

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Evolutionists Fuming in Texas

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

You may have seen the headlines. The Texas Board of Education succumbed to pressure from local and nationally recognized atheists and evolutionists to eliminate long-standing wording in the Texas science teaching standards. The wording allowed teachers to present both the strengths and weaknesses of theories like evolution, but big-gun warriors for Darwinism wanted to insure that students would never even hear about the evidence against evolution. One proponent stated that students shouldn't be confused to think there is something wrong about the "fact" of evolution. Well... they succeeded in their efforts. Evolutionary proponents were ecstatic. However, as they celebrated their victory over "creationism," a cold bucket of water was dropped on their party when additional amendments to the science standards were passed.

Although the "strengths and weaknesses" clause was still eliminated, amended language includes wording that allows students to actually think in school. Students will:

"...analyze, evaluate, and critique scientific explanations by using empirical evidence, logical reasoning, and experimental and observational testing including examining all sides of scientific evidence of those scientific explanations so as to encourage critical thinking by the students."

Evolutionists and atheists are fuming. Some decry the decision as a setback for science education. Pointed attacks and raunchy comments

are widely found in print. You might be thinking that including both the "strengths and weaknesses" of scientific theories sounds like good education. Certainly you would want science students to learn to think critically and to analyze, evaluate, and critique scientific explanations based on observations, experimentation, evidence and logical reasoning. After all, that's what science is all about, isn't it? So why the outcry?

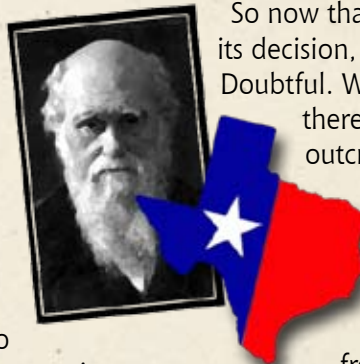
It's because die-hard evolutionists and atheists are worried that the new wording will give a foot in the door to "doubts about evolution" or even to creationist or intelligent design proponents. Hmmm.... One would think that if evolution were as well supported by scientific evidence as we are led to believe, it could hold its own in a fair critique of its strengths and weaknesses. However, it doesn't, so proponents rely on fictitious claims of "evolution is science, creation is religion" and "separation of church and state" to suppress the evidence. In reality, many highly qualified scientists reject the theory of evolution on the basis of scientific evidence. Many of these scientists do not even claim to believe in the Bible, but they recognize many weaknesses in the ability of the theory of evolution to adequately explain real observations in the real world.

So why do people hold onto evolution so tenaciously? Some people truly

believe that evolution is "science," and that this is a battle over science and religion. They are trying to preserve the integrity and power of science in bringing understanding of the natural world. (Ironically, we creationists also believe in maintaining the integrity and power of science. We just think that the creationist model more closely fits the actual evidence than the evolutionary one.)

For other people, though, the debate goes much deeper. For them, evolution is the basis of their worldview – it is a major tenet of their atheistic or naturalistic "religion," and they fight tooth and nail to defend and advance it. Unfortunately, they are using our public educational system to do it. The crux of the issue has been revealed by this battle in Texas. The "religious fervor" of the evolutionists and atheists involved in the Texas debate is obvious by their statements and by their reactions to the Board's decision.

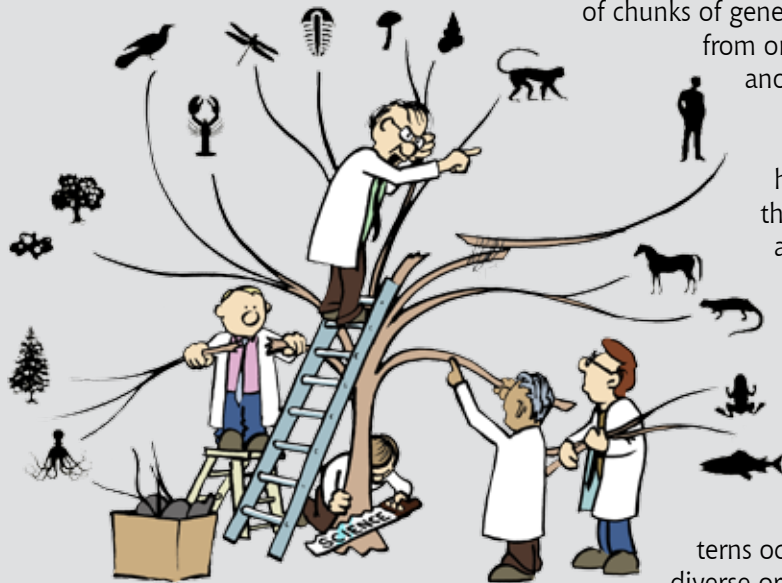
So now that the Board has made its decision, is the battle over? Doubtful. We fully expect that there will be a continued outcry and further attempts to discredit those with opposing views. Other battles are currently being waged on a number of fronts. Students deserve to hear both sides of the debate, but the push from radical evolutionists is big. Continued prayer and vigilance is warranted. Stay tuned and stay involved! **AOI**



