

**The “Intelligently Designed”**  
**Attack on Science and Society**

by

Dr. Marshall Berman

*A Proud Member of the Darwinist SWAT Team*

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New Mexicans for Science and Reason

Albuquerque, New Mexico

“No one is more dangerous than a man who is convinced of his own moral superiority.”

*Dean Koontz, 1994, Author*

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

*Edmund Burke, 1729-1797, Philosopher, statesman*

“Know thy self, know thy enemy”

*Sun Tzu (Chinese General and Author, b.500 BC)*

# Today, science is under attack

- From intelligent design creationism to stem cell research, global warming, vaccines to prevent cervical cancer, morning after pills, the Grand Canyon, even museums and zoos that mention evolution or an ancient Earth.
- Public opinion is strongly influenced by non-scientific elements, from the pulpit, from politicians and bureaucrats, from a mostly scientifically illiterate public, and from a media that frequently treat all points of view as equal, when they most certainly are **not**.
- Are there forces promoting a stealth theocracy in the US?

# What is Science?

Science is a particular way of knowing about the world, a methodology, not an ideology.

In science, explanations are restricted to those that can be inferred from confirmable data--the results obtained through observations and experiments that can be substantiated by other scientists.

Anything that can be observed or measured is amenable to scientific investigation

Explanations that cannot be based on empirical evidence are not a part of science

*-see Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science, The National Academy of Sciences (1998)*

# What is Science?

- **The use of evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena, as well as the knowledge generated through this process.**
- Observations and explanations build on each other. Repeatable observations and experiments generate explanations that describe nature more accurately and comprehensively
- But in this way, the scientific explanations improve over time
- Science is inherently tentative.

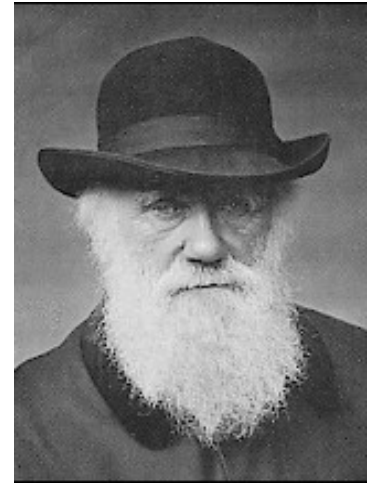
See NAS 2008: *Science, Evolution, and Creationism* [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11876](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11876)

# What is a Scientific Theory?

- In everyday usage, “theory” often refers to a hunch or a speculation.
- But the formal scientific definition of theory is quite different from this everyday meaning.
- It refers to a comprehensive explanation of some aspect of nature that is supported by a vast body of evidence (many, many facts!)
- Many scientific theories are so well established that no new evidence is likely to alter them substantially.

# What is Evolution?

- Process by which the diversity of life on earth developed over time from common ancestors
- Over time, the genetic makeup of a population changes, resulting in changes in the distribution of characteristics in that population
- These changes result in differences within species (microevolution) as well as the emergence of new species (macroevolution)



*Charles Darwin*

# Evolution is Science!

- Evolution is one of the most thoroughly studied concepts in the biological sciences, and continues to be studied.
- Evolution is based on volumes of scientific evidence obtained through experimentation and observation of the natural world
- Evolutionary principles have been rigorously tested using the scientific method
- Evolution is accepted by the scientific community as the only scientific account for the diversity of species



# What is “Modern” Intelligent Design?

- All ID activists vigorously claim that “Intelligent Design” (ID) is not religious, although there is **NO** universally accepted definition among ID activists themselves.
- The vast majority of scientists do not believe that ID is a scientific theory, but is barely an unsupported notion, and is just another form of **creationism**.

# The Discovery Institute (DI) Center for Science and Culture (1996)

- *“The theory [sic] of intelligent design holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.”*  
<http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/index.php?command=view&id=2895>
- But the Discovery Institute News, on 11-2004, defined ID as: *“The Discovery Institute is one of the major proponents of intelligent design, the idea [sic] that a divine being orchestrated the evolutionary process.”* <http://tinyurl.com/a5vu7>

# ID's "Leading Lights"

From Phillip Johnson, considered the founder of the "modern intelligent design movement," Truths that Transform - <http://www.coralridge.org/specialdocs/evolutiondebate.asp>

“Now, the way that I see the logic of our movement going is like this. The first thing you understand is that the Darwinian theory isn't true. It's falsified by all of the evidence, and the logic is terrible. When you realize that, the next question that occurs to you is, "Well, where might you get truth?" When I preach from the Bible, as I often do at churches and on Sundays, I don't start with Genesis. I start with John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word." In the beginning was intelligence, purpose, and wisdom. The Bible had that right and the materialist scientists are deluding themselves.”

# ID's "Leading Lights"

- **Michael Behe:** *"By 'intelligent design' I mean to imply design beyond the laws of nature."* One might assume that he means "supernatural." <http://tinyurl.com/7wsmq>
- **William Dembski:** *"Intelligent design is a theory [sic] for making sense of intelligent causes. As such, intelligent design formalizes and makes precise something we do all the time....There is no magic, no vitalism, no appeal to occult forces. Inferring design is common, rational and objectifiable."* Dembski, William A. (ed.). *Mere Creation; Science, Faith, & Intelligent Design*, 1998, p. 94.
  - But Dembski, in his book, *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science & Theology*, November 1999, defines ID as *"the logos theology of John's Gospel restated in the idiom of information theory."*

# Is ID Science?

- There is no empirical evidence **for** ID. Supposedly supported by two notions: **Irreducible Complexity** (Michael Behe) and **Complex Specified Information** (William Dembski). Both notions have been extensively investigated and found to be wrong, speculative, ignorant of published articles, or misleading.
- ID exists as negative attacks on evolution. Otherwise, it is a scientifically vacuous concept that predicts nothing, is not testable, and can only terminate research.

