



Think & Believe

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Kansas Furor

by *Dave Nutting*

You would have thought they banned the eating of McDonald's hamburgers! When the Kansas State School Board acted to make room for differences of opinion on the creation vs. evolution controversy, a huge cry went out! News reports and editorials across the country claimed such things as the following: Evolution banned from schools; Creationists win—evolution out; Flat-earthers back in power [I have yet to meet a creationist who believes in the flat earth concept]; Science sent back to the dark ages; Kansas strikes blow to science, etc. Many articles have stated that kids will not be adequately equipped to compete in the world!

Just from headlines and editorials alone, the public has been seriously (if not purposely) misled as to what the real truth in this matter is. It would be nice if the School Board really did come to the conclusion that evolution is not science and has so many problems that it needs to be dropped. Now one might expect that to incite the kind of rioting that took place by the die-hard evolutionists, but that isn't at all what the board did. Rather, the State Board decided not to **require** public schools to teach evolution as unchallenged fact and not to include evolution questions on State tests. The decision did **not** prohibit teachers from teaching evolution; nor did it require them to teach creation.

So why the great furor, including threats to sue? The evolutionary humanists have had a tight grip on our education system for decades and they don't want to loosen that grip one inch! They want creation to be relegated to the status of

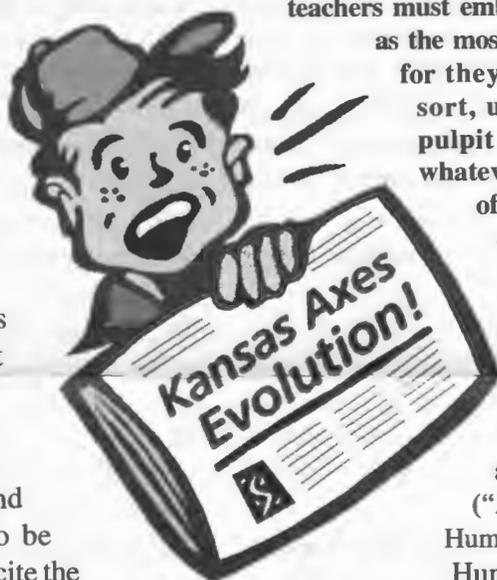
a relic of the past. **Don't forget** -- there is a battle of world views (Humanism vs. Christianity) raging over the hearts and minds of the school children. Remember the quotation by John Dunphy in **The Humanist** magazine calling for a battle against Christianity?

"The battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as proselytizers of a new faith [humanism]. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach regardless of the educational level--preschool day care or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new -- the rotting corpse of Christianity together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism..."

("A religion for a New Age," *The Humanist*, Jan/Feb 1983, p.26)

Humanism has been recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court as an official religion in the United States, and evolution is central to the humanist faith. That's why humanists defend evolution so vehemently. They believe if they can totally eliminate any mention of God and Creation that their religion will supplant Christianity.

We applaud the Kansas School Board for the courage to act and leave the decision about teaching evolution to the local school boards. Now the battle is closer to home and grassroots efforts can have a great impact. We understand that several other states are considering similar measures. We encourage you to get involved in your area.



Notes & Quotes

■ The Kansas School Board decision hit newspapers nationwide and has brought the creation/evolution debate to the forefront again. This opens a tremendous opportunity for you and your church to reach public school teachers and students in your community. To help you, we are extending our **\$1 offer** for the \$10.99 book, *Refuting Evolution*. This book is an excellent response to the National Academy of Science's pro-evolution, anti-creation book sent out to teachers throughout the country. (See the Sep/Oct issue of *T&B*.) Please join AOI and other ministries in reaching students and teachers nationwide. See the enclosed flier for more information.

■ Meanwhile, have you noted how many pro-evolution articles have appeared in newspapers again in recent months? Here are just a few examples from our local paper, **The Daily Sentinel** (titles bolded):

□ **"A 'big bang' in Kansas:"** "In a state such as Kansas, known for its vast wheat fields and unchanging topography, perhaps it's inevitable that the Flat Earth contingent has taken solid root. [slap, slap, slap] ... The action taken last week by the Kansas Board of Education won't resolve the dispute over evolution. It is likely, however, to leave a good many Kansas students without a solid foundation in current scientific thinking and therefore at a disadvantage should they seek careers in science. (August 17, 1999) [Ed: Were Newton and Kepler at a disadvantage because they didn't believe in evolution?]

□ The same issue had a cartoon captioned, **"Evolution of the Kansas Science Student."** It showed a typical ape to man sequence with a sudden one-step de-evolution back to the original ape. [Ed: Do we need to comment on their intent?]

□ **"Ice Age hors d'oeuvres -- Researchers find possible evidence Neanderthals practiced cannibalism."** "Most experts believe that Neanderthals lived across much of Europe and the Middle East from more than 200,000 years ago until as recently as 20,000 to 30,000 years ago, sharing the region with modern humans for tens of thousands of years before becoming extinct. [Ed: At least they said, experts "believe," yet most people take the word of these "experts" at face value. They forget that they weren't there and don't really know what happened.]

"But during the era when the bones in the French cave were butchered, Neanderthals still had Europe to themselves,

ruling out the possibility that any but their own kind did the carving." (October 1, 1999) [Ed: Wonder how they know that Neanderthal had Europe all to themselves? Have they dug every possible site in Europe to prove that?]

□ **"Neanderthals, humans may have coexisted:"** Neanderthal, a primitive hominid with prominent brow, coarse jaw, short lower limbs and a prominence at the back of the skull are thought to have arisen in Africa more than 250,000 years ago. They are thought to have appeared in Europe about 100,000 years ago and were eventually replaced by modern humans. ... The new dates for the Neanderthal ... mean 'there was an overlap of 3,000 to 4,000 years' with modern humans in central Europe." (October 26, 1999) [Ed: Note how they hammer again on the "primitive" ape-like characteristics of Neanderthal. This article even states that the new find "strengthens the theory that Neanderthals and modern humans did mate and produce hybrid children that had genes from both species." If that's the case, then they are the same species, according to the standard definition of species. In any case, creationists have been claiming for years that Neanderthals were humans, not ape-like creatures.]

□ **"Dartmouth students probe mystery of dinosaur tracks:"** "Some 165 million years ago, a line of dinosaurs tromped across what was then the shoreline of an inland sea that cut north-south through the interior of the West." (September 25, 1999) [Ed: Again, a dogmatic statement of "fact" -- no question, no indication that this is just an un-proved theory.]

■ As you can see, we still have a big job to do in counter-acting the prevailing long-age, evolutionary dogma. That's one of the reasons we continue to do seminars, run camps, and publish this newsletter. It's also the reason we hope to train an army of interns to multiply our efforts in refuting evolution and upholding the reliability of the Bible. If you, or someone you know, would like training to be more effective in this battle, contact us for more information about our seminars, camps, and intern program. We'd love to hear from you.

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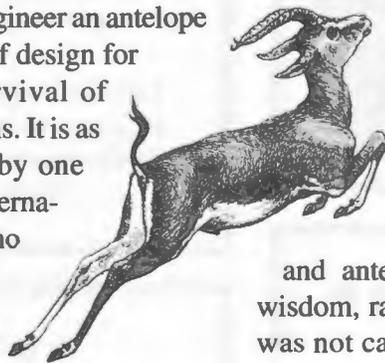
Spotlight On Science

Cheetahs: Killing Machines? Science or Philosophy?

(by Dr. Dan Korow)

[The following quote by evolutionist, Richard Dawkins, was recently sent to us for comments by Elisabeth Rohloff. She is taking AOI's intern program via correspondence. Dr. Korow, a veterinarian who has recently completed our intern program, and is now full-time at AOI, shares his thoughts. Editor]

Dawkin's Challenge: "Cheetahs . . . appear to be well designed to kill antelopes. The teeth, claws, eyes, nose, leg muscles, backbone and brain of a cheetah are all precisely what we should expect if God's purpose in designing cheetahs was to maximize deaths among antelopes. Conversely, if we reverse-engineer an antelope we find equally impressive evidence of design for precisely the opposite end: the survival of antelopes and starvation among cheetahs. It is as though cheetahs had been designed by one deity and antelopes by a rival deity. Alternatively, if there is only one Creator who made the tiger and the lamb, the cheetah and the gazelle, what is He playing at? Is He a sadist who enjoys spectator blood sports?"



Korow's Response: There are really 2 issues involved in this discussion. First, is this a scientific issue or a philosophical one? Second, what is Dawkins assuming about the creationist view of the origin of predation?

~~I believe this type of argument distorts God's~~ character. It assumes an **intentional, first-choice, design** by God for the predator-prey relationship of the cheetah and antelope. A cheetah's predatory design is **not** specific for an antelope only, but **any** creature compatible with it's diet. The skillful survival adaptations of the antelope isn't just because of cheetahs. This is truly a philosophical endeavor -- further spinning the issue by bringing the supernatural into the equation. Because of the nonscientific origin of the question, only a nonscientific, speculative, answer is possible.

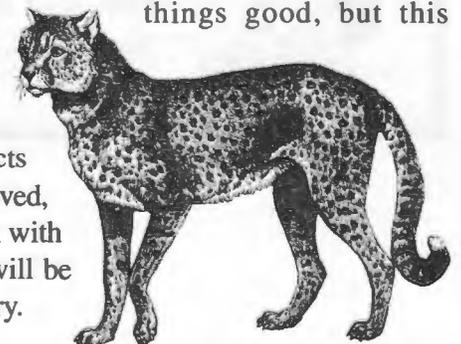
Since we have no specimen of the originally designed cheetahs or antelope prior to the Fall, there is no way to compare them with living animals. Thus Dawkin's argument falls outside the realm of true science. However, if we accept the Biblical account, there was a real Creation and a real Fall in which the whole of creation groans (Rom.

8:22), we know something drastic happened in the past to God's original creation. This cannot be measured by science.

The Bible tells us (Is. 11:6-9, 65:25) that relationships in the future new heavens and new earth will be quite different from today's. This might be similar to the original environment prior to Adam's sin. The wolf and the lamb will feed together; the lion will eat straw like an ox. We understand that today a lion could not break down the cellulose in plant matter, because it lacks the enzyme cellulase. However ruminants, like cows, do just fine with their 4 stomachs plus proper enzymes. One thought would be that lions/cheetahs were herbivores originally, and that claws/canine teeth either weren't present, or simply were not used at that time. Lions/cheetahs may have lost the ability to produce cellulase. Secondly, there are many creatures today with claws (e.g., the sloth, perching-psittacine birds, pandas etc.) that are not used in a predator-prey relationship. The fruit bats have quite large canines, yet are not carnivorous. They use the teeth to peel fruit! Claws can also be used for digging, stripping rinds off fruit, defense against aggression, even scratching an itch.

I believe that the superb design of the cheetah and antelope speaks of the Creator's foreknowledge and wisdom, rather than evolution or a pluralism of gods. God was not caught by surprise by Adam's rebellion and Fall resulting in death and struggle. He had a plan for this even before the creation of the world. Ephesians 1:4 says "he hath chosen us in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. ..." Also, in Revelation 13:8, we observe that the Lamb, Jesus Christ, was "**Slain from the foundation of the world**" This demonstrates God's awesome wisdom and sovereignty, knowing the end from the beginning and planning accordingly.

Bottom Line: This is **not a scientific argument**, but a **purely philosophical one**. Dawkin's criticism of the creation model takes a uniformitarian view in which predators were made as predators and prey as prey. He **completely ignores** the effects of Adam's sin. We at AOI believe that God created all things good, but this changed drastically as a result of the Fall. We also rejoice in the hope that one day, the effects of the Fall will be removed, the wolf will lie down with the lamb, and death will be swallowed up in victory.



The Back Page...

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Our web-site is up and running. A big **THANK YOU** to Rocky Marquiss for designing and maintaining this site. We're still in the process of adding to it and refining it, so let us know what you like and how we can improve it to better serve your needs. The **site Currently Includes:**

- Archives of *Think & Believe*
- Creation Vacation Information
- Creation Resources Bookstore
- Creation Forum
- AOI News



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Elk Creek Training Center Update

(with Dave Harper)



Praise the Lord for answered prayer! A water engineer has volunteered and \$1,500 worth of backhoe work was donated. Many others safely helped. Thanks for volunteering and praying.

We have one major disappointment, though. Sufficient funds have not yet come in to build a warmer house for the rancher who donated the property. Please pray that we can meet this goal soon. Maybe you can be part of the answer to your own prayer!

Are you or your high school/adult group **pioneers** who don't mind **roughing it**? Contact us. We are planning several camps on the property in 2000. These will include creation teaching as well as work, fun, and fellowship. Join us!

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** THANK YOU! **

Thank you for your faithful support in 1999. God is at work in your prayers and giving!

We have many exciting projects and ministry opportunities in progress. Your special year-end donations and continued prayer/financial support throughout the coming year are much needed and appreciated.

Our whole staff joins in thanking you for your interest in this creation ministry. We wish you a joyful Christ-centered holiday season and a great new millenium! God Bless You!



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