

NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR

The C-Files:

“Unlocking the Mysteries of Life”

NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR

KUDOS for KNME!

Or, "Responsible Programming is Not Censorship"

Posted January 7, 2005 by Dave Thomas

NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR

Responsible Programming is Not Censorship

The local PBS affiliate, [KNME TV-5](#), is embroiled in a flap largely created from whole cloth by New Mexico's "Intelligent Design" (ID) creationists. Members of [IDnet-NM](#) have lobbied KNME for years to carry the ID documentary video called "[Unlocking the Mystery of Life](#)." The KNME program director turned down requests to air the video last summer, telling IDnet-NM "...a reasonable segment of the public might readily conclude that the program was created solely to promote the interests of the funder."

After that program director left KNME, IDnet-NM sensed a new opportunity, and managed to get somebody at KNME to schedule the ID video for Friday, Jan. 7th, at 9PM. When scientists in various watchdog groups ([New Mexico Academy of Science](#), [CESE](#), and [NMSR](#)) noticed the schedule, calls were made to KNME, asking why they had reversed their previous decision not to air the pseudo-documentary. When KNME senior management looked into the situation, the decision was made to pull the video. As reported in the [Albuquerque Journal on Jan. 7th](#), "'The funders of this program have a clear and specific agenda that they openly promote,' said KNME marketing manager Joan Rebecchi. 'KNME has no position regarding this agenda, but we must guard against the public perception that editorial control might have been exercised by the program funders.'..."

As soon as news came out that the ID video would not be shown, IDers and creationists began to scream Bloody Murder. KNME has been condemned locally by the [Creation Science Fellowship of NM](#) and by IDnet-NM, and nationally at [World Net Daily](#), the [Discovery Institute](#), [Agape Press](#), the Southern [Baptist Press](#), and the Discovery Institute's new [Blog](#). (The CESE site has a [compendium of creationist whining about KNME](#).)

IDNet-NM took out a large ad in Friday's Journal which declared "*In Our Opinion This Is Unprecedented Censorship... It is unfortunate that New Mexico residents will be denied the chance to see for themselves the scientific evidence that directly opposes specific parts of Darwin's theory of evolution, evidence that supports an intelligently designed universe. ... Paid for by those in the Scientific Community that would like to see both sides of the debate allowed.*"

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

**In Our Opinion This Is
Unprecedented Censorship**

**“Unlocking the Mystery of Life”
will not be seen on
KNME Channel 5!**

It was due to air at 9:00 PM tonight.

It is unfortunate that New Mexico residents will be denied the chance to see for themselves the scientific evidence that directly opposes specific parts of Darwin's theory of evolution, evidence that supports an intelligently designed universe.

Ask KNME why they are censoring a documentary showing the intricacies of the living cell, sophisticated molecular machinery working in concert with the Genetic Code of Life; banning a documentary educating the NM public about the pioneering edge of scientific research and proposing challenges to the current theory of evolution.

KNME 277-2121

*Paid for by those in the Scientific Community
that would like to see both sides of the debate allowed*

*Paid for by ID NET NM
Joe Renick Executive Chairman
www.idnet.org*



This is the [IDnet-NM](#) ad which ran on Friday, January 7th in the [Albuquerque Journal](#).

Here's where it gets interesting. The day before this ad ran, staffers at KNME offered a compromise. Although KNME couldn't air the video because of its funding connections, it did offer to produce a local show featuring local scientists both for and against "Intelligent Design." In this way, KNME said, the discussion could commence - free speech would be encouraged - and the debate would be aired publicly, as IDnet was demanding. NMSR members Dave Thomas and Kim Johnson agreed to appear on the half-hour show "In Focus," which would have aired on Friday, Jan. 7th at 8:30 PM, but Joe Renick and Mike Kent of IDnet-NM ***refused to participate in the panel discussion, dismissing it as an "unproductive use of time."***

Why do the IDers complain about "unprecedented censorship," and yet refuse to participate in an open discussion of these same ideas? I think the reason is the playing field, pure and simple. The "Unlocking" video has been very carefully crafted to look scientific, not religious. It avoids any substantive discussion, and is simply an ID propaganda vehicle. (Some Christian groups market the video as "the most impressive evangelistic tool ever made!")

This is the most impressive evangelistic tool ever made. Using the latest computer graphics it displays the wisdom of God in the creation of the inner workings of the human cell.

