

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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What to Expect in our World

by Brian Mariani

I am a young man, a Christian practically all my life, and now working in a Creation ministry, so one would think that when I attended two large, secular universities that I was a blazing light to the darkened world and to the deceived people around me. But I have to admit that I often let fear take over and I was not prepared to answer challenges and to challenge people back. In fact, I still don't know many that are prepared. It still seems like many atheists are more studied than many Christians.

I started this article intending to write about what you might encounter at a secular university, but in reality, you may be likely to see these things even at Christian institutions, or in whatever workplace that you are in.

You will be taught naturalism and evolution. You will be taught that God cannot have any part in the science classroom. "Naturalism can explain it all." You will most likely be taught a liberal perspective of the Bible. You may be taught that Moses did not write the first five books of the Bible, but that they instead, were written much later by four writers who were influenced by the Babylonian culture and others around them.

You will encounter students and/or teachers that believe that the Bible is not God's Word, but more of a fairy tale. They will say that it contains much less literal history than what a general reading and interpretation

show. They will say it is good, but more symbolic teaching than literal history – contradictory and foolishly contrived rather than God's perfect Truth.

You will likely encounter people who do not believe that Jesus really lived, let alone any of the other people in the Bible. You will very likely meet people that think that Christianity is foolish and that Christians believe by blind faith with no evidence. They may even believe that Christians are deceived and that ultimately all religion is evil since "all it has ever done is to create divisions, genocide, and wars."


Many will say that the spiritual realm (including God and other false gods) is an evolutionary construct of the human mind, produced by things like specifically-evolved brain chemistry, man's need for social community, and his desire to explain natural phenomena. This lack of scientific understanding then, is said to have caused ancient man to resort to an imaginary spiritual realm.

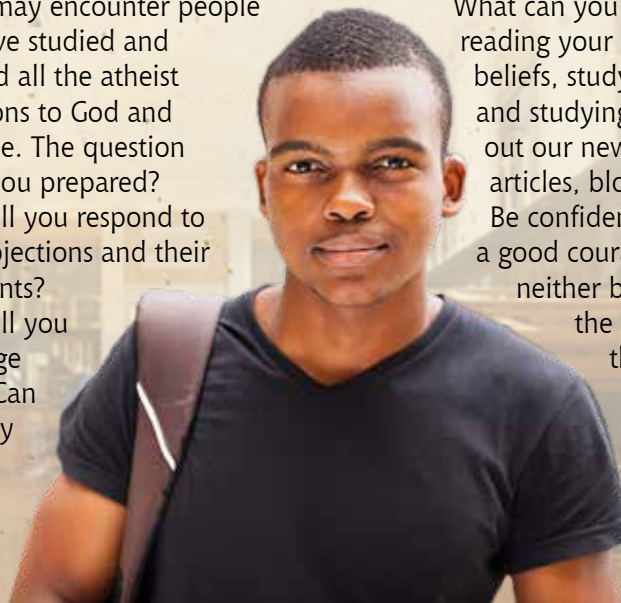
You may encounter people that have studied and believed all the atheist objections to God and the Bible. The question is: are you prepared? How will you respond to their objections and their arguments? How will you challenge them? Can you fully explain

your beliefs? Can they fully explain theirs?

As Christians, and especially as creationists, we need to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim 2:15) "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (2 Tim 4:2) "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" (1 Pet 3:15)

This is why I am a part of AOI and why we are developing Discover Creation Training Institute (DCTI) – In accordance with Matt 28:19-20 to make disciples and to teach them to observe everything that Jesus commanded them. There are answers, reasons, and evidence for this faith.

What can you do? Continue reading your Bible, studying your beliefs, studying apologetics, and studying creation. Check out our new training institute, articles, blog, videos and more. Be confident. "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Josh 1:9b) (Passages from KJV) 



