

# Evolution study draws complaints

By **SANDY STEWART**

After listening to comments from "concerned" Dover citizens on such topics as Bible distribution, evolution vs. creation and communistic influences, the board of education decided to form a committee "to work with these people" to help resolve some of the issues.

There was comparatively little discussion on the board's October decision to follow its policy and not permit distribution of Gideon Bibles to 5th graders during school hours. The teaching of evolution, however, appeared to be the major concern of most attending

the session. Nearly all those who offered comments or suggestions did so on that topic.

Rev. Carl Petters of the Dover Bible Church offered the board a number of books which deal with the concept of creation. He suggested that a better teaching balance would be obtained if such books were used in conjunction with texts on evolution.

Petters stated he feels there is an imbalance in that area of study in the school system.

Mrs. William Beebe also presented educational materials, including tapes, concerning creation. Some of the ma-

terial is for use at the elementary level. In addition, Joe Dukes offered board members a copy of a book on creation.

Each stressed that the materials do not take a purely religious approach to the topic, but were written by educators and some based on scientific research.

**FRED OLINGER**, who objected "to my tax money being spent to teach evolution," said, "Books from grade school on up are written from an evolution standpoint — not just science books, but social sciences, too." He suggested that when new texts are purchased, the board consider those which

teach creation and not evolution.

Clem Strimel said he feels that when God is removed from the schools and teachings, communism begins to prevail. He suggested that communistic teaching can be so subtle that it is almost impossible to detect.

Mrs. Mildred Gray asked the board to follow its own policy (of which she had a copy) and encourage teachers to present all theories regarding life. She also suggested that the board reconsider its decision on Bible distribution. "The people of the community are in-

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terested and have shown their interest," she noted.

John Seng told board members. "I am personally offended that there has been no action — positive or negative — about taking this (Bible distribution issue) to court. I personally think it is a mistake not to. . . . The board should be leading, not following the community."

**IN OTHER** business the board:

—**ALLOWED** a leave of absence for the remainder of the school year for Susan Lloyd.

—**TRANSFERRED** Joan Goth of New Philadelphia, an educational aide, to replace Mrs. Lloyd at Dover Avenue Elementary.

—**APPROVED** participation in the joint vocational school student placement program at a cost of \$1.22 per 11th grade student or \$350.14.

—**GRANTED** home study for Christy McCaslin and Marlena Ionna.

—**APPOINTED** Robin Korzan, Spanish and French, and Nina Allgyer, home

economics, to the substitute list.

—**NAMED** Linda Eaton, a certified staff member, as a substitute teacher on a ½ basis during her conference period.

—**HIRED** Alice Minnis as a student monitor (noon hour aide at Dover Avenue Elementary in the cafeteria).

—**APPOINTED** president LaVerne King to a one-year term and member Jim Zifer to a two-year term on the Buckeye Joint Vocational School board.

—**APPROVED** the 6th grade "out-door education program" to be held at Camp Tippecanoe in May. Fee will be \$14.50 per pupil to be paid by the student. The board will pay fees for school employees and other needed personnel.

—**NAMED** Robert Blickensderfer of Dover as a learning disabilities tutor at East Elementary for three and a half hours a day.

—**HEARD** Don Peters, administrative assistant, explain an elementary mathematics program, to be instituted in January.