



Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

Nov./Dec. 1984: Vol. 1 No. 4

A Mandate to Prepare Students With the Facts

By Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

We were recently reminded of the crucial necessity to prepare the students coming from church homes and schools for the decisions they will face concerning creation and evolution. As we were speaking to a group of students at a secular college, it quickly became apparent that one student particularly was opposed to our message. He had come to the meeting with his educational "guns loaded" and hoped to "bag" a creationist. The questions asked gave a remarkable opportunity to expand on our message in a very favorable light. Discussion with this student lasted for several hours after the meeting.

This student, who was very intelligent, and who could be a tremendous asset to creationist research, came from a Christian home and attended church schools. Unfortunately, he had never been given a chance to view the evidences pro and con for evolution. Consequently, at the secular college where evolution is so dramatically presented, he was very easily persuaded to scrap the idea of a complete and special creation. Not only that, but he started to become a spokesman against the Biblical view.

It is perfectly all right for students to question what has been taught and to evaluate the assumptions upon which they base their beliefs. The best place to do that is in an environment where enough information is available to make a decision based upon the facts and not upon opinion. Even Christian school students should be presented with standard

"proofs" of evolution but then taught to question those "proofs." In addition, they must be presented with the case for creation and given solid scientific information to substantiate that position. Going one step further, Christian school students need to know the areas of the creationist model that still need scientific research. In the final analysis, after all the data (scientific, historical, and revelational) are presented in a very thorough manner, students should make the final decision of which model fits the facts best. If the instructor has taken sufficient time to dig out the wealth of information from a creationist perspective, we feel confident that the students will probably opt for the creationist view as the very best explanation, just as we did almost 10 years ago. Having arrived at this position by careful, rational analysis of the data, they will have a sound foundation for defending their position on the college campus.



*Trees: Those Marvelously Designed Systems
See Spotlight on Science*

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Note the following conversation between two youngsters:

Billy: You mean to say God created everything in six days?

Joe: That's right!

Billy: You mean six regular days?

Joe: Six regular days!

Billy: Are you sure that's what the Bible says?

Joe: Of course I'm sure.

Billy: Why in the world did it take Him so long?

■ Interesting research involving a statistical analysis points out that many evolutionists are not the open minded scientists they claim they are:

- Contrary to the stereotypes of many evolutionists, who portray creationists as narrow-minded bigots and themselves as open-minded scientists, the present research reveals equal doses of open-mindedness and closed-mindedness all along the spectrum from evolutionist to the undecided to creationist. Some problem behaviors associated with authoritarianism occur among evolutionists and are not a monopoly of the creationists.

(Cooper, G.W. *CSSH Quarterly*, Spring, 1982)

■ Is it a BALE or is it a WHEAR?

- I can see no difficulty in a race of bears being rendered, by natural selection, more and more aquatic in their habits, with larger and larger mouths, till a creature was produced as monstrous as a whale. (Darwin, Charles, *Origin of Species*, First Edition, p. 184)
- Have you ever pondered just what transitional forms to this would have been? If you have some artistic ability, we would certainly like to see what these forms of bears leading up to whales could have been.

Think and Believe is published bi-monthly by Alpha Omega Institute, Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies of this publication are sent free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication.

■ "Darwinism removed the whole idea of God as the creator of organisms from the sphere of rational discussion. Darwin pointed out that no supernatural designer was needed; since natural selection could account for any known form of life, there was no room for a supernatural agency in its evolution." (Huxley, Sir Julian, in *Issues in Evolution*, 1960)

■ Frequently as we present the positive evidence for creation and the pitfalls of evolution, people tell us that they wished their son or daughter, or in some cases, parents, could have heard the presentation. They tell us that their family member used to be such an active leader in the church until college where he or she discovered for the first time the "truths" of evolution. From that time, their son or daughter had little to do with church. This is extremely unfortunate and unnecessary since the true facts of science much more adequately support the creationist viewpoint. If students are given just a little preparation, this may not occur.

■ Many individuals try to combine the two theories and come up with some sort of God directed evolution. Even though it sounds good on the surface, and we tried to combine the two theories for several years, the two models are exactly opposite and do not lend themselves to a combination. Scientifically it doesn't work and neither does it Biblically. Note what some evolutionists say about it:

- Either all organisms are naturally evolved, and must in that case be all descended from the simplest common parent forms -- or: that is not the case, and the distinct species of organisms have originated independently of each other, and in that case can only have been created in a supernatural way by a miracle. *Natural evolution, or supernatural creation of species -- we must choose one of these two possibilities, for a third there is not.*

(Haeckel, Ernst, 1888, *Freedom in Science and Teaching*, emphasis added)

- The law of Christ is incompatible with the law of evolution...the two laws are at war with each other; the law of Christ can never prevail until the law of evolution is destroyed.

(Keith, Sir Arthur, 1947, *Evolution and Ethics*)

■ Isn't that an interesting perspective -- and remember that is from evolutionists. The point is that we shouldn't try to compromise. Besides that, scientifically there is absolutely no need to.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Carbon 14 Dating

One dating method many have wondered about is the radioactive carbon or carbon 14 method which has been widely used and has supplied dates for the bulk of objects found by archeologists. Many times the dates reported by this method are 10 to 60,000 years. Just how reliable are these dates?

Radioactive carbon is produced in our upper atmosphere when cosmic rays bombard nitrogen changing it to radiocarbon. This combines with oxygen to produce carbon dioxide which we breathe and plants absorb. In any event living things end up with radiocarbon in them in an amount proportional to the amount found in our atmosphere.

