



Think & Believe

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College Promotes Atheism

By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

While speaking at a secular college recently, we were again struck by the tremendous amount of anti-Christian, atheistic bias being actively promoted in many classrooms and in many subject areas — not just in the sciences. It seems that in the minds of many students and professors, “separation of church and state” has come to mean “eliminate Christianity, promote atheism.” It seems to have become acceptable for professors to knock, stomp on, and openly ridicule Christianity in the classroom, but don’t you dare defend it.

This anti-Christian sentiment is often strongly promoted in science classes where even good, solid scientific evidence is censored out because it happens to coincide with the Biblical account of Creation and the Flood. Even though the scientific research method has its foundations in Biblical Christianity and the vast majority of early scientists (e.g. Newton, Kepler, Pasteur and others) were Bible-believers who accepted the Creation account, “modern” science has rejected the claims of the Bible entirely.

Science today is generally seen as a means to understand all things on a purely naturalistic basis. In doing so, the supernatural is automatically ruled out. This viewpoint embodies an inherent bias, because it is based on an unprovable assumption — that we can reduce everything to purely materialistic causes. However, this bias is not usually recognized. Instead it is taught as science, and anyone who holds to a supernatural Creation is thought to be a superstitious, ignorant fanatic. In many cases students have suffered verbal abuse by instructors when they questioned

the validity of evolution.

We all need to see that science can only deal directly with the present, not with the past. Scientists cannot make authoritative statements about the past, but only educated guesses about what they think might have happened. We can never “prove” creation or evolution as the cause of first origins. The best we can hope to do is build a solid case supporting one or the other.

The sad thing is that this bias against the supernatural often prevents otherwise intelligent people from objectively viewing (or even from being presented with) the evidence for Creation. They have already set their minds against anything that might support the Bible, and thus cannot objectively examine anything that might favor it. Their objection to creation science then is based, not on the evidence, but on a built-in bias. This bias needs to be exposed and dealt with before someone can objectively evaluate the evidence. If students do not recognize this inherent bias against the creator, they can easily be swayed into agnosticism or atheism.



“AND GOD CREATED GREAT WHALES”
Gen. 1:21
(See *Spotlight on Science*)

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Mary Jo found a very interesting book while browsing in the library the other day. It contains 225 pages with fantastic color pictures on nearly every page and is called *The Grand Design: Form and Color in Animals* (Foy, Sally and Oxford Scientific Films, Introduction by Henry Bennet-Clark, 1982, Prentice-Hall, Inc.). By the title and the descriptions of the various animals, you would assume it was written by a creationist, but, as you read, you find the authors continually giving credit for this "grand design" to the impersonal force of evolution.

The book jacket should have been a clue:

- Animals have arrived at their present form through the process of evolution. In some cases the reason for the evolution of a particular feature of design is obvious in other cases it remains a mystery.

■ After discussing the lack of direct evidence and the uncertainties regarding the evolution of the bird's wing, the author comments:

- Such animals [like the birds] seem too "perfect" and their design too elegant and simple. Is this really a problem? Consider the products of engineering. This differs from animal design because it is thought out in advance, but resembles animal design since the products either work and survive, or do not. Similar processes are at work. (p. 13)

■ Notice the bias, the assumption? Who says animal design is not the product of a skillful engineer too? Remember, no one has ever observed evolution occurring.

- The word "elegance" has real meaning here; something that is elegant has usually been produced as the result of much careful attention to the relation between form and function. Evolutionary processes produce successful results in this way, so the solutions achieved in evolution will be elegant. (p. 14)

■ Careful attention? How can time, chance and natural processes give "careful attention?" Do you notice how these impersonal forces are being personified?

- As you read on, you will find that the design of animals apparently has been inventive, subtle and refined. It is important to remember that biologists believe that this occurred not by a process of reason and prediction but by trial and error. (p. 17)

■ Not all biologists see design as the result of trial and error. Many view design as good evidence of an Intelligent Designer who created by a process involving forethought, logic and reason. Isn't it amazing, though, how often even evolutionists themselves resort to terms which denote a designer and marvel at the intricate "design" in living things? Although this book, *The Grand Design*, takes it to an extreme, you frequently run into statements like the following in biology texts and journals as well:

- The human skull is one of the most structurally efficient pieces of *architecture* ever developed. [Emphasis added] (Montagu, Ashely, *The Skull as Architecture*, *Science Digest*, February 1982, p. 38)

- We will classify [skeletal muscles] from several viewpoints and then examine them in functional groups, observing the basic *architectural pattern* and seeing how the pattern was modified as vertebrates became increasingly adapted for life on land. (Emphasis added) (Kent, George C. 1978. *Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates*, Fourth Edition, p. 209)

- We will see that fin skeletons vary but that all tetrapod limbs are built in accordance with a single basic *blueprint*. (Emphasis added) (Kent, George C. 1978. *Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates*, Fourth Edition, p. 183)

- Pectoral girdles are all built in accordance with a single *architectural pattern*. (Kent, p. 207)

■ Have you ever seen a blueprint or an architectural plan that came about as the result of chance without the influence of an architect?

- . . . there is such inescapable *logic* to the way the circulation of an embryo operates that its organization is easy to remember. (Emphasis added) (Carlson, Bruce M. 1981. *Patten's Foundations of Embryology*, Fourth Edition, p. 249)

■ Since when do trial and error processes reflect logic? There is a "grand design" in nature, but why not give credit to the Almighty God, Great Designer? He alone is sufficient to design and create the amazing world of life.

