

Think & Believe

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Darwinism and the Art of Deception

by *Dave Demmick, MD, guest writer*

It is an old proverb that the best lie is mostly true. An effective falsehood needs the fabric of truth to hold it together and make it credible.

As a classic example of the ancient art of deception, consider Shakespeare's tragedy of MacBeth. In an early scene, MacBeth is accosted by three witches, who greet him with mock courtesy and mysterious words. The first hails him as "Thane of Glamis," the second hails him as "Thane of Cawdor," and the third tells him that he "shall be king hereafter." MacBeth is already Thane of Glamis and he is quickly made Thane of Cawdor. He then reasons (falsely) that the truth of the first two statements must make the third one true as well. His friend Banquo tries to warn him with these words: "And oftentimes, to win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths, win us with honest trifles, to betray us in deepest consequence."

In his *Origin of Species*, Darwin begins with a generous helping of truth. He describes minor man-made biological changes, like the many pigeon varieties bred from the common rock pigeon. He argues that if biologists had not already known that the common pigeon could be bred into so many varieties, they might have classified each variety as a species of its own.

Secondly, he shows how natural selection can also make similar small changes, like the Galapagos finches.

So far, so good—Darwin's opening statements are valid. If Darwin had, at this point, merely called for refinement of the species concept, with attention to defining God's original created kinds (Latin "species" = kind), he might have been remembered as a great creationist biologist. However, he took a great speculative leap by saying that these little changes can (and did) add up to really big biological ones.

This third point, unlike the first two, is unobserved and totally speculative but it is cleverly made to look like a proper extension of the first two points. Thus, the pattern of deception used by MacBeth's three "weird sisters" is the same as that used by Darwinists to this day.

To illustrate further: If we imagine three biology professors coming to convince us of the truth of Darwinism, the first would say, "Natural Selection happens!" Yes, indeed, natural selection does occur in nature. It slows the degeneration of species by weeding out weaker creatures and mutants. It also produces minor changes in organisms by "reshuffling" their existing genes, as would be highlighted by the second professor. He would say, "Microevolution happens!" Again, this is appropriate—minor variations are produced in nature as creatures

adapt to their ecological niches, and these can be readily shown. The third professor would then say, with a pretence of scientific precision: "Natural selection plus microevolution plus millions of years, equals amoeba-to-man evolution!"

In this way, many are led down MacBeth's path to tragedy. They follow a trail of reasoning that appears truthful and sound but they don't notice when falsehood is substituted for truth.

There is an important distinction between microevolution and macroevolution. Like a stage magician using sleight of hand, evolutionists claim truth for macroevolution, all the while using examples of microevolution to support their claims. Creationists need to call increasing attention to

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— Banquo from
Shakespeare's MacBeth



this crucial distinction, and use modern genetics to show why macroevolution cannot occur.

The more we train our minds to stick with what can really be observed, it becomes clear that Genesis 1 is thoroughly and accurately scientific, while Darwinian macroevolution is not. More importantly, the Christian doctrines built upon Genesis are real and trustworthy, while the humanistic religion built upon Darwinism is not. **T&B**

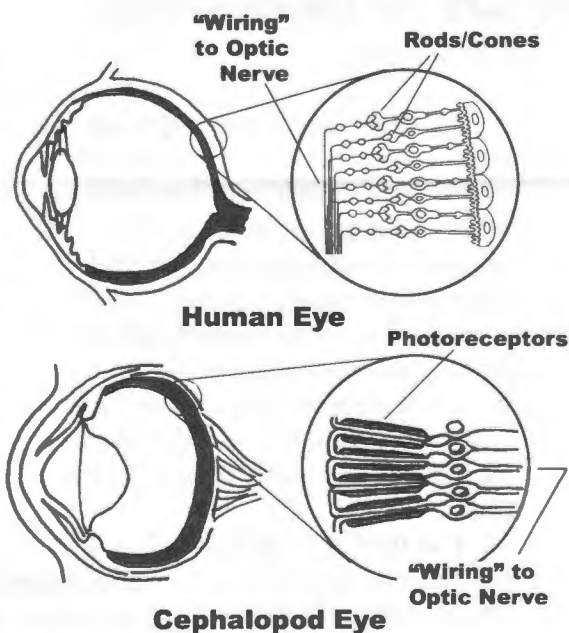
Is Your Eye Wired Backwards?

by Dave Nutting

In a curriculum meant to knock down creation, a skeptic on a video said something to this effect: "If there is a God who created everything, then He did a lousy job! Our eye is wired backwards! There is a mass of 'wiring' material directly in the line of vision. If it was wired the way it should be (like a squid or an octopus), then we would be able to see more clearly, and in a dimly lit room." He then went on to blast the idea of God saying basically, "Since I could design it better, then there can't be a Creator or Designer God." His tone and arrogance were caustic to Christian students who believe in Creation.

