

Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

Summer 2002; Vol. 19 No.3

Clearly Seen

by *Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*

Carolyn Sonmor, the wife of AOI's artist, is about to give birth. It is amazing! Her unborn baby is already equipped with the ability to ward off disease and to heal from wounds. At the moment of birth, a highly complex network of closely integrated systems will take off in unison so that her baby can live and breathe! There is such an extreme complexity of design even in things we take for granted. The type of sophistication in these systems has been put forth as undeniable evidence for the existence of an intelligent designer. This argument is effectively challenging evolutionary thinking in schools and universities across the nation. However, we must take the argument a step further! Why?

Pantheistic religions have been steadily gaining in popularity. Their adherents also recognize design, but do not attribute it to the Creator God of the Bible. Instead, they claim the universe itself is cosmically conscious and produced this design by means of evolution. Since the design argument has been twisted by this growing group, we almost stopped presenting it. Then we reconsidered Romans 1:20 and realized that God thinks design is a good argument!

However, God in Romans 1:20 doesn't stop with design as merely evidence of His existence. He takes it a step further to say that "His eternal power and divine nature (Godhead)" are clearly seen. We

believe this last part is significant, and will continue to become even more so, as people in our "modern" society are taught various forms of "New Age" philosophies. In fact, the debate may actually turn from the existence of God to the character and nature of God.

So what is "clearly seen" of God's character and nature by studying the physical universe? First, its awesome beauty declares that God is a Master Artist. Next, like all works of art, we see evidence that the universe had a beginning. This points to a God who is outside the universe — apart from the physical realm. In addition, the enormous energy packed into everything from gigantic stars to the incredibly tiny atom certainly reveals the awesome power of this God. Yet, with all that power, we still observe, from what He has made, that He is very personal and caring! He anticipates ahead of time what Mark & Carolyn's baby needs, and provides for that need. (Anticipatory provision!)

Also, the dazzling array of detailed complexity and order proclaim God's wisdom and concern for details. He doesn't leave things to "the lucky roll of the dice of the universe." He set into operation scientific laws and absolutes which govern this universe and are necessary for our existence. This is not an "anything goes" world as

Humanists claim.

Isn't it comforting to know that we don't have to wake up in the morning and wonder if the earth is rotating backwards today or if gravity had ceased functioning during the night? Our universe is a predictable and dependable universe rather than one in chaos. This reflects a dependable, trustworthy God who made it that way.

As we observe the DNA language code in our body and our human ability to communicate, we recognize that our God also communicates. He is actually called the Living Word in the Bible. What does He want to communicate? Just think of three tiny words: "I Love you!" That means so much for a spouse or child to hear! But God wants us to know He also loves us so much that He actually gave his only son, Jesus, to live among us, and die for us to

communicate that love (John 3:16). God knows the Sonmor baby needs to enter into an eternal relationship with Him and provided for that need even before birth. That is just part of the character and divine nature that is clearly manifested by what we can see around us! Our Creator

God is a trustworthy, Master Artist with enormous power, yet is personal and cares so much for us that he whispers, "I love You." This is the God we want to honor and serve, not the impersonal force of Cosmic Humanism! **T&B**



The Bucket Orchid Testifies of Design and Creation

by Stephen B. Austin

The more this author studies the many unique plant pollination systems in nature, the more he is compelled to speak praise to our Creator God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

One of my favorite examples is the bucket orchid, in the genus *Coryanthes*. Botanists recognize about 20 species, all of which are found in tropical Central and South America.

These flowers are pollinated by the males of two bee species, *Euglossa cordata* and *Euglossa meriana*. The attraction is a special nectar, which they use to attract female bees. When the flowers emit the fragrance of the nectar, these male bees approach the orchids in a frenzy, which might be compared to that of yellow jackets being attracted to bacon grease.

The surface of the *Coryanthes* orchid is slick and slimy, and in their frenzy, with the bees jostling one another, they sometimes slip and/or fall into the lower petal of the orchid, known as the lip. This lip forms a sort of "bucket" which contains a pool of liquid which drips from a pair of glands above it. Once a bee falls into this pool, he becomes waterlogged and is in danger of drowning, but our Creator has designed a unique escape route

— a convenient step that leads from this pool of liquid to a tunnel — an escape route that amazingly provides for the pollination of this flower.