Considering Logical Fallacies: Genetic Fallacy by Scott Mauser

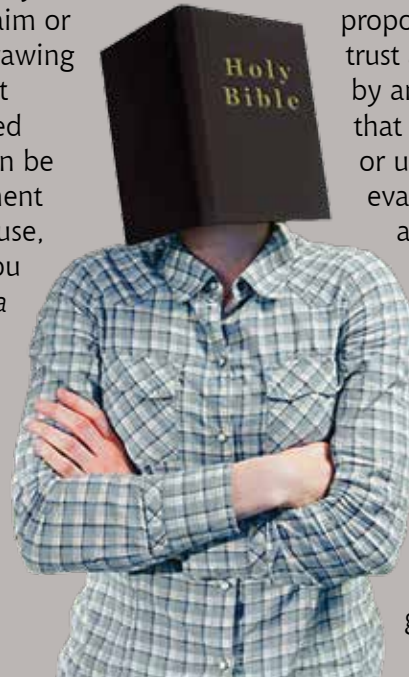
Imagine taking a skeptical friend to hear a creation speaker only to have your friend say, "I really don't care if he has a degree in Geology, his Christianity demands that he blindly follow the dictates of his faith over any empirical evidence. This makes every one of his claims suspect, since he cannot look at anything without irrational prejudice!" or, "Well, that was a huge waste of time. You can't trust anything he says. His Christianity affects all of his judgments, unlike 'real' scientists that can objectively look at the evidence. This Intelligent Design junk is all religiously motivated."

Can we, as Christians, or any religious person for that matter, engage in science objectively, or are we forever blinded by our faith? Do atheists have their own "dictates of faith" that obscure their judgment, or are they free from bias when it comes to science?

If we're honest, we must admit that we all have a bias, but the

origin (the "who," the "how," or the "where") of any claim is irrelevant to its legitimacy. In other words, the source of the argument does not determine the truth of the argument. An argument should rise or fall on its own merits. For example, $2 + 2 = 4$ is true whether or not the teacher is a credentialed PhD or if he thinks he is Napoleon Bonaparte. This is generally known as the "Genetic Fallacy."

The Genetic Fallacy tries to either bolster a claim or tear it down by drawing a conclusion about the argument based on its source. It can be a very hard argument to overcome because, no matter what you say, a person can *a priori* dismiss your claim because of your faith, race, gender, upbringing, education or political association – to name a few.



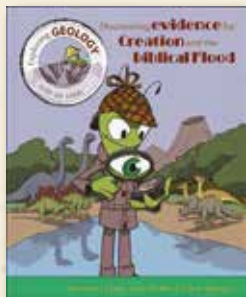
However, it is a fallacy of irrelevance – ineffective in determining the truthfulness of a claim.

An argument should be evaluated by its supporting logic and evidence – whether espoused by a believer or unbeliever, Christian or atheist. Bad thinking cuts both ways. If the source was the determining factor in the truthfulness of propositions, you could not trust any statement made by anyone. It is a myth that anyone is neutral, or unbiased in their evaluation of the world around them. It is my recommendation that we all recognize those worldview components and do our best to arrive at a sound conclusion. Thank God He has given us ways to reason through the mire and stay grounded in reality. **AOI**

Exploring Geology with Mr. Hibb by Dave Nutting

Most kids love rocks. I was at a rock shop recently and the parents were outfitting their 3 children with rock samples and books about rocks and geology. I thought that was great except for the fact that the books were definitely written with a long-age evolutionary perspective. In fact, almost every rock/geology book for kids (and adults) gives the readers a huge dose of evolution.

That is why the full color kid's book, **Exploring Geology with Mr. Hibb**,



by Michael J. Oard, Tara Wolfe, and Chris Turbuck, is so important. It will help younger children see another side of the rock and help them develop a Biblical worldview. The chief writer is Dr. Michael Oard, a respected creation scientist, so it is factual and has a lot of "meat" in it. Yet, it is easy and a lot of fun to read. Even young children will enjoy the adventures and antics of Mr. Hibb, the grasshopper character, who helps them understand geology. Colorful pictures and entertaining adventures of curious

Mr. Hibb adorn the pages and illustrate the text.

Kids will learn about rocks, their identification, and how they fit with Creation, the Fall, and the Flood. They will also gain an understanding of the power of moving water, the sedimentation process, fossils and their formation (including dinosaur graveyards, dinosaur eggs, and coal deposits), canyon carving, the ice age, cave formation, and many other great facts that help kids see the truth of the Bible.

This 91-page book makes learning delightful and faith building! It also makes a great gift for any of the children in your life. Available from AOI for **\$17** (\$3 S/H). **AOI**

Vanilla Ice Cream and Evolution

by Dave Nutting

You might wonder what vanilla has to do with evolution. Well, read on and you just might run out and buy some vanilla ice cream so you can praise your Creator for what He has made. If you set back your diet plan with that bowl of ice cream, you can blame it on the Totonaco Indians in southeast Mexico who produced tasty vanilla. They were later conquered by the Aztecs and forced to pay tribute to them with vanilla. It appears that the Aztec emperor, Montezuma, used it to help flavor his favorite Choclatl drink (chocolate) which he thought gave him magical powers. It is reported that he drank 50 "pitchers" of it per day. (and you thought *you* were a chocoholic!)

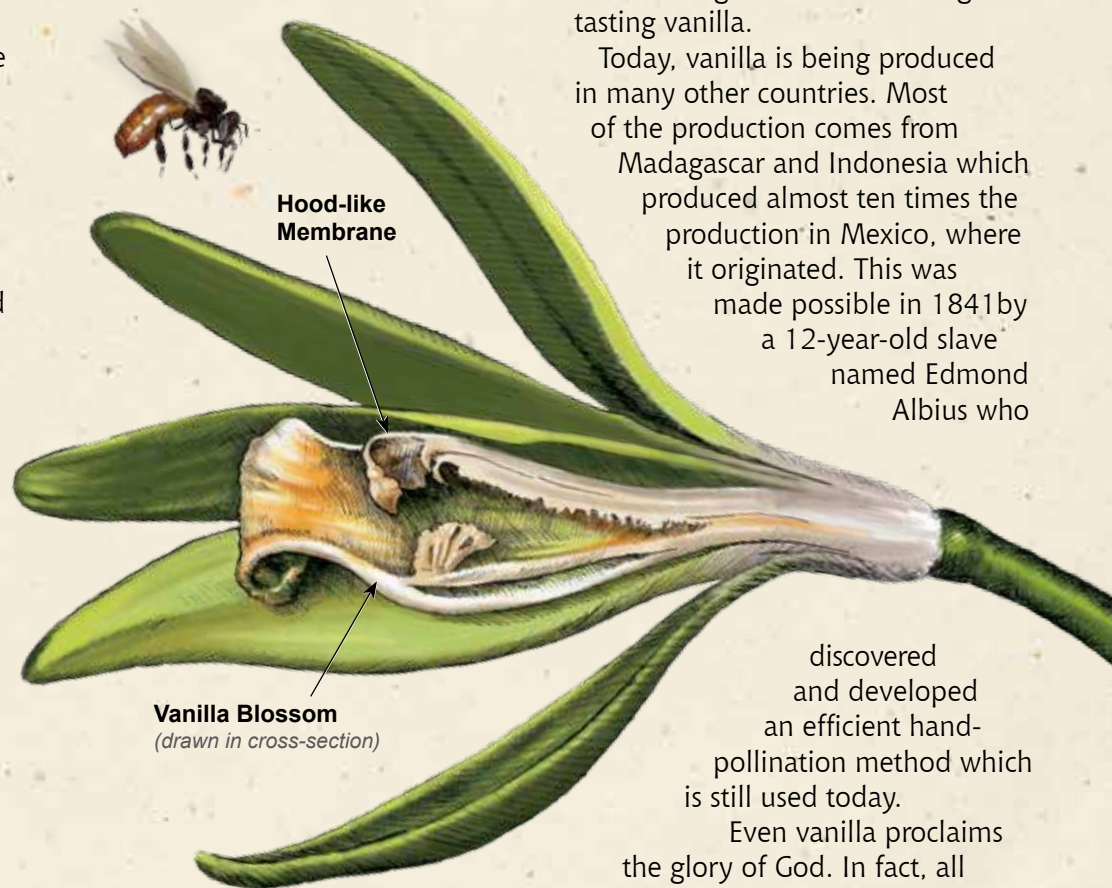
In the 1520s, Hernán Cortés, while on a military campaign to conquer the Aztecs, also developed a taste for vanilla-and brought some of it, along with cocoa, back to Europe where it became the Spanish secret. The two flavors caught on quickly but the Europeans were mysteriously unsuccessful in producing their own vanilla beans for about 300 years. They could grow the vine and the vine would produce the beautiful orchid flower, but they could only produce the beans in Mexico.

The problem they were having was pollinating the orchid. The bloom opens on only one morning of its cycle. If it isn't pollinated within 12-24 hours, it withers. To make pollination more difficult, a hood-like membrane covers the part of the vanilla orchid which produces pollen.

In 1836, Charles François Antoine Morren traveled to Mexico to solve the mystery of pollinating the vanilla orchid. He discovered that a little Mexican Melipona

Bee landed on the orchid, lifted up the little hood-like membrane, collected pollen, and then flew off to the next flower. This completed the pollination of the orchids which later produced a vanilla bean.

Here is where vanilla ice cream poses a problem for evolution. As far as we know, the Mexican Melipona Bee is the only insect that knows how to pollinate the vanilla orchid. Without the Mexican Melipona



Bee, we would not have vanilla beans being produced naturally. Therefore, the supposed millions of evolutionary years between the appearance of the vanilla orchid and the arrival of the Melipona Bee pose a serious problem for evolution.

