

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

by

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January 22, 2007

Los Alamos, New Mexico

# 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 scientifically illiterate public, and from a media that frequently treats all points of view as equal, when they most certainly are **not**.
- Will science eventually be required to pass religious and political muster even more in the future?
- Are there forces promoting a theocracy in the US?

# What is “Modern” Intelligent Design?

- All ID activists vigorously claim that “Intelligent Design” (ID) is not religious, although there is NO 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

- *“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."*

## ID's "Leading Lights" (New Mexico)

- STARKVILLE (2006) - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," and 6,000 years later, according to a society at Mississippi State University, scientists will gather to prove it.  
The other lectures include "Thousands, Not Billions - Radioisotope Evidence for a Young World" July 18 by **Dr. Russell Humphreys**, a retired [Sandia] nuclear physicist; "Tectonic Catastrophe and the Geologic Record" July 19 by **Dr. John Baumgardner**, a retired Los Alamos geophysicist; <http://www.djournal.com/pages/archive.asp?ID=224002>
- Many more NM Intelligent Design creationists can be found at: <http://www.nmsr.org/nmcists.htm> and [www.cesame-nm.org](http://www.cesame-nm.org)

# 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

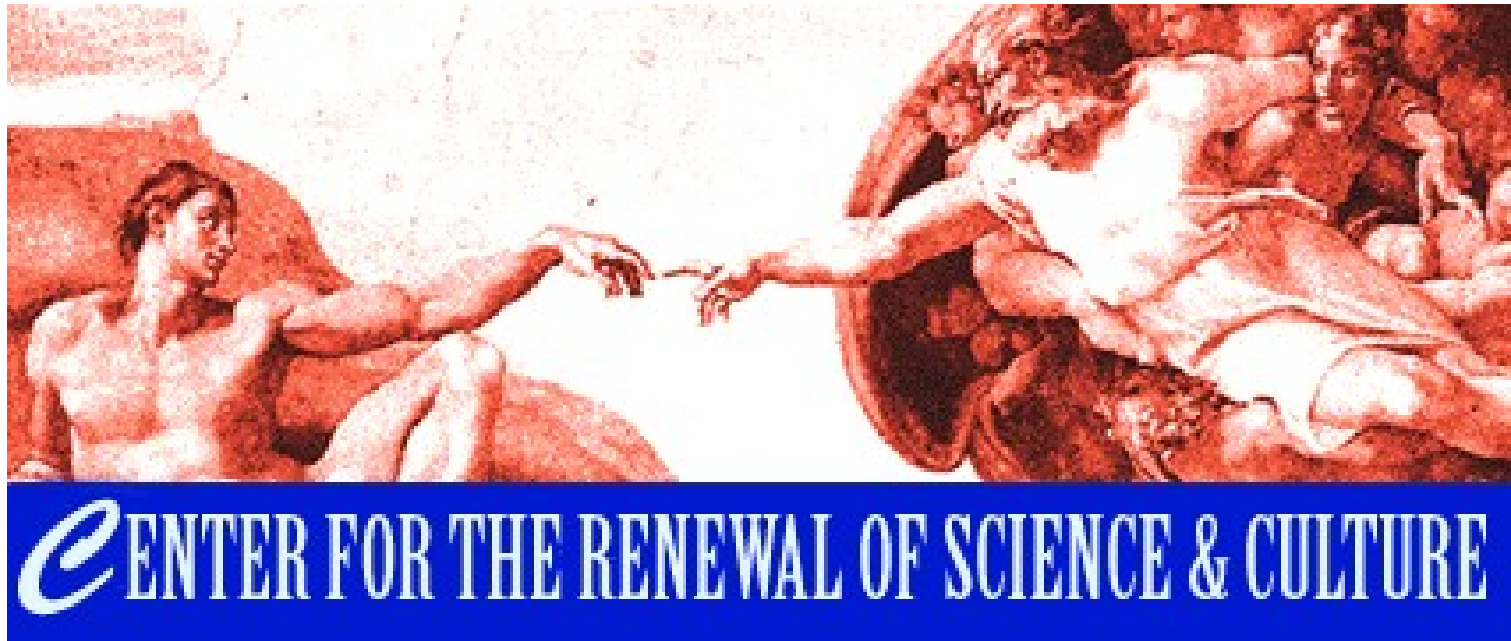
- Evolution is only the initial target of ID.
- It would be followed by an attack on all of science, and ultimately by profound changes in our society, culture and government.
- They want to change the entire character of American society.