When a bee enters this tunnel, the walls suddenly contract, temporarily trapping the bee, and allowing two sacs of pollen (pollinia) to be securely glued to its back. Despite its struggles, the bee is unable to escape for about ten minutes

— time enough for the glue to secure the pollinia to its back. Then the unwilling bee is gradually freed and is able to escape and fly off to dry.

Should this bee find another bucket orchid — in search of this special nectar — it could face the same fate. Except this time, when the bee falls into the bucket and finds the escape tunnel, the pollinia are removed from its back by a hook on the ceiling of the tunnel. When this occurs, pollination has been effected.

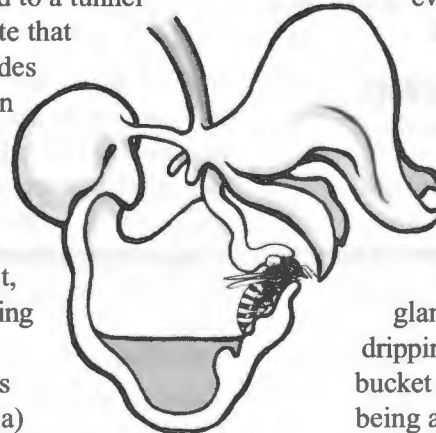
How could such a

unique system have evolved? How could the bucket orchid have been pollinated before the euglossine bees developed a desire for its nectar? How could the unique glands — the ones dripping the solution into the bucket — have come into being at the right time? And what would its purpose be in the meantime? Can the escape tunnel be explained

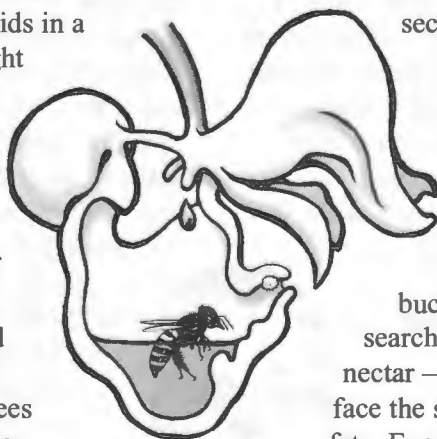
by random processes? How could the unique system of gluing the pollinia on the backs of the bees happen by chance? And can natural selection explain the purposeful development of the hooks to capture the pollinia? All of these features would have to have been operational at the very beginning, because if they

were not, the flower could never have been pollinated and would not have survived.

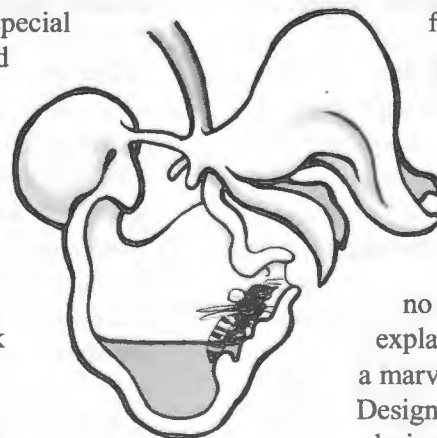
Evolutionists have no credible explanation for such a marvelous system. Design demands a designer — the God who made heaven and earth. **T&B**



Pollinium being glued to bee's back while bee is held in escape tunnel.



Bee moving toward escape tunnel.



Pollen-laden bee approaching specialized hooks to remove pollinium

The Evolution of Flight?

by Justin Glick

As a pilot, I am fascinated with anything that flies, especially birds. Flight itself is an amazing feat. It took years for Orville and Wilbur Wright to develop an airplane that could fly, but is it reasonable to say that, given enough time, an animal could evolve the ability to fly?

Let's suppose that I want to turn my 1988 Buick Century into an airplane. Obviously, I would need to add wings, but that is not as easy as it sounds. I would first need to determine the size and shape of the wings needed for the performance that I wanted. The placement and attachment of the wings to the car would be critical, and the tail would need to be at just the right distance from the wings for stability and control.

The engine would need to be much more powerful than my current four cylinder, yet very light. It would also need to be air-cooled rather than liquid-cooled.

The entire car would need to be re-engineered to be structurally strong, yet extremely light and aerodynamic. Everything from the drive train, to the upholstery, to the metal used in the entire vehicle, would have to be modified or discarded.

The dashboard would need to include controls like a compass, altimeter, and air speed indicator. The steering wheel would now

become the "yoke" and would require new linkage, cables, pulleys, and sensors to function properly. The gas and brake pedals would now be used for steering.

