American Atheists
TUCSON

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 7
FRIMAIRE 188 (12/80)

P.O. BOX 36192, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85740
DIAL-AN-ATHEIST 623-3861

SOLSTICE GREETINGS,

Due to that nasty flu bug going around, final exams, and other "inconveniences," the newsletter is a few days later than usual. But since we have no "hard and fast" deadlines we're not too concerned. Our main concern is getting information to you before important events occur, i.e., monthly meetings, etc.. It's a shame that some information simply cannot be given to you on time - media happenings, for example. We often get last minute calls to do a radio or TV show. These are usually tape-delayed and the people who put them on are not always able to even tell us the time slots until the last minute. Fortunately, we are able to advise many of our members of some of the short-notice events through the weekly brunches, but those of you who do not attend the brunches often cannot be contacted. At any rate, we have some of the airtimes for publication in this newsletter. Watch for them later.

Last month's meeting was another success. We wish to thank DR. JAMES LOWELL for speaking to us on the topic of "Evolution vs. Creationism." Creationism lost. Part of Jim's talk was a slide presentation demonstrating the incontrovertable facts of chemical evolution. This is one facet of evolution often overlooked by the layperson. It was fascinating to see before your very eyes the adaptation of organisms to environmental changes. We must conclude with Carl Sagan that evolution is no longer theory - it's FACT! Thanks again, Jim. Naturally, a written transcript of this meeting will be sent for a $1.00 charge for reproduction costs. Also, for a more comprehensive look at the subject, you might consider a very useful little anthology titled: A Compendium of Information on the Theory of Evolution and the Evolution-Creationism Controversy. The cost is $4.00 and the publication is available from :

The National Association of Biology Teachers
11250 Roger Bacon Drive
Reston, Virginia 22090

We recommend this publication highly. The chapter has a copy of it if you'd like to take a look before ordering. This useful anthology presents numerous excellent articles on virtually every facet of the evolution-creationism controversy. Biology teachers from all parts of the country present the many points of view of both sides of the issue. Their presentations and lines of reasoning make it very clear to the reader why (s)he should be aware and get involved. Introducing creationism into the classroom is a very real and dangerous threat that would set the malleable minds of our children back to the Middle Ages. Laws which would require this (watch the Arizona Legislature in January, 1981) also put the teachers in the hypocritical position of lying to their students that creationism is an alternative at all.

This newsletter also includes an interesting article on scientific creationism (contradiction in terms?) which should serve to dispell any thoughts you may have about introducing creationism in our public schools not really being seriously considered. Read it carefully, folks.

*** NEXT CHAPTER MEETING ***

Again, we will meet at Carrows Restaurant, 2660 N. Campbell Avenue, 12/28/80, 6:00 PM. The topic is one in which many of you are weaker than you supposed: The traditional arguments for the existence of god with an accompanying analysis of their weaknesses. Come and get some ammunition to counter these fallacious arguments that Atheists are constantly exposed to. The speaker will be none other than one of your chapter directors,