# ID World View

## The 1998 “Wedge” Document

- Marked: TOP SECRET - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION  
(leaked to web in 1999)  
<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)
- 6 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!***



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...."

# Discovery Institute's Evolving Banners 1996-2005



Center for the Renewal of Science & Culture (CRSC)

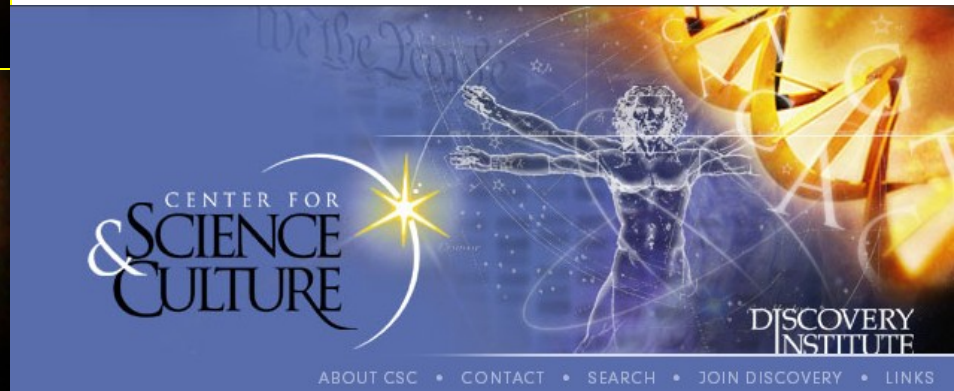
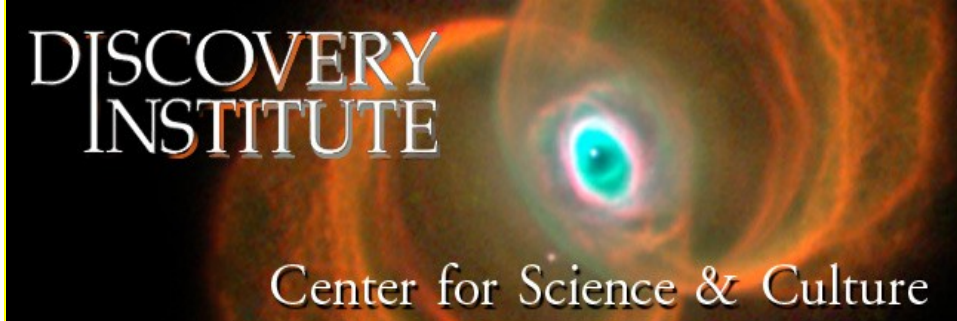
**e** CENTER FOR THE RENEWAL OF SCIENCE & CULTURE



Center for the Renewal of Science & Culture (CRSC)



Center for Science & Culture (CRSC)



# 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.crosswalk.com/news/weblogs/mohler/?adate=1/30/2004#1243665>
- “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....”
- “Critics of the [Kansas] standards are trying to censor science, they’re trying to stifle science, they’re afraid to let students learn about some of the problems with evolutionary theory.”
- “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 [of a science teacher] 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.

# Dover Trial Responses

- 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.)
- 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
- Settle for any change or modification in their goals, and declare anything as a victory
- Equate evolution to atheism
- Portray themselves as “victims” of a scientific conspiracy
- Promote stealth ID creationist legislation in AL, OK, NM!