Furor over Article in New Scientist

New Scientist (1/21/2009) carried a feature article and a cover illustration declaring, "Darwin Was Wrong." Whoa! That caught the attention of some very irate evolutionists.

The article centered on Darwin's ideas of the tree of life, and challenges to this traditional view because of modern



genetic research. Included in the article was a reproduction of a simple tree of life sketched in Darwin's 1837 journal with his words, "I think" inscribed above it.

The traditional tree of life is being challenged as DNA studies bring to light many contradictions between supposed evolutionary relationships based primarily on external form (morphology) and those relying more heavily on genetic similarities (or molecular homologies). It has also been

noted that similar "chunks" of DNA are found in widely diverse species. The textbook "tree" of evolution is starting to look more like a "web" of traits – a real enigma to evolutionists.

The article highlighted a process called "horizontal gene transfer" (HGT) as a possible explanation of these observations. HGT involves the transfer of chunks of genetic information from one organism to another. However, it is unclear from the article how much of this HGT has actually been observed and how much is just speculated to have happened simply because similar gene patterns occur in widely diverse organisms.

If HGT has occurred on a wide scale in the past, it muddies the water a great deal for evolutionists who are trying to deduce evolutionary relationships, and the traditional "tree of life" appears to be a gross simplification.

From a creationist perspective, finding similar chunks of genetic material in diverse organisms certainly does not "prove" evolution. However, the web, or mosaic of traits, fits nicely with the

creation perspective. Just as human engineers use raw materials in a variety of applications, so too might the Designer of life.

The deeper issue concerns the origin of these chunks of genetic material in the first place. After all, HGT is merely a transfer of existing material. It does nothing to explain the origin of the complex, highly ordered code found in living organisms. Intelligent design seems to be a more powerful explanation of this than naturalistic chance.

But all of that aside, it is interesting to note the response by some evolutionists to the article. Comments on one website called for cancelling subscriptions and boycotting the magazine, while the magazine and its editor were indignantly ridiculed. Others were irate because this scientific journal was giving fuel to the creationists. Why this response over a "scientific" issue? Where is the objectivity of science – the scholarly investigation and debate of differing hypotheses? Where is calm, rational evaluation leading to the "progress" of science? Not all evolutionists responded in this way, but for those that did, their response seems more like a radical clinging to religious dogma or an impassioned defense of a cherished philosophical point of view than a truly scientific debate. Clearly, their response does nothing to further the cause of science. **AOI**

Persuaded by the Evidence

Persuaded by the Evidence: True Stories of Faith, Science, & the Power of a Creator (2008, edited by Doug Sharp & Dr. Jerry Bergman) demonstrates the very personal way in which God led 39 individuals from different backgrounds and diverse walks of life to arrive at the same basic

conclusion – that the Bible is His true and accurate account of history and that Jesus Christ is both their Creator and Savior. We believe this book will challenge and encourage you to investigate the evidence and open your hearts



and minds to God's work in your own life. It may even be the tool God uses to lead an unbelieving friend or family member to faith in Christ. Avail-

able from AOI: \$13.00. Offer good through 7/31/09. **AOI**

The Amazing Starfish

by Joyce Trump, AOI guest writer

What has arms, but no hands? What has eyes, but no head? What fish is not a fish? The answer is the amazing starfish or sea star. This creature provides ample evidence of God's design.