**It doesn't matter if ID is true or false – it is a matter of faith, not science.**



## ID Movement has much broader goals than discrediting evolution

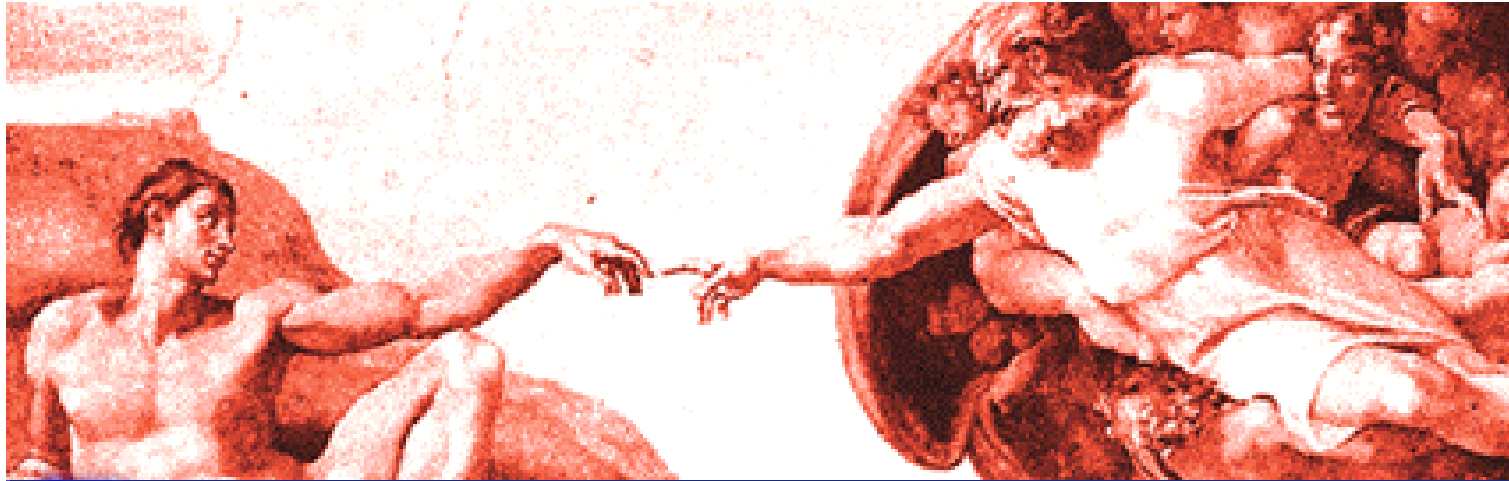
- Evolution is only the initial target of ID.
- It would be followed by an attack on all of science, and ultimately by profound changes in our society, culture and government.
- They want to change the entire character of American society.

# ID World View

## The 1998 “Wedge” Document

- Marked: **TOP SECRET - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**  
(leaked to web in 1999 by students)  
<http://www.seattleweekly.com/news/0605/discovery-darwin.php>
- In 1993, Phillip Johnson assembled a group to develop and promote “ID”
- The Wedge is a **20-year strategic plan for changing society**  
[http://www.kcfs.org/Fliers\\_articles/Wedge.html](http://www.kcfs.org/Fliers_articles/Wedge.html)
- 7 years later, the DI finally admits it's theirs (2005); says "What's the big deal?"  
<http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/filesDB-download.php?id=349>

***It is a big deal!***



**e**ENTER FOR THE RENEWAL OF SCIENCE & CULTURE

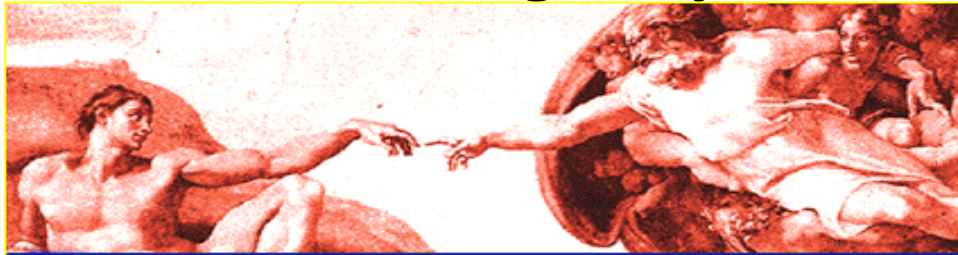
1996: Original name and logo: Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam" in the Sistine Chapel.

## Here are their own words!

- “Discovery Institute's **Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture** seeks nothing less than the overthrow of materialism and its cultural legacies....”



# DI's "Intelligently Evolving" Banners 1996-2005



Center for the Renewal of Science & Culture  
(CRSC) 1996-1999

**e** CENTER FOR THE RENEWAL OF SCIENCE & CULTURE



Center for the Renewal of Science & Culture  
(CRSC)

DISCOVERY  
INSTITUTE

Center for the Renewal of Science & Culture



Center for Science & Culture (CRSC)

DISCOVERY  
INSTITUTE

Center for the Renewal of Science & Culture



CENTER FOR  
& SCIENCE  
& CULTURE

DISCOVERY  
INSTITUTE

# Wedge Governing Goals

- “To defeat scientific materialism and its destructive moral, cultural and political legacies.”
- “To replace materialistic explanations with the theistic understanding that nature and human beings are created by God.”

# Wedge Twenty Year Goals

- “To see intelligent design theory as the dominant perspective in science.”
- “To see design theory application in specific fields, including molecular biology, biochemistry, paleontology, physics and cosmology in the natural sciences, psychology, ethics, politics, theology and philosophy in the humanities; to see its influence in the fine arts.”
- “To see design theory permeate our religious, cultural, moral and political life.”

