Advice for Teachers and Students

In an issue of Physics Today, Professor Mano Singham makes the refreshing confession that students are under tremendous pressure to accept the theories taught by their professors. However, he more insightfully points out that the pressure is not so much intellectual as ideological. Professor Mano Singham teaches physics at Case Western Reserve University.

Singham admits, professors prefer that their students accept what they teach on their professorial authority. However, he also admits that when students do this, the result is that they hold the same views as their teacher, and this amounts to little more than brainwashing. As a result, students trained in this way are unlikely to shake up the world with new ideas.

Signham advocates helping students think critically. He goes so far as to use the example of origins. While he would prefer that students uncritically accept on his authority that evolution is true, he notes that this kind of training would lead students to uncritically accept anyone's propaganda in any area of life. So he urges students to carefully examine the arguments for and against any issue, including what is taught in the classroom. They should not accept anything just because some authority says it is true. Students should stand up for what they believe.

For the past 50 years, creationists have been saying this very thing about modern education.

Proverbs 23:24 "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him."

Prayer: Lord, prosper all godly learning among Your people. Amen.

Ref: Physics Today, Mano Singham, "Teaching and Propaganda."

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