



Creation Matters

Volume 5, Number 5/6

Sept./Oct. — Nov./Dec. 2000

Answering Evolutionists in Print Media

by David Bump

There's no telling how much influence on public policy is effected by opinion columns and letters to the editor in newspapers. To the extent that evolutionists use these forums, we should be prepared to point out their errors. To see evolution defended and belief in creation derided in newsprint by an authority figure may be quite intimidating to many of us. We may hesitate to respond, thinking that we don't have sufficient knowledge or talent.

My problem on several occasions has been writing too much — editors favor letters that are short and to the point. I have a hard time refraining from pointing out all the errors in what an evolutionist has written, partly out of concern that I may be the only one responding. It would be better if every creationist would be prepared to write a short response, pointing out perhaps just one important error.

Since the debate has been going on for

well over a hundred years, a lot of material gets re-used on both sides. The following notes are taken from my reactions to an article in *The Union Leader* of Manchester, New Hampshire by noted evolutionary professor Barbara J. Stahl (Friday, September 22, 2000), and one by William E. Kirwan, president of The Ohio State University, which appeared in *The Columbus Dispatch* (Monday, October 2, 2000).

Ignoring creationists

One thing evolutionists often do is imply that creationists can be ignored because they are mostly just American Protestant fundamentalists. Even a brief note that there are many creationists around the world, and that they belong to different denominations and even different religions (including Jews and Moslems) will alleviate this attack. In a similar vein, evolutionists frequently state that "all scientists believe in evolution," or that "there isn't

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DESIGN AT YALE

by Wayne Frair, Ph.D. and Patrick H. Clancy, Ed.D.

Science and Evidence for Design in the Universe was the auspicious title of an interdisciplinary symposium held at Yale University in New Haven Connecticut, 2-4 November 2000.

The gathering was hosted by the Rivendell Institute for Christian Thought and Learning, which is a branch of the Campus Crusade for Christ outreach at Yale. Co-sponsor of this noteworthy design conference was the Center for the Renewal of Science & Culture, which is a project of Discovery Institute, a Seattle-Washington public policy think tank. A goal of scholars in this think tank is the challenging of twentieth-century materialistic science with design theory, which may be thought of as a bridge between science and theology.

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A "Moron" and a "Liar"

by Paul G. Humber

The two words in the title were directed toward me recently by an evolutionist with whom I had been corresponding for a period of about three months. My final letter to him, printed below, was sandwiched between his penultimate "moron" post and his final "liar" post. Here's my letter.

Dear _____,

When I wrote that "I don't remember using language that put you down," I was referring to the "you moron" you applied to me. Then you said, "Don't get all self-righteous on me, Paul. You don't think equating me and other 'evolutionists' with Hitler is a 'put down'...?"

Carl Sagan used evolutionary thinking to justify the slaughter of the unborn. According to him, humans go through an evolutionary unfolding during development in the womb. The face of the child, for example,

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becomes "reptilian ... [then] somewhat piglike." Eventually, it "resembles a primate's but is still not quite human" (*Parade Magazine*, 4/22/90, p. A8).

All of this, of course, is nonsense, but it affects gullible people. Six million is the number linked with Hitler, but well over thirty million babies have been slaughtered in American abortuaries since 1973! Yes, Carl Sagan and convoluted evolution are partly to blame, and the entrance of evolutionary thinking into Germany via Ernst Haeckel had an impact on Germans, including Hitler. Ideas have consequences, and faulty "science" has fostered evil.

By way of review, the original concern I had with your article centered upon your statement, "The ICR claims that 'Hitler used the German word for evolution (Entwicklung) over and over again in his book,' " and then you referenced my article. You add, "Like so many of ICR's claims, this one simply is not true — a quick scan of several online English translations of *Mein Kampf* shows only **one** use of the word 'evolution,' in a context which does not refer at all to biological evolution ..." You still hold to this view, even though it is patently false. I condense my arguments for clarity.

Development / evolution

First, when I traced the word "development" in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, there were 159 hits (consistent with my "over and over again" statement to which you objected)! I am confident that the German word behind these instances is, in many if not most cases, *Entwicklung* (i.e., evolution). I rather suspect that the translators chose "development" rather than "evolution" because they sought to disconnect Hitler from any association with the widely revered doctrine of evolution. *Entwicklung* appears many more times than once, and your statement, not mine, is false.

You have not yielded to the above point because you think all 159 hits are irrelevant to the subject of "biological evolution." It is my purpose in this paragraph to show that Hitler **was** dealing with biological evolution. The following phrases or terms, all from Hitler's *Mein*

Kampf, do reveal an evolutionary framework of thinking:

"Nature," "preserving," "breeding," "species," "stronger must dominate," "higher development," "higher breeding," "lower colored peoples," "struggle," "existence," "preservation of the species," "laws of development," "the natural law of all development," "victory of the stronger," "preservation," "higher development of living creatures," "life struggle," "species," "struggle for existence," "scientific knowledge," "mankind's struggle for existence," and "ruthless application of Nature's stern and rigid laws."

Of course, Hitler was not pretending to be a biology teacher, but he did see himself as furthering (laudably, in his mind) evolution's supposedly relentless path of weeding out the weak and strengthening the fit. (Before going on to my next point, I have provided again, at the end of this letter, the contexts of all of the quotations cited above. See end note #1.)

Preaching to the cadets

As I informed you earlier, it is not only in *Mein Kampf* that this kind of language was used by Hitler. I repeat again what he said to officer cadets on June 22, 1944:

"Nature is always teaching us ... that she is governed by the principle of selection: that victory is to the strong and the weak must go to the wall. She teaches us that what may seem cruel to us, because it affects us personally or because we have been brought up in ignorance of her laws, is nevertheless often essential if a higher way of life is to be attained. Nature ... knows nothing of the notion of humanitarianism which signifies that the weak must at all costs be surrounded and preserved even at the expense of the strong.