# ID proponents sometimes divulge their real motivations

- **“From the sixth century up to the Enlightenment it is safe to say that the West was thoroughly imbued with Christian ideals and that Western intellectual elites were overwhelmingly Christian. False ideas that undermined the very foundations of the Christian faith (e.g., denying the resurrection or the Trinity) were swiftly challenged and uprooted. Since the enlightenment, however, we have not so much lacked the means to combat false ideas as the will and clarity.”** [William A. Dembski and Jay Wesley Richards, *Unapologetic Apologetics*, Intervarsity Press, 2001, p. 20]

# ID proponents sometimes divulge their real motivations

- “The scientific picture of the world championed since the Enlightenment is not just wrong but massively wrong. Indeed entire fields of inquiry, especially in the human sciences, will need to be rethought from the ground up in terms of intelligent design.”  
[William A. Dembski, *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology*, Intervarsity Press, 1999, p. 224]

# How do ID advocates respond to reporting their *exact words*?

- From Albert Mohler, President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, on my ABT Editorial:  
<http://www.arn.org/docs2/news/Mohler013004.htm>
- “Berman is apoplectic.”
- “Berman's article is the latest evidence of the intellectual insecurity and Stalinist oppression that marks today's evolutionary science. This is a spiritual battle and the arguments over evolution have as much to do with morality and politics as with fossils and natural phenomena.”

Op Ed In Dallas Morning News  
February 6, 2005

William Murchison, part-time faculty member in Baylor  
University Journalism Department

- “Darwinian fascism and bigotry aren't fun to observe: least of all the snooty attempts to close off inquiry, to brush aside legitimate objections to the Darwinian account of origins.”

# How are ID advocates responding to losses in Dover, Kansas, Georgia, etc?

- “The real debate is about academic freedom....”
- “Will Darwinism be taught as unquestionable dogma?”
- “The dogmatism and dishonesty of some orthodox Darwinists is simply breathtaking.”
- John Calvert, Intelligent Design Network Inc., said the forum "reminded me of the Ku Klux Klan with the grand wizard on the stage promoting hate on a particular group, suppressing criticism. This is about whether a particular theory of science affecting origins can be criticized."
- [Phillip] Johnson said Satan has tempted modern universities by offering "all the scientific institutions and research funding you need" as long as they *will ask only materialistic questions and find only materialistic answers*. [my italics; this is exactly the purpose of science]



# Dover Trial Responses by IDers

- Judge Jones received death threats requiring protection by US Marshals [[www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/news/state/15621028.htm](http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/news/state/15621028.htm)]
- DI called Judge Jones an activist judge (Phyllis Schlafly, William Dembski, et al.) [They loved him before the trial!]
- DI criticized Judge Jones for standard legal practice of using ACLU's Findings of Fact, when the judge agrees
- Created website showing Judge Jones as a puppet [[www.overwhelmingevidence.com/id/JJ\\_school\\_of\\_law/](http://www.overwhelmingevidence.com/id/JJ_school_of_law/)], accompanied by the expert witnesses (voiced by Dembski; originally included farting noise – since removed)  
[www.pandasthumb.org/archives/2006/12/dembski\\_the\\_dav.html](http://www.pandasthumb.org/archives/2006/12/dembski_the_dav.html)

# Current ID PR Strategies

- Claim that “others” are biased, and teaching ID is only *fair*
- Cry “censorship” when ID is criticized as non-science.
- Cite popular polls and ignore scientific consensus
- Refer to ID in scientific-sounding rather than religious language
- Redefine science to allow supernatural causes for natural phenomena
- Equate evolution to atheism; materialism equals religion
- Portray themselves as “victims” of a scientific conspiracy
- Claim that teaching evolution is “indoctrination” and that evolution is a religion.
- Promote stealth ID creationist legislation in AL, OK, NM, TX, SC, FL, KS, OH, Rio Rancho, etc.

# ID “Newspeak”

- “*Critically analyze*,” “*it’s only fair*,” “teach the *controversy*” and “*academic freedom*” all mean it’s OK to teach false evidence against evolution
- “*Darwinist, dogmatic, materialist*” are intended as insults to mainstream scientists
- “*Biological origins*,” “*irreducible complexity*,” and “*complex specified information*” are used to deceive.
- Teach the “*strengths and [false] weaknesses*” of evolution

There is a cacophony of different voices in the ID movement, so that they can defend or deny any attribution.

# ID False Framing

- Teaching evolution is “indoctrination.” [Mentioned several times at the recent Rio Rancho Board meeting, along with Hitler and Stalin.]
- Teach the “strengths and weaknesses” of evolution. (Will likely become part of the Texas Science Standards, and be included in state assessments and end-of-course exams, and affect textbook selection.)
- But the weaknesses are “false weaknesses.” They are just recycled and refuted creationist arguments.
- ID has become extremely adept at false PR, propaganda, and misrepresentation. Hired PR firm Creative Response Concepts.
- “Teach the controversy” really means the “Creationism controversy,” not any evolution controversy
- Scientists are at a disadvantage in “framing” since they honestly try to portray the scientific evidence.

# But, scientifically, ID is a sterile and vacuous concept

- Doesn't designate *who* the designer is.
- Doesn't ascribe *properties* to the designer.
- Doesn't say *how* design occurred.
- Doesn't say *when* design occurred.
- Doesn't *predict* anything.

Simply says: Life is too complex, so it was designed → nudge, nudge, wink, wink, God did it!