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SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Evidence from Design

One of the best evidences for creation is the argument from design, or the idea that design requires a Designer. The design argument is based upon logical inference from what we observe in nature and in everyday experience. Basically, the argument is that we can recognize order or design that has been imposed upon a substance from the outside and not resulting from processes inherent in the substance itself.

Take for example a wooden table. We can study the molecular characteristics of wood and the growth process in trees all we like, but we will never be able to understand the origin of the table without referring to a table-maker. The table is the result of the creative intelligence and skill of a craftsman imposing a particular design on the wood — cutting, planing, sanding and gluing it into a particular form we recognize as a table.

Now suppose we come upon a table, already fully constructed. Logical inference, based upon what we already know, tells us that table must have had a maker, even though we can't see the maker and didn't watch him make the table. We infer the necessity of the maker based upon what we know from experience about wood and trees.

In the same way, if we were out in the woods and discovered a watch on the ground, we would logically infer that someone had made it. We realize that time, chance and natural processes are not capable of producing the intricate design and complex interrelationship of parts found in a watch, and although it is possible to take metal and shape it into the necessary parts, the metal does not "naturally" form in these shapes.

Living things are infinitely more complex than watches and tables. Our knowledge of molecules and biochemical processes helps us understand how they function, but it cannot explain how they came about in the first place. In fact, the relationships we find and the understanding we have about living things indicates they could not have originated by the same processes we see occurring in them today. As Dr. Gary Parker says, "What we can see and what we do know points to a Creator."

Life requires a Life-maker, just as a table requires a table-maker and a watch requires a watch-maker. Science helps us understand the wonders of Creation, but it is of limited value in helping us understand how it originated. The more we learn about Creation, however, the more we can see the actual signature of God on His creation, and the more logical it becomes to praise God, the Creator, for the wonders He has wrought.

Whales and Dolphins

The great whales are awe-inspiring creatures. Their grace in the water seems a stark contrast to their immense size. Their streamlined form and highly refined organ systems are ideally suited to their lifestyle, yet most evolutionists believe they came about through natural processes from land animals similar to cows and pigs! (See *Think and Believe*, March/April 1987, for more information on the lack of fossil evidence.) It seems highly improbable, though, through any stretch of the imagination, that a land animal similar to a cow or pig would go through the necessary changes to become a whale. Consider the specialized systems that would have had to evolve.

Whale bodies are smooth and streamlined for movement through the water. They are very buoyant due to the thick layer of blubber beneath the skin, oil in the bones, body fluids and air in the lungs. The flippers act as stabilizers when floating near the surface, while the tail provides the main propulsion. The dorsal fin assists in balance as well as performing the very important function of temperature regulation.

One of the most amazing features in whales is the diving response. Some whales can dive over 3000 feet and stay under for up to an hour. During the dive, many physiological changes occur. Peripheral blood circulation is automatically reduced in proportion to the depth, to prevent heat loss in the cold depths. The heartbeat drops to half its normal rate, yet the brain and its supplying blood vessels are kept at normal temperature. A special system prevents the bends and the brain and muscle tissue resist the build-up of carbon dioxide and lactic acid better than other mammals.

Perhaps the most well-known feature of whales is their highly-developed system for echo-location (sonar). It operates with split-second accuracy in navigation and the capturing of food. It is a highly sophisticated system, allowing the animal to distinguish various types of materials and form a "picture" of the size, shape, and perhaps even internal structure of the object in question. Modern medicine now uses a similar "ultrasound" technique in place of X-rays to view internal structures.

Considering these and other very specialized features and how precisely they work together, whales are certainly fantastic creatures! To anyone who is not totally biased against creation whales are clearly the handiwork of a Master Designer, and not the result of time and chance.

(Main Reference: Lockley, Ronald M. 1979. *Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises*, W.E. Norton & Co.: New York)



Upcoming Events



- Jan. 21, 22: KJOL Seminar, Grand Junction, CO
- Jan. 31: Morning and Evening Services, Faith Baptist, Parachute, CO
- Feb. 7: Evening Lecture, Covenant Presbyterian, Grand Junction, CO
- Feb. 9: Science Fair Workshop, Grand Junction, CO
- Feb. 14-16: Seminar, Gunnison, CO (Tentative)
- Feb. 23: Alpha Omega Science Fair, Grand Junction, CO
- Feb. 28: Seminar, San Miguel Christian, Redvale, CO

We are also planning speaking trips to the Pacific Northwest in April and east (Kansas, Pennsylvania, etc.) in May and June. If you live in one of these areas and would like to schedule a presentation or seminar, please call us right away for more information. We'd like to solidify these dates as soon as possible.

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1987 Recap



The past year has been a busy one with lots of travel and many opportunities to share the creation message. Thanks to all of you who worked so hard in arranging presentations! The following summary gives a brief synopsis of speaking engagements for 1987:

- Church Presentations (28)
- Public School Presentations (9)
- College/University Presentations (6)
- Christian School Presentations (12)
- Church Seminars (17)
- Week Long Seminars (4)
- Field Trips (2)
- Teacher Workshops (5)
- Youth Retreat (1)
- Radio/TV Interviews (3)
- 3-Credit College Course (1)

In addition to speaking, we published 6 issues of Think and Believe, counselled individually with numerous students, responded to many varied requests for information, made plans for the 1988 science fair and handled all the day-to-day bookwork and business.

We're grateful to God for His continued protection and provision, as well as the many open doors for service. We're excited about 1988. With God's grace we hope to continue spreading the good news of His creative power and love. Please pray with us that many will respond to Him through this message.



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