

LSI Journal

The Lutheran Science Institute

March-April, 2009



**A Popular
Science
Magazine
Admits:
Our
Universe
was
Built
for Us**

- **A Review of *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed***
- **A Surprising View of Science in Great Britain**
- **What's Normal and what's Alzheimer's?**

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

4130 Harvest Lane
Racine, Wisconsin 53402-9562
<http://www.lutheranscience.org>

The mission of the Lutheran Science Institute is to learn, share, and promote the glory of God as revealed in His holy Word and demonstrated in His created world, beginning with the pastors, teachers, and laity of the WELS (Wis. Ev. Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Ev. Lutheran Synod).

OFFICERS: () denotes remaining years in office.

PRESIDENT: WARREN KRUG (2)
4130 Harvest Lane
Racine, WI 53402-9562
(262) 639-4931
E-mail: WPKrug5@yahoo.com

VICE PRES.: PATRICK WINKLER (1)
2584 S. Sterling Circle
East Troy, WI 53120
E-mail: runx10@gmail.com

SECRETARY: MARK GROTH (2)
5405 W. Nokomis Road
Brown Deer, WI 53223
(414) 355-5087
Email: mgroth@wi.rr

TREASURER: CRAIG SCHWARTZ (1)
1710 Ulster St.
Denver, CO 80220-2053
(303) 393-8216
E-mail: jcs@central.com

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

PASTOR DAVID PETERS (2)
2908 S. Colony Ave.
Union Grove, WI 53182-9564

MARCUS HAGEN (1)
8205 Gina Drive.
Racine, WI 53406
(262) 886-6379

JEFFREY STUEBER (2)
704 N. 2ND Street
Watertown, WI 53098
E-mail: jstueber@charter.net

MELVIN SCHWARTZ (1)
19900 128th St., Box 732
Bristol, WI 53104-9403
(262) 857-2934

RON ALTERGOTT (2)
1101 Prairie Dr., Apt. 3
Racine, WI 53406
(262) 884-0437

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: BRUCE HOLMAN, Ph.D.
7832 W. Lorraine Pl.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222
(414) 771-1425
E-mail: bholman3@sbcglobal.net

EDITOR: WARREN KRUG
4130 Harvest Lane
Racine, WI 53402-9562
(262) 639-4931
E-mail: WPKrug5@yahoo.com

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Send your suggestions, comments, and manuscripts to:

LSI JOURNAL
4130 HARVEST LANE
RACINE, WI 53402-9562

or e-mail: admin@lutheranscience.org

The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the Saturday *after* Thanksgiving. At least three other meetings are held during the year at locations selected by the president. Meetings are open to the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our web site.

MEETING SCHEDULE*

- ◆ 4th Saturday in January, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in June, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Last Saturday in October, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday *after* Thanksgiving in November, 1:00 p.m.

*Dates, times, and locations subject to change. Additional meetings may be scheduled. Check with the president, secretary, or editor or see our web site for verification.

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A Universe Built For Us



A Science Magazine's Surprising Admission

By Warren Krug

A UNIVERSE BUILT FOR US. Printed in large bold letters, this was the title of a magazine article containing a surprising admission. This article didn't appear in a creationist or intelligent design magazine. Amazingly, it could be found instead in the December, 2008 pro-evolution *Discover* magazine

beginning on page 52. Moreover, the title was not entirely misleading. The author, Tim Folger, actually says that the universe appears to be designed for human life. Still, he proceeds to describe a trick physicists use to try to get around any suggestion

The author is the editor of the LSI Journal.

that there is an Intelligent Designer. The trick is bound to leave creationists and other Christians astounded at such a transparent attempt to explain away an obvious truth—that the universe without doubt testifies to the existence of a Creator.

Folger reports on a visit he had with physicist Andrei Linde in Palo Alto, California. “Everything here,” Folger says, apparently in reference to the scene near Linde's office on the Stanford University campus, “bears witness to an extraordinary fact about the universe. Its basic properties are uniquely suited for life. Tweak the laws of physics in just about any way and — in this universe, anyway, — life as we know it would not exist.”

Linde says, “We have a lot of really, really strange coincidences, and all of these coincidences are such that they make life possible.” Sounding as if they are card-carrying members of the intelligent design community, which they apparently aren't, Folger and Linde mention several of these “coincidences” such as...

>If the protons in atoms were just 0.2% more massive, they would be unstable and decay. Atoms wouldn't exist and neither would we.