The two hundred largest mission agencies in the USA already have a copy.

dreds of copies (the Greater Europe Mission ordered 800) to give to donors this Christmas and to send to their field

ous in both animate and inanimate nature partakes of almost a holy awe. Proof positive of the holy awe is the fact that the creation of the world is the

can stack them up and give them to new members as they join, can resell them to members (outside of a church-run store). Retail store sales are all taken by another agency.

... Sure, scientists are
... to be striving to beat each
other out, to win grants and prizes and
so on. But there is a powerful group
among them whose quiet fascination
with the truly marvelous and mysteri-

has to be so. It is in nature rather than the idea (that has swept science, public schools, and even legislatures) of a Darwinian "unguided" evolution. Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Mission agencies are buying hun-

USCWM • 1605 E. Elizabeth St. • Pasadena, CA 91104 • 626-797-1111

10/18/2002, 12:25

We know that KNME is getting anguished calls from misinformed creationists. How about sending them a [congratulatory message](#)? Here's the [Sweetest Message of All](#) for a public television station. Also, check out KNME's [Science Crawl](#)!

[illegible]

I imagine the creationist community lobbied your station to carry an item about KNME. Of course, they didn't tell you they were creationists. But that's who they are, and it was obvious from your extremely slanted coverage.

Wha'd I Tell Ya? Discovery Institute Lauds KOB TV4

From <http://www.evolutionnews.org/>: "First on Wednesday (Jan. 5), Albuquerque's ABC affiliate KOB aired a story that **correctly reported this a censorship of science. Their coverage was very good, although they did mistakenly identify Discovery's Center for Science & Culture as the funder of the film, which is not true. ...**"

To be fair, KOB is the **NBC** affiliate...

NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR

THE SMOKING GUN

**"Intelligent Design" IS Religious Creationism! Understanding Who Made
"Unlocking the Mystery of Life."**

by Dave Thomas : nmsrdaveATswcp.com (Help fight SPAM! Please replace the AT with an @)

Updated Oct. 15th, 2009

NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR*NMSR

The "Intelligent Design" anti-evolution movement distances itself from traditional creationism, and insists it's not based on religion. For example, Mark Edwards, a spokesman for the [Discovery Institute](#) (the leading "Intelligent Design" think tank), said of the 2001 PBS Evolution series, *"The final episode paints a picture that the only critics of Darwinian theory are these guitar-strumming hillbillies in Kentucky who are creationists, and that's just not true. We're glad we're not part of that stereotype."* [\[link\]](#) Author Louis Freedberg writes *"he [Phillip Johnson, Discovery Institute Advisor] avoids answering pointed questions, including his views on just who the intelligent designer is. 'It certainly could be God, a supernatural creature, but in principle it could be space aliens of high intelligence who did the designing,' he says. ... He won't say whether he is or isn't a creationist. 'I won't answer that. That's like asking me if I was ever a member of the Communist Party.' ..."* [\[link\]](#)

Please consider then, if you will, the following information about two media companies, Illustra Media and Discovery Media. One of the companies has produced a slick new video, "Unlocking the Mystery of Life." featuring the leading lights of the intelligent design movement, carefully crafted to appear scientific, non-religious and suitable for public schools and PBS. The other company produces overtly religious videos, and makes no bones about its evangelistic Christian mission. Are these companies, perhaps, related? Read on...



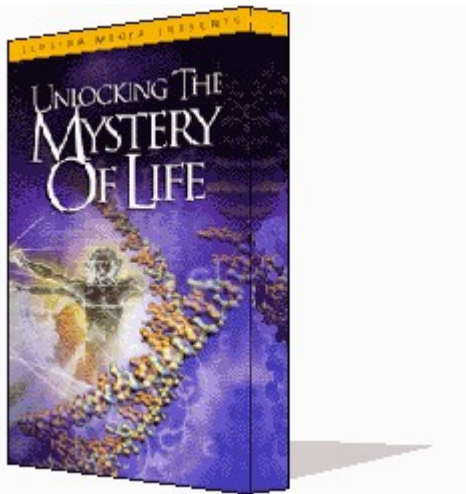
Home Page:



Home Page:

<http://www.illustramedia.com/>

Illustra Media is the producer of the video
"Unlocking the Mystery of Life."