# Is ID Science?

- ID provides no agenda for future research
- ID yields no testable results or predictions
- ID relies on unknown outside intervention
- ID doesn't care that "designs" are often seriously flawed, implying an incompetent designer
- ID doesn't care that over 99.9% of all species have gone extinct (*when will the Designer get it right!*)  
[[www.bio.miami.edu/tom/bil160/bil160goods/10\\_extinct.html](http://www.bio.miami.edu/tom/bil160/bil160goods/10_extinct.html)]
- ID stops science, rather than advancing it.

# Is ID Science?

What do some ID advocates themselves say?

- Bruce Gordon, ISCID Fellow\*
  - ...design-theoretic research has been hijacked as part of a larger cultural and political movement. In particular, the theory has been prematurely drawn into discussions of public science education, where it has no business making an appearance without broad recognition from the scientific community that it is making a worthwhile contribution to our understanding of the natural world.

\*International Society for Complexity, Information and Design (ISCID)

# Is ID Science?

What do ID advocates themselves say?

- Paul Nelson, CSC Fellow
  - “We don’t have such a theory [ID] right now, and that’s a problem. Without a theory, it’s very hard to know where to direct your research focus. Right now, we’ve got a bag of powerful intuitions, and a handful of notions such as ‘irreducible complexity’ and ‘specified complexity’ – but, as yet, no general theory of biological design.”

Dr. Paul Nelson, “The Measure of Design,” *Touchstone magazine*, 2004



# Is ID a Form of Creationism?

- The Intelligent Design advocates say their so-called “theory” has nothing to do with creationism or religion or God.
- Is that the case?
- Consider the evolution of the primary textbook on ID called “Of Pandas and People.”

# ID = creationism relabeled

2-10

Creation means that the various

forms of life began abruptly through the agency of an intelligent

***Biology and Creation 1986***

creator with their distinctive features already intact--fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc.

2-13

Creation means that various

forms of life began abruptly through the agency of an intelligent

***Biology and Origins 1987***

Creator with their distinctive features already intact--fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc.

2-14

Creation means that various

forms of life began abruptly through the agency of an intelligent

***Of Pandas and People  
1987, version 1***

2-15

Creator with their distinctive features already intact--fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc.

2-15

Intelligent

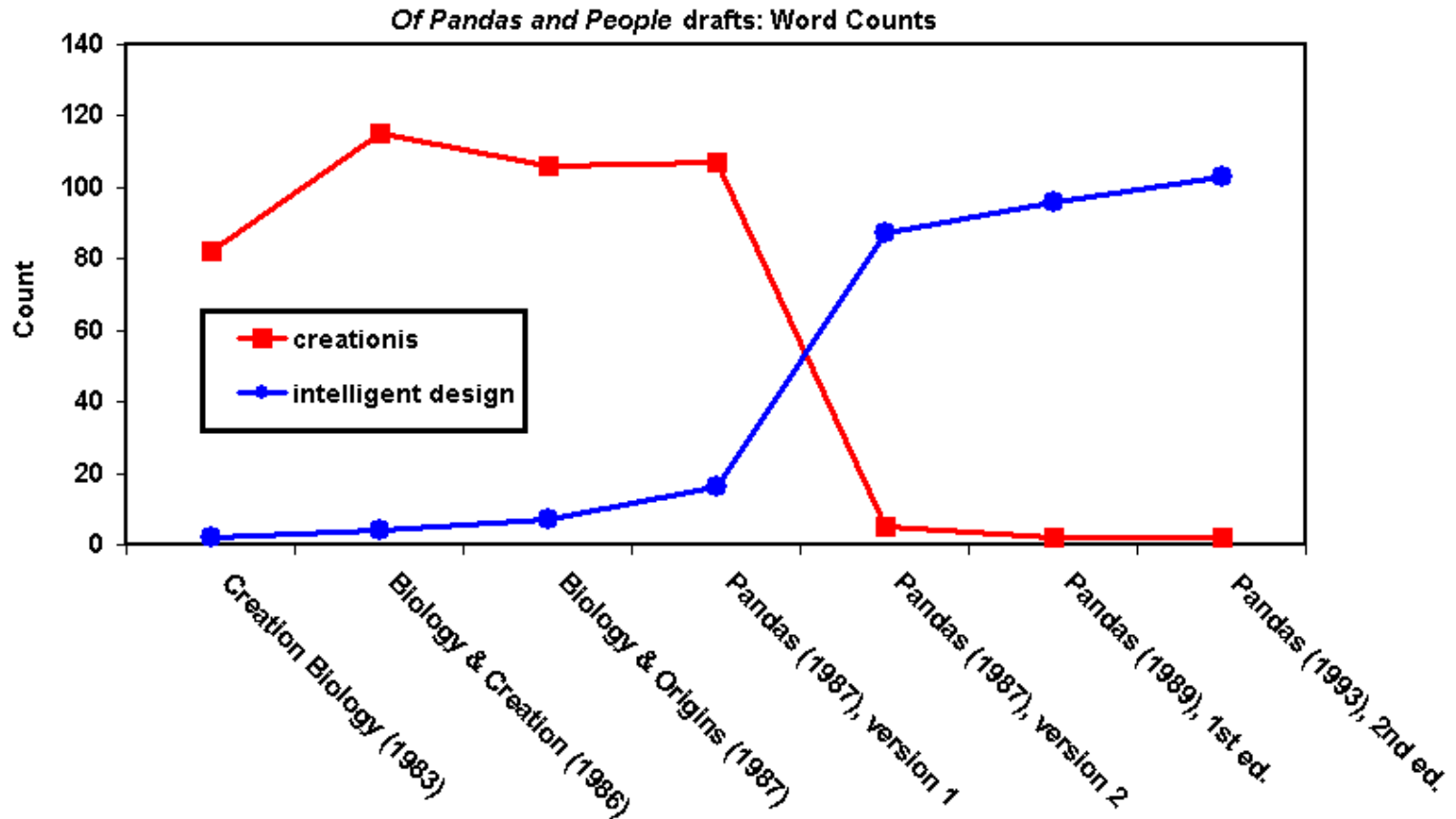
design means that various forms of life began abruptly through an

***Of Pandas and People  
1987, version 2***

intelligent agency with their distinctive features already

intact--fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc.

# Intelligent Design = Creation science



From early draft: *"Evolutionists think the former is correct, cdesign proponentsists (sic) accept the latter view."*

[http://www.pandastumb.org/archives/2005/11/missing\\_link\\_cd.html](http://www.pandastumb.org/archives/2005/11/missing_link_cd.html)

# Is ID Science?

- Judge John E. Jones III – United States District Judge, Dec. 20, 2005:  
“After a searching review of the record and applicable case law, we find that while ID arguments may be true, a proposition on which the Court takes no position, ***ID is not science***. We find that ID fails on three different levels, any one of which is sufficient to preclude a determination that ID is science. They are: (1) ID violates the centuries-old ground rules of science by invoking and permitting supernatural causation; (2) the argument of irreducible complexity, central to ID, employs the same flawed and illogical contrived dualism that doomed creation science in the 1980's; and (3) ID's negative attacks on evolution have been refuted by the scientific community. As we will discuss in more detail below, it is additionally important to note that ID has failed to gain acceptance in the scientific community, it has not generated peer-reviewed publications, nor has it been the subject of testing and research.

<http://fl1.findlaw.com/news.findlaw.com/hdocs/docs/educate/ktzmlldvr122005opn.pdf>

# NM Struggles Continue: Proposed Bills and Resolutions Tabled in 2007 Session

[SB371, SJM9, HB506, HJM14](#)

- “give teachers the [right and freedom](#)” to “inform students of scientific information relevant to the strengths and weaknesses” about [biological origins](#) and protect them.
- “Encourage students to [critically analyze](#) scientific information” about biological origins
- Does not mention Intelligent Design, creationism, religion or God
- Real but unstated goal is to allow teaching ID creationism in science classes!
- Legislation is nearly identical with that proposed in OK, AL, and other states.

# First NM Test: HJM 14 and HB506

January 29, 2007 – House Judiciary Committee

- No audience member spoke on its behalf; many spoke against
- “Rep. W.C. "Dub" Williams, R-Glencoe, the sponsor and a former teacher, said the resolution appropriately questioned the efficacy of the theory of evolution.

Williams did not conceal his religious beliefs.

‘However we evolved, we're here. What we evolved from we will never figure out,' Williams said. "There are many people who are absolutely convinced God did all of this and if you have the faith I have, God did it all.’

<http://www.abqjournal.com/news/xgr/534004xgr01-30-07.htm>

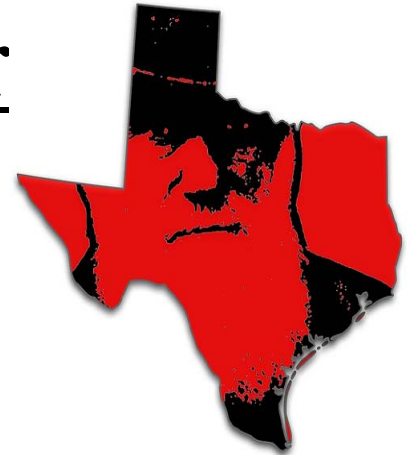
- His partner, Mike Edenburn, said the legislation had nothing to do with religion
- Bill was tabled 7-4.
- At hearing on HB506, Dub Williams actually tabled his own bill.
- Senate bills never got out of committee.

# Rio Rancho

- After two years, the infamous Rio Rancho Policy 401, similarly worded to the proposed state legislation, was removed by a vote of 3 to 2.  
<http://pandasthumb.org/archives/2007/12/game-over-in-ri.html>
- It is very important that people who recognize the importance of good education run for office and support candidates who do.
- Remember what Edmund Burke said: Doing nothing can be very dangerous.

# Texas is in Imminent Danger

## Teach strengths and (false) weaknesses



- Creationist Governor, Rick Perry
- Majority of State Board is creationist
- Chairman of the State Board, Don McLeroy, is a creationist
- TEA Commissioner, Robert Scott, is very likely a creationist
- Chris Comer, TEA Director of Science curriculum, was forced to resign or be fired.
- **Revision of science textbooks and curriculum coming very soon! Language arts too!!**



# Why Must the ID creationist Movement and its Euphemisms Be Actively Resisted?

- Because ID is
  - Bad “science”
  - Bad religion
  - Bad pedagogy
  - Bad politics



AiG CREATIONS [www.AnswersInGenesis.org](http://www.AnswersInGenesis.org)

- Their goal is to make ALL elements of society conform to their sectarian views

*ID is a political/religious controversy, not a scientific one.*

I've talked about WHAT IDers have said, WHAT they do, and HOW they do it. Now WHY do they do it? Fear that their faith, society's morals, and perhaps even their soul – will crumble!



# Why Has ID Been So Successful Despite Many Defeats and an Empty Theory?

- We have failed to appropriately teach science, government and history.
- Many Americans are ignorant of **both** science and religion.
  - **12% of Americans believe Noah's wife was Joan of Arc.**
  - Only 40 percent of Americans can name more than four of the Ten Commandments
  - Barely half can cite any of the four authors of the Gospels.

## **NSF Poll of Adults 1996:**

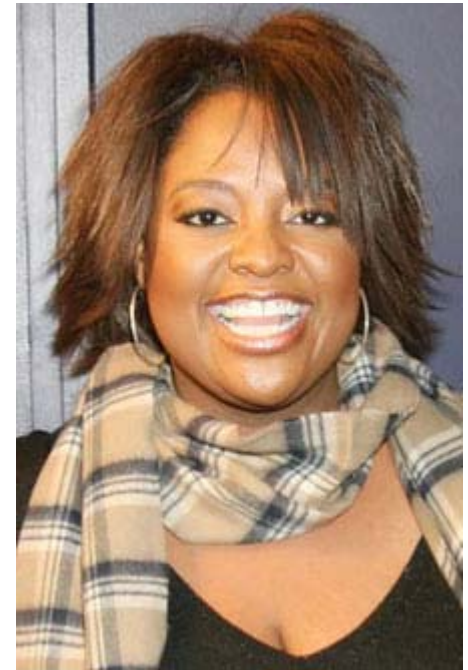
- **How long does it take for the Earth to go around the sun: one day, one month, or one year? Only 47% answered correctly.**
- **Only 9% knew what a molecule was.**
- **Only 21% could define DNA.**
- **75% don't know U.S. Senators serve six-year terms**
- **67% can't name their Congressional representative**
- **40% don't know the name of the vice-president**
- **1/3 of math teachers and 1/2 of physics teachers did not major in those subjects.**
- **Inflation-adjusted spending per pupil has more than doubled over the last 30 years.**

# We have failed to *learn* science, government and history.

[http://www.nypost.com/seven/12052007/tv/view\\_history\\_lesson\\_628228.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/12052007/tv/view_history_lesson_628228.htm)

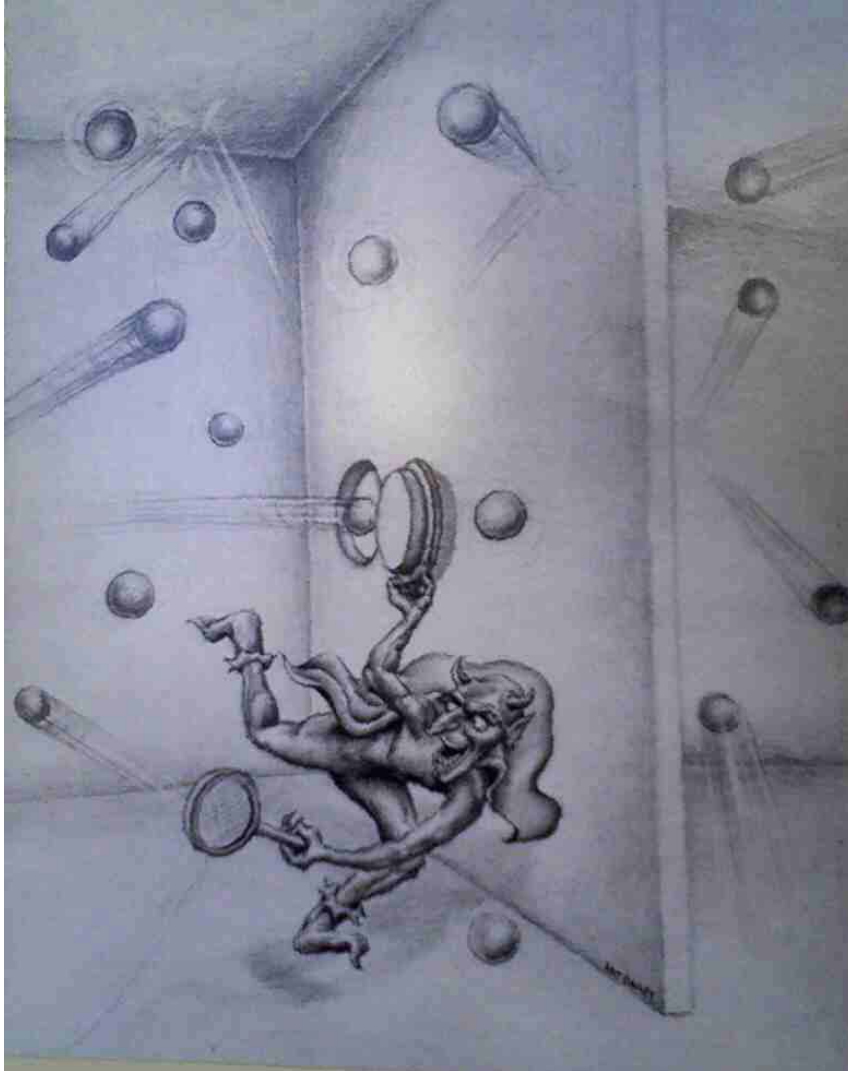
**SHERRI SHEPHERD SAYS JESUS CAME WAY FIRST** By MICHAEL STARR

- December 5, 2007 -- THE new co-host of "**The View**," Sherri Shepherd, yesterday insisted Christianity was older than ancient Greece, and even Judaism.
- Shepherd said ... on yesterday's show that she was pretty sure nothing "predated Christians."
- "...when [Epicurus] was around, there was no Jesus Christ stuff going on," said co-host Whoopi Goldberg.
- "They still had Christians back then," Shepherd interrupted.
- "They had *gods*," Goldberg said.
- "They had *Christians*," Shepherd insisted. "And they threw 'em to the lions."
- "I think this might predate that," Goldberg said.
- "I don't think anything predated Christians," Shepherd shot back.
- Joy Behar said: "The Greeks came first, then the Romans, then the Christians." "Jesus came first, before them," Shepherd said.
- 40-year old Sherri Shepherd was hired last fall to replace Star Jones on the panel of the morning women's show. She was born in Chicago and raised a Jehovah's Witness, and later became a born-again Christian after moving to LA.
- Last September, after saying she did not believe in evolution, Whoopi asked her ... if she also believed the earth was flat.
- Shepherd responded: "I don't know."



# Why Else Has ID Been So Successful?

## Morton's Demon – Feb., 2002



Maxwell's Demon was proposed in 1871 to show that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics could be falsified. It failed.

**Morton's Demon:** Most people only hear, see, or read material that confirms the beliefs they already hold. All else is ignored or rejected as lies or errors. The gate is closed to contradictory data. That makes them morally superior!

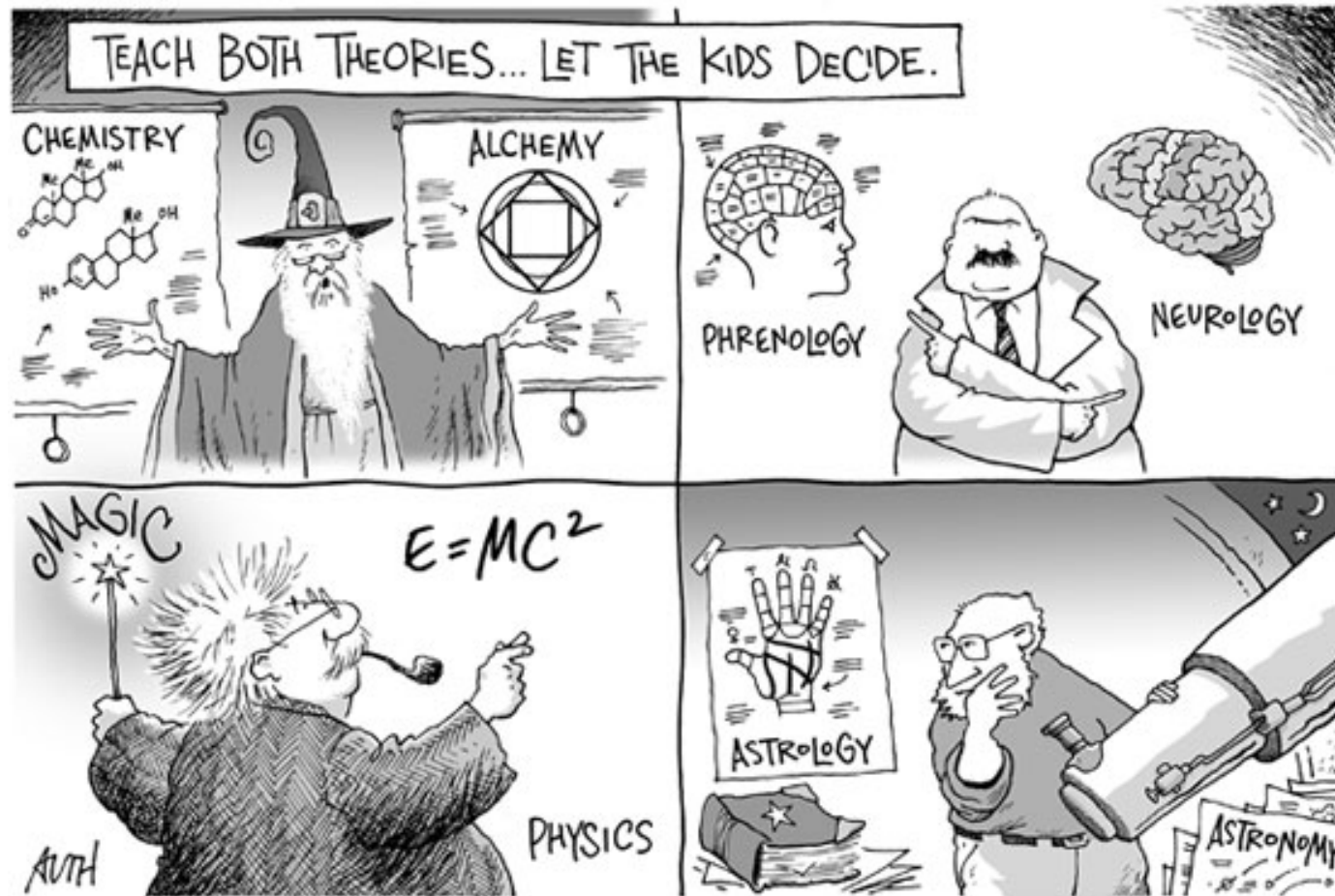
# What can you do?

- Understand and resist the false ID propaganda:
  - Evolution = atheism
  - Teach the “controversy;” teach “strengths and weaknesses”
  - Teach “both sides”
  - It’s only “fair”
  - “Darwinism” is a religion
  - “Darwinists” are dogmatic
  - This is about “academic freedom” and “critical analysis”
  - Established and accepted scientific theories are just “religion”
- Speak at colloquia, churches, other venues.
- Write letters to newspapers, politicians.
- Join a Science Activist group, the Clergy for Science, and/or other state or national groups.
- Oppose the bills and resolutions that will be presented at the NM Legislature.
- Contact me, CESE, NCSE, NMSR, et al. for help and connections.  
[mberman60@earthlink.net](mailto:mberman60@earthlink.net), [www.cesame-nm.org](http://www.cesame-nm.org), [www.ncseweb.org](http://www.ncseweb.org), [www.nmsr.org](http://www.nmsr.org)

# Darwin Day Events 2008

- February 16, Northrop Hall, Rm 122 at UNM, 1:00: CESE will show the film “Flock of Dodos.” Free
- Celebration of Darwin’s birthday, Feb. 12.
- 8 - 10 February 2008 -- Evolution Weekend by the Clergy project: >782 Congregations signed up; discuss the compatibility of religion and science in sermons and/or discussion groups [e.g., St. John's Cathedral Albuquerque, NM, The Very Rev. Mark Goodman, Dean]
- So far, 11,169 signatories on the letter:  
[http://www.butler.edu/clergyproject/rel\\_evolutionweekend\\_2008.htm](http://www.butler.edu/clergyproject/rel_evolutionweekend_2008.htm)

# “Teach both theories; let the kids decide”



8-4-25 THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE.



# Backup Slides

SENATE BILL 371  
48th legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - first session, 2007  
INTRODUCED BY  
Steve Komadina

AN ACT  
RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR SCHOOL SCIENCE CONTENT  
STANDARDS AND RULES REGARDING THE TEACHING OF THEORIES OF BIOLOGICAL  
ORIGINS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] TEACHING OF BIOLOGICAL ORIGINS.--

A. The department shall adopt rules that:

- (1) give teachers the right and freedom, when a theory of biological origins is taught, to objectively inform students of scientific information relevant to the strengths and weaknesses of that theory and protect teachers from reassignment, termination, discipline or other discrimination for doing so; and
- (2) encourage students to critically analyze scientific information, give them the right and freedom to reach their own conclusions about biological origins and provide that no student shall be penalized in any way because the student subscribes to a particular position on biological origins.

B. For purposes of this section:

- (1) "biological origins" means the origin, history and diversity of life and living organisms; and
- (2) "scientific information" means information derived from observation, experimentation and analyses regarding various aspects of the material world conducted to determine the nature of or principles behind the aspects being studied. "Scientific information" does not include information derived from religious or philosophical writings, beliefs or doctrines. Scientific information may have religious or philosophical implications and still be scientific in nature."

# Science, Evolution, and Creationism

From the National Academy of Sciences, Jan. 2008

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11876#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11876#toc)

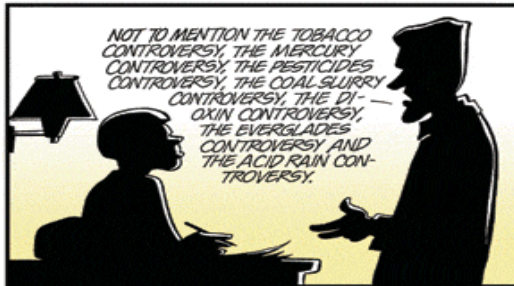
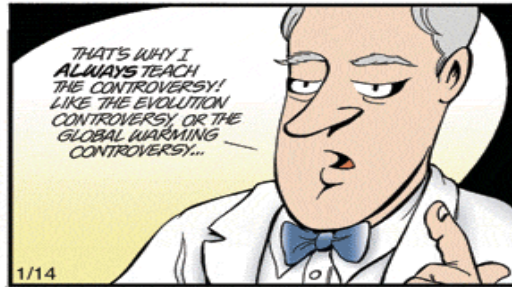
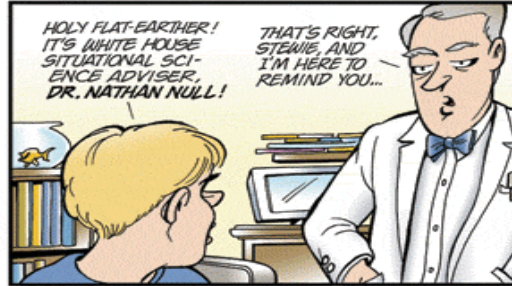
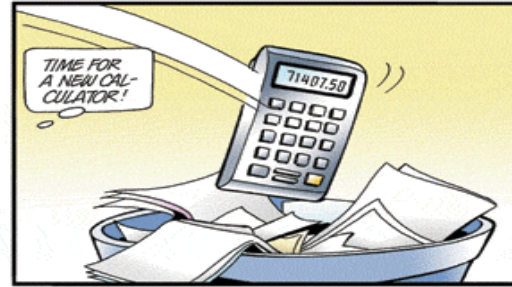
The first lines of the free summary are:

"The discovery and understanding of the processes of evolution represent one of the most powerful achievements in the history of science. Evolution successfully explains the diversity of life on Earth and has been confirmed repeatedly through observation and experiment in a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines. Evolutionary science provides the foundation for modern biology. It has opened the door to entirely new types of medical, agricultural, and environmental research, and has led to the development of technologies that can help prevent and combat disease. Regrettably, effective science education in our schools is being undermined by efforts to introduce non-scientific concepts about evolution into science classrooms."

# An Open Letter Concerning Religion and Science

- Within the community of Christian believers there are areas of dispute and disagreement, including the proper way to interpret Holy Scripture. While virtually all Christians take the Bible seriously and hold it to be authoritative in matters of faith and practice, the overwhelming majority do not read the Bible literally, as they would a science textbook. Many of the beloved stories found in the Bible – the Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark – convey timeless truths about God, human beings, and the proper relationship between Creator and creation expressed in the only form capable of transmitting these truths from generation to generation. Religious truth is of a different order from scientific truth. Its purpose is not to convey scientific information but to transform hearts.
- We the undersigned, Christian clergy from many different traditions, believe that the timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist. We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as “one theory among others” is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children. We believe that among God’s good gifts are human minds capable of critical thought and that the failure to fully employ this gift is a rejection of the will of our Creator. To argue that God’s loving plan of salvation for humanity precludes the full employment of the God-given faculty of reason is to attempt to limit God, an act of hubris. We urge school board members to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution as a core component of human knowledge. We ask that science remain science and that religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary, forms of truth.
- [http://www.butler.edu/clergyproject/religion\\_science\\_collaboration.htm](http://www.butler.edu/clergyproject/religion_science_collaboration.htm)

# Doonesbury January 14, 2007



Teach the Controversy but don't go through the scientific process; just cut in line and go straight to the public schools



"IT'S ONLY FAIR TO TEACH BOTH SIDES," YEAH, RIGHT.

David Thomas