

# Think & Believe



A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

Fall 2003; Vol. 20 No.4

## Intelligent Design: Pseudoscience?

by *Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*

We recently attended a public lecture at a local college entitled, “The Pseudoscience of Intelligent Design.” Incidentally, this lecture “just happened” to fall right in the middle of three weeks of creation outreach that AOI was doing at the college. We expected to hear scientific objections; instead, we heard a lot of opinion and unsupported arguments as to why Intelligent Design is “pseudoscience” and therefore not appropriate for discussion in science curricula. Ironically, the speaker never defined “science,” — even when specifically asked. In fact, he said that after much debate, there is no clear agreement on what is science and what is not. This brings to mind a question: How can something be labeled “pseudoscience” without a clear definition of “science?”

At one point, the speaker stated (without substantiation) that the human body was “an example of unintelligent design,” because there is so much wrong with it. He said that an engineer could do much better. This is a common attack by opponents of Intelligent Design.

These arguments of “poor design” usually involve some common errors. In most cases, the problem is much more complex than it first appears, and much relevant data is simplified or glossed over. The arguments often ignore the restraints imposed by the complex interrelationships both within

and outside the organism. They cannot possibly take into consideration all the factors needed to function in a complex and changing environment.

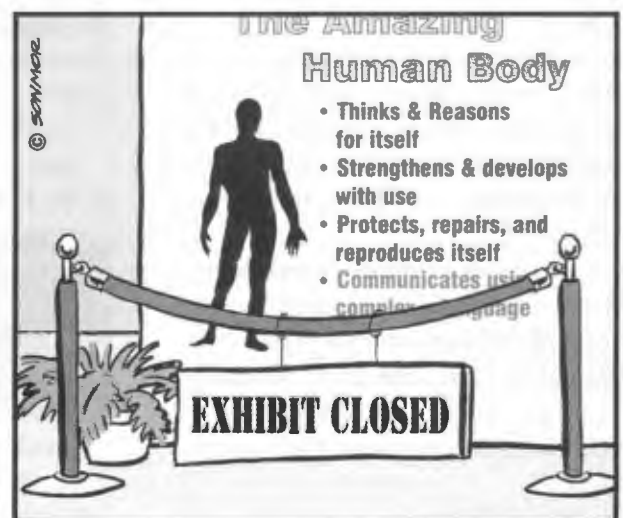
During the question and answer time following the lecture, it became obvious that a good percentage of the audience did not agree with the speaker’s position. Many well-reasoned arguments were given showing that Intelligent Design can be a logical inference based on observations of the world as we know it. It is good to see that so many people are now studying the evidence, recognizing the problems with evolutionary theory, and taking a well-reasoned stand against it. Twenty years ago, this would not have been the case, as most people had never heard *any* evidence against evolution.

Unfortunately, some people are unwilling or unable to accept the evidence. Others are simply angry at God. Evolution provides them with a “scientific” justification for rejecting the Bible and God altogether. Often this is the underlying motivation when someone speaks so strongly against creation. In these cases the real issue is not about science at all.

According to Scripture, many people are blinded (II Cor. 4:4). They have been

deceived and believed a lie (Rom 1:25) and others are called “willingly ignorant” (II Peter 3:5).

We are *grateful* that God used the diligent research of creation scientists to open our eyes to the truth of His Word. We are *glad* that He has also called us into this ministry and, praise God, many students and professors have heard powerful evidence for creation during these past three weeks! Please *pray* that many will respond. Also pray for all of us at AOI that whenever we have these opportunities, we will always remember to be “kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” (II Tim 2:25,26 NAS). T&B



## An AOI Thanksgiving

by the AOI staff

We have asked the staff at AOI to give a brief highlight of the year or a note of praise and thanksgiving. We trust this will allow you get to know us better and help you as you pray for the ministry of Alpha Omega Institute.

### ✿ Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

This year has been a learning and growing year for us. We have certainly enjoyed the many opportunities to speak at camps, colleges, and churches. God has blessed in so many ways.

One of the greatest blessings we have seen this year has been watching the staff use the gifts that God has given them to minister in such unique and effective ways. It is exciting to see God's creative handiwork in each staff member coming into expression as we all learn and grow in our ability to work together for His glory.

