

EDITORIAL

In the current issue we present one of the papers presented at the Third International Conference on Absolutes held in Houston last year. Amateur astronomer J. Timothy Unruh presents the results of his long interest in tektites. Mr. Unruh wrote a similar article for the *B.A.* in 1992. He makes a good case for the hypothesis that tektites originate from the moon.

The primary focus of the Readers' Forum in this issue is geocentricity. Many of the websites advertise that they provide open forums for debate, but they actually exist to promote the owner's beliefs and faith. A prime example is the much-decorated "Bad Astronomer" website. If, however, a creationist or geocentrist starts humiliating the evolutionist or heliocentrist argument, the moderator bans him. One geocentric advocate has been banned more than thirty times from the site. Each time he takes a new identity and starts the debate over again. The main letter in this issue's "Forum" is the type of letter that gets its author banned from the "Bad Astronomer" website.

The third article is about the speed of waves through the firmament and is taken from the appendix of the main article in issue 99 of *The Biblical Astronomer*. The derivations and calculations were reexamined and the results are presented for different types of waves. It is no surprise that transverse waves (such as ocean waves and light waves) move at the speed of light. Temperature is a measure describing the energy of molecules and atoms colliding with one another, thus bouncing around at a wide range of speeds. The average speed is computed and falls between the speed of light and 1.75 times the speed of light, depending on the number of degrees of freedom in the firmament. A degree of freedom is synonymous with being able to move in one dimension, thus three degrees of freedom means free to move in up to three dimensions. Finally, the speed of a particular kind of compression wave, formally known as a longitudinal wave, is determined to be much faster than the speed of light, capable of traversing the universe in a hundred-billionth of a second.

Another Conference?

At the end of last year's conference the feeling was, "Let's do this again real soon." Late last year there was some talk about having another, smaller conference in the greater Cleveland area; however, the time was too short. So we would like to try for summer of 2009.

The main problem with the Cleveland venue is that it is forty miles from the airport and five miles from the nearest lodging other

than a campground which is about two miles away. What this means is that participants will have to arrange their own transportation to, during, and from the conference. We are open to another venue if anyone would care to assume the responsibility of organizing it. If anyone is so inclined, please advise the editor via mail or email (see inside front cover).

Geocentricity Limerick

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

The Father made the sun go up and down,
 And the heavens and stars go around and around,
 With earth in her fixed place,
 He sent Christ's saving grace,
 So His glory throughout creation should be known.

In the book, *The Theory of Electrons, 1915*, after introducing the theory of "electrons" (he invented them) Lorentz came to his item 7, in which he said:

"Indeed, one of the most important of our fundamental assumptions must be that the ether not only occupies all space between molecules, atoms or electrons, but that it pervades all these particles. We shall add the hypothesis that, though the particles may move, the ether always remains at rest. We can reconcile ourselves with this, at first sight, somewhat startling idea, by thinking of the particles of matter as of some local modification in the state of the ether. These modifications may of course very well travel onward while the volume-elements of the medium in which they exist remain at rest."

If we slightly modify Lorentz's hypothesis that his universally stationary material ether is completely "incompressible" and allow that it is very slightly compressible (wherefore it will conduct wave systems at a finite rather than infinite velocity), his theory is logically tenable.