We might also ask how that

little bee learned the trick of lifting the hood on the flower. Did both co-evolve or co-adapt as some evolutionists propose? If so, it would take unguided, random development in two unrelated organisms who miraculously come together at just the right time in a symbiotic relationship. However, trial-and-error processes fail to reasonably explain this development. All the parts need to be working and in place in both the bee and the orchid to produce a bean. It appears to me that the vanilla orchid and the bee were both purposefully created together in order to give the world that great tasting vanilla.

Today, vanilla is being produced in many other countries. Most of the production comes from Madagascar and Indonesia which produced almost ten times the production in Mexico, where it originated. This was made possible in 1841 by a 12-year-old slave named Edmond Albius who

discovered and developed an efficient hand-pollination method which is still used today.

Even vanilla proclaims the glory of God. In fact, all of this thinking about vanilla has given me a craving for some good old-fashioned vanilla ice cream with a bit of chocolate. As I conclude this article, I'm planning to head to the store. I can just picture sitting in my recliner with a nice big bowl of that tasty vanilla ice cream and chocolate syrup while I contemplate the ingenuity of our creator God who made this all possible for me to enjoy. Thank you Lord! **AOI**

Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



AOI speakers had a busy summer at family camps, youth events, kids' camps, VBS's, homeschool conferences, and church seminars.

We are **grateful** for the many opportunities to share the truth of Creation and the Gospel with kids, teens, and adults. We have planted seeds and now pray that God will bring an abundant harvest. Thank you, all of you who participated in the summer ministry by sponsoring an event, volunteering, attending, praying, and giving to make this ministry possible.

Now that fall is here, **millions of students are back in school.** Along with learning their ABCs (or advanced university coursework), they are being hit daily with evolutionary, humanistic philosophy masquerading as "science." Parents, grandparents, Christian teachers, and friends, **students need YOU** to help them navigate the maze and come out

with their faith intact. We at AOI are here to help you with books, DVDs, church or university seminars, school presentations, youth events, etc.

AOI is also poised to begin its **Discover Creation Training Institute** in the fall of 2015. This intensive, yet practical, one-year training program is designed to help students stand firm and make a difference as they focus on learning the Bible, science, creation, worldviews, apologetics, and more. Exciting field trips, hands-on ministry forums, and community make learning come alive.

Uncle Dave Needs You! We are looking for qualified, motivated students to pioneer this exciting program for years to come.

YOU can help! Talk with Christian teens, parents, pastors, and youth leaders. Pass on the DCTI website, FaceBook, and Twitter links.

Sponsor a seminar or youth event in your community. Please **help us get the word out.** Let's train up young people to carry the torch into coming generations. **AOI**

Uncle Dave wants YOU to spread the word!



Camp Dates for 2015



If you missed the Creation Family Mountain Adventure or the Creation Action Rock and River Adventure, you missed loads of fun, fellowship, and learning. Mark your calendar and register early to save a spot for 2015!

- **Creation Family Mountain Adventure at Horn Creek, June 28-July 3**
- **Creation Action Rock and River Adventure, July 6-11**

Visit www.discovercreation.org/vacations for more info and pictures.

Congratulations! Brian & Aimee Mariani are very happy and blessed to announce that we welcomed *Caden David Mariani* into our family on July 8th. He is a tall, healthy boy, born 8 lbs., 1 oz and 22.25 inches long. All three of us are doing great! We appreciate your prayers, support, and encouragement.



Tell a Student!

Looking for a non-traditional, college-level learning experience?

DISCOVER CREATION TRAINING INSTITUTE

A unique 1-year program featuring:

- **Exciting Field Trips**
- **Hands-on Learning**
- **Costa Rica Outreach**
- **Creation Science**
- **Biblical Studies**
- **Apologetics**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
www.DiscoverCreation.org/TrainingInstitute.htm

Fall Scheduling

In October we will revisit the universities in MN and IL. Please pray for eternal fruit. Any reader from the surrounding areas is welcome to come. Check the events page for specific dates for these, and other events scheduled in CO, WY, IL, MN, and the NW.

Check the Web

Visit our blog at www.DiscoverCreation.org for good information on current findings as well as insights and experiences from our staff.



Donation Reminder

AOI's summer ministry is so important and eternally productive but it doesn't bring in much in the way of finances. Our policy has always been to minister regardless of the "financial gain." However, if you can help make up the difference, that would be appreciated. Please stand with the ministry of AOI this fall. God Bless!