<http://www.discoverymedia.org/index.htm>

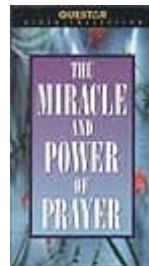
Discovery Media is the producer of several religious videos, including



The End Times



Heaven & Hell



The Miracle and Power of Prayer

Illustra Media's "Unlocking the Mystery of Life" features many of the leaders of the Intelligent Design movement, including Phillip Johnson, Jonathan Wells, Paul Nelson, Steve Meyer (who [helped write the script](#)) and William Dembski. It is advertised from the [home page](#) of the Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture, and also has its own [Discovery Institute page](#), where we are told "The story begins with a landmark meeting of design theorists assembled by UC Berkeley Law Professor Phillip Johnson in Pajaro Dunes California in 1993. The documentary then follows the development of the intelligent design movement through insightful interviews with key

The Discovery Media videos are unabashedly religious in content. For example, the ad for "The End Times" says "*The End Times is a compelling presentation of the major events that will immediately precede and unfold during the Tribulation including The Rapture of the Church, a time when Jesus Christ will appear and take the faithful to heaven instantly. The Rise of the Antichrist, a world leader empowered by Satan. The outpouring of God's wrath and the Final Judgement upon the earth. The Triumphant Return of Jesus Christ. This video considers the prophecies foretelling the end of human history as delivered from the lips of history's most credible authority - Jesus Christ. His warnings are terrifying yet filled*

<i>design scientists Paul Nelson, Stephen Meyer, Dean Kenyon, Michael Behe, William Dembski, Jonathan Wells, Jed Macosko and Scott Minnich.</i> " Phillip Johnson has also issued a strong endorsement of the video. The video is also promoted by ID stalwarts Access Research Network, where PBS is encouraged to air the video.	<i>with hope."</i>
Here is the Contact information from the Illustra Media Home Page: Wholesale inquiries please call (800) 394-2413 or e-mail info@illustramedia.com.	Here is the information from the now-defunct Discovery Media Contact Page (formerly at http://www.discoverymedia.org/contact.htm): Mailing Address: Discovery Media Productions Post Office Box 2711, La Habra, CA 90632-2711 Phone and FAX: (800) 394-2413 E-mail Address: info@discoverymedia.org

This is from a WHOIS Search at Network Solutions, for illustramedia.com.	This is from a WHOIS Search at Network Solutions, for DiscoveryMedia.org
Registrant: Discovery Media Productions (ILLUSTRAMEDIA-DOM)	Registrant: Discovery Media Productions (DISCOVERYMEDIA3-DOM)
Address: PO Box 2711 La Habra, CA 90632-2711 US	Address: PO Box 2711 La Habra, CA 90632-2711 US
Administrative & Technical Contact: Discovery Media Productions (203354060) j.harned@GTE.NET	Administrative & Technical Contact: Discovery Media Productions (203354060) j.harned@GTE.NET
Phone/FAX: 562-943-0914 fax: 562-943-0914	Phone/FAX: 562-943-0914 fax: 562-943-0914
Domain servers in listed order: 64.226.28.40, 66.111.73.180	Domain servers in listed order: 64.226.28.40, 66.111.73.180, 64.77.127.49

Finally, to tie it all together in black and white, here is a comment from [Whittier Christian Schools](#), from their December 2001 "Wonders of Science" newsletter.

*"Using sophisticated satellite imagery and deep-sea underwater cameras, the Discovery Media team traveled to Egypt and produced one of the finest documentaries [[The Exodus Revealed](#)] I've ever seen! It sets the stage of not only the crossing, but of an Israelite occupation in the Land of Goshen, a subsequent departure and a later invasion of Canaan. ... This video is an absolute must have! The other video we've seen totally disappear from the book table is **also produced by the Discovery team**. Under the **"Illustra Media" banner for educational films**, award winning computer graphics of DNA replication inside the nucleus clearly depict the amazing workings of the inner cell. ... Order today: 'Unlocking the Mysteries of Life' - \$25.00; 'The Exodus Revealed' - \$25.00 ..."*

What is the conclusion? It's obvious we're not talking about two companies here. We're talking about one company, IllustraDiscoveryMedia.com. It's obvious that "Intelligent Design" and religious creationism are joined at the hip.

[Need more Smoking Gun Proof?](#)

Also on the NMSR Site: [Intelligent Design ... Is It Science?](#)

Editor's Note: This pairing of ID-friendly Illustra Media and religion-based Discovery Media does not in and of itself prove that **ALL** Intelligent Design advocates are religious. Perhaps, some day, a video on Intelligent Design will discuss bonafide scientific principles, as opposed to religious-based pseudoscience. Until that day, however, the situation is this: the Number One Intelligent Design video, *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*, endorsed by ID advocates all the way from the tippy-top ([Discovery](#)

[illegible]

NCSE has a new page on the "[IllustraDiscoveryMedia.com connection](#)"!