



NMSR Reports

The Newsletter of the
New Mexicans for Science and Reason

NMSR Reports, David E. Thomas, Editor, 1201 N. Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro, NM 87801 © 2021

FEBRUARY MEETING:

NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE
AND REASON will hear

Mario Cruz

on "AI Persuasive Technology and
Social Media: A moral dilemma?"

=>February 10th, 2021 7:00PM<=

=>Attend online!<=

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

February 10th, 2021 NMSR Meeting:
Mario Cruz on "AI Persuasive
Technology and Social Media: A moral
dilemma?"

Social Media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, What's App, LinkedIn, etc.) have become a core feature of today's global society. Yet, there are mixed signals as to the societal benefit these commercial entities provide.



We will discuss the impact (both good and bad) of Social Media platforms on the future of mankind. We will also have a more granular discussion about social media technology and business models asking the question do capitalist free market principles applied to social technologies optimize the benefits of social media platforms?

Because of the ongoing Corona virus crisis, this meeting will be held online, and members can attend from their homes or offices. It will be hosted on Zoom. A Zoom Link will be sent out to all members and potential attendees before the meeting. To get added to the attendee list, simply email nmsrdave@swcp.com.

Tune in to Zoom at 7:00 PM February 10th, 2021, On Line!

March 10th, 2021 NMSR Meeting: Dr. Jim Kirkland on "Feathering Utahraptor: History of Dromaeosaur Discoveries"



Jim Kirkland, an alumnus of New Mexico Tech, is State Paleontologist of Utah, and works at the Utah Geological Survey. "It is my job to make sure that Utah's fabulous fossil record is protected and used for learning about the history of life, education, and the wonder of it all. I also promote Utah's fossil record for tourism and as a natural laboratory for all our nation's scientists and universities. Basically, I'm Utah's paleo-cheerleader and I get to work on a wide variety of projects." Jim will be talking about the history of dromaeosaurs, and the magnificent Utahraptor specimen he is curating.

New Mexicans for Science & Reason (NMSR)

NMSR is a non-profit group with the goals of promoting science, the scientific method, rational thinking, and critical examination of dubious or extraordinary claims. NMSR meets at 7 PM on the second Wednesday of each month, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at CNM's Student Resource Center, room 204 (@ Richard Barr Boardroom). NMSR Reports is its official newsletter.

NMSR officers:**Dave Thomas, President**

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Marilyn Savitt-Kring, Science Mom

Membership: **\$25/year** (hardcopy newsletter), or **\$15/year** (downloadable PDF), make your check **payable to NMSR**, send to treasurer (Debbie Thomas).

NMSR Advisors:

- **Mark Boslough**,
Physicist (Impacts, Climate Change,
Global Warming). Sandia National Labs.
- **Kendrick Frazier**
Editor, Skeptical Inquirer
- **John Geissman**
Professor of Paleomagnetism
- **Alan Hale**
Southwest Institute for Space Research
- **Randy Thornhill**
Professor of Biology, UNM

Cyber-Cypher Clue: U = K, T = M.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Find times where the minute hand is 180 degrees counterclockwise *or* clockwise from the hour hand, such that your calculated number of minutes comes out between 0 and 60.

WANTED: READER ARTICLES & COMMENTARY

Got something to share with NMSR members? Send it in! ATTN: Dave Thomas, Editor, NMSR Reports.

REMEMBER, our next NMSR meeting is **ONLINE, March 10th at 7PM, on Zoom!**

PUZZLE TIME!

[Please send solutions to Dave Thomas at: nmsrdave@swcp.com, or at 801 Fitch Ave., Socorro NM 87801.]

Cyber-Cypher: FEBRUARY PUZZLE

(Submitted by Dave Thomas)

The following letters are a simple substitution cypher. If R stands for L, R will stand for L everywhere. Your Cyber-Cypher Clue: Clue? Oh, well - if you must, see p. 2.