A sea star has no head and no true brain. It consists of a central disc and 5 to 40 arms, or rays, depending on species. At the tip of each arm is an eyespot. The eyes are unable to detect color or detail (so we think) but do perceive changes in light helping the star find its way through the rocks it calls home.

A star crawls around on hundreds of tube feet on the underside of each arm. A tiny suction cup at the end of each tube foot allows the star to grip any solid surface tightly enough to withstand pounding surf. The feet extend and retract by means of a water powered hydraulic system (sounds engineered!). The water for the hydraulic system is filtered through the star's madreporite, an organ on the top of the central disc. This calcified structure can even strain bacteria from the water before it enters the star's system.

A sea star can regenerate (re-grow) any arms it loses. If the separated arm has enough of the central disc still attached,

it will grow a new body and enough arms to create a new sea star. Some species even appear to reproduce themselves this way. The sea star will get a very firm grip on a rock with one arm, and then the rest of the legs and body will walk away, tearing loose from the anchored arm. That arm then crawls off into a crevice or under a rock, reemerging in a few weeks as a new sea star.

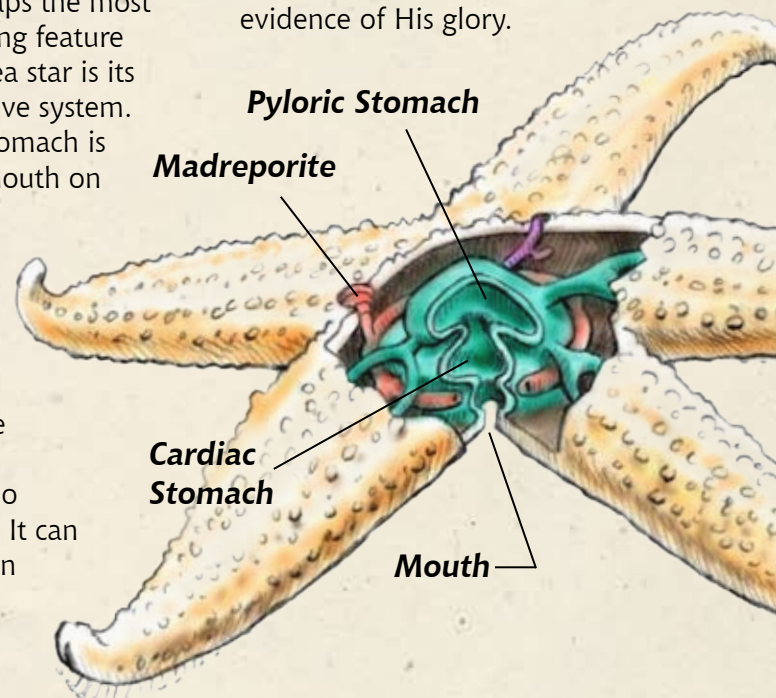
Some species are capable of autotomy: they can cast off an injured limb to hasten the regeneration process. Brittle stars use autotomy as a means of self-defense. If another predator grabs an arm, the star breaks free and escapes, much like some lizards leave their tails in the claws of a hawk.

Perhaps the most fascinating feature of the sea star is its unique digestive system.

The larger cardiac stomach is directly above the mouth on the underside of the animal. Above it is the smaller pyloric stomach. When the sea star wraps itself around a mussel, the bivalve clamps its shell tightly shut. This is no problem for the star. It can outlast the shellfish in a sustained tug of war. The star has an advantage: it only

needs to pull the mussel's shells open a scant 2mm to access its lunch. Once it gets the opening, the sea star will extrude the cardiac stomach out its mouth and into the shell of the bivalve. There the star's digestive juices begin dissolving the bivalve. As the mollusk is digested, the food is absorbed through the cardiac stomach. When the star is finished eating, it retracts its stomach, the contents move into the pyloric stomach for further digestion, and then it moves on, leaving only the empty mussel shells behind.

Evolutionists claim the sea star evolved millions of years ago, the product of random chance. How would that happen? Did an ancient sea star accidentally pull its leg off and decide, "Oh well, I'll just grow a new one"? How did an animal with no brain come up with the idea to push its stomach out its mouth as the most effective method of eating supper? Perhaps the better question is, how can anyone look at this marvelous creature and not see the hand of God in its design? Psalm 19:2 tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." We can also look to the stars of the sea as evidence of His glory.



