

John Updike

The Centaur

But it was just one of Zimmerman's monthly visitation reports.

OLINGER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the supervising principal

Teacher : G.W. Caldwell

Class : 10th grade Gen.Sci., sec. C

The teacher arrived in the classroom twelve minutes late....The students and the teacher then discussed the age of the universe, the size of the stars, the origins of the earth, and the outline of organic evolution. No attempt was discernible on the teacher's part to avoid offending religious conceptions on the students' part. The humanistic values implicit in the physical sciences were not elicited. The teacher at one point stopped himself from pronouncing the word 'hell'

Signed,

Louis M. Zimmerman

My father came back, having soaked the rag at the drinking fountain in the hall. With long rhythmic swipes shaped like sideways 8's he washed the blackboard....

'What does he mean', I asked, 'the humanistic values implicit in the physical sciences?'

'You ask him', my father said. 'Maybe he knows. Maybe down deep in the atom there's a little man sitting in a rocking chair reading the evening paper.'