"Nature does not see in weakness any extenuating reasons ... on the contrary, weakness calls for condemnation ... War is therefore the unalterable law of the whole of

life — the prerequisite for the natural selection of the strong and the precedent for the elimination of the weak. What seems cruel to us is from Nature's point of view entirely obvious. A people that cannot assert itself must disappear and another must take its place. All creation is subject to this law; no one can avoid it ... Since life on earth began, struggle has been the very essence of existence ..." (If you would like the reference, see note #2.)

Another point of yours is that Hitler's abuse of evolutionary theory should not disqualify the theory itself (in your words, "Is it your opinion that Hitler's misuse of evolutionary theory was somehow evolutionary theory's fault, and therefore evolutionary theory is evil?"). You say that Hitler also used God-words in *Mein Kampf*. Is it inconsistent for me to cast aspersions on evolutionary theory because of Hitler's evolution-words while not doing the same against Christianity because of Hitler's God-words?

A coddled theory

First, it is not my point that Hitler's example disproves evolution. Evolution is false for many reasons, and none of them need be related to Hitler. It **is** my point that mankind has suffered greatly because the educationally elite have coddled this nonsensical and deadly theory. Hitler was deadly, and abortion is deadly.

Second, many **have** tried to condemn Christianity because of misapplications by supposed adherents. Hitler's references in *Mein Kampf* to God or the Almighty probably were more political than heartfelt, for the Scriptures are replete with admonitions to care for the weak and sickly. Evolutionary theory, however, is amoral, and Hitler promoted survival of the fittest ("the weak must go to the wall") — not loving neighbors and being his brother's keeper.

The Bible, in both testaments, makes it very clear that we all came from one set of parents. There is only one race, the human one. We are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. Cain slew his brother not because he was of a different race but because of hatred in his heart. Hitler was a sinful egomaniac. He made an idol of

himself and the Nazi State.

He may have used God-words, but applying evolutionary truth as he saw it was closer to his heart. Sadly, many Germans were duped by his convoluted views, and these views were buttressed by Darwin's (via Haeckel) racist nonsense. Moreover, the Germans were not alone; many Americans, too, were and are duped by the same nonsense.

You wrote, "Now please tell me why Herr Hitler keeps talking about this 'Almighty God' in *Mein Kampf*." In addition to what I've already written, I reiterate points previously made. The phrase "Almighty God" occurs three times. The name "Jesus" never appears. The word "Bible," never appears. The title "Messiah" never appears, and there is no occurrence of the name "Jehovah."

Response of true Christians

I wrote to you that just as you would want to say that Hitler's concept of evolution was perverse, so it must be affirmed that Hitler's concept of Christianity was perverse. There is a difference, however, in the response of true Christians to Hitler's perversion of Christianity, and the response of evolutionary scientists to Hitler's attempt to force his version of evolution down the throats of Europeans. Here again are Einstein's words:

"Being a lover of freedom, when the (Nazi) revolution came, I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but no, the universities were immediately silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers, whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom; but they, like the universities, were silenced in a few short weeks ...

"Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing the truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration for it because the Church alone

has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual and moral freedom. I am forced to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly." (See end note #3.)

You have not commented to me about this assessment by Einstein. Were there zealous evolutionists who were sent to concentration camps for opposing Hitler? Roland H. Bainton wrote,

"Some four thousand Protestant ministers, led by Karl Barth and Hans Asmussen, formed the Confessing Church, which at Barmen in 1934 declared that no human Fuhrer could stand above the Word of God. The Confessing Church lost its properties, its seminary was suppressed, its journals were prohibited, and when war came the members of

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its clergy of military age and not in prison were assigned to positions of greatest danger, while the older leaders were sent to concentration camps. Among them was Martin Niemoller, a Lutheran pastor who after more than half a year in solitary confinement was brought to trial under Hitler's law against 'treacherous attacks upon state and party.' His refusal to capitulate and his persistent resistance to Nazism made him the symbolic figure of the Protestant opposition until the downfall of the Nazis" (Cochrane, end note #3).

Love thy neighbor

You have not commented on the memorandum submitted to Hitler on June 4, 1936. The German Evangelical Church

questioned whether the Chancellor was trying "to dechristianize the German people." It continues, "When, within the compass of the National Socialist view of life, an anti-Semitism is forced on the Christian that binds him to hatred of the Jew, the Christian injunction to love one's neighbor still stands, for him, opposed to it."

I ask you again, did you see "Weapons of the Spirit" shown on PBS some time ago? It recounted the fact that 5,000 Protestants of Le Chambon, France, rescued 5,000 Jews because they knew they were to love their neighbors. Another more recent PBS documentary featured Dietrich Bonhoeffer's opposition to Hitler.

The New York Times reported the death of Victor Kugler in 1981 and credited him as the one who "hid Anne Frank" in Holland. The article describes him as a "Christian." Corrie ten Boom, her sister, brother, and father, all also of Holland and sincere Christians, were imprisoned (some died) in Ravensbruck because they, too, were shielding Jews from Nazi persecution. They did not believe, with Hitler, that war was "the unalterable law of the whole of life — the prerequisite for the natural selection of the strong and the precedent for the elimination of the weak."

Christian compassion

As I wrote previously, there were Christians in Poland whose hearts went out to Jews. Nechama Tec, a professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut, herself a beneficiary for three years of Christian compassion in Poland, has written a book, "When Light Pierced the Darkness." Her thesis is that religion played a very important role in motivating Christians to compassion for the Jews.

You did not respond to another question. Were you aware that Jews had established a foundation for "Righteous Christians," headed by Rabbi Harold Schulweis? It was/is called the Foundation to Sustain the Righteous Christians. Israel apparently had 31 persons who received pensions from the National Insurance Foundation. It also allowed Rose Warmer to distribute New Testaments to schools nationally because she "voluntarily went to the infamous Auschwitz death camp dur-

ing World War II.”

