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On Appreciating Science

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ON APPRECIATING SCIENCE

The scientific attitudes which should be developed are:

An intense curiosity about the world in which we live;

A firm understanding that every effect has a cause, and every cause is the effect of a prior cause;

A firm belief in truth;

Making careful and accurate observations;

Weighing all the evidence before drawing a conclusion;

Appreciating the debt owed to scientists of the past.

Remember, the science teacher is *not* a scientist. He is an appreciator of science. His job is to transmit attitudes to the next generation. No other person in the community has this responsibility. The responsibility is awesome, but the rewards are worthwhile.

EARTH INCORPORATED

“Earth” is a proper name. Do we speak of “the mars,” or of “the jupiter,” or of “the venus”? Then why “the earth”? It is a degradation of both our thinking and our very special planet.

Today, however, it has become not only a solecism, but a vital injustice. Justice Douglas tells us that because Earth has no recognition as “an entity” or “a person” in law, cases in court for its protection and stewardship or the protection of its natural components are thrown out on the technicality of its “nonentity.”

We ask you to consult *Webster's International*, *Random House Unabridged*, or whatever reference you have, and discover the contradictions and inequities in regard to this unique and mystical planet—which, by the way, deserves all the care and respect it can possibly muster for its faltering ecosystems.

Think it over, and help humanity to reform while Earth still has a chance to survive our indifference and exploitation.

It won't cost us a tin nickel. And it's far past time we woke up.

Robert and Leona Train Rienow