As with the staff at AOI, it's been such a neat blessing to watch our sons grow in the Lord and minister with their unique gifts and abilities. Tim continues to use his interests in music, missions, and construction while living in Grand Junction. Steve faithfully serves at Camp Redcloud and in his church using his giftings in computers, outdoor activities, EMT service, music, and now cooking! We are so grateful for God's grace in their lives!

God has so richly blessed us with close, meaningful relationships. We are especially grateful for His faithfulness and love as He accepts us where we are, then graciously helps us to become what He created us to be.

— Dave & Mary Jo

### ✿ Lanny & Marilyn Johnson

The year of 2003 has been another exciting year of ministry for Marilyn and I. We saw 118 children come to know the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior! That is what pumps Marilyn and I up — seeing kids *saved!* We realize that we are only sowers... we can only plant the seeds of Creation and Salvation. Yet, it is so thrilling to see those seeds fall on the fertile soil of children's hearts and then to be blessed by God as He allows us to



witness some of the harvest for His kingdom.

We are continuing to put the finishing touches on the Vacation Bible School program. It has turned out to be a much larger task than any of us dreamed. We have also spent time this year videotaping our talks and editing them.

On a more personal note... we permanently parked the old 1970 motorhome that we had traveled in for years in this ministry. We were able to do this through a gracious donation of a 1987 motorhome which has been a true blessing.

— Lanny & Marilyn

### ✿ Dan & Andrea Korow

Thank you so very much for your prayers, support and interest. God has protected and blessed us!

This year has been diverse! Dan spoke to home schoolers, college students, adults and young children.



Perhaps the most outstanding memory for me (Andrea) occurred at Camp Salvation in Colorado. There were 61 children from ages 8-12. We had a separate cabin right beside the 3 girls' cabins.

Yes, the bunk beds were well-worn and sagging, and no, we didn't sleep much! But how the Lord showed up at camp!

Dan spoke each morning and evening on how you can believe Biblical Creation and the problems with evolution. A lot of prayer, preparation and fasting went into this week so I shouldn't have been surprised when a young girl, Naomi, came up to Dan and I and wanted to talk. As you may have guessed, we got to lead her to the Lord! Then, the next morning, I had the privilege of sharing my testimony and praying with other children to accept Christ. But do you know the best part of all? The date was July 24, 2003, my spiritual birthday of 28 years in the Lord! That was truly my best birthday present.

— Andrea & Dan

### ✿ Rachel Painter

Thanksgiving is a time when we reflect upon the Lord's blessings. As I stop to reflect on what I am thankful for, many things come to mind, but what stands out is how grateful I am to work at Alpha Omega Institute. What a blessing it



is to work with like-minded individuals and families, who are all seeking to serve the Lord through the use of their respective talents and giftings. It is exciting to work with others who are passionate about what they do. What a blessing it is to use my talents and skills to serve the Lord.

I hope to continue to utilize my skills as I begin to work for AOI part-time from Texas next fall. I will be returning to Texas in September of next year, to homeschool my little sister, and to help my family. I am looking forward to being able to serve my family as well as AOI. I

anticipate that some of the changes that are headed my way will be hard, but I am looking forward to each one, because I know that the Lord will help me through each step along the way. What a gracious God we serve.

— Rachel



**Glenn Pearson**

Ever since the summer of 2000, when Dave and Mary Jo Nutting



asked me to assist them with the finances of AOI, I have really been blessed. I have been able to see lives touched, and not just at seminars. I have seen the Lord bless people even in the office.

— Glenn



**Gail Tompkins**

Thank you for all of your prayers. This has been a year filled with praises and trials. The office is running smoothly as we develop new and better systems of management.

As far as my family goes, I have a new grand baby, Dakota, who was



born June 14 and is a real joy in our lives. Gary, my husband of 38 years, is in remission from Leukemia (praise God), but hasn't

progressed like we had expected. We are praying for his complete healing.

I'm holding on to this scripture in the coming year: *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth them out of them all."* (Psalms 4:19).

— God bless you all in this coming year, Gail



**Rich & Sue Stepanek**

We praise God for His faithfulness through another year. It is so amazing to think that we have been with AOI

for over six years now. The time has passed so quickly and only seems to go faster as we get older. (I'm sure some of you have also experienced this phenomenon!) We are truly thankful for those we work with at



AOI. What a group of caring, committed people we have been blessed to

labor with! Each one is so vital to the ongoing ministry and is unique in their giftings and talents.