Think about the 3 steps to deception talked about by Dr. David Demmick on the front page.

1. Is there material at the front of the retina that limits some vision? Yes!
2. If that material wasn't there, could we be able to see farther and in dimly lit rooms? Yes!
3. Therefore, since I could design it



better, that means there can't be a God. *Wrong!* That is merely the third stage of deception that students are subtly led into.

First of all, this is an argument from perceived imperfection. Do we know everything there is to know about the system? That is unlikely. Is there some piece of the puzzle we have not observed that shows us why our Creator chose to design it the way He did. Yes! If you were to go outside on a bright day with the eye designed the way the skeptic suggested, you would likely be blind in a short while! That mass of wiring in human eyes provides the best pair of sunglasses you can own. It is also a UV protector. The eye is marvelously designed! God knows what He is doing! **T&B**

Mixed Messages

by Mark Sonmor with Rich Stepanek

Was Darwin Wrong? Why would National Geographic even hint at such a thing? Although writer David Quammen seeks to reassure his readers with a resounding "No," his attempts to salvage evolution fall short.

His 33-page article cites such outdated "evidence" as the Galapagos finches, bacteria-resistant viruses, homology, embryology, and vestigial organs. He also cites fossil finds like *Pakicetus* and *Archaeopteryx* as proof of evolutionary transitions. The shortcomings of these "proofs" have been exposed by both creationists and evolutionists many times over.

For answers to these claims, we encourage our readers to pull out their old issues of Think & Believe. Or,

visit www.apologeticspress.org where doctors Bert Thompson and Brad Harrub have compiled an extensive and articulate response.

Quammen laments that after two decades, polling data has shown that nearly half of Americans prefer to believe Darwin was wrong. Worse yet, only 12% believe that humans evolved from other life forms without any supernatural help.

Ironically, after criticizing those who believe in a Creator, National Geographic's next article is on ancient Mayan worship. Here the writer tells about receiving a special revelation through his spiritual experience. Hmm. Maybe belief in a god is ok after all — as long as it's a pagan one.

Interestingly, the Associated Press announced this week that Antony

Flew, one of the world's leading atheists, has come to the conclusion that some sort of super-intelligence is the only good explanation for the origin of life and complexity of nature. He sees himself as a deist whose god "...could be a person in the sense of a being that has intelligence and a purpose..." — yet certainly not the Christian God.

Like children on the playground switching one playmate for another, many scientists seem to be abandoning Darwin for a god of their own design. For those concerned with maintaining their popularity, like National Geographic, this process is not so easy. However, if the magazine ever does abandon Darwin, I think it is safe to say they won't embrace the God of the Bible. **T&B**



The Amazing Eye

by Robert Brownson, OD, president of AOI board

The anatomy and physiology of the eye show many examples of God's design making it hard to imagine it occurring by chance. "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them." (Prov.20:12)

The **ciliary body** is the part of the eye that produces fluid and allows the eye to focus for reading.

Think of the **eyelids** as windshield wipers. They are uniquely designed so that the smooth muscle of Mueller keeps the lids up involuntarily.

A microscopic ball-and-socket design of interlocking fibrils allow our **lens** to change shape when focusing. In a camera, the best man can produce is a hard lens that focuses by changing position.

The **cornea** is the front "window" of the eye. It is only half a millimeter thick and has to be perfectly clear. It contains no blood vessels. The fibrils that make up its tissue are arranged in a cross pattern to retain crystal clarity.

The opening of our **pupils** is regulated by the **iris** which uses a complex system of nerves to adjust to changes in light.

The **puncta** allows tears to drain into the nose. That is why crying gives us the sniffles.

The **retina** is the light sensitive layer at the back of the eye. It is thinner than a sheet of plastic wrap but able to sense as little as one photon of light in a dark room. Photographic film cannot begin to come close to this level of sensitivity. It is estimated that 10 billion calculations occur every second in the retina before the image reaches the brain. Because there are 10 million cells interacting, it would take 100 years of computer time to simulate what takes place many times per second in the eye.

There are more than 10 million **rods & cones** in the retina. They serve as the light sensitive cells of the eye. The rods are used for night vision and the cones allow us to see colors and details.

The **retinal pigment epithelium (RPE)** lies behind the rods & cones and serves to replenish the retina. If the rods & cones were wired in front of the retina, there would not be room for the RPE. Plus, the **choroidal circulation** must be near the rods & cones for good blood supply.

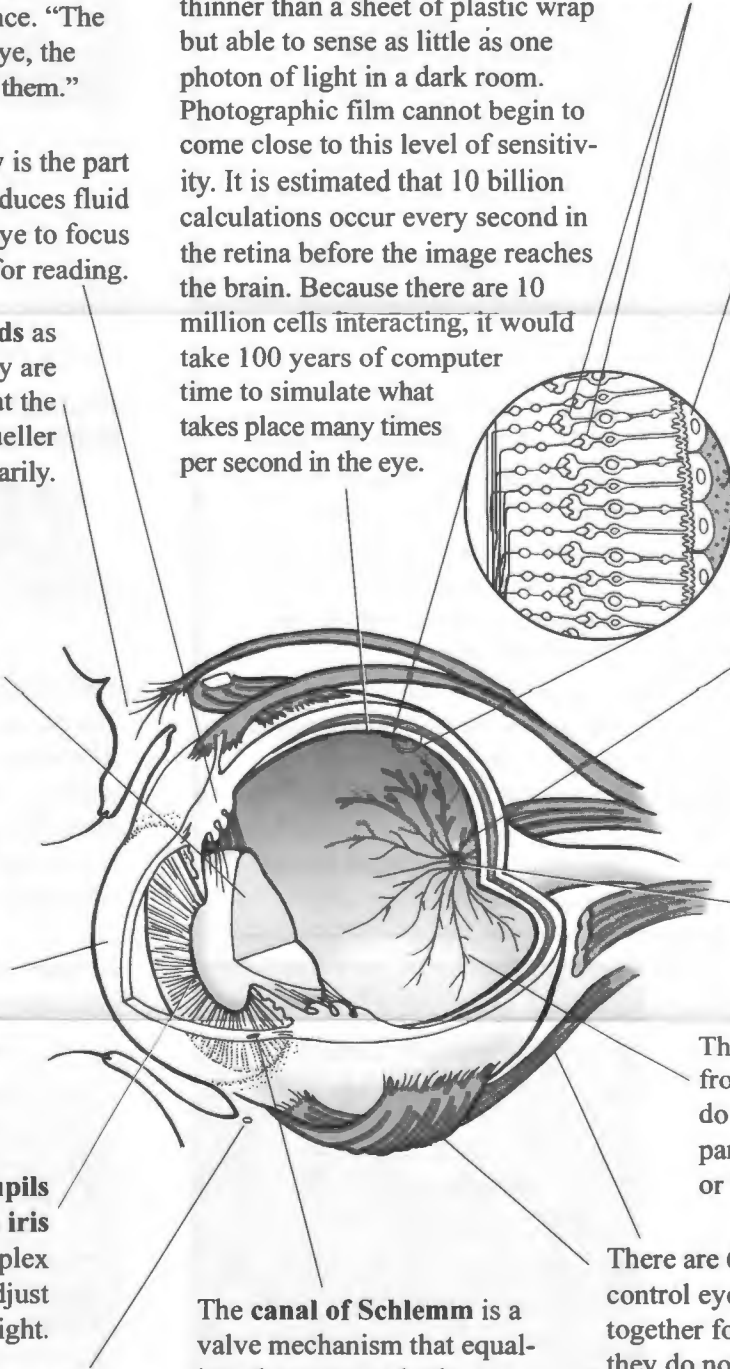
The **fovea** is an area of concentrated focus where cones are densely packed allowing for sharp vision straight ahead. If the cones were not packed into the fovea the visual field would be too confusing. The rods are in the remaining area and give night vision.

Everyone has a **blind spot** where the optic never leaves the retina. Because of the overlap of the two eyes however, we never see it.

The **retinal blood vessels** are in front of the retina but our brains do not see them. This is due, in part, to constant micromovements or "tremors" of the eye.

There are 6 **extraocular muscles** that control eye movement. They must work together for the eyes to see properly. If they do not, double vision will occur. The oblique muscles allow the eye to be tilted. **Experiment:** Watch the white of a person's eye while they tilt their head sideways. You will see the eye stays level.

The **canal of Schlemm** is a valve mechanism that equalizes the pressure in the eye. Without it, the pressure would be uncontrolled. In someone where the mechanism does not work, the pressure increases causing glaucoma to occur.



[Editor's Note: This information is covered in greater depth in the book: "The Human body: An Intelligent Design" by Alan L. Gillen, Frank J. Sherwin, & Alan C. Knowles — available from AOI.]



Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

The Creation Sunday School Project! Ever since we saw the need to multiply this creation ministry by training others to teach, our goal has been to provide complete user-friendly teaching materials so that someone does not have to go to multiple sources to put together an effective teaching program. The children's portion of that project is finished and is being well received for use in vacation Bible schools and Sunday schools.

This year our goal is to bring another part of that vision to fruition and add a youth-through-adult Sunday school packet. Phase I (in progress) will include videos and DVDs of our speaker's presentations plus a student guide for each of the 12 lessons. Phase II will include teacher resources with PowerPoint® visuals, lecture text, and teaching aids for each lesson. We feel very strongly that this tool will be a tremendous boost to the creation ministry by helping youth and adults stand firmly on the truth of the Word of God.

Remember, there is a strong battle raging out there for hearts and minds. Youth evangelist Mark Cahil still contends that evolution is the **number 1** reason young people give him for rejecting the Gospel. Evolution is also taking a huge toll on "church kids."

Pray with us that we can complete Phase I of this project **soon** and make good progress on Phase II **this year!** That can happen if enough people will get behind us both prayerfully and financially. I see this as being so important, that I have made a hard decision to curtail some of my speaking to **get it done!** That means we need enough finances to allow Mary Jo & I to concentrate on its completion and to pay for the production costs.

This vital tool has the potential to reach out to thousands of people who would otherwise become an evolutionary statistic. Will you stand with us prayerfully and financially? **Please** return the enclosed response form!

Plan ahead now!

Two more ways to **Discover Creation** this Summer:

Creation Family Camps:



"Vacations with a Purpose"—great times of fun, fellowship, and learning for the whole family.

(Singles welcome too! Call about group rate for singles/ young adult groups.) Check the web and see the enclosed flier for registration information. Let us know if you'd like to promote creation camps at your church. We'll send you more fliers.

Discover Creation Vacation Bible School!



Kids love creation, design, dinosaurs, fossils, and Noah's Flood!

Use their natural interest to help them trust in God and His Word while

answering questions about evolution. The *Discover Creation Children's Adventure* is a *complete*, user-friendly teaching package for children. It includes daily lesson plans, videos/ DVDs, PowerPoint® visuals, colorful take-home sheets, music, crafts, recreation, and more! Check the web for more information.

Upcoming Events

Seminars are being planned for UT, ID, WA & OR (Spring '05) and in KA, IA, MN, MI, and the D.C. area (Fall '05). If you are interested in hosting one, call AOI at (970) 523-9943. For upcoming seminar info, go to: www.discovercreation.org/sem/schedule.htm. While there, check out our website and give us your feedback at aoi@discovercreation.org

Financial Update

With financial cuts we made last year, we are doing better, but would encourage you to please consider AOI in your monthly giving this year! Would you partner with us to help children and adults stand firm on the truth of God's Word?

Prayer Needs

- Speaking:** Pray for good attendance, open hearts, open minds, and eternal fruit.
- Projects:** Pray for good progress on the Sunday School Project.
- Planning:** Pray for wisdom in long-range planning and scheduling for 2005.
- Office:** Pray for progress in finding or constructing a new data base program.
- Finances:** Pray for additional regular monthly or quarterly donors!



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