Returning to the “self-righteous” charge, which of the two of us denies sin in his life? For my part, my only hope is in the perfect righteousness of the Savior, Creator Christ. I reflect, also, with hope on the renewed beauty of people like those of Le Chambon who reached out in love to oppressed Jews because they wanted to obey Jesus.

May the same God who gave grace to the people of Le Chambon continue to touch your life with gladness and love.

Paul

Epilogue

A few days before sending the above letter, I received the following from the evolutionist: “I don’t blame you for not wanting to discuss the matter any further. It seems to be a common creationist tactic to ‘whine and run’ whenever they are getting their clock cleaned.” (I had complained about his calling me a “moron” and suggested we resume when he decided to get more civil.)

Following the most recent letter (re-produced above), however, this same evolutionist wrote, “Don’t write to me any more, liar.” I must confess that I was somewhat relieved to read those words. We do have an obligation to give an answer to anyone who asks a reason for our hope with gentleness and respect (1 Pet.3:15), but it’s also nice to be able to move on to other things for the Lord.

End Notes

1. Here are Hitler’s words and phrases in context (emphasis added):

“Just as **Nature** does not concentrate her greatest attention in **preserving** what exists, but in **breeding** offspring to carry on the **species**, likewise, in human life, it is less important artificially to alleviate existing evil, which, in view of human nature, is ninety-nine per cent impossible, than to ensure from the start healthier channels for a future development.”

“The precondition for this does not lie in associating superior and inferior, but in the total victory of the former. The **stronger must dominate** and not blend with the weaker, thus sacrificing his own greatness. Only the born weakling can view this as cruel, but he after all is only a weak and limited man; for if this law did not prevail, any conceivable higher development (Hoherentwicklung) of organic living beings would be unthinkable.”

“If the process were different, all further and **higher development** would cease and the opposite would occur. For, since the inferior always predominates numerically over the best, if both had the same pos-

sibility of preserving life and propagating, the inferior would multiply so much more rapidly that in the end the best would inevitably be driven into the background, unless a correction of this state of affairs were undertaken. Nature does just this by subjecting the weaker part to such severe living conditions that by them alone the number is limited, and by not permitting the remainder to increase promiscuously, but making a new and ruthless choice according to strength and health. No more than Nature desires the mating of weaker with stronger individuals, even less does she desire the blending of a higher with a lower race, since, if she did, her whole work of **higher breeding**, over perhaps hundreds of thousands of years, might be ruined with one blow.”

“Historical experience offers countless proofs of this. It shows with terrifying clarity that in every mingling of Aryan blood with that of lower peoples the result was the end of the cultured people. North America, whose population consists in by far the largest part of Germanic elements who mixed but little with the **lower colored peoples**, shows a different humanity and culture from Central and South America, where the predominantly Latin immigrants often mixed with the aborigines on a large scale. By this one example, we can clearly and distinctly recognize the effect of racial mixture. The Germanic inhabitant of the American continent, who has remained racially pure and unmixed, rose to be master of the continent; he will remain the master as long as he does not fall a victim to defilement of the blood. The result of all racial crossing is therefore in brief always the following: To bring about such a development is, then, nothing else but to sin against the will of the eternal creator. And as a sin this act is rewarded. When man attempts to rebel against the iron logic of Nature, he comes into **struggle** with the principles to which he himself owes his **existence** as a man. And this attack I must lead to his own doom. Here, of course, we encounter the objection of the modern pacifist, as truly Jewish in its effrontery as it is stupid! ‘Man’s role is to overcome Nature!’ ”

“Here the instinct of knowledge unconsciously obeys the deeper necessity of the **preservation of the species**, if necessary at the cost of the individual, and protests against the visions of the pacifist windbag who in reality is nothing but a cowardly, though camouflaged, egoist, transgressing the **laws of development**; for development requires willingness on the part of the individual to sacrifice himself for the community, and not the sickly imaginings of cowardly know-it-alls and critics of Nature. Especially, therefore, at times when the ideal attitude threatens to disappear, we can at once recognize a diminution of that force which forms the community and thus creates the premises of culture. As soon as egoism becomes the ruler of a people, the bands of order are loosened and in the chase after their own happiness men fall from heaven into a real hell.”

“But the **natural law of all development** demands, not the coupling of two formations which are simply not alike, but the **victory of the stronger** and the cultivation of the victor’s force and strength made possible alone by the resultant struggle.”

“This will make them a precious national treasure to the entire nation; their growth must fill every single national comrade with pride and confidence, for in them lies the germ for a final, great future development of our own people, nay - of humanity.”

“If as the first task of the state in the service and for the welfare of its nationality we recognize the **pres-**

ervation, care, and development of the best racial elements, it is natural that this care must not only extend to the birth of every little national and racial comrade, but that it must educate the young offspring to become a valuable link in the chain of future reproduction.”

“For anyone who believes in a **higher development of living creatures** must admit that every expression of their life urge and **life struggle** must have had a beginning; that one subject must have started it, and that subsequently such a phenomenon repeated itself more and more frequently and spread more and more, until at last it virtually entered the subconscious of all members of a given **species**, thus manifesting itself as an instinct.”

“Thus, fundamentally, they serve the continuous process of higher human development. But the very same thing which once, in the form of the simplest ruse, facilitated the **struggle for existence** [Darwin’s subtitle?] of the man hunting in the primeval forest, again contributes, in the shape of the most brilliant **scientific knowledge** of the present era, to alleviate **mankind’s struggle for existence** and to forge its weapons for the struggles of the future.”

“No, the natural development, though after a struggle enduring centuries, finally brought the best man to the place where he belonged. This will always be so and will eternally remain so, as it always has been so.”

In a previous letter to my critic, I had shared the following additional quotation from Hitler’s Mein Kampf: “At this point someone or other may laugh, but this planet once moved through the ether for millions of years without human beings and it can do so again some day if men forget that they owe their higher existence, not to the ideas of a few crazy ideologists, but to the knowledge and **ruthless application of Nature’s stern and rigid laws.**”

Comment: The above paragraph uses the word “millions,” but it has been brought to my attention that Hitler may actually have written “thousands.” If such is the case and an editor actually changed Hitler’s word to “millions,” then it seems that that editor also believed, as do I, that Hitler was operating out of an evolutionary framework of thinking. Evolutionists major on “millions” — not “thousands.”