Also, we praise God daily for those who faithfully give and pray for the ministry and for us individually. We cherish your petitions to our sovereign Lord, as they are vitally important in opening hearts to the truth of the gospel. We experienced this at a camp this summer as two young men came to fully understand what salvation is all about. They had made professions of faith at a young age, but realized that they hadn't truly understood the gospel message.

We reached a milestone in our marriage as we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in September. We are thankful for the Lord's grace and goodness in giving us these years to spend joyfully together and for the precious children He has blessed us with.

— Rich & Sue



**Mark & Carolyn Sonmor**

Directing the creative projects that go on in the growing ministry of AOI has been especially exciting and challenging this year. God has been faithful to bring along the right individuals to help at just the right times. I am so



thankful for all the people and equipment God has brought together to serve Him in

ways that aren't always recognized.

One of our goals at AOI is to take complicated scientific content and teach it on a level that most people can understand. Coupled with that, is the desire that, through hands-on learning activities, families will take ownership of the information and have a deeper understanding of our Creator. Therefore, going to our Creation Mountain Adventures and watching families digging up fossils, looking through microscopes, and discovering creation together is one of the highlights of the year for our family.

— Mark & Carolyn



**John Zentmeyer**

As an occasional volunteer since the fall of 1995, my desire to serve in full time ministry with AOI was



realized this year when I joined the staff to work in the area of

video production. I spent many years figuring how to fit into this ministry, but God proved, once again, that His timing is perfect.

On the surface this may seem like just a technically-oriented, informational ministry. I have learned, however, that the only driving force behind the speakers and staff at AOI is their love of God and their passion for lost souls. Also, I have learned what daily reliance upon God is about. I see the intervention of God's hand in the lives of the people that this ministry involves. God's perfect timing and divine influence are more real and personal to me as I watch Him meet each new challenge in travel, speaking, health, family, and finances for the AOI staff. I am blessed to be a part of this ministry. I truly hope that you are too.

— John 

## At Least He's Honest...

by Mark Sonmor

If you have ever been tempted to believe that Darwin's theory of evolution is "science" and therefore unbiased, read the following quote from a well-known macroevolutionist and author:

"We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of the failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the

methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our *a priori* adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counterintuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door."

— Richard Lewontin  
*The New York Review*,  
January, 1997, p.31

## Upcoming Events

L&MJ = Johnsons, D&AK = Korows,  
D&MJN = Nuttings, RS = Rich Stepanek

11/14/03 Denver, CO, Rocky Mt. Creation Fell.,  
Brian Catalucci 303-475-0307 D&AK

11/16/03 Grand Junction, CO, Elm Ave.  
Baptist, Pastor Paul Walker, 970-243-8541 L&MJ

11/23/03, Grand Junction, CO, Valley Bible,  
Pastor Michael Rossman. 970-245-0913, D&AK

## Thank You

for supporting  
AOI this year.  
May you  
have a  
blessed  
Thanksgiving  
and Christ-centered  
holiday season.



### Attention:

The AOI website:  
**discovercreation.org**  
is new and improved!

- easier shopping
- camp information
- seminar information
- kids page & more

Check it out and give us  
your feedback at  
[aoi@discovercreation.org](mailto:aoi@discovercreation.org)



### Did you know?

You can shop online and support AOI at the same time! As you plan your holiday shopping visit **igive.com** to see how your online purchases can automatically support AOI.

## 2004 Creation Mountain Adventures



Creation Vacations combine informative presentations and children's programs with fantastic recreation for the whole family. All meals and activities included are included in the price.

*"Everday was an eye-opener, it was overwhelming...there was so much to take in..." — Twin Peaks*

### Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure

• June 27 — July 2, 2004

### Redcloud Family Mountain Adventures

• August 1— 6, 2004  
• August 8— 13, 2004

**Recreation** includes hiking, fishing and other outdoor activities.

**Twin Peaks** campers will enjoy fossil hunting and a guided tour of Dinosaur Journey Museum and Colorado National Monument.



**Camp Redcloud** participants can take part in the ropes course, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing, horseback riding, 4 wheel drive and 6x6 trips, mountain biking, and more.

For more information, call: (970) 523-9943. For color pictures and extensive descriptions, find us at: **www.discovercreation.org**.



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • [www.discovercreation.org](http://www.discovercreation.org)

Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2003