Danger! Cliff Ahead!

by Dave Nutting

Dave Harper, AOI’s chairman of the Board, is a very perceptive man, with deep insights into spiritual truth. He also has a great sense of humor and a practical way of seeing lessons for life in everyday experiences.

One day he told me a story about his brother trying to make his way home on a horse on a very dark night. He came to a spot where the horse refused to go on. After several attempts at circling the horse back to the same spot, the horse would still not proceed. Of course, Dave’s brother got quite frustrated with that. Finally, he got off the horse and went to investigate. That’s when he almost walked over a cliff!

The horse knew the problem and had refused to go.

Many young people are preparing to go to college this fall. What they don’t know is that there is a cliff ahead. They need someone to warn them and prepare them for what they are about to encounter. I sometimes feel that the AOI staff is like the horse, trying to warn parents and students of the dangers ahead.

Just what is the “cliff” I am talking about? It is a spiritual one. When the students hit the campus and all they get from their instructors and peers is the philosophy of evolution along with other anti-Biblical arguments, they often literally fall off the cliff in their faith. Mary Jo and I frequently meet these students when we speak on university campuses. Many are confused and floundering in their commitment to Christ. Some of them, even from Christian homes, are now arguing for atheism.

Many parents have sadly told us about their son or daughter who “used to be active in the church,” but have now fallen over that cliff.

This is much more prevalent than most parents would like to think. The secular colleges, for the most part, have become “change agents” with some professors actively and purposefully trying to shake the belief systems of the students. Unfortunately, many Christian colleges also deliver an evolutionary message.

That is one reason we speak at several universities every year. Hopefully, we can give the students some “reigns” to hold onto so they don’t go over the edge. Many students have expressed appreciation for what AOI speakers have given them...but there are so many more that need to hear.

Students need your help! So what can you do? If you haven’t been preparing your students all along, you will need some drastic action to prepare them. Perhaps they have already fallen over the cliff in middle school or high school or are desperately clinging to a tree branch trying to hold on to their faith. Here are some steps you can take.

First and foremost, pray with and for them. Talk with them about what they will encounter at school and equip them to stand firm.

Bring them to our Creation Family Mountain Adventure or our Green River Raft Trip yet this summer. Go through our Discover Creation DVD series with them. Direct them to our website, get other quality resources in their hands, and schedule a Discover Creation Seminar in your church or on their campus this fall. These are not quick-fix cure-alls, but people have told us that AOI’s creation teaching is what got them through college with their faith intact.

Over the next few issues of Think & Believe, you will also be hearing about a new undertaking that AOI is planning. See the Director’s Column in this issue to learn more about AOI’s plans for a one-year program to help train and equip students to stand firm in the battle they will encounter when they arrive on campus.

Whatever you do, keep in mind that there is a cliff ahead! Listen to the warning of these “ol’ horses” at AOI and be that wise horse for your own family.
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New Research and “The Fountain of Youth”
by Dr. Dave Demick

The problem of aging and death has always haunt mankind. Men have vainly searched for the “Elixir of Life” and the “Fountain of Youth” to overcome this universal curse. Some deny that death is a part of life. This foolishness follows directly from atheistic Darwinism. However, most people are unwilling to accept that idea. They know in their hearts that longer life is a blessing. Advertisers are well aware of this deep human longing, and so we receive promotions for all sorts of anti-aging products. Medical science has also focused much research on the aging process. Several breakthroughs have been made in recent years. One of these advances has surprising implications for the creation evolution issue.

This breakthrough began fifty years ago, and involved human cell biology. The idea first came from spontaneously generated organisms. Studies showed that normal cells from a newborn baby could divide and replicate themselves in a culture bottle about 50 times before wearing out and dying. Cells taken from middle-aged adults had much of this ability—they could replicate only about 20 times. Cells taken from old people could hardly replicate at all. But this was before drinking. This implied that human aging goes on at the cellular level and limits a cell’s ability to replicate. Curiously, it has been found that a select population of human cells does not suffer from this cellular aging process. Could these cells—and some mechanism in them—be a clue to the elusive goal of immortality? Perhaps.

These “deathless” human cells are the origonal reproductive cells in the male testes and female ovaries. They have been passed down from generation to generation ever since creation. It happens like this: each new generation brings forth a new cell, and us to evolve to our present condition. In essence, evolutionists believe that mutations wrote the entire DNA code! Evolutionists assume that, although most random mutations are harmful and can cause damage, some might provide an improvement. They trust natural selection to weed out damaging changes and enhance the good ones.

The DNA code, however, is not random but carefully and intelligently written. Therefore, random changes of any significance tend to make it worse, not improve it! If you believe that random mutations made all living things, put that concept to the test. Lean your bicycle against your car, pick up your sledge hammer, put on a blindfold, and start beating on them. If it makes them into something worth $5,000, I was wrong, and I apologize.