Just as it would take drastic re-engineering to change a car into an airplane, so it would take drastic re-engineering to change a lizard into a bird. Think about it. A bird has high-efficiency lungs that connect to air sacks in strong, hollow bones, making air flow continuously *through* the lungs rather than in and out like a reptile. Also, the two pairs of powerful flight muscles which power the wings are *both* on the bird's chest. The tendon that pulls the wings up and down runs through a hole in the shoulder bone and attaches to the top of the wing, like a rope and pulley system. For a reptile to evolve into a bird, it would mean that one set of muscles had to migrate from the animal's back to its chest.

A bird's digestive tract is also shortened so that processed food is not needlessly stored. The urine is extremely concentrated and is mixed with the solid waste

which is processed rapidly to reduce weight.

As you can see, re-engineering requires planning, careful calculations, and experience. Blind chance and random mutations however, cannot step back from their work like aircraft engineers and evaluate what they did right or wrong. If a mistake were made, the creature would die, and evolution would need to start all over. A half wing or half leg would be useless for either flying or walking. If an animal couldn't fly, no amount of hopping on the ground or jumping from trees would help it.

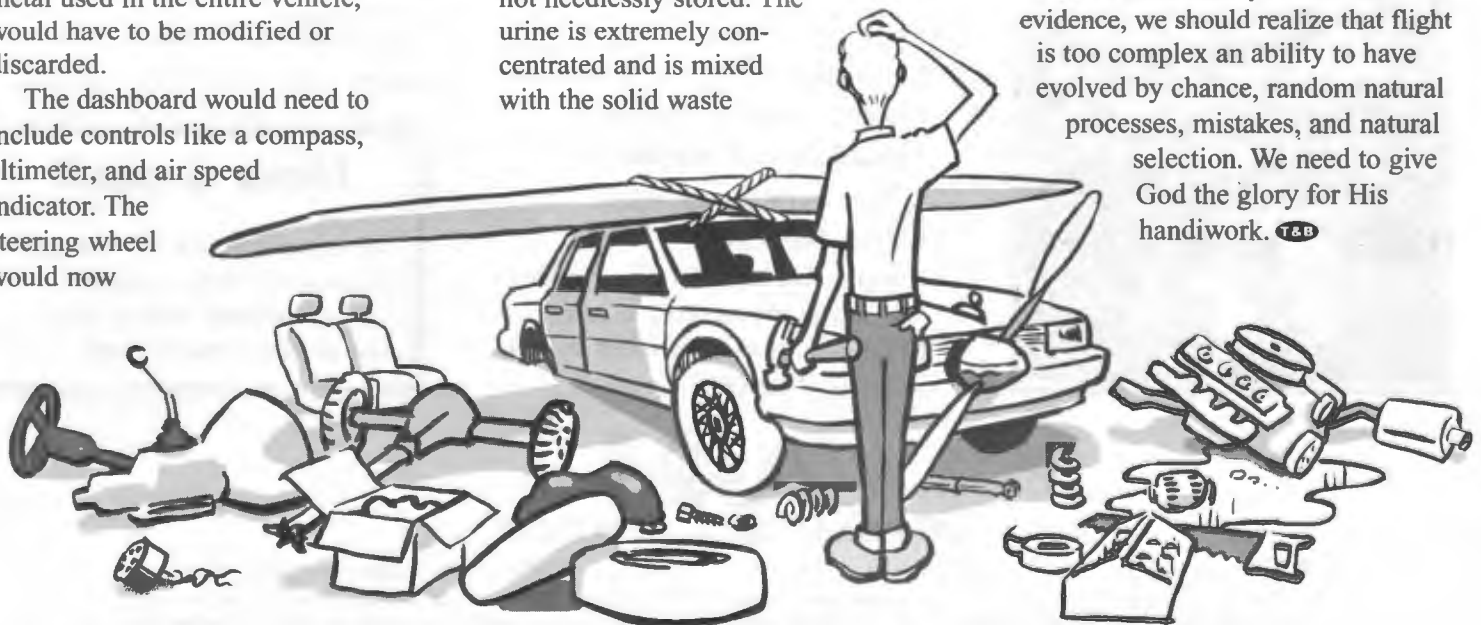
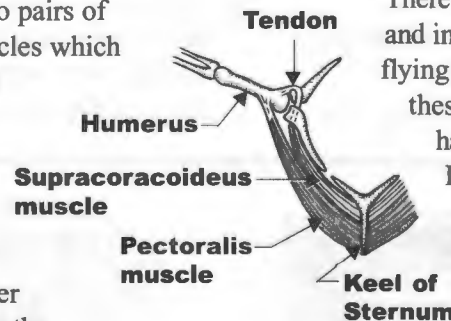
Yet, it is not just birds that fly.

There are flying mammals and insects, and, in the past, flying pterosaurs. *None* of these groups are said to have a common ancestor.

For flight to have evolved *once* would be incredible, but for it to have evolved *independently four times* is impossible.

If airplanes are designed, why can't we say that birds are as well? Does it not seem hypocritical to study these animals to help us design and improve our aircraft, yet say these animals originated by chance?

If we consistently look at the evidence, we should realize that flight is too complex an ability to have evolved by chance, random natural processes, mistakes, and natural selection. We need to give God the glory for His handiwork. T&B





Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Several years ago, Mary Jo & I began to multiply this ministry by training others. *I had someone tell me I was shooting myself in the foot by training others and giving them our materials and slides so that they could go into "competition" with us. Oh, Lord! Let me shoot myself in the other foot, too, so that the message gets out more quickly!* There is so much to do! Wouldn't it be great if we at AOI actually work ourselves out of a job?

Make sure you read Justin Glick's article in this issue. Justin has been interning with us

since last fall. A lot of his training has been one-on-one learning and discussions with Dr. Dan Korow. Since Justin stayed in Dan & Andrea's home and commuted with them to the office, there was plenty of opportunity for learning! Personally, I enjoyed the opportunity to watch Justin progress, take him on field trips, and give him opportunity to refine his speaking skills with me during speaking trips. He did great!

It has been a pleasure for all of us at AOI to work with Justin. He started out with us as an exceptional young man, and has built even more knowledge and skills on top of that. As he is nearing the end of his training time with us, we are excited to know that even as I write, Justin

is speaking at several functions. *Pray for Justin* as he joins his family this fall and begins to teach what he has learned in the Goshen, Indiana area!

This is the type of multiplication we want! Our training program at the moment can only be done on a limited basis, so *pray that we can expand to include hundreds more* just as capable as Justin! Dr. Dan Korow is making very good progress on an expanded training curriculum to include not only long term interns like Justin, but also those who will be with us only a short time. Pray we can finish that project soon.

Thanks to each of you who have helped AOI financially and with prayer to make it possible to train Justin and others. You are an important part of this team! **T&B**

Seminars

are being planned for
**Eastern CO &
Southwestern**

Kansas: Sep-Oct. 2002
and

**Texas: Jan-Feb 2003
& California:**

Spring 2003

If you or your church are interested in hosting a seminar in these areas, call **AOI** at:

970-523-9943



Prayer & Praise

Praise:

- Productive summer seminars
- The office staff's excellent work
- Justin Glick's Intern training
- Camps are at or near capacity

Needs:

- Much fruit from fall ministry
- Scheduling for next year
- Justin's ministry back home
- Health for staff and families
- Finances (Still very tight!)
- Video Projectors

If you would consider being on our new e-mail prayer team, e-mail AOI@DiscoverCreation.org and let us know. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

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

July 14-19, Colbran, CO, Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure, 970-523-9943, **AOI Staff**

July 21-26, Ridgway, CO, **L&MJ**

July 28- Aug 2, Lake City, CO, Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure 1, 970-523-9943, **AOI Staff**

Aug 11-16, Lake City, CO, Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure 2, 970-523-9943, **AOI Staff**

Aug 19-21, Norfolk, NE, Victory Road EV-Free, Irene Frewing, 402-379-9639, **L&MJ**

Aug 19-21, Manitou Spgs, CO, Summit Ministries, 719-685-9103, **DN**

Aug 24, Orem, UT, AWANA training, Dave Farmer, 970-434-6803, **L&MJ**

Sep 9, Manitou Spgs, CO, Summit Ministries, 719-685-9103, **DN**

Sep 8-21, Hawaii, Worldview Church, YWAM, **DN**

New E-mail

Our e-mail address has changed. To send an e-mail to Alpha Omega Institute, address it to: aoi@discovercreation.org.



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • 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 2002