>If we double the mass of an electron, life as we know it wouldn't exist.

>Life would disappear if we change the strength of the interaction between protons and electrons.

>Having fewer than or more than three space dimensions and one time dimension would make

life as we know it impossible.

> There would be no stars and no life if the percent of the mass of

hydrogen atoms in stars being converted into energy via atomic fusion was not exactly 0.007.

The idea that the universe was made just for us is known as the *anthropic principle*. It was first mentioned in 1973 by physicist Brandon Carter at a conference in Poland honoring Copernicus, the astronomer who had proposed that the sun was the center of the universe. Carter suggested that a purely random assortment of laws would have resulted in a dark and dead universe. He further suggested two versions of



the anthropic principle. The “weak” anthropic principle merely says that we are living in a special time and place in the universe where life is possible. The bolder “strong” anthropic principle asserts that the laws of physics themselves are “biased” toward life, or, in other words, the “universe knew we were coming.”

The anthropic principle lay dormant for years afterwards. Linde, for instance, was more interested in finding a solution to a puzzling problem with the dominant



Big Bang theory, the remarkable uniformity of temperature throughout the universe. If the universe as a whole emerged from the fireball of a Big Bang, why is it that different regions separated by enormous distances all have the same temperature, 2.7 degrees Celsius? There hasn't been enough time since the universe was born, even according to evolution timelines, for every part of the cosmos to have connected to every other part and cooled via heat exchanges to the same temperature.

In 1981 physicist Alan Guth and later Linde suggested a possible though flawed solution to that puzzle. Their attempt at a solution was called inflation, the idea that the universe experienced a huge growth spasm during the first moments of its birth, thus allowing all the regions of the universe, now billions of light-years apart, to have been close enough so they could exchange heat and reach a uniform temperature.

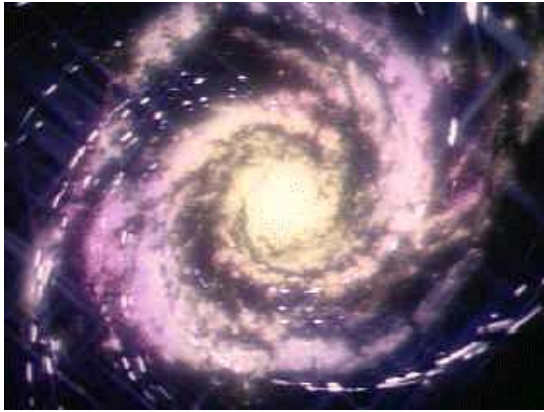
In the mid-1980s Linde and physicist Alex Vilenkin came up with a controversial new twist to the theory of inflation.

They argued that inflation, far from being a one-time event, is an ongoing process. Different regions of the universe, they theorized, are at times undergoing inflation and budding off into what are essentially new universes. Each of these new universes will themselves experience inflation, what Linde calls chaotic inflation, and will in turn evolve their own new universes. Each of the new universes according to Linde will have laws of physics completely different from our own.

So this is the secular explanation for why our universe appears to be designed for life. We are only one of an almost infinite number of universes, all with different properties. Although the odds are extremely tiny that any one universe will have the conditions which are just right for life, if you increase the number of universes to an almost infinite number, the odds of at least one universe meeting the criteria suddenly increase. Ours just happens to be the one universe where life could have come about and exist today. Although most physicists were slow to embrace this theory, support picked up when in 1998 researchers seemed to find evidence that the universe was expanding and at an accelerating rate. Some form of energy, physicists call it dark energy, seems to be pushing everything apart. These discoveries contradicted the old ideas that the cosmic expansion must be slowing down following the Big Bang.

Moreover, dark energy is it-

self an example of the anthropic principle. It's strong enough to accelerate expansion, but not so much that it could rip apart the universe. "This is the one fine tuning that seems to be extreme, far beyond what you could imagine just having to accept as a mere accident," Nobel laureate Steven Weinberg says.



Dark energy, says Folger, along with the controversial string theory tends to support the multiverse theory, this idea that there

are an almost infinite number of universes, ours being only one. Without getting into the details of string theory, suffice it to say that some theoretical work done in California in 2000 appeared to unravel string theory, yet some scientists still defend it and use it as evidence for the multiverse.

The problem with the multiverse theory is the difficulty in trying to confirm other universes when all experiments must be confined to our own. Still, some

physicists see the Large Hadron Collider built near the Swiss-French border as possibly being able to provide evidence for both the string theory and the multiverse. Some future space missions, scientists hope, might also find some evidence.

When Folger asked Linde if physicists will ever be able to prove the existence of the multiverse, his answer implied that it is the only explanation for dark energy or for the electron's mass or for many properties of particles. In other words, it must exist because there is no other possible answer....or is there?

Many physicists see the multiverse as a desperate measure, impossible to confirm, and a step backward to a human-centered way of looking at the universe. A theory that allows anything to be possible explains nothing. However, believers in the multiverse see it as just one step in a progressing view of the universe from geocentric to heliocentric to galactrocentric to now the mul-

tiverse.

Weinberg thinks even if this idea of a plethora of universes is ever proven that it would not destroy belief in an intelligent, benevolent creator. On the other hand, cosmologist Bernard Carr says, "If there is only one universe, you might have to have a fine-tuner. If you don't want God, you'd better have a multiverse."



That last statement appears to sum up what this whole controversy is about. Physicists are now admitting the universe is designed for human life, but many or most of them are obviously not willing

to admit that it was designed by a Creator God. Perhaps they don't want to feel they need to be accountable to a higher power. This idea of a multiverse, as far fetched as it may be, exists primarily because it is the only current theory able to explain our universe apart from God. But if one wants proof for something, the multiverse theory is proof for the accuracy of Psalm 14:1: "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (NIV) [LSJ](#)

A Review Of → → → → →

By Jeff Stueber



Until 2008 Ben Stein may have been associated with the movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* or his game show *Win Ben Stein's Money*. Now one can associate him with the intelligent design (I.D.) movement and an investigation of evolutionist bias on college campuses.

Secularists like to foist the myth of the unbiased scientists. For instance skeptic Chester Dolan¹ says "The good scientist will suspend judgment until his theories are supported by well-founded facts. The religionist has been trained to believe that it is perfectly natural to make judgments without the slightest need for facts." This is certainly a utopian view that is not revealed by the evidence. Scientists are people too and subject to the same biases and predispositions as other humans, one of these the desire to de-god the universe.

Stein suggested this is the case. His first interviewee was Richard Sternberg who was

guilty of publishing an article by intelligent design advocate Stephen Meyer in the *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*. Meyer surveyed various scientific explanations for life's origin and evolution and found each wanting and concluded the paper by saying, "An experience-based analysis of the causal powers of various explanatory hypotheses suggests purposive or intelligent design as a causally adequate—and perhaps the most causally adequate—explanation for the origin of the complex specified information required to build the Cambrian animals and the novel forms they represent. For this reason, recent scientific interest in the design hypothesis is unlikely to abate as biologists continue to wrestle with the problem of the origination of biological form and the higher taxa." Sternberg told Stein that Meyer's

The author, a frequent contributor to the Journal and a member of the LSI Board of Directors, lives in Watertown, Wisconsin.

paper raised numerous issues that he wanted to get into the open and, according to the movie, he lost his office in the west wing of the Natural History Museum at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and was pressured to resign because of Meyer's publication.

This is not the exception according to Stein, but one must juxtapose these incidents with criticisms of this movie. Caroline Crocker mentioned intelligent design in her cell biology class at George Mason University and was told by her supervisor she would have to be disciplined for teaching creationism. At the end of the semester she lost her job and was thence blacklisted against getting another. She must have been teaching some type of I.D. because a web site that rates professors has this rude comment about her back in May of 2006: "Just another Bible-whacking lunatic... do we really need wing-nuts like this in a public college?"² The critical web site *expelledexposed.com* suggests Crocker continued to teach after



her alleged dismissal, but does admit she tried to introduce intelligent design ideas into the class-

room and hence may have been let go partly because of this.

Guillermo Gonzalez, coauthor of *The Privileged Planet*, was denied tenure after its publication. Gonzalez put it succinctly: If you value your career, keep your views quiet. *www.expelledexposed.com* suggests that Gonzalez had a diminishing record of bringing in research funding and grants and around that time Gonzalez became involved with *The Privileged Planet*. So both Gonzalez and this site could be correct in that he had diminishing returns for the university, but was denied tenure because the ID project was the nail in the coffin of his recent failures which caused his exit.

Sternberg, *expelledexposed.com* says, did not follow proper review procedure in publishing Meyer's article. Sternberg was asked to move as part of a reorganization of space. He refused the location that was offered him and instead took an office in another part of the museum.

Clearly evolutionists did not perform well in this movie. Eugenie Scott said one of the best kept secrets is that Catholics and mainstream Protestants are "ok" with evolution, and thereafter Richard Dawkins stated bluntly that his study of evolution turned him toward atheism. Michael

Ruse suggested one popular theory is that life originated on the backs of crystals (and suggested to Stein this is true) whereas I have found there are a host of theories, none with any secure validity. Dawkins suggested that evolution is a fact as firmly established as any fact we have, the evidence for this is overwhelming, and those who doubt evolution are stupid or ignorant. Stein says, however, doubters he interviewed are not ignorant people and David Berlinski, another bomb thrower into the halls of science, suggested that before we can surmise whether Darwinian theory is true, we must be able to tell whether it is clear enough so that it could be correct. However, he finds that evolutionary biology lacks of the scientific discipline of mathematical physics which lacks the scientific discipline of mathematics and there is a gradual descent of unintelligibility from math to Darwinian biology. In fact Berlinski said Darwinism is a “mess” akin to looking into a room filled with smoke. We can’t even yet define what a species is. William Provine, professor of history of biology at Cornell, said that the path to believing in evolution starts with giving up a personal deity and belief in life after death, and once that is done the rest falls into place. Then one must give up a belief in absolute

morality and free will and, he said, if you believe in evolution you cannot accept there is any free will.

Near the end of the movie, Dawkins presented himself once again for abuse when he suggested that it is quite liberating when one gives up his or her belief in a god. Stein asked him about the origin of his data for this belief and Dawkins responded that he has received many letters telling him that much. Stein, quick to the punch, asked him how many letters he’s received. (There are, after all, billions of people in the world.) Dawkins admitted that nobody has any idea how the first self replicating organism got started even though he believes we can still have confidence it happened by accident. Dawkins is willing to give intelligent design a hearing when he suggested a very advanced form of mankind may have seeded life on this planet. So it seems intelligent design is a worthy idea of science, but not intelligent design by God, and Dawkins indicated his bias when he admitted that the existence of the Hebrew God would be an “unpleasant prospect.”

Of particular disturbing feature of evolutionism is its connection to the Nazi regime. Here Stein traces down Richard Weikart, author of *From Darwin to*

Hitler, who strongly asserts that Hitler and many of the physicians who carried out the extermination of Jews were fanatical Darwinists. That evolution is much at the root of Nazism is my reaction as well when reading *Mein Kampf*.

We are told by Stephen Meyer to be wary of the sound of one hand clapping and so this movie has produced a liberal response. Ronald Bailey took up the case for and against the movie in Reason magazine³ and commented that “the film is entirely free of scientific content—no scientific evidence against biological evolution and none for ‘intelligent design’ (ID) theory is given.” Of course the movie is really not about evidence against evolution but the inability of scientists who find fault with it to get their views published and respected. However, the revelation by Berlinski that nothing in evolutionary biology is clearly defined should give Bailey enough reason to reconsider whether evolution is true. Bailey glossed over the connection between Nazism and evolution by



noting “this overlooks the fact that people down through the millennia have found all sorts of

justifications for why they are permitted to murder each other, including plunder, tribal competition, and, yes, **religion**.” Bailey is technically true. The mere fact that I cite someone, say, Warren Krug, as permission for stealing an item does not mean I am justified in blaming him. However, the idea that different races of people evolved at different times — some therefore more evolved or primitive than the others — was a key evolutionist concept during that time and Nazis were merely properly applying this idea to their genocidal ways. Numerous books and articles have highlighted this link.⁴

Scientific American’s web site⁵ covered the movie and argued that intelligent design is not “out of bounds” because there is some preference for atheism, but because science by definition excludes design.

Actually, science avoids design explanations for natural phenomena out of logical necessity. The scientific method involves rigorously observing and experimenting on the material world. It accepts as evidence only what can be measured or otherwise empirically validated (a requirement called *methodological naturalism*). That requirement prevents scientific theories from becoming untestable and overcomplicated. By those standards, design-based explanations rapidly lose their

rigor without independent scientific proof that validates and defines the nature of the designer. Without it, design-based explanations rapidly become unhelpful and tautological: “This looks like it was designed, so there must be a designer; we know there is a designer because this looks designed.”

While it is true that science involves rigorous testing of the natural world and generally avoids design-based explanations, this is not always so. Archaeology would be impossible without an ability – and overwhelming tendency – to ascribe things to intelligent design (by humans, of course). Obviously no scientist has decided that design explanations in archaeology “become unhelpful and tautological” and even “lose their rigor.” Furthermore, scientific knowledge allows us to set boundaries around what is possible or not possible by natural processes or events and invoke design explanations when proper. Rather than pontificate over how science necessarily excludes design, we need to adjust our view of science depending on what we are studying.

To counter the argument that belief in evolution leads necessarily to atheism, Kenneth Miller of Brown University is trotted out. However, Miller’s methodology of squaring random evolution with divine intent re-

veals numerous fallacies and irreconcilable contradictions you won’t find in this online article. You also won’t find any mention of Miller’s predisposition toward his theistic evolution type of creationism which arises from his inability to imagine a god who creates by divine acts instead of establishing a natural process to accomplish what He wants. So Miller is obviously trying to shoehorn the Bible into evolutionary theory.

I still find this movie useful, but it must be considered when bracketed with some of the more critical sites I mention above. What this movie also reveals is that evolutionists would be wise to not appear on camera in a movie that is willing to ask whether evolution is really true.

LSI

1. See my review of his book *Holy Daze* at <http://webpages.charter.net/jeffstueber/dolan1.htm>
2. <http://www.ratemyprofessors.com/ShowRatings.jsp?tid=649890>
3. <http://www.reason.com/news/show/125988.html>
4. For instance, see Milford Wolpoff and Rachel Caspari, *Race and Human Evolution*, (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1997)
5. <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=six-things-ben-stein-doesnt-want-you-to-know&page=3>



NUGGETS

Is it Normal or is it Alzheimer's?

Normal: Occasionally forgetting appointments or names of people, movies, books, etc. **Worrisome:** Forgetting names of family members or very close friends; forgetting things just learned.

Normal: Forgetting why you came into a room or what you had planned to say. **Worrisome:** Frequently being unable to perform everyday tasks such as cooking, making a phone call, etc.

Normal: Sometimes having trouble finding the right word.

Worrisome: Forgetting simple words or substituting an unusual one. Example, asking for “that thing in my mouth” instead of a toothbrush.



Normal: Forgetting the day of the week or where you are going. **Worrisome:** Getting lost in your own neighborhood or forgetting how you got someplace.

Normal: Making a questionable decision such as not wearing a hat or gloves in cold weather. **Worrisome:** Frequently making inappropriate decisions such as forgetting to put on a pair of pants or of giving away large sums of money to a stranger.

Normal: Having trouble balancing your checkbook. **Worrisome:** Forgetting what numbers are for or of how to do simple addition and subtraction.

Normal: Occasionally losing a wallet or a set of keys.

Worrisome: Putting things in unusual places such as keys in the freezer or a wallet in the cookie jar.



Normal: Occasionally feeling moody or sad. **Worrisome:** Rapid mood swings—from calm to tears to anger, for example—for no apparent reason.

Normal: Sometimes feeling weary of work or of social obligations.

Worrisome: Extreme passivity; for example, sitting in front of the TV for hours or sleeping much more than usual.

—From the Alzheimer's Association, quoted in *Consumer Reports OnHealth* (January, 2009)

An Evolutionist On Why Evolution Theory is Dangerous for Christians

“For creationists, history is based on the Bible and the belief that God created the world 6,000-10,000 ago. . . . We humans were perfect because we were created in the image of God. And then there was the fall. Death appears and the whole account [in the Bible] becomes one of deterioration and degeneration. So we then have Jesus in the New Testament, who promises redemption. Evolution completely flips that. With evolution, you don’t start out with anything perfect, you start with primitive little wiggly things, which evolve into apes and, finally, humans. There’s no perfect state from which to fall. This makes the whole plan of salvation silly because there never was a fall.”

—Ronald Numbers, Prof of the History of Science and Medicine, U. Wisconsin-Madison



Once years ago the Soviet Union met the United States in a dual track meet, which the U.S. won handily. Here’s how a Moscow newspaper reported the results: “U.S.S.R. comes in second. U.S. finishes next to last.”

Christian News (5/5/08)

Where Did That Expression Come From? — Part 1

- ▶ “*Beating around the bush*”—from hunters trying to scare game out of trees and bushes.
- ▶ “*Break a leg*”—apparently from a superstitious German custom to wish friends ill so as not to tempt fate in wishing them something good.
- ▶ “*Letting the cat out of the bag*”—from dishonest grocers in the Middle Ages who sneakily replaced fat pigs in bags with stray, and probably angry, cats.

—*American Profile (Oct. 5-11, 2008)*

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

World Will End in 2012, Some Say

But the warning made in books, on Web sites, and in a Hollywood movie is just a hoax.

Web Page: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/science/01/27/2012.maya.calendar.theories/index.html>



SUMMARY: It's a warning fueled by a crop of books, Web sites with countdown clocks, survival schools, T-shirts, and an upcoming Hollywood movie. The dire message claims that the year 2012 will mark the end of the world or at least the dawn of a new era. That movie starring John Cusack and due out in the fall is aptly named **2012**.

All this speculation is based upon a calendar developed by the ancient Maya. December 21, 2012 marks the end of a 5,126-year cycle on the Maya Long Count calendar. Some people believe the Maya chose this date because they thought something ominous was going to happen then. The fact December 21, 2012 does mark the beginning of the winter solstice and also a time when the sun is aligned with the center of the galaxy does add to the faith of believers in this theory. Ideas about how the world will end include volcanic eruptions caused by solar storms and a polar reversal that will cause the Earth to rotate in the opposite direction.

Serious scholars don't think the Maya said anything meaningful about 2012. Anthony Aveni, a professor at Colgate U., says the ancient Maya didn't know anything about the center of the Milky Way. And John Major Jenkins, an author of books on the Maya, says the Maya regarded cycle endings as a time of transformation and renewal, not catastrophe. Meanwhile, dozens of books about 2012 are being published and the Internet is alive with 2012-related sites and people searching for answers. However, NASA scientist David Morrison writes that it is all a hoax.

COMMENT: There appear to be three things that are certain in life--death, taxes,

and new predictions about the end of the world. Remember Y2K and some of the ominous predictions about what a new millennium would bring?

Many people down through the years have thought the end of the world was near. Even some well-known people had set dates for the world's end. Charles Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist church, thought 1794 would be the year. Joseph Smith of Mormon fame appeared to predict at least two different years, the latest was 1890. Ellen White, the founder of Seventh Day Adventists, set many dates and, of course, failed many times. The Jehovah's Witnesses said 1914. and when that prediction failed, made end-of-the-world predictions for several other years. TV's Pat Robertson said 1982. Hal Lindsey said 1988, and I could go on and on.

One thing is sure-Jesus made no such prediction. He said about the Last Day, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew 24:36, NIV) The Bible does tell us the end will come suddenly (1 Thessalonians 5:1-4, Matthew 24:37-39) and has given us some signs indicating that the end is near: unusual events in the heavens (Luke 21:25) as well as false prophets, wars, famines and earthquakes (Matthew 24:4-8). These signs are with us today, but they have also been with preceding generations. So, it appears Jesus is trying to keep every generation on its toes. "Be ready. I can come at any time."

For sure Jesus will return, and for believers in Him as their Savior, it will be a glorious time, not one we should in the least bit fear. As we come to believe that His death washed away the guilt of our sins, we repent that we cannot live up to His standards. But we rejoice that in His love He overlooks our failures and will on the Last Day welcome us into His heavenly palace and ours.

QUESTION OF THE DAY



What damage would be caused by the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) if passed by Congress?

It would again legalize partial-birth abortions, would do away with informed consent (meaning patients wouldn't be given full disclosure about abortion), would do away with parental involvement laws, would eliminate conscience clauses (meaning all medical professionals would be required to perform abortions), would scrap the Hyde Amendment which has prohibited federal tax dollars from paying for abortions, and would stop states from preventing the transfer of minor children across state lines to get an abortion.

Source: *Clearly Caring* (First quarter, 2009)

Evolution's Weaknesses Need not be Taught In Texas

State Board of Education members in Texas have tentatively approved a change in science curriculum standards that no longer require science teachers to teach the "weaknesses" of the theory of evolution. Opponents of that requirement had tried to tie it to the teaching of creationism. However, the new standards do apparently provide a loophole: students will still be able to discuss the "sufficiency or insufficiency" of Darwinism. The new science standards will be up for a final vote in March.—*dallasnews.com* (1/25/09)



Another Creation Museum To be Built — This One in Korea

The construction of another creation museum is in the works, this one in South Korea! The Korean Association of Creation Research (KARC), which claims 1,000 members including 500 PhD scientists, is sponsoring the ambitious project. KARC began soon after a visit in 1980 by Drs. Henry Morris and Duane Gish of the Institute for Creation Research.—*Answers* (January-March, 2009)

Stem Cells Reverse Paralysis in Rats

Adult stem cells transplanted in lab rats have been found to reverse paralysis associated with spinal cord injuries. Spanish researchers took stem cells from the lining of the rats' spinal cords and transplanted them into some with serious spinal cord injuries. Within one week, the injured rats recovered significant motor activity. Up to 400,000 people in the U.S. are thought to suffer from spinal cord injuries.—*livescience.com* (1/29/09)

Apes Get Legal Rights

The Spanish Parliament has approved granting legal rights to great apes which include chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orangutans. The resolution, which is expected to take effect in June of this year, would prevent harmful research on the animals and prohibit exploitation for profit such as their use in films, commercials and circuses.—*Discover* (January, 2009)

Chinese Take to Caves

About 20 million Chinese have taken to living in an inexpensive eco-friendly type of dwelling that is fireproof, noise-proof, warm in winter and cool in summer, namely a cave. These caves can be found on the Loess Plateau in China's northwest. Some of the caves have been passed down for generations and can feature such modern conveniences as electrical wiring, piped-in plumbing and even cable television. Economic necessity has driven some but not all of the cave-dwellers to live where they do.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (12/28/08)

Slime Molds Remember

Single-celled slime molds may not have a brain, but Japanese researchers have found they can nevertheless memorize and anticipate repeated events. Scientists at Hokkaido University subjected *Physarum* slime-mold amoebas to periods of cold, dry conditions during which they slowed down their motions. After three trials, the cells began slowing their activities at the right times even though the temperatures were not lowered.—*Discover* (January, 2009)

Aviation Industry Learns From Dragonfly Wings

Dragonflies have highly-corrugated wings that are poorly designed according to the aviation industry's standards. Yet, the insects can glide for up to 30 seconds without flapping, and now researchers know why. Stiffening pleats on the wings not only provide strength but have an aerodynamic function as well. Tests found the wings offer much greater lift in gliding flight that match or even better what streamlined wings can produce.—*Creation* (December, 2008-February, 2009)

American Students Doing Better on Tests

American students are doing much better in math and science, but Asian students still dominate, according to an international study. U.S. students, contrary to what some have thought, are holding their own in science and math when compared to other developed countries. In fourth and eighth grade math, they are above average.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (12/10/08)

Dangerous Concussions

Studies of brain tissue from deceased NFL athletes by the Boston University School of Medicine are discovering that multiple concussions can be far more dangerous than previously believed. All six of six ex-NFL players studied showed severe brain damage. Damage was found throughout the brains, which looked like brains of old people suffering from dementia. Moreover, this condition which is called chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) isn't just confined to NFL players. One 18-year-old multi-sports athlete was found to have it.—*cnn.com* (1/27/09)



Avoiding Stress is Good for the Brain

Easygoing people who are less likely to experience stress seem to have a reduced chance of developing dementia in old age, according to a Swedish study. In Stockholm physician Laura Fratiglioni studied 56 80-year-olds who didn't have dementia when they enrolled in the six-year study. Interviews and questionnaires helped determine how extroverted the patients were and which ones suffered from neuroticism, a state of being easily distressed. People with low levels of neuroticism and high scores on extrovert traits were found to be the least likely to develop dementia.—*sciencenews.org* (1/19/09)

Green Tea's Benefits

A study in Europe has provided more evidence that drinking green tea has a health benefit, in this case improving blood flow and the function of endothelial cells. The trial involved participants who drank either green tea or diluted caffeine. A significant increase in endothelial function, meaning increased blood flow, was noted within 30 minutes only by those drinking the tea. A healthy endothelial lining can help avoid blood vessel blockage.—*Mayo Clinic Health Letter* (December, 2008)

Massages Help Patients Deal With Pain

Cancer patients who received massages reported less pain and improved mood after each session, according to a study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Even simple touching by untrained therapists who placed their hands on patients for three minutes at a time provided similar benefits.—*Consumer Reports OnHealth* (December, 2008)

Eat Slowly-Lose Weight

A Japanese study involving 3,300 people found that those who ate slowly were less likely to gain weight than fast eaters. This revelation was true even after the scientists made adjustments for the number of calories consumed. Eating quickly may slow the rate at which the body burns calories.—*Consumer Reports OnHealth* (January, 2009)



Computer Use Good For the Elderly

Older people who do research on the Internet show more activity in areas of the brain responsible for memory, language, reading, and complex thinking. UCLA scientists scanned the brains of 24 volunteers with an MRI, while they were on the Internet, half of which were already skilled Web surfers. Both groups displayed increased brain activity, but the regular Internet users showed twice the amount of brain stimulation.—*Consumer Reports OnHealth* (January, 2009)



Exercise is Good For the Brain

Researchers now think they know why exercise can help maintain the brain and prevent cognitive decline. People who exercise regularly over the long term tend to develop substantially more small blood vessels in their brains, a study at the U. of North Carolina suggested. More blood vessels means more blood flow which appears to help maintain cognitive function as people age.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (12/2/08)

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Ink

“You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with *ink* but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” 2 Corinthians 3:3 (NIV)



These words were written by St. Paul to Christians in the city of Corinth. He is telling them that their lives are like a letter showing how the Holy Spirit has changed them. But this kind of letter is not written with ink.

What is ink? Ink is a colored liquid, paste or

powder used for writing, printing or drawing. It is used for printing newspapers, magazines, cartons and much more.

What is ink made of? Usually ink is made of two things, a *colorant* and a *vehicle*. The colorant is what gives ink its color. The vehicle holds the colorant and helps it stick to paper or other material.

What are the different kinds of writing inks? Ballpoint pens contain kind of a sticky ink inside the pens which comes out slowly as a person writes or draws. The ink inside fountain pens is much more of a liquid. Artists use special pens in making their drawings.



A fountain pen

What kinds of ink do computer printers use? Most inkjet printers have

small containers called cartridges that contain liquid ink which is sprayed onto paper in droplets to form letters and pictures. Laser printers use powdered ink called toner. When the powder is heated inside the printer, it sticks to the paper.

When was ink first used? There are records of Egyptians and Chinese using inks at least as early as 2500 B.C. They made their ink from natural materials such as berries, bark, soot, or oil from a plant called flax.

What is a quill? Before fountain pens and ballpoint pens were invented, people used quills. A quill comes from the feathers of certain birds such as the goose. The pointed end is dipped into a container of ink called an ink well.



Source: The World Book

Pictures: Wikipedia Commons

There is more than one way to send a message. Writing with ink is only one way. As our Bible verse tells us, how we live is another way. If unbelievers see us living like Christians, we might just lead them to discover Jesus and find out He can be their Savior too.

Activities:

1. Write with invisible ink. Dip a small paint brush into some lemon juice and then write a secret message on white paper. After the invisible message dries, with your parents' help or permission, bake the paper in an oven set at 325 degrees for 3 to 5 minutes. The message now should be visible.

2. Turn black ink into colors. With a black felt tip marker (washable), make a big black dot on a coffee filter or a white paper towel. Sprinkle a few drops of water on the dot. Watch the ink spread out into an interesting pattern. What colors do you now see?

► My View



British Think Science is Elitist and Irrelevant

A survey about science was conducted not long ago in Great Britain and the results were an eye-opener. Great Britain is, of course, the home of Charles Darwin. It is Darwin's theory that unifies all of science we are often told. Yet, amazingly most of the British interviewed had a low regard for science, considering it remote, elitist and irrelevant. Only 3% thought science had the most effect on their lives, and not many young people in Britain seem to be interested in pursuing science professions.

The British government is obviously upset by this development and is not sitting still. An expo and a celebrity debate have been set up in an effort to change public attitudes about science. The chief executive of the Science Council said, "We need to get away from the elitist, geeky image that science suffers from."

Perhaps I can offer some suggestions from the viewpoint of a creationist. First, secular scientists should stop being so arro-

gant. For instance, empty claims such as "virtually all qualified scientists now accept evolution" or "evolution is as well proven as the law of gravity" are getting a bit tiresome because they are used so often and it is so easy to disprove them.

Secondly, these scientists could be a bit more polite. In online creation/evolution debates I have followed, the verbal abuse that creationist participants have been subjected to have taken sarcasm to a new level.

Thirdly, the scientists could be more open. They recently forced the Texas Department of Education to remove a requirement that science teachers were to teach the weaknesses of Darwinism along with the strengths. That move seems to suggest science has something to hide.

Thanks to God science has done much for the public good in making our lives healthier and easier, but the stubbornness many scientists display in holding onto a theory of origins that is contradicted by so much evidence is doing nobody any good.

Scientists should forget the origins debate and concentrate on practical science, and then we can all go about spending more time on important things in our lives, such as spreading the Gospel to the unsaved. LSI

—Warren Krug, editor

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