" D A F L G A L F D G M J M G B O C
Y F D A F E B L M Z N L C D M G X W J
C B D M M G L M Z N M T C G A L C G Y
E C D D F M G . " - D J L E K L G
K C V U F G H

SUPER SECRET WORD!

However you prefer to do the cypher itself (above or below), simply duplicate those actions on the alphabetized row of cypher letters below. You'll build an answer key, and you'll also reveal - the Super Secret Word!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

JANUARY CYPHER SOLUTION

"WE IGNORE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENCE AT OUR PERIL." - EUGENIE CLARK, THE 'SHARK LADY', WHO SHOWED THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARKS IN MARINE FOOD CHAINS.

Esteemed January Code Crackers: Mike Arms*, Terry Lauritsen*, and Austin Moede*!

*Secret Word: "BACK URGENT WISDOM"

SOCORRO STUMPER**Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?**

New puzzles every week at

www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm

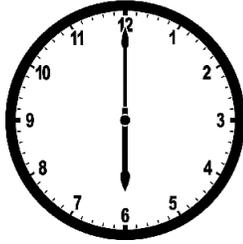


February Bonus: “Arms Spread Wide”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

At 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM, a clock’s hour and minute hands are exactly 180 degrees apart.

The February Bonus: How many times does this opposition occur in a single day? What are those times?



January Bonus: “Rollin’ on the River”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

A rowing enthusiast can propel a boat at 4km/hr in still water. The rower takes the boat 7 km upstream, and then 7 km downstream, returning to the starting point after 8 wearying hours.

The January Bonus: How fast is the stream flowing?

Answer: The stream is flowing at 3 km/hr.

Congrats: Earl Dombroski (NM), Rocky S. Stone (NM), Keith Gilbert (NM), Paul Braterman (UK), Gene Aronson (NM), and Terry Lauritsen (NM)!

January 13th, 2021 NMSR Meeting: Dr. Barbara Forrest on “Thoughts on Kitzmiller 15 Years On”

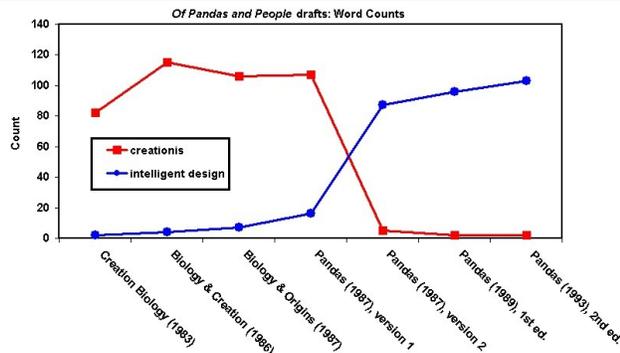
Dr. Barbara Forrest is a Professor of Philosophy at Southeastern Louisiana University. She co-wrote *Creationism's Trojan Horse: The Wedge of Intelligent Design* (Oxford University Press 2004) with Dr. Paul Gross. Barbara was a key witness in *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District*, the 2005 court case in which “Intelligent Design” was soundly defeated (December 20th, 2005).

Barbara has been retired for three years now. She recounted that her involvement in the Dover trial resulted from her authorship of the book with Paul Gross in 2004. They wrote the book in anticipation that there would be a lawsuit responding to the Discovery Institute’s (DI) repeated attempts to legitimize “Intelligent Design” (ID) in public schools. Barbara helped prove that the “Wedge Document”, which revealed the ID movement’s plan to bring God back into science, indeed originated at the Discovery Institute.



From the start, the DI’s goal was to get ID into public schools. They were looking for a lawsuit they could control, and use to establish a legal precedent. They were surprised when parents and teachers in Dover, PA sued to stop a school board decision to use the ID book “Of Pandas and People” in public schools.

