

Portion of letter from Peter Robinson (Head of Mediation Board)  
to Walt Brown and Steve Austin telling Austin to use the name Grand Lake  
because that is the name given to it by its discoverer (Walt Brown).  
Letter was dated September 21, 1994.

Brown. I drew heavily from Dr. Brown's proposal describing Dr. Brown's contribution seeking to edit so as to minimize the repagination concerns of Dr. Austin. I was influenced by Dr. Austin's pagination concerns, but also equally influenced by Dr. Brown's variety of suggestions for addressing those concerns while still providing sufficient room to accomplish the objective of the agreement.

The second item submitted for resolution is the joint statement to be circulated to not more than 50 individuals. Upon carefully reviewing the materials I have not seen a suggested draft from either of you. I understand that Dr. Brown feels that this joint statement should be issued after the resolution of the footnote 40 issue. Again I sincerely apologize that my schedule precluded me from closely examining these materials sooner because of the ongoing damage that is done until this matter is fully and finally resolved. It is my intention to resolve this question of the joint statement as quickly as possible.

I have enclosed a first draft of such a joint statement for both of you to review and revise. I am faxing a copy of this letter and both attachments to both of you today with hard copy to follow by regular mail. I believe it is preferable for the joint statement to come from you as far as accomplishing the goal of unifying the Christian creationist community and demonstrating the Lordship of Christ in this matter. Therefore, I am requesting that the two of you discuss my draft and seek to formulate a mutually acceptable draft. In the event that you cannot do so within 14 days of the date of this letter, October 5th, you will then be given an additional seven days, until October 12th, to submit your proposals and arguments to me regarding modifications to my draft. I will carefully review your proposals and concerns and create a joint statement within the next seven days, October 19th. I will sign the draft with my title as mediator/arbitrator on behalf of the Center for Conflict Resolution, a Christian Conciliation Service Ministry, and also list my titles as the Associate Director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution and Assistant Professor of Law at Pepperdine University School of Law. Dr. Brown should generate the 50 labels of the individuals to receive this statement and deliver those labels to my office for distribution of the statement by October 19th.

The third issue for resolution regards the name attributed to the lake in question. Dr. Brown provided the name "Grand Lake." Dr. Austin utilized that same name for the period of 1988 to 1994 at which time he published the revised version to the his Grand Canyon guidebook in which he used a new name of Canyonlands Lake. My impression from our discussions at the June 21st meeting was that the controversy and allegations from Dr. Brown was one of the significant factors in Dr. Austin's decision to begin referring to this lake as Canyonlands Lake. The thought being that if using the same name as Dr. Brown contributes to Dr. Brown's allegations of plagiarism by Dr. Austin, then Dr. Austin will cease utilizing the same name.

My resolution of this issue will seek to implement my understanding that the agreement at the

conclusion of the June 21st meeting was in essence that the cause of creationism and the Lordship of Christ would be best advanced by Dr. Brown ceasing his allegations of copyright infringement and plagiarism by Dr. Austin and that Dr. Austin would more recognize Dr. Brown's contributions, among other significant contributors, to the Grand Lake theory. While we all recognized that Dr. Austin and Dr. Brown continue to have significant scientific differences, there was an agreement that there would be a more collegial and professional personal relationship because of their mutual Christian commitment and the Christian value of forgiveness and reconciliation for whatever wrongs that each may feel.

My determination will seek to recreate the status of their relationship as if the acrimony had not arisen and seek to implement this spirit of reconciliation represented by the agreement on June 21st. Accordingly, I believe that Dr. Austin would have continued using the title Grand Lake had the controversy never arisen. He should now continue using the title Grand Lake as a symbol of his commitment to reconcile with Dr. Brown and also as one way to acknowledge Dr. Brown's contributions regarding this body of water. The scope of this determination extends to footnote 62 and the main text of his Grand Canyon guide book. This utilization of the name created by Dr. Brown and recognition of Dr. Brown's contributions in this area does not extend to agreeing with any or all of Dr. Brown's theories regarding how the lake was formed or drained.

I know that there are portions of this determination that will be disappointing to each of you. The objective in my deliberations was to recapture and implement the gestures made by each of you that enabled the June 21 meeting to end in an agreement symbolizing reconciliation rather than an arbitration decision with a winner and a loser. Dr. Brown's final submission to me repeated many of the allegations giving rise to the conflict. I refuse and I pray that each of you will also refuse to reopen those old wounds. Rather I ask you to join me in embracing the Spirit that enabled you to end the June 21 meeting with a handshake and a commitment to seek to show God's grace, love and forgiveness more in your relationship with each other. I pray that it is in that Spirit that you will accept and implement the above determinations. Rest assured that I and many others will be praying for God's continued blessing on both of you and the important work you are conducting.

Sincerely,



Peter Robinson  
Mediator/Arbitrator, Center for Conflict Resolution and  
Associate Director and Assistant Professor of Law  
Institute for Dispute Resolution  
Pepperdine University  
School of Law

cc: Katherine Blankinship  
Honorable Jack Crickert  
Gregory Wood, Esq.