It is as though a limit is imposed on cell division. Cells wore out and died after only 50 replications, the human race would have been extinct long ago. So, the obvious question is this: why do our somatic cells and age while our germ cells live on through thousands of generations, seemingly immortal? A molecular basis for this strange phenomenon was finally found. 1,2 A cellular enzyme complex called telomerase was discovered, which rejuvenates a cell’s chromosomes after cell replication can no longer occur. Chromosomes carry genetic material in all cells except bacteria. Without telomerase, chromosomes deteriorate successively after each division until cell replication can no longer occur. Single-celled yeasts, the simplest cells with chromosomes, have strong telomerase activity and are practically immortal. “Higher” organisms also have telomerase—it has been found in all vertebrates tested so far. However, in multicellular creatures, it often does not express full activity. Telomerase is present and highly active in human germ cells, allowing the human race to continue, even though we die as individuals. Its genetic instructions are also present in all other (somatic) cells of the human body. However, in the somatic cells, it is only partially active. Why doesn’t work fully in all human cells? If it did, we could conceivably live much longer lives. The reason, as we see, is this: if Darwinian evolution is true, why should our cells have evolved what seems to be a potential fountain of youth, only to keep it mostly hidden away? 3


Editors note: In the second half of this article, Dr. Demick answers evolutionary objections and shows how the creation model of origins is far superior to the evolutionary model in explaining the origin and nature of telomere. Read this on our web at DiscoverCreation.org

http://www.discovercreation.org/newsletters/NewResearchandTheFountainofYouth.htm

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By Dr. Tom Heinze, Guest Writer

What exactly is the point of conflict between creation and evolution? Some say there is no conflict because they think God created by evolution. Others have never thought it through. In this article I want to clarify the point at which creation and evolution are in conflict.

Evolutionists believe that the first living cell somehow popped into existence and reproduced, bringing to life other cells that were somewhat different from the first cell. They say that these gave life to other cells, that had still greater differences, etc. Eventually people evolved. The Bible however, does not say that God created a single first cell. Rather, he created a number of different kinds of animals; birds, creatures of the sea, and land animals. The land animals are summed up in Genesis 1:24-25: “And God said, ‘Let the ground produce living creatures according to their kinds; the livestock according to their kinds, the livestock, the birds of the sky, and land animals.’” God saw that it was good.’” It is self-contained. You do not need to be familiar with definitions appear. including 12 creation different kinds of animals: birds, creatures of the sea, and land animals. The land animals are summed up in Genesis 1:24-25: “And God said, ‘Let the ground produce living creatures according to their kinds; the livestock according to their kinds, the livestock, the birds of the sky, and land animals.’” God saw that it was good.’” It is self-contained. You do not need to be familiar with definitions appear. including 12 creation...
We would like to give you a heads-up as we anticipate an exciting addition to the ministry of Alpha Omega Institute. You have heard us speak to the fact that the faith of a high percentage of young people is getting blasted out of the water by evolutionary and other anti-Biblical philosophies. Our desire at AOI has been to help stem that tide.

We are currently setting the groundwork for a specialized training institute designed to fortify students with a Biblical, creation-based worldview. We anticipate that the institute will have an emphasis on creation evidences, applied apologetics, personal discipleship, and practical ministry outreach. This program could provide a “bridge” for students transitioning from high school to college. It may also provide a powerful alternative to a typical first-year college program. For some students who have already been to college and have experienced the battle first hand, it can provide mid-course “first-aid” and fortification. Ultimately, we hope to equip students to become connected with their own community, church or future college in creation and other apologetics ministries.

Along with direct instruction, Bible study, and discipleship, a variety of learning opportunities are being planned, including “round-table” group interaction, research projects, multiple field trips, hands-on experiences and practical ministry opportunities. It is anticipated that the instructional program will be followed by a focused ministry practicum to solidify the training and help spread the message.

We covet your prayers and input as we formulate this program so that it will maximize ministry outreach and eternal fruit. If this interests you please email us ASAP at AOI@DiscoverCreation.org.

Financial Update
Ooooolpppss. We mentioned at the first of the year that we finished the year in the black. That was true. However, as of right now, that won’t happen this year unless God moves on the heart of many individuals like you to contribute. Perhaps it’s because it is an election year or because of the economy, but if you see the importance of AOI’s creation ministry, would you please help? Remember, it is easy to donate on-line if you prefer. www.DiscoverCreation.org

Creation Raft Trip! Aug. 26-30
Join Mary Jo, Dave, and AOI as we partner with Journey Quest and float the Green River through Gray’s and Desolation Canyons. Lots of Flood geology, Indian ruins, and cliff paintings. Easy enough for the family but has plenty of exciting class II and III rapids! Great time to learn creation firsthand! Most meals and equipment provided. Meet in Grand Junction, CO Cost of the trip is $495. For more information, call 970-523-9943. To register, visit: journeyquest.org/overnight-trips/aoi-green.