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Clarification on the Intelligent Design Issue

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[bu75](#)★

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target="\_blank"></a>);</SCRIPT>



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09-19-2007, 12:56 PM



BU fan

**Clarification on the Intelligent Design Issue**

Can someone explain to me Baylor's, or perhaps Baptists' problem with Intelligent Design? I have never studied or even read anything about ID, and am trying to learn some more about it.

From what little I have gathered, ID supposes that their is a "God" that formed things, but tries to prove this empirically (sp)? My first reaction was a misunderstanding of why Baylor has a problem with a theory that supposes a God created things, but then I thought the problem was with trying to make it scientific.

Anyway, Im pretty ignorant to this topic and need some basic info. Thanks in advance.

Join Date: Feb 2005  
Posts: 617  
My Mood: [Smile](#)  
Reputation Points: 38

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09-19-2007, 01:47 PM



**Solan=Christ!!!★**

Scorpion Eater  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Feb 2004  
Location: Woodway  
Posts: 16,039  
My Mood: [Sneaky](#)  
Reputation Points: 1833

The short version is that it *doesn't* try to prove it empirically. Intelligent Design presents itself as science and demands (on an ideological basis) to be treated equally with evolutionary theory in science classrooms. The problem is that ID is not a valid scientific theory. It's not testable, nor are any of its tenets. It's not falsifiable. It's not parsimonious. It's not science.

The idea that there is a God who created the natural universe is a grand one. It should be examined at Baylor. It should (and is), however, be examined in departments with the tools to examine it - namely philosophy and religion.

I'm a big fan of academic freedom and the academic peer process. If Mark has developed some method for testing a tonet of the theory of ID with a computer model, more power to him. He's welcome to do it on his own time and submit it to journals in his discipline. His discipline can then decide what is or is not valid. To use Baylor as a battleground for ideology in the guise of science, however, is downright wrong.

For those truly interested in the issue, Leviathan makes some fantastic posts on the subject in these threads:

<http://baylorfans.com/forums/showthr...igent+Desig>

<http://baylorfans.com/forums/showthr...igent+Desig>

09-19-2007, 01:53 PM

**Sin\_Bad**

Baylor fan

Join Date: Jun 2005  
Posts: 2,649  
Reputation Points: 273

monster monster

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Flash, it sounds like you have the essence of it. The problem is not that ID holds that God created everything. It's that such belief cannot be proven by science, because it is inherently un-testable. The problem comes because ID advocates try to pass off as science what instead is really a matter of faith. And when you think about it in scientific terms, ID really is pretty silly. Its advocates don't dispute that evolution has taken place since life appeared on Earth. They say that life forms are too "irreducibly complex" to have developed by chance and evolution; therefore, they conclude that life could have been created only by God. Any freshman who has taken a class in logic could see the flaws in this reasoning.

Opponents have long suspected that ID was simply being trotted out as a fancy dressing for creationism. Turns out they were right. There was a big trial last year or so in Pennsylvania regarding school materials that presented ID. Turns out the publishers had taken some old materials about creationism and simply replaced that word wherever it appeared with "intelligent design."

quote

09-19-2007, 02:12 PM

#4

**Flash**★  
BU fan

Join Date: Feb 2005  
Posts: 617  
My Mood: **FREE**  
Reputation Points: 38

Appreciate the input fellas.

quote

09-20-2007, 12:14 AM

#5

**Geaux Bears**  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2007  
Location: K-ville  
Posts: 8  
Reputation Points: 7

Is speciation falsifiable?

quote

09-20-2007, 12:53 AM

#6

**RD2WINAGNBEAR86**  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Dec 2001  
Location: Seguin, Tx.  
Posts: 3,620  
My Mood: **Relaxed**  
Reputation Points: 321

I am a firm believer that it was GOD who created the "Big Bang Theory". I feel strongly both ways. Not my way or the highway! I see no reason that Evolution and Creationism can't co-exist! No reason to be offended by evolution. Don't believe we were monkeys, -just hairier and more hunched over versions of what we have become.

If not, methinks wisdom teeth and our appendix must be just two Intelligent Design flaws.

RD2

Last edited by RD2WINAGNBEAR86 : 09-20-2007 at 12:56 AM.

quote

09-20-2007, 12:59 AM

#7

**Solan=Christ!!!**★  
Scorