

Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

January/February, 2008; Vol. 26, No. 1

Speaking on the Campus! What's It Like?

by *Dave Nutting*

Have you ever imagined yourself as a knight of old, fighting to rescue captives in a long, hard war? Well, I'm no knight in shining armor, but I still felt a bit "battle weary" after speaking at 3 universities in November. Fortunately, since I'm not adept at "swordsmanship," these battles involved scientific evidence for creation and the "sword of the Spirit" (the Word of God) rather than steel swords. The stakes are high in this battle for hearts and minds. Though Mary Jo and I were encouraged by the interest expressed by many students, we were deeply troubled by the increasingly anti-Christian sentiments and arrogant atheism professed on the campuses.

Here are some "sword thrusts" from the "United Kingdom of Evolution":

- "You stupid Christians. How can you believe this creation stuff?"
- "I used to go to church. Now I don't even believe there is a God."
- "[S]cientific evidence for creation is a oxymoron. Dave Nutting and his wife are a couple of hacks trying to get creationism taught in public schools. They actually train people to preach their nonsense and are funded by your tax dollars thanks to the current president." [Email to the Christian student who invited this student to the program at the U of M. By the way, where do I sign up for all those tax dollars? That would help us train more people! – DN]

One student engaged me in a "duel" declaring that molecular motors (see T&B, Nov/Dec 2007) are not irreducibly complex and therefore not evidence of design. He said that since the molecular pump that spins the propeller is found in other systems, it "might" have been "co-opted" (borrowed) in the gradual development of this new system.

I drew my "saber" and "hacked" the counter-argument, pointing out the extreme complexity of the molecular pump itself and the multiplicity of other components that work together in unison with the pump. Analogously, just because an airplane uses a motor that could also be used in another highly engineered system, it doesn't mean the airplane assembled itself! My answer made one student stop and listen, while another just began to recite the mantra, **"Creation is religion, evolution is science – separation of church and state,"** as he wandered off into oblivion.

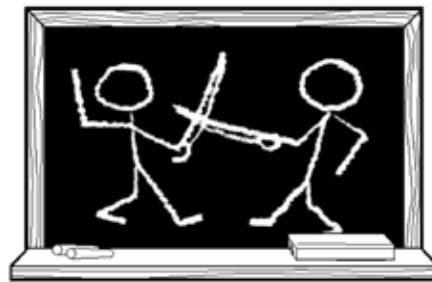
I don't mean to make light of the serious nature of the battle. Usually, students in high schools and colleges don't even get to hear of problems with evolution because of vocal atheists, a misunderstanding of "separation of church and state," and the school's fear of lawsuits.

When students do question evolution or bring up evidence for creation, they are frequently given glib, unsubstantiated counter-arguments or sarcastic misrepresentations of creationists and their arguments. Most students blindly accept them rather than evaluating the evidence for themselves. The result is a growing number of students vocally professing an atheistic faith and influencing a lot of others, including some of your own church kids.

It is time to stand in the face of the opposition. Students deserve to know that there is another side to the evolutionary story. They need to be truly educated to critically examine the evidence and think for themselves, rather than merely being indoctrinated into a naturalistic, evolutionary worldview.

Your involvement makes a difference. **There are victories.** As one battle-weary college girl at the U or M told us: **"Thank you so much for coming. You answered my**

questions. It is such a relief to finally hear there is evidence for a Creator!" We want to pass that thank you on to you who make it possible for us to be on the "front lines" doing battle for the hearts and minds of young people. Thanks for standing with us!



Gems From Genesis

“In the Image of God”

by Mary Jo Nutting

At the end of Creation Week, after God had prepared the world and filled it with a spectacular array of plants and animals, He performed His crowning work of creation – the creation of mankind. Genesis 2 describes this creative act in some detail, but the verses in Genesis 1 majestically declare the essence and position of man in creation. While the animals were created “after their own kinds,” only mankind bears the image of the Creator.

Over the ages, Bible scholars have contemplated and debated what it means to be made “in the image of God.” Obviously this short article will only scratch the surface, but hopefully it will whet your appetite and spur you on to further study and meditation.

We are told in Scripture, that God is Spirit, and does not have flesh and blood the way we do, (Luke 24:39, John 4:24) so it seems that this is not the kind of likeness Scripture talks about when it says we are created “in the image of God.” So what does it mean? One common idea says that we reflect God’s image in that we are rational, emotional,

volitional beings – we can think, we can feel, we can choose. Other aspects of the image of God might be our abilities to communicate, to enjoy beauty, to be creative (though only God can create from nothing), and to have dominion (in limited spheres). There is much more, but we will mention only one other important aspect here.

In modern-day English, we sometimes use the phrase, “He’s the spitting image of his father.” While we may simply be referring to physical characteristics, what we often mean is that the son resembles his father in character, mannerisms, or behavior – that when we see the son, he reminds us of the father. Could we infer that we human beings were created “in the image of God” to reflect the character and behavior of our Creator? If so, how can we do this?

If we are honest, we recognize that we have more often borne the image of Adam than the image of God. We have all listened to the voice of the deceiver and rebelled against our Creator. The “image of God” has been blurred and distorted,

and we are helpless in and of ourselves to restore it. But praise God! There is hope! God has a way, and it is found in Jesus Christ.

In Jesus, we see man bearing the unblurred, undistorted “image of God.” Scripture tells us: “[He] is the image of the invisible God, ...” (Col 1:15). “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Col 2:9)” What a mystery – God in the flesh! Jesus is human in every way we are, yet without sin.

But fortunately there is more. As the “last Adam (1 Cor 15:45),” Jesus came to “undo” the work of the first Adam – to pay the penalty for our sin and to take the curse of death, that we might have life. And now, God’s plan is for us to be “conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom 8:29 AKJV) – to be like Jesus.

His plan is to renew His “image” in us, and to restore us to be all that He created us to be, in purity, fellowship, and purpose. What an awesome calling! What an awesome privilege! What an awesome God! **T&B**

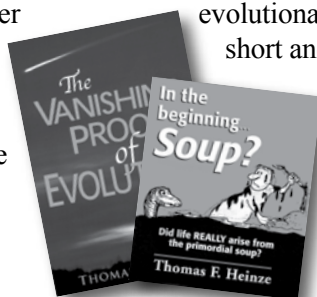


Book Review: Vanishing Proofs of Evolution

Last summer, we featured a small book entitled, **Vanishing Proofs of Evolution**, by Thomas Heinze.

Since we are featuring another article by Thomas Heinze in this issue, and since this book is very appropriate for students who don’t have time to read a long book, we are running the special again!

You can help students



who are getting hammered in their classes and badly need information to keep them from becoming another evolutionary statistic. This book is short and to the point. It shows

why many of the main “convincing” arguments for evolution are simply untrue. It is inexpensive and easy to read, yet scientifically accurate. Arm

your own students and order extras to give away! Special Price: \$5 each.

With each book you order, we will also include one free booklet by the same author entitled, **In the Beginning Soup?** This booklet shows the problems with the atheistic explanation for the origin of life and is also a great tool for you to get into the hands of students. You can order these from us at 50 cents each. **T&B**

Molecular Machines (Part 2)

by Thomas Heinze, Guest Writer

In our last issue, Thomas Heinze gave tremendous examples of molecular machines operating within a cell. These are crucial for life and clearly show the necessity of an intelligent Creator God. In this issue, he shares two more special machines. As you read this ask, "Which came first, the proteins, the protein making molecular machines, or the regulator machines?" – Dave Nutting

Protein Making Molecular Machines

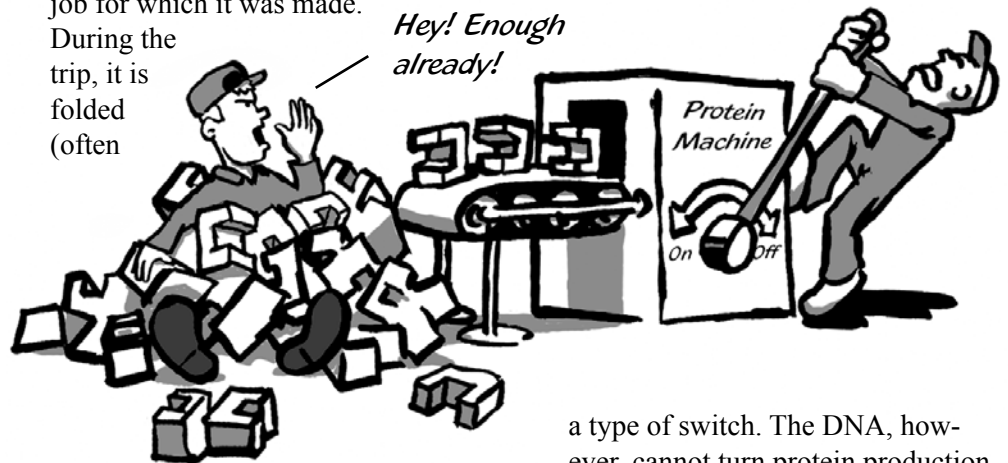
All machines we know of are designed by intelligent beings. When we enter the sub-microscopic realm, we find molecular machines that are equally well designed. Even the chemicals these machines are made of (DNA, RNA and proteins) are so complex that none of them are ever formed in nature except by already living cells. Evolutionists often try to make this seem unimportant by pointing out simpler things that will form outside of cells: amino acids, water, and crystals are most often mentioned. Their conclusion? "Cells were formed without a creator." That is as foolish as pointing out that aluminum ore forms in nature and thinking you have explained airplanes and helicopters. Simple chemicals do form by normal chemical combinations outside of cells. However, DNA, RNA, and real proteins do not!

Proteins are made by molecular machines called ribosomes. Some of these machines have been studied and are found to be made of three RNA molecules and around 50 protein molecules folded to fit and work together. Each protein-making machine places left handed

amino acids in the order specified in the cell's DNA for that specific protein, and links them together one after another like links in a chain. When finished, most proteins contain from 100 to a few thousand left handed amino acids chosen from 20 different varieties.

As each protein is completed, an address label is added to guide it to the specific place where it can do the job for which it was made.

During the trip, it is folded (often



helped by another machine called a chaperone) so that when the new protein arrives, it will fit with the other molecules with which it must work. A cell's function will be impaired or destroyed, or genetic diseases produced if its proteins are not made correctly, addressed correctly, and folded to fit.

Proteins are the main ingredients of living things, so no cell could live without the machines that produce its proteins. Notice that the only thing in nature that can make proteins is made mostly of proteins. So, which evolved first, the proteins, or the proteins that make proteins? Neither! God created living things complete and functional.

Molecular Machines and Regulation

Protein making must be carefully

regulated. Otherwise, the machines would make too much of one kind of protein and not enough of another. The right proteins must pop up in the right amounts in the right places or a cell will die, so protein making had to be intelligently regulated from the very first.

One type of protein regulation uses specific stretches of DNA called regulatory DNA sequences as

a type of switch. The DNA, however, cannot turn protein production on or off by itself. Each regulatory DNA sequence works with a specific protein folded to fit the correct spot on the DNA and work with it. The DNA and the protein work together as a machine that regulates the production of a protein by switching the gene for that protein on or off at the right times. No cell could exist without both the machines that regulate the production of its chemicals and the information that lets the machines know when to turn production on and off. **T&B**

Thanks, Tom! Modern research certainly reveals how intricately woven together these complex systems are! They look designed! As unpopular as the concept is in modern educational circles, that seems to be the logical straight-forward conclusion. — Dave Nutting

Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



Many of you have asked how our college ministry went last fall. We can certainly say that those who hosted us were quite pleased with the turnout and the interest. Three students identified themselves as having become Christians as a result of our last 2 visits. These were good victories, but I was thinking about the thousands of students on the campus who didn't show up. Were they just too busy with classes and parties, or were they already so indoctrinated into believing that evolution is a fact that they didn't even bother to come to hear the other side?

Were some of the students who didn't come from your home church or perhaps another one

down the block? What can we do to reach them? I believe you are the key! AOI can supply resources and we can give programs, but it takes you to make sure the resources and information get into the right hands. Don't rely on your pastor or a youth worker to do it. They may not see the importance.

In this issue, we are re-spotlighting some tremendous resources to help reach students. I really beg you to get these valuable resources and do something for those very vulnerable students! Why? It's because wherever we go, we see the results of the constant barrage of evolutionary indoctrination. You can make a difference! **T&B**

Upcoming Events

G= Galbraith, LJ=Johnson, DN=Nutting, RS=Stepanek

1/18-2/9, **India, RS**
 1/20-21, **Fort Lupton, CO**, Four Way Baptist, Conley Shelander, 303-536-4649, **LJ**
 1/22-1/24, **Greely/Fort Collins, CO**, Universities (Pending) Contact AOI, 970-523-9943, **DN**
 2/22-3/13, **Costa Rica/El Salvador**, Universities and Churches, Contact AOI, 970-523-9943, **DN**
 2/22-24, **Colchester, IL**, Argyle Bible Church, Daniel Mitchell, (309) 776-3336, **RS**
 2/24-25, **Plevna, KS**, Plevna Community Bible, Alva Goosen, (620) 286-5362, **LJ**
 2/26-27, **Pound, WI**, Section 8 Baptist, Scott Barker, **RS**
 2/26-28, **Ingalls, KS**, Ingalls Community Bible Church, Tom Harmer, (620) 335-5305, **LJ**
 2/28-3/1, **Wausau, WI**, Wausau Bible Church, Travis Huseby, (715) 845-2315, **RS**
 2/29, **Sublette, KS**, Crosswalk Christian School, Ruth Bartel, (620) 675-2283, **LJ**
 3/2-3, **Satanta, KS**, Satanta First Baptist Church, Randy Dirrium, (620) 649-2533, **LJ**
 3/2-7, **Wausau, WI**, Wausau Bible Church, Travis Huseby, (715) 845-2315, **RS**
 3/9, **Stratford, WI**, Community Bible Church, Bill Nesbitt, (715) 687-3306, **RS**
 3/18-21, **Lowell, MI**, School of Missionary Aviation Tech., Dean Petersen, (616) 897-5785, **RS**
 4/5-19, **Jackson Hole Bible College Field Study**, Holly Austin, 303-733-3134, **DN**

International Outreach

The need is great for the creation message in other lands! Thanks for praying for Rich Stepanek's ministry in Ecuador. Rich had many opportunities to speak in public schools, as well as churches.

Please be praying for his upcoming ministry in India and for the Nutting's ministry at universities and churches in Costa Rica and El Salvador. Pray we can reach and train leaders to teach creation in these and other nations. You may partner in AOI's international outreach ministry through your prayers and financial support. Mark your donation for AOI's "International Outreach Fund." Join us in reaching the world with the Gospel, beginning in Genesis. **T&B**



On-Line and Automatic Giving

For your convenience, and as requested by some of our supporters, AOI is now set up to receive on-line donations or regular automatic giving. Click the "Donate" link on the home page of our website: www.DiscoverCreation.org and follow instructions. If you have questions, call AOI at 1-800-377-1923. Please stand with us in 2008 so we can reach many more students and adults with the creation message.

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