2. See Helmut Krausnick and Martin Broszat’s *Anatomy of the SS State*, published by Paladin, 1970, pp.29-30. See also, D. Gaeman, *The Scientific Origins of National Socialism: Social Darwinism in Ernst Haeckel and the German Monist League* xvi, 1971, where it says that Hitler “stressed and singled out the idea of biological evolution as the most forceful weapon against traditional religion and he repeatedly condemned Christianity for its opposition to the teachings of evolution ... For Hitler, evolution was the hallmark of modern science and culture, and he defended its veracity as tenaciously as Haeckel.”

3. Arthur Cochrane, in his book, *The Church’s Confession under Hitler* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1962) indicates his source: Wilhelm Niemoller in *Kampf und Zeugnis der bekennenden Kirche*, p.526.

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Answering Evolutionists

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any controversy” among scientists over evolution; this is another error we can point out.

Another evolutionist tactic is to present evolution as a fact, pointing to other factual “theories” such as the theory of gravity, or the theory that the earth travels around the sun. Part of this presentation may include defining evolution in a limited way; e.g., variation over generations, and selection of the fittest by natural forces.

In these cases, point out that no creationist disputes such a limited definition of evolution. But what is taught in schools includes the ideas that life arose from simple chemicals without intelligent assistance, and that those first few, simple life forms evolved into all living creatures since. These events, which are part of evolution’s larger picture, have not been observed, nor has it been demonstrated that there are natural processes sufficient to accomplish them.

Intelligent design

Creationists are finding renewed support in arguments based on the appearance of intelligent design. Evolutionists like to point out that these ideas are not new, the basic idea of design having been developed by William Paley, back in Darwin’s time. One can respond by saying that intelligent design continues to challenge evolution (which of course is also not a new idea). Modern science has revealed new complexities at the subcellular and biochemical levels, leading to comparisons between living things and artifacts designed by humans which were never dreamed of by Darwin.

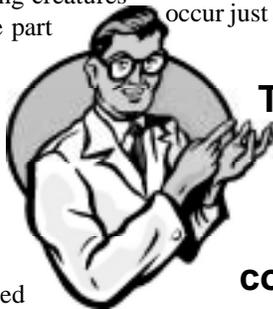
Evolutionists like to claim that creation scientists have some ulterior religious motives, but that evolution is a product of impartial, unbiased observation and scientific method. Remind readers that evolution scientists are humans, too, and have been influenced by social motivations that produced the evils of Social Darwinism and eugenics.

A new Dark Age

Evolutionists will go so far as to claim that

if we don’t teach evolution in schools (and don’t keep arguments for creation out of science classes) there will be dire consequences. I’ve even seen the claim that it would lead to a new Dark Age in which no one will know enough science to fix a toaster! Perhaps a lot of readers are moved by such statements, coming from authoritative sources, but if you simply point out that there are many active creation scientists, including Raymond Damadian (inventor of the MRI device), readers should be able to see what a shallow scare tactic had been used.

Evolutionists rarely cite much positive evidence for evolution. They may even just appeal to scientific advances in general. Point out that the vast majority of science, even biology, actually has little or nothing to do with the microbes-to-man story of evolution. Even advances in genetics can occur just as well, if not better, based on an



There are, in fact, scientific and logical arguments in favor of creation which are best presented in the context of a science class.

understanding that living systems were designed by an intelligent creator. No practical benefit or scientific advance has been accrued specifically from evolutionary thought.

Evolutionary assumptions

Studying creationist literature will help you deal with any specific examples cited in support of evolution. It is helpful to examine the supposed supporting “evidence” to see if it is itself based on non-verifiable evolutionary assumptions. Another common flaw are data that show variation within a population, but fail to demonstrate that such variation could lead to new forms of life.

Finally, evolutionists, in an effort to make their position seem less extreme and more reasonable than it really is, may advocate that creation be taught in social studies or comparative religion classes, or some other such supposedly generous compromise. Help the readers to realize that such olive branches are deceptive.

There are, in fact, scientific and logical arguments in favor of creation which are best presented in the context of a science class. Teaching evolution as a scientifically unquestionable theory will influence many students to believe that there is no God, or that if He exists, He had little or nothing to do with the origin of life and mankind.

It may seem audacious to write that some respected person has made an error or has written misleading statements. Evolutionists and their supporters certainly use their positions and degrees and make unfounded pronouncements as if to awe or panic the general public. On the other hand, remember that God used a young boy with a sling to bring down a mighty warrior, and it only took one stone. When you see something in a newspaper or magazine that seems to support evolution or attack creation, don’t hesitate to

write to the editor. In each printed article supporting evolution there will be at least one logical or factual flaw. The hard part may be in limiting yourself to addressing only one out of the many.

David Bump, a frequent contributor to the CRSnet internet discussion group, has a B.A. In

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Fifth International Conference on Creationism, 2003 CALL FOR PAPERS

High quality papers for the Fifth International Conference on Creationism (ICC), Summer 2003, Pittsburgh, PA, are now invited for submission. In continuation of the Fourth ICC, the theme of the Fifth ICC is *Developing and Systematizing the Creation Model of Origins*, making the Fifth ICC a “working” conference.

The interested author should write a 500-word abstract of his/her paper, categorize it according to the area classification below, and submit a copy **no later than 14 December 2001** to each of the following at their addresses provided below: appropriate Area Liaison, Technical Review Committee (TRC) Chairman, and ICC Proceedings Editor. Early submission is highly recommended. (EMAIL submissions of abstracts are acceptable.)