Directors' Column

by Dave Nutting



As the current school year comes to an end, both students and teachers breathe a sigh of relief. At the same time, our thoughts are already on the coming year, when all across this nation, Christian students will again “hit the books” and all too often encounter significant challenges to their faith. Are your students prepared to meet these challenges? We believe that with the proper and in-depth mentoring, along with a huge dose of prayer, they will be able to not only “survive” with their faith mostly intact, but to thrive, standing firm in their faith, sharing with confidence and shining as lights in a dark world.

One resource that you can use to help young people in this growing process is AOI’s Discover Creation DVD Curriculum. This informative,

fast-moving, well-illustrated, 12-part series covers a wide variety of topics relating to the creation-evolution debate. The 78-page color study guide provides a complete set of notes and illustrations for each session, as well as quotes, references, review questions, and more. The series is appropriate for middle school, high school, and adults. We highly recommend it for Sunday Schools, youth groups, Christian schools, or home groups. (For younger children, we recommend AOI’s Discover Creation Children’s Adventure. See website for more information.)

As you can see from other articles in this issue and by a quick look at the news, the creation-evolution debate is still raging. Don’t let evolution steal the faith of your students! Take action! Get involved and diligently prepare them today! **AOI**

Upcoming Events

N=Nutting J=Johnson S=Stepanek G=Galbraith

5/20, **Vernon, TX**, 1st United Methodist, Tyler Looney, (940) 552-6281, **N**
 5/21-25, **Gillette, WY**, Community Kids Program, Dale Gilliam, (307) 682-5488, **J**
 6/1-5/2009, **Aurora, NE**, Pleasant View Bible Church, Rick Prettyman, (402) 694-6376, **J**
 6/8-12/2009, **Westkan, KS**, Westkan Baptist Church, Tim Cress, (785) 943-5305, **J**
 6/14-20, **Cimmaron, CO**, YWAM CIMMARON, (970) 249-7004, **N**
 6/18-0/2009, **Parker, CO**, CHEC - Denver, **S**
 6/22-26/2009, **Grand Junction, CO**, Training Week - AOI, Gail Tompkins, (970) 523-9943, **N**
 6/28-7/3, **Collbran, CO**, Twin Peaks Bible Camp, Gail Tompkins, (970) 523-9943, **J, S**
 6/30, **Manitou Springs, CO**, Summit Ministries, (719) 685-9103, **N**
 7/5-6, **Hood River, OR**, Tucker Road Baptist Church, Joe Gonzales, (541) 386-1049, **N**
 7/6-11, **Collbran, CO**, Twin Peaks Bible Camp, Aaron Thomas, (970) 487-3891, **J**
 7/10-12, **Browning, MT**, Glacier Meadow Camp, Dean Landis, (406) 270-8333, **S**
 7/10-19, **East Glacier, MT**, Dean Landis Family Camp, Dean Landis, (406) 270-8333, **S**
 7/13-18, **Collbran, CO**, Twin Peaks Bible Camp, Aaron Thomas, (970) 487-3891, **J**
 7/17-19, **Browning, MT**, Glacier Meadow Camp, Dean Landis, (406) 270-8333, **S**
 7/27, **Manitou Springs, CO**, Summit Ministries, (719) 685-9103, **N**
 7/27-31, **Ogden, UT**, Pioneer Bible Camp, Steve Ransom, (801) 745-3998, **J**
 8/2-7, **Lake City, CO**, Camp Redcloud, Gail Tompkins, **N, S, G**
 8/3-7, **East Carbon, UT**, Living Water Baptist Church, Jodie Wells, (435) 888-4408, **J**
 8/9-14, **Lake City, CO**, Camp Redcloud, Gail Tompkins, **N, S, G**
 8/9-14, **Lake City, CO**, Camp Redcloud, Gail Tompkins, (970) 523-9943, **N, S, G**
 8/11, **Manitou Springs, CO**, Summit Ministries, (719) 685-9103, **N**
 8/18, **Manitou Springs, CO**, Summit Ministries, (719) 685-9103, **N**

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