# 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
- “*Origins science,*” “*irreducible complexity,*” and “*complex specified information*” are anti-science ID neologisms

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

# 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 [[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 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.

# 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

***Biology and Creation 1986***

**Creation** means that the various forms of life began abruptly through the agency of an **intelligent creator** with their distinctive features already intact--fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc.

2-13

***Biology and Origins 1987***

**Creation** means that various forms of life began abruptly through the agency of an **intelligent Creator** with their distinctive features already intact--fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc.

2-14

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

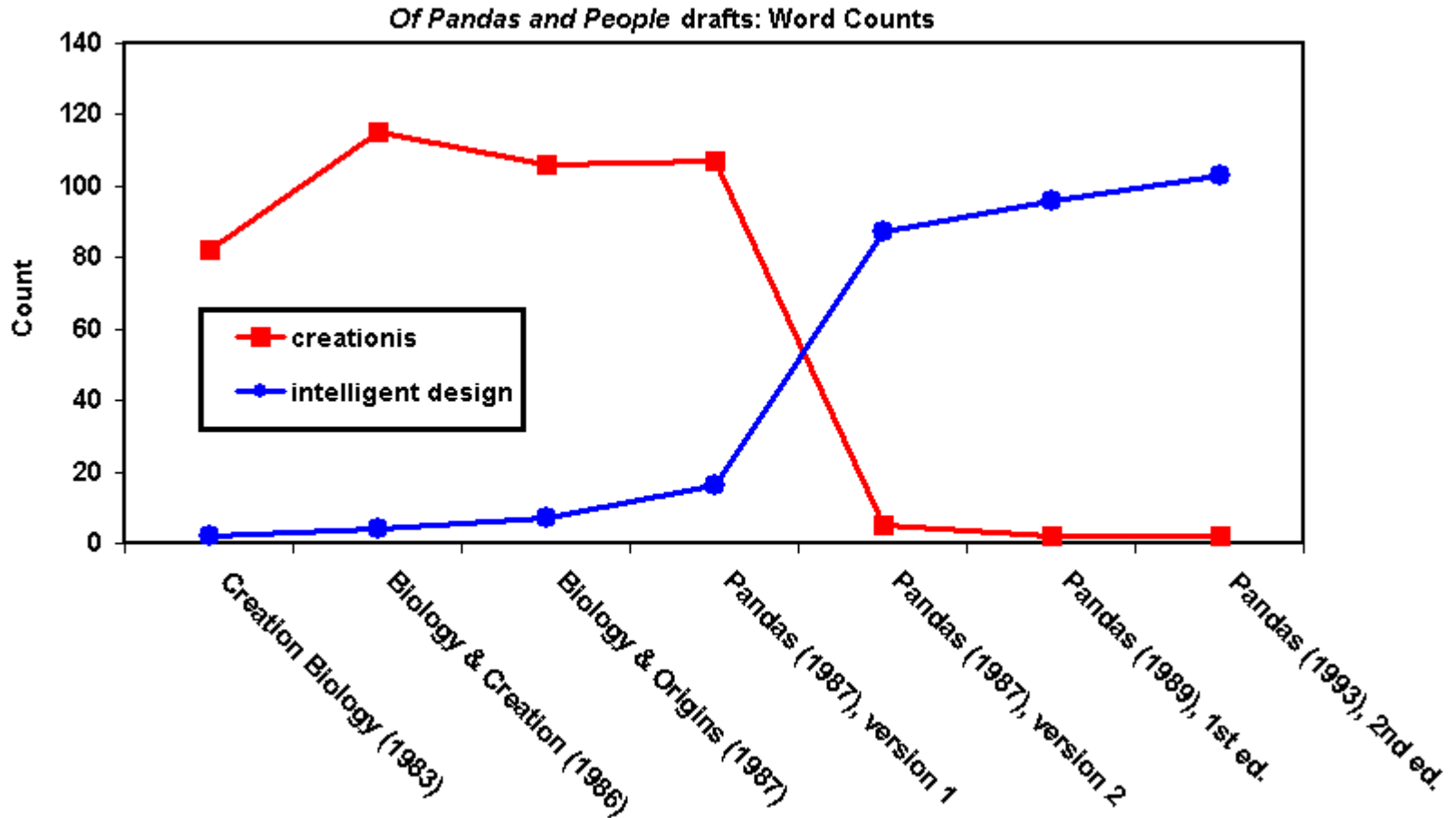
**Creation** means that various forms of life began abruptly through the agency of an **intelligent Creator** with their distinctive features already intact--fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc.

2-15

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

**Intelligent design** means that various forms of life began abruptly through an **intelligent agency** with their distinctive features already intact--fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc.

# Intelligent Design = Creation science



# Current Events!

- Many states engaged in anti-evolution legislation for public schools, including New Mexico – this session!
- Cobb County, GA: Stickers removed from textbooks
- Kansas: Kangaroo court and ID in schools; 2 creationists defeated in election; good science standards will return
- Dover, PA: Trial ruled ID religion; all 8 ID Board members defeated in election
- Ohio: ID lesson plan & “critically analyze” - overturned
- US: IMAX movies undergo self-censorship
- NSTA: Science teachers often avoid “controversy”
- 2004 Gallup & Newsweek polls: 45% to 48% of Americans believe in Biblical creationism (95% of scientists believe in secular or theistic evolution)

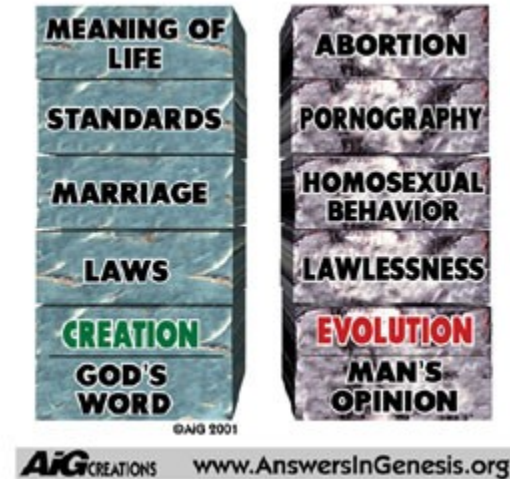
# Proposed Bill and Resolution in NM Legislative Session Now!

- “Give teachers the affirmative right and freedom” to inform students of other “scientific information” about biological origins and protect them.
- “Encourage students to think critically” 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.



# Why Must the ID creationist Movement Be Actively Resisted?

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



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

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

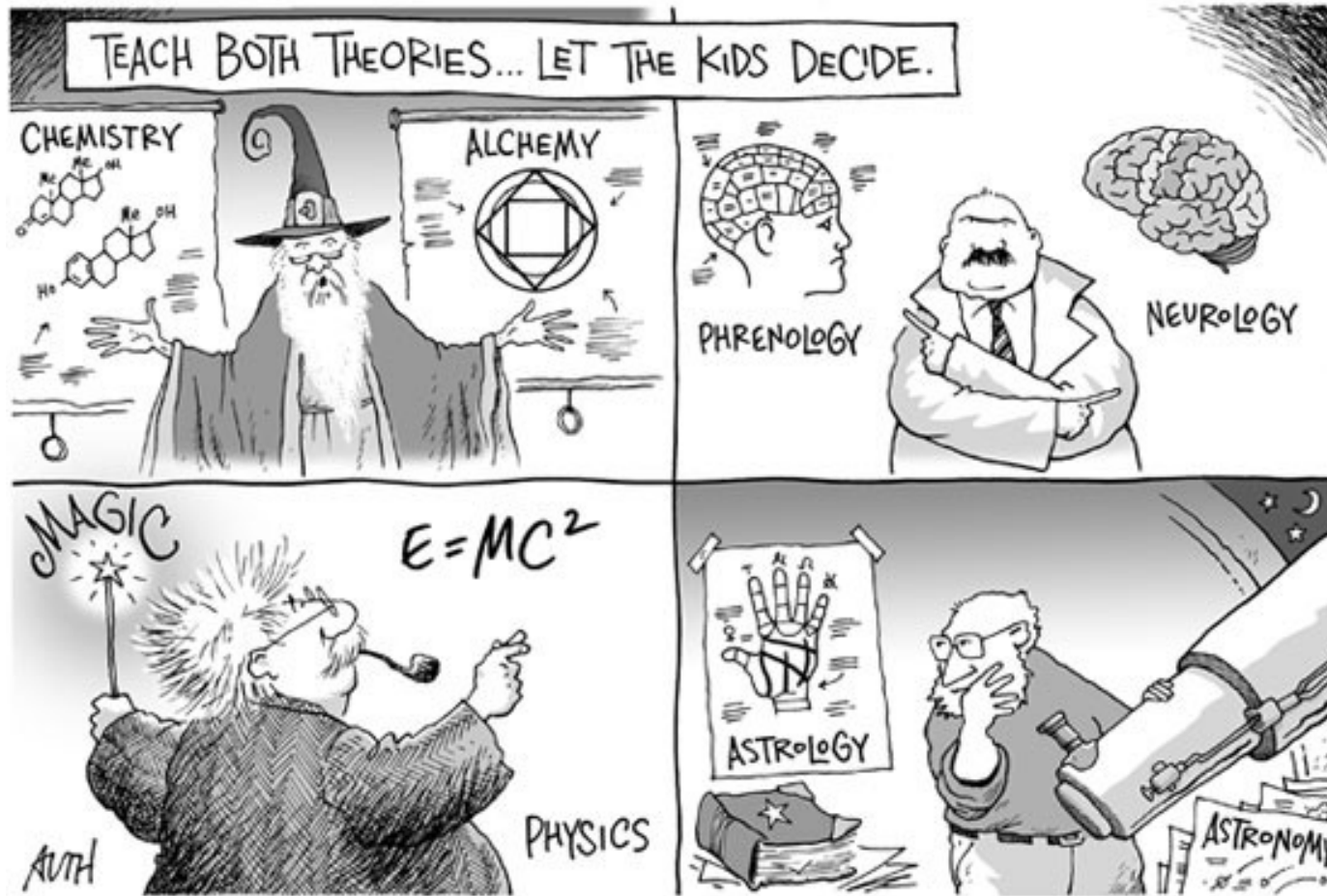
I've talked about WHAT IDers have said, WHAT they do, and HOW they do it. Now WHY do they do it? Fear that their faith - and society's morals - will crumble!



# What can you do?

- Understand and resist the false ID propaganda:
  - Evolution = atheism
  - Teach the controversy
  - 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 “beliefs”
- Speak at colloquia, churches, other venues.
- Write letters to newspapers, politicians.
- Join a Citizens for Science, Clergy for Science, and/or other state or national groups.
- Oppose the bill and resolution that will be presented at the NM Legislature.
- Contact me, CESE, NCSE, et al. for help and connections.  
mberman @earthlink.net, www.cesame-nm.org, www.ncseweb.org

“Teach both theories; let the kids decide”



8-4-15 THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE.

# Darwin Day Events 2007

- Darwin's birthday: February 12
- Same as Lincoln's birthday
- Clergy project: Discuss the compatibility of religion and science in sermons and/or discussion groups on Feb. 11. So far, 10,600 signatories on the letter:

[http://www.butler.edu/clergyproject/clergy\\_project.htm](http://www.butler.edu/clergyproject/clergy_project.htm)

# 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