The DI was aghast that they were not in control of this suit. They did not want the focus to be on whether ID was creationism or not, but feared negative publicity if they refused to testify. They did not want Barbara to testify, and even posted a fabricated “interview transcript” designed to make “Dr. Barking Forrest” look biased. Top ID proponent William Dembski attended Barbara’s deposition with the Thomas More law firm, and knew what her testimony would be. He pulled out of the trial shortly thereafter, as did several other DI stalwarts. Delayed by Hurricane Katrina, Barbara arrived in Dover, only to be challenged by the Thomas More center as not having the scientific credentials to testify. But Forrest is not a scientist, and was not called as one, and she was allowed to testify. Barbara testified how the drafts of *Of Pandas and People* changed occurrences of the word “creationism” into “intelligent design.”



After the trial’s conclusion, in which Judge Jones ruled that ID was just a form of creationism, the DI changed tactics, moving on from ID to promoting so-called “Academic Freedom” bills. Louisiana passed one of these model bills in 2008 as “The Louisiana Science Education Act” with the support of Gov. Bobby Jindal. While the bill is still on the books, teachers teach to mandatory state standards, which include evolution. Furthermore, the bill does not *mandate* the teaching of creationism. To date, there have been no reports that the law has ever been used, and it is being ignored for the most part.

Because the Kitzmiller decision took the wind out of the sails of the ID movement, the National Center for Science Education (NCSE) has been able to move on to tackle another topic which has been politicized, climate science. Barbara helped this happen during her tenure as an NCSE board member. NCSE now has some distinguished climate scientists on board, including Professor Michael

Mann, one of the originators of the “Hockey Stick.”

Barbara discussed changes at the DI, and the departures of Dembski and Casey Luskin. She warned about the nationwide “Dominionism” movement, which aims to control government, education, the arts, the media, everything. They have had considerable success in the last four years. While creationist attacks on evolution in schools have waned, the alarming Dominionism movement should be watched carefully. Our YouTube video contains links to Barbara’s article on the Dominionists, Mark Meadows’ creationist hijinks, some science resources, and more; visit nmsr.org to get the links.

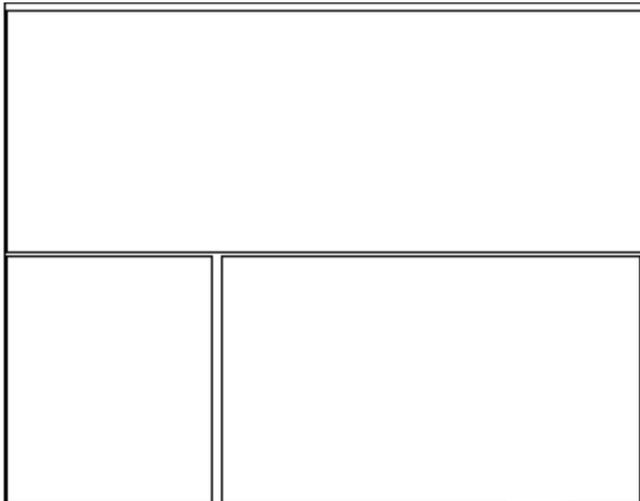
NMSR thanks Barbara Forrest for a delightful discussion.

Videos of past meetings are available at <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.

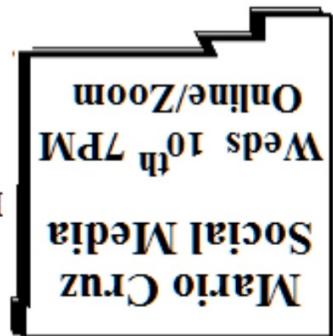
DUES check the date on your mailing label. If it's time for you to renew, or to make a contribution, please make your check payable to NMSR, and send it to Debbie Thomas, NMSR Treasurer, 3205 Alcazar NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Membership \$25 per annum (hard copy newsletter), or \$15 per annum (online newsletter).

The NMSR e-mail list is fun! It’s an e-mail list with news announcements of interest to NMSR members, discussions about news of the times, and more. To join, send a request to nmsrdave@swcp.com.

Thanks to: John Covan, Eddy Jacobs, Debbie Thomas, and all of our Puzzlers!



IN THIS ISSUE:
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 New Puzzles!
 January Meeting:
 Dr. Barbara Forrest, on
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