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# UFOs are work of Satan, says prof

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)** — During a court test of how creation should be taught in the public schools, a theology professor testified yesterday that he believes UFOs exist and are the work of Satan.

Norman Geisler, professor of theology and philosophy at Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, said Unidentified Flying Objects are "a satanic manifestation in the world for the purpose of deception."

He was the state's first witness after the American Civil Liberties Union rested its case challenging a new law that says creationism and evolution should be given equal time in Arkansas schools.

Geisler told U.S. District Judge William Overton that belief in the existence of a god is not necessarily belief in a god. Believing in a god is religious, he said, but believing that there is one is not necessarily religious. He defined religion as an "ultimate commitment."

## Less evidence

Under cross-examination by ACLU attorney Tony Siano, Geisler said Satan is an angel named Lucifer who rebelled against God and was changed because of the rebellion. Evidence of Satan's existence comes from his dealings with demon-possessed people, Geisler said.

The professor said "credible scientists such as Carl Sagan believe in extraterrestrial life without nearly as much evidence" as has accumulated in favor of the existence of UFOs.

Attributing UFOs to the work of Satan, Geisler said, "In my professional opinion, the Bible says this kind of thing can and does occur."

Textbook expert William V. Mayer of the University of Colorado, the last of the ACLU's 17 witnesses, testified earlier that the new law is "interference by the uninformed" in education and that education will deteriorate if schools must tolerate much of it.

The state contends creationism is supported by competent scientific evidence and argues that the ACLU is trying to shut out "those ideas with which they disagree because they are incompatible with their personal religious or philosophical views."

If the law stands, public schools teaching evolution will have to give balanced

treatment to the creation theory.

Creation-science is the name given by the law to the view that the universe, the Earth and living things came into existence from nothingness 6,000 or so years ago. Creationists usually assign the act of creation to God, but the law prohibits using religious writings in teaching cre-

ation-science.

Evolution, the predominant view of scientists, maintains that life on Earth developed slowly over millions of years as a result of natural forces and that the universe has existed for billions of years.

Even if the creation concept is correct, it is not a scientific explanation, Mayer said.

## The evidence

The trial began Monday in the lawsuit filed May 27 for 23 scientists, educators and clergymen against the Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science Act. The ACLU says the law, to take effect next year, violates the constitutional separation of church and state, violates academic freedom and is too vague.