How does the dating method work? Basically like this: Radiocarbon liked it better as plain old nitrogen from which it started and begins to change back by a process called radioactive decay. This doesn't happen overnight. If you had a pile of 100 pounds of the radiocarbon, it would take approximately 5700 years for half of it to make the switch leaving only 50 pounds. The resulting gaseous nitrogen escapes. In another 5700 years, half of the remaining 50 pounds will make the switch leaving only 25 pounds. This continues on indefinitely.

If you bury a bone from an animal that died today, and could live to dig that bone up 5700 years from now, you would find that the amount of radioactive carbon in it would be half of what it is today—right? By the same token, if you found a bone today in an archeological site and it had half as much radiocarbon in it as a bone today, you would say that bone must be 5700 years old. If it had a fourth of the amount in it as a bone today, you would say it had gone through two half-lives or would be 11,400 years old.

This is the method as presented in school. Is there anything wrong with it? What are the assumptions involved? The major assumption upon which this whole method stands or falls is the assumption that the atmosphere has always contained the same amount of radiocarbon. How do we know that? — We don't. In fact, from actual measurements, we can show there is considerably more radiocarbon in our atmosphere today than in the past. Based upon the actual data rather than assumption, we can show mathematically that about 8000 years ago there was almost no radiocarbon in our atmosphere. Therefore, the method of carbon 14 dating is not reliable. Actually, it might be legitimate to assume, on the basis of these findings, that the creation of our present atmosphere or a major change in its constituency occurred *no more* than 8000 years ago.

Trees-Those Marvelously Designed Systems

"Oh Christmas Tree, oh Christmas Tree
Your branches green delight us.
They're green when summer days are bright
They're green when snow is white"

Trees! Green trees! Most of the year we take them for granted, but at Christmas, how special they become! And yet, they are very special all year long. Imagine a world without trees. How dull it would be.

Have you ever stopped to think of how important trees are in our world? From trees we get wood to build our homes, and often to heat them too. Trees also provide homes for myriads of animals, birds, and insects. They are important primary producers, providing food and medicines in their fruits, seeds, nuts, roots, bark, and leaves. They are also vital in soil building and maintenance and controlling run-off of rain water. Through photosynthesis, they supply oxygen for us to breathe, and participate in the carbon-oxygen-hydrogen cycle.

Man has worked long and hard trying to produce self-sustaining systems, with varying degrees of success, but our earth is a marvelously tuned, self-sustaining system where essential elements and compounds are continually recycled. Take for instance, the carbon-oxygen-hydrogen cycle mentioned above. What an ingenious system! Any engineer would be proud of the simple efficiency and usefulness of this design. With sunlight as the energy source, green plants produce food (sugars) and release oxygen from the simple compounds, carbon dioxide and water. Animals then use the oxygen to "burn" the sugars producing energy and giving off carbon dioxide and water as waste products. Now, isn't it amazing that the waste products of animals "just happen" to be the "raw materials" used by plants to produce food and oxygen needed by animals! And isn't it "lucky" that plants have all the machinery necessary to perform the process of photosynthesis in the first place? Where did such a system originate? It is intuitively obvious that systems like this don't just happen -- They must have been created by a Master Engineer.

So as you decorate and enjoy your tree this year, take time to ponder the wonder of it all, and lift your heart in praise to our great Creator. Be sure also that you know Him through His Son who was born a babe in Bethlehem. Then, some day you will be able to eat from the "Tree of Life" and live with Him forever.


Special Thanks


To our supporters:

We are very grateful to many of you who have begun to help our ministry with both prayer and financial support. Everyone of you is a necessary part of this ministry and each one of you is greatly appreciated. Regular support of even \$5 per month strains some of your budgets, but it helps us to plan and know where we can begin to commit funds and know what new directions we can proceed. Thank you very much.

An Anonymous Gift:

A special note of thanks goes to the anonymous giver who sent us a \$500 gift a few months ago. Thank you very much. Our ministry is greatly advanced and encouraged by such thoughtful and God-directed support.

BOOK REVIEW

Evolution: The Fossils Say No! by Dr. Duane Gish (1984. Master Books, San Diego) is an excellent reference discussing actual fossil evidence and its significance. It clearly and concisely shows that the fossils do not support evolution, but are more consistently explained by a creation model. The book is available for \$5.70 including postage and handling from Alpha Omega Institute, Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Incidentally, an earlier edition of this book was the first scientific data we ever saw against the theory of evolution. It really started us thinking. How about you?



**Alpha Omega
Institute**

P.O. Box 4343
Grand Junction, CO 81502
(303) 245-5906

Would you like additional information about any one of the condensed articles or on another subject that we haven't even touched upon as yet? Write to us and we will gladly send you some.


Upcoming Events


- Dec. 2 KJOL Radio, Open Forum, 9:00 p.m.
- Dec. 2,9,16,23 Redlands Community Church
Sunday School Series, Contact
church office 245-9020
- Dec. 4 Ladies Brunch, Valley Bible Church,
Grand Junction
- Dec. 8 Mesa, CO - Community Center
Contact Mark Bruton, 243-5094
- Dec. 9 Christian Life Center, Grand
Junction, Contact church staff
- Dec. 26 - 29 Jr.-Sr. High Snow Camp, Camp
Id-Ra-Ha-Je, Somerset, CO, Contact
Dale Smith, (303) 929-5221
- Jan. 6, 13 Seminar, First Baptist Church,
Cedaredge, CO, Contact
Mrs. Flemming, 856-6581
- Jan. 19 Seminar, Redlands Community
Church, Contact church office,
245-9020
- Feb. 15, 16 Seminar, Intermountain Bible College
Contact Neil Gardner, 243-3870



From the Editors of Think & Believe, **HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid
Grand Jct. CO
Permit No. 393