virtue, being essential to the preservation of republican institutions and the diffusion of the opportunities and advantages of education throughout the different portions of the state, being highly conducive to the promotion of this end, *It shall be the duty of the General Assembly in all future periods of this Government, to cherish literature and science.*

The legislature in its zeal to exploit its own peculiar cosmogony and to promote its own political fortunes has signally disregarded its duty "to cherish literature and science." Let us go back to the Constitution!

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Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc