

Published on NCSE (https://ncse.com)

Home > Judgment Day censored in Memphis?

SHARE TWEET EMAIL PRINT [1]

NCSE Staff [2]

11.16.2007

Judgment Day censored in Memphis? [3]

Although Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial, the recent documentary on Kitzmiller v. Dover, aired on PBS stations around the country, residents of Memphis, Tennessee, were not able to watch it on the regular, analogue, channel of WKNO, the local PBS affiliate. A locally produced documentary about World War II was aired instead. The Memphis Commercial Appeal (November 15, 2007) quoted [4] a spokesperson for the station as explaining, "We had plans to do our local programs to honor veterans this week during Veterans Day. We thought Tuesday night was a good spot for local programs of this nature, and we were concerned about the controversial nature of the ... program as were 15 percent of the top 50 public television stations in the country."

Although *Judgment Day* was aired on WKNO's digital broadcasts, the station's failure to air it on the regular channel elicited complaints; the spokesperson for the station would not disclose how many. The *Commercial Appeal* quoted one disgruntled viewer, David O. Hill, as saying, "I really appreciate what service they do, but when they step out of line like this it violates the whole premise of what NPR and PBS stand for nationally ... This was an historical review of an important judicial decision in America, and they chose not to do it." Trained as a biologist, Hill added, "Evolution is as important a building block to biology as atomic theory is to chemistry and gravitation to physics." The station now plans to air *Judgment Day* in January 2008, "with a local followup to discuss the various views on the show."

Anti-Evolution [5]
2007 [6]
Tennessee [7]
+ read [3]

Source URL: https://ncse.com/news/2007/11/judgment-day-censored-memphis-001114#comment-0

Links

- [1] https://ncse.com/printpdf/13092
- [2] https://ncse.com/users/ncse-staff
- [3] https://ncse.com/news/2007/11/judgment-day-censored-memphis-001114
- [4] http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2007/nov/15/topic-too-hot-for-wkno/
- [5] https://ncse.com/news/anti-evolution
- [6] https://ncse.com/news/2007
- [7] https://ncse.com/news/tennessee