Each submitted abstract will be evaluated by the liaison, in consultation with the Technical Review Committee (TRC), for possible inclusion into the review process. If accepted, the author would be sent a packet detailing format of ICC papers, and the author would submit his/her paper to the editor assigned by the liaison **no later than 01 June 2002**. The editor will send each paper to referees, work with the author to improve his/her paper, and have final jurisdiction over the acceptance or rejection of each such paper. Final drafts of all papers, including any revisions, are to be in the editor’s hands **no later than 28 February 2003**. (These dates are firm!)

Papers dealing with the age of the earth/universe must be from a young-earth perspective. Papers from an old-earth/old-universe perspective will not be considered.

The Conference theme is partitioned into major areas overseen by TRC liaisons, and each area is further divided into sub-areas overseen by one or more editors.

AREA CLASSIFICATION

I. FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE

Liaison: James Hilston

- (1) Biblical Models and Hermeneutics
- (2) Mathematical and Logical Models
- (3) Philosophy of Science

II. LIFE SCIENCES

Liaison: Robert Harsh

- (1) Cell and Molecular Biology
- (2) Organismal Biology
- (3) Biogeography
- (4) Systematics
- (5) Genetics
- (6) Ecology

III. ASTRO-SCIENCES

Liaison: Robert Walsh

- (1) Astro-chronometry
- (2) Cosmogony and Cosmology
- (3) Atmospheric Sciences

IV. SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES

Liaison: Dennis E. Wert

- (1) Philosophy of History
- (2) Linguistics
- (3) Archeology
- (4) Psychology

(5) Economics and Political Science

(6) Education

V. EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES

Liaison: Charles Danley

- (1) Geo-chemistry
- (2) Geo-physics
- (3) Physical Geology
- (4) Sedimentary Geology
- (5) Paleontology

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Design at Yale
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Participating as speakers and discussion leaders in the November program was an impressive array of fifteen prominent researchers, speakers and writers including Michael Behe, Walter Bradley, William Dembski, Phillip Johnson, Stephen Meyer, and Jonathan Wells.

The initial speaker at the first plenary session was lawyer Phillip Johnson who employed his "wedge of truth" (the title of his recent book) to split the popular commitment that scientists have to an a priori emphasis upon metaphysical naturalism. Johnson left an indelible impression on the audience with his analogy about turning around a train on its tracks so that it would go in the opposite direction, meaning that scientists would view science as a dispassionate search for truth, which of course may include the possibility that implications of their research could indicate supernaturalism.

The next speaker, William Dembski, hammered home the theme that specified complexity requires intelligence. Throughout the conference, effort was made to debunk the currently-popular idea that the design so obvious in a multitude of features in nature is really only apparent design. Although speakers stressed design as being real, they did not

often extend the discussion to the next logical step and consider the Designer.

There were one hundred seventy registered attendees for the symposium, and they came from as far away as Denmark and Korea. But including the Yale faculty and student walk-ins, the audience swelled to as many as three hundred fifty on two of the evenings. One pastor who was attending was heard to express his objections that the speakers were not saying enough about the Bible and God's role in creating.

But the program on the whole had an apologetic flavor, an outreach to those not yet committed to a teleological understanding of nature. There was plenty of scientific experimental data ranging from astronomy, to physics, chemistry and biology; and there was some mathematics and a wealth of good philosophy.

The tenor at the conference was distinctly anti-macroevolutionary. At the present time, any who oppose this popular macroevolutionary dogma of Academe often do so at the risk of their careers. One of the attendees (but not a speaker) at Yale was Dr. Jerry Bergman who, as an admitted creationist within a university community, has suffered professionally because of his beliefs. He shares the hope expressed by virtually all presenters at the Yale conference: for a breath of intellec-

tual fresh air to ventilate Academe.

On the basis of their questions it was clear that not all those attending were sympathetic to the speakers' emphases. But the audience at least could not help being influenced by the credentials of the speakers and the up-to-date high quality of their presentations. It is possible that this entire design symposium will be remembered as a landmark event in turning around, as Johnson said, the train of thought in this century.

More information about the symposium is available from:

The Rivendell Institute
13 University Place
New Haven, CT 06511
Phone (203) 773-1991
Email 74152.1761@compuserve.com

Audio tapes of the main speeches (a total of 18) may be obtained by contacting:

Discovery Institute
1402 Third Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98101-2109
Phone (206) 292-0401 ext. 112
Fax (206) 682-5320

Wayne Frair and Patrick H. Clancy are affiliated with The King's College, The Empire State Building, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10118.



Intelligent Design: The Bridge between Science and Theology

(Intervarsity Press, 1999; ISBN 0-8308-1581-3) by *William A. Dembski*
302 pages, \$19.95

Reviewed by Rev. David Becker

William A. Dembski holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and has earned degrees in theology and psychology. He is the recipient of two fellowships from the National Science Foundation and currently is a senior fellow of the Discovery Institute's Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture. He has done postdoctoral work at the University of Chicago, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University and Northwestern University. He has written numerous scholarly articles and is the author of the critically acclaimed *The Design Inference* (Cambridge) as well as the editor of *Mere Creation* (IVP).

This latest book from William A. Dembski is intended as a popularization of a key insight that he developed in *The Design Inference*. Dembski saw the critical need for a "litmus test" to detect reliably the presence of intelligent design. He came up with the Complexity Specification Criterion, refining it with mathematical rigor, thereby making a fundamental contribution to information science. This scientific advance promises to impact the life sciences with great force, adding to the momentum of the intelligent design paradigm for scientific investigation, and hastening the retreat of the Darwinian paradigm of naturalistic evolution.

Dembski's great idea

Dembski's great idea is basically simple, and can readily be grasped even by young students. Consider a table covered with a profusion of scrabble squares that can be moved about and scattered freely. Each square is specified by one of the twenty-six letters of the English alphabet. Any single square is simple, having no complexity whatever. But the whole cornucopia of squares on the table has high complexity, though it is unspecified. Here and

there on the table we may see squares juxtaposed to form simple words like "to" and "for." These sequences are specified but have such a low order of complexity that they could easily have resulted from chance.

HEAROISRRAELTHELORDISOURGOD

Now here is an interesting string of letters — the famous *Shema* passage from the Old Testament (Dt 6:4)! This sequence is quite complex and highly specified. Most of us would conclude that we have here an example of *complex specified information* (CSI), telltale evidence that an intelligent agent has been at work.

What if we had only the first two or three words of the verse — or perhaps just the first word? Doubts would enter our mind and we would not be sure whether we were dealing with chance or intelligence, because of the low order of complexity in the sequence. Obviously in studying dubious sequences we must identify a cutoff point, a threshold level of complexity that insures we are dealing with intelligence. Let's be ultraconservative and set the critical level high enough to convince all reasonable observers, even those who are apt to be stubbornly skeptical of intelligent agency.

"Bits" of information

Dembski has done the math for us, noting that information science routinely quantifies information in terms of bits. A quantified information sequence is subject to having its probability calculated, i.e., the probability of the sequence being generated by chance. Sequences of just a few bits will be within the realm of possibility and have a fairly high probability of being formed by chance.

Extending the sequence to include additional information reduces the probability. In fact the probability drops dramatically as the number of bits increases.

An information level of 500 bits translates into a probability bound of one chance in 10150. The normal figure used in statistical analysis as the outer limit of a probability of haphazard occurrence of any given event is 1050. In adopting a boundary value of 500 bits for C in CSI, i.e. defining complexity as 500 bits or more, Dembski has to his credit adopted an extremely conservative standard indeed. Thus the probability for a chance origin of any information sequence exhibiting CSI equates to zero!

A daunting challenge

Dembski enables us to translate the concepts of Darwinian evolution into the language of information science, so that we can have a better understanding of precisely what is involved in putative transformations like the spontaneous ordering of the DNA/RNA of the first living organism, or the subsequent origin of a new species via macroevolution. From now on evolutionists will have to explain *abiogenesis* (origin of life from nonlife) and macroevolution in terms of some naturalistic pathway capable of generating CSI — a daunting challenge.

There is debate about the minimum complexity required by "the first living cell" but a single cell bacterium has about 3 million nucleotides all arranged in a very specific order. An extremely small bacterial virus was determined to have 5,375 nucleotides. We are left with "the first living cell" packing CSI, and all those nucleotide combinations and permutations computing to a probability factor of zero.

Dembski's book is a feast for anyone interested in intelligent design and the challenge it poses for the methodological naturalism of modern science. He gives an excellent survey of naturalism from Spinoza and Schleiermacher to the present. He illuminates the rise and fall of British Natural Theology, and he points out that

Darwin's principal legacy is not his theory of evolution by natural selection but his insistence upon naturalistic methodology.

Cutting edge technology

Dembski the theologian offers some stimulating passages focusing on *logos* or word. Information Age science is concerned with information, language, software, code, programming, manipulation of code through translation, encryption and decryption. Complex structures like the new Boeing 777 airliner, or the Sea Wolf submarine, are an end product of an elaborate *thought* process involving computerized blueprints and imaging. They exist in the virtual reality of "computer mind" before they appear in reality.

This cutting edge technology enables us to appreciate in a new and deeper way

ancient insights into the relationship of the divine Mind to every creature in God's creation. Every creature manifests the *logos* in the mind of God. The DNA of every living thing is first in the mind of the Creator, then in the genetic code of the bacterium, butterfly, Redwood tree and man.

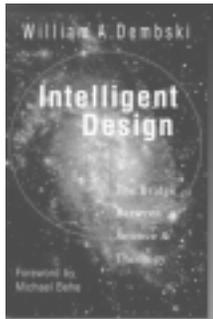
The metaphysics of naturalism

For the present, Dembski refuses to get caught up in questions of the chronology of the world. The intelligent design paradigm would seem to obviate the need for uniformitarian time spans that arguably resulted from the metaphysics of naturalism driving the science of the past. Conceivably, the collapse of naturalistic metaphysics could effect in the ranks of intelligent design scientists a growing "agnos-

ticism" about the age of the Earth.

The militant Darwinist, Daniel C. Dennett, once gleefully described Darwinism as "a universal acid, it eats through just about every traditional concept and leaves in its wake a revolutionized worldview." Ironically the same can be said of the intelligent design paradigm! Evolutionists recognize this more clearly perhaps than the intelligent design revolutionaries. Possibly we know less than we think about the age of the Earth.

Reprinted by permission from Watchmaker, the official magazine of Morning Star Catholic Origins Society, Volume 7, No. 1 (Spring-Summer 2000). Rev. Becker, the magazine's editor, may be contacted at dbecker@innernet.net.



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**Intelligent Design: The Bridge
between Science & Theology**
by William A. Dembski

Order from:
CRS Books
P.O. Box 8263
St. Joseph, MO 64508-8263
USA

DISCONTINUITY

Understanding Biology in the Light of Creation

Call for Abstracts

Cedarville University
Cedarville, OH
August 15-17, 2001 (Tentative Date)

Discontinuity: Understanding Biology in the Light of Creation is presented by the Baraminology Study Group, the Center for Origins Research and Education (Bryan College), and Cedarville University as a follow-up conference to the highly successful Baraminology 99, held at Liberty University in August, 1999.

Discontinuity will include invited plenary sessions, short (15 min.) research talks, and research posters. Abstracts for the research talks and posters are invited, and we strongly encourage the submission of undergraduate research projects. All authors of accepted abstracts will be expected to present a poster, and sixteen of these will also be asked to present short research talks.

Any interested researcher should submit a one-page abstract by **February 23, 2001**. Abstracts will be reviewed by two creationist referees according to the following criteria: scientific

merit, adherence to the theme of the conference, and significance to the creation biology model.

Abstracts must:

- Include the names and affiliations of all authors
- Focus on interpreting the living world from a creationist perspective. Projects that are primarily critiques of evolution will not be considered.
- Be typed in English with proper grammar and spelling.

Abstracts should be submitted to:

Dr. Todd C. Wood
Center for Origins Research and Education
P.O. Box 7731
Bryan College
Dayton, TN 37321
info@bryancore.org

Skin Zippers

Based upon old textbook diagrams, perhaps most of us picture our skin as being composed of cells arranged like stacks of bricks. Yet we have probably not stopped to consider what constitutes the “mortar” that holds the cells in place. Researchers have now begun to understand the processes which bind skin (and other epithelial) cells together. Earlier this year a team of investigators described their work in the journal *Cell*.⁽¹⁾

A calcium-mediated response

This process, according to the authors, may have been missed previously because cell-cell adhesion had been studied in “immortalized cells”; i.e., epithelial cell lines presumably developed for ease of growth and observation in tissue culture. Such cells, which tend to partially “crawl over each other” are “poorly adherent,” having no “need” to bind closely to each other to form epithelial sheets. In contrast, these new studies have been carried out using primary mouse keratinocytes (epithelial cells) which are “only a step removed from the tissue itself.”

When such primary cells, which have not been in previous contact with other cells, are stimulated by calcium, they extend numerous projections called **filopodia**. When filopodia from two adjacent cells contact each other, they appear to slide along each other in opposite directions until they “penetrate and embed” into each other’s cell membrane. The authors suggest that this initial embedding makes it more probable that other filopodia will make contact. This process provides the force which draws the cell membranes together, thus extending the areas of contact. [Filopodia had been previously observed in regions where epithelial cells were in contact, but their significance had not been realized.]

Zippers

Within the cell membrane thus penetrated by several filopodia from an adjacent cell, a row of nodules (clusters of specialized proteins) called **puncta** appears at the tips

of the embedded filopodia. The result is a double row of puncta (one row in each adjoining cell membrane) resembling the opposing teeth of an open zipper. Therefore, the authors propose to name this structure an **adhesion zipper**.

The puncta/filopodia tips serve as sites of actin polymerization, providing an opposing force which pushes the two rows of puncta together. This effectively closes the zipper, merging the two rows of puncta into one. Once the space between the membranes is closed, the opposing cell surfaces are “clamped” by **desmosomes**. Thus, cell membranes are sealed into epithelial sheets.

The authors suggest that this experimentally observed process may be “especially important” in physiological processes such as wound healing. In any case, these events demonstrate a wonderfully designed mechanism which may, upon further study, lead to another example of irreducible complexity.

(1) Vasioukhin, V., C. Bauer, M. Yin, and E.

Fuchs. 2000. Directed actin polymerization is the driving force for epithelial cell-cell adhesion. *Cell* 100:209-219.

— contributed by Glen Wolfrom

A Younger Grand Canyon?

Here’s a new development that readers should find interesting. The September 30, 2000, issue of *Science News* reported that the Grand Canyon may be far younger than the tour guides tell you. As early as the 1930’s, evidence for this was ignored. Richard Young, of the State University of New York (Genesco), attended a 1964 geology conference on the canyon. He said, “Fifty years ago, geologists didn’t realize how fast erosion could occur.” The new theory is that a lake overflowed, suddenly washing 1000 cubic miles of water down the Colorado River.

I remember a theory, suggested about six years ago, that an even larger lake had overflowed. The theory stated that the lake, which had formed as the result of a glacial dam, overflowed when the dam melted at

the end of the Ice Age. This would agree with the creation theory that there were about three centuries of cold, after the end of Noah’s Flood. Some evolutionary geologists, apparently, now think much of the Grand Canyon is a million years old, instead of 40 million. Well ... they’re getting closer. Anybody for four thousand?

— contributed by Glenn Jackson

Human Evolution

Two famous scientists, Ian Tattersall and Jeffrey Schwartz, have written a book called *Extinct Humans*, which explains the newest thinking on human evolution. It would probably be a surprise to many to learn that all those caveman fossils we’ve learned about were not our ancestors after all! They were just different kinds of humans from the past. We now know from this new book that many of them all lived together at the same time.

Did you know that we have good evidence that Neanderthals could talk, had religion, made musical instruments, and even intermarried with other humans? Creationists were on the right track all along. Fossils like Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon are just extinct tribes of humans. Australopithecus and Dryopithecus are just extinct apes. Nebraska Man and Piltdown Man are just useless fakes. None of them is “the missing link.” This link fellow is still missing ... and is very likely to stay that way.

— contributed by Glenn Jackson

Speaking of Education

Evolution “Grades”

Recently, the Fordham Foundation published a report card on the quality of the teaching of evolution in the United States. Each state received a numeric grade on a 0-100 scale, and a letter grade on an A-F scale. The report was written from a strongly pro-evolution perspective.

Predictably, recent decisions made by the Kansas state school board prompted the Fordham Foundation (FF) to give Kansas a numeric grade of -18. This was the lowest grade for any state in the nation, and the only grade which was below zero. Six states received a score of 100 and a letter grade A for the strong teaching of evolution. These states were California, Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.

Every year, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) scores are published on a state by state basis. These tests are taken by upper class high school students and are a reasonable reflection of the learning of the students who are tested and, indirectly, a reflection on the quality of their schooling. Kansas ranked 5th on the list of states where students took the SAT.

In the accompanying table are listed the SAT score and the ACT score averages for Kansas, which the FF had ranked as the “weakest” treatment of evolution, compared with the six states which the FF had ranked as the “strongest” teaching of evolution. The “SAT Percent” and “ACT Percent” columns indicate the percentage of students per state who took these tests.

The table shows that students from Kansas actually scored higher on both the SAT and the ACT than any of the states who made an ‘A’ for their teaching of evolution.

It should be noted that many factors other than evolutionary teaching will influence test scores, and creationists should

	SAT Score	ACT Score	SAT Percent	ACT Percent
Kansas	1167	21.6	9	77
California	1013	21.4	45	12
Connecticut	1019	21.3	79	4
Indiana	997	21.4	57	20
New Jersey	1005	20.7	69	4
North Carolina	982	19.5	59	13
Rhode Island	996	21.1	70	4

not claim that this is necessarily a dominant factor. However, evolutionists routinely claim that evolution is a grand unifying principle in science, and that to teach it poorly or not at all will stunt the intellectual development of students. SAT and ACT scores demonstrate that claim to be faulty.

— contributed by Craig Davis

Editor’s note: *One might argue that the Kansas ACT/SAT scores were measured before the change in that state’s science standards. At the same time, however, one must admit that the evolutionists have no data on the effect of the change in the Kansas science standards on education outcome.*

Pennsylvania Science Standards

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (Nov. 29, 2000) has reported that changes are being considered for Pennsylvania’s science and technology teaching standards. A draft of the new standards includes language stating that theories “that do or do not support the theory of evolution” can be taught, and that teachers may “analyze the impact of new scientific facts on the theory of evolution.”

A number of steps remain before the proposed standards are adopted. According to the paper, they must first be published, after which there is a 30-day public comment period. Next, the standards must be voted on by the state Board of Education, subject to review by the two legislative education committees and the state attorney general.

The usual bevy of alarmists have already begun their attacks, stating that these changes open the door to including crea-

tion theory in the science classroom alongside evolution. The Fordham Foundation (see above article on “Evolution ‘Grades’ ”) has even downgraded the state’s score from “A” to “B.” Detractors are also raising the specter of intervention by anti-evolutionists and pressure from the “Christian right.”

Evolutionists apparently have their own “scorched earth” policy in dealing with anti-evolutionists. Dan Langan, who the *Gazette* says is a spokesman for the state Department of Education, is quoted as calling Michael Behe a “screwball.” Langan also calls those who advocate Intelligent Design a “cult,” and likens them to physicians who turn to “voodoo.”

— contributed by Glen Wolfrom

West Va. Mother Challenges Textbooks

According to the *Charleston Daily Mail* (Dec. 2, 2000), Patty Pulliam (with 30 co-signers) is bringing a citizen’s appeal before the Kanawha County schools. The subject of her appeal is that the science textbooks used in the school system “contain false and fraudulent information about evolution.”

Based on Pulliam’s suggestion that warning labels be placed on appropriate sections of the textbooks, the basis for her appeal appears to be the recently published Jonathan Wells book entitled *Icons of Evolution*.^{*} Wells’ book includes sample warning labels.

Four phases are involved in the appeal process. Ultimately, the appeal can reach the level of the state school board which, according to Pulliam, is her goal.

— contributed by Glen Wolfrom

^{*}Editor’s note: *Jonathan Wells’ important new book, Icons of Evolution, is now available from CRS Books for \$28 plus \$4 postage and handling.*

Creation Calendar

Note: Items in "Creation Calendar" are for information only; the listing of an event does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Creation Research Society.

2001

January 13

The Millennium's Greatest Creation Scientists by Mark Armitage, M.S.
Ventura County Creation Science Association
Contact: Mark Armitage (626)815-6000 x5519, marmitage@apunet.apu.edu

March 7

Recent, Rapid Formation of the Lompoc Fossil Deposits
by Mark Armitage, M.S.

Common Day of Learning, Azusa Pacific University
Contact: Mark Armitage (626)815-6000 x5519, marmitage@apunet.apu.edu

April 20, 21

Creation / Evolution Debates sponsored by Skilton House Ministries
with Drs. Jack Cuzzo, Alan Mann, Joseph Mastropaolo, and Richard Weisenberg
Van Til Hall, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia
Contact: Paul Humber (215)438-9419 or (215)646-1774, shm@comanda.com

May 18

Workshop: How To Debate Evolutionists with Dr. Duane Gish
Attendance limited to members & friends of the Creation Research Society
To be held New York / New Jersey area (location to be named later)
Registration fee: \$40 (\$10 discount if paid before April 30); mail fee to:
Dr. David Kaufmann, 3745 NW 7th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607
Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

May 19

Creation / Evolution Seminar by Drs. W. Frair and D. Kaufmann
To be held New York / New Jersey area (location to be named later)
Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

June 2

Debate: Creation vs. Evolution with Dr. Duane Gish (vs. ??)
To be held New York / New Jersey area (location to be named later)
Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

June 1

Workshop: How To Debate Evolutionists with Dr. Duane Gish
Attendance limited to members & friends of the Creation Research Society
Church of the Redeemer, Phoenix, AZ
Registration fee: \$40 (\$10 discount if paid before May 10); mail fee to:
Dr. David Kaufmann, 3745 NW 7th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607
Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

June 2

Debate: Creation vs. Evolution with Dr. Duane Gish (vs. ??)
To be held Phoenix, AZ area (location to be named later)
Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

August 15-17 (tentative)

Discontinuity — Understanding Biology in the Light of Creation
Conference sponsored by Baraminology Study Group, Center for Origins
Research and Education (Bryan College), and Cedarville University
To be held at Cedarville University
Contact: Dr. Todd Wood, Box 7731, Bryan College, Dayton, TN 37321
info@bryancore.org

Creation Matters

ISSN 1094-6632

A publication of the Creation Research Society
Volume 5, Number 5/6
Sept./Oct. — Nov./Dec. 2000

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COMBINED ISSUE

As some of you know, the editing, designing, and publishing of *Creation Matters* is basically a "one-man" operation. We do not have the luxury of having a staff of full time editors, writers, and layout artists.

I am employed full time as a clinical research scientist. Therefore, serving as editor is a task that necessarily occupies evenings and weekends. This is in addition to my duties as CRS membership secretary, receiving / processing book orders, moderating CRSnet, answering email on behalf of CRS, and working with the web site. Because of an extraordinary travel schedule for my "real" occupation, it has become necessary to combine the final two issues of Volume 5. Each night away from home on business is a night I don't have available for CRS.

Your understanding of this situation is appreciated. I am thankful for those who provide manuscripts, and for those who from time to time help with the many other CRS tasks that are on my plate.

— Glen Wolfrom

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Creation Matters
Sept./Oct. — Nov. / Dec. 2000
Vol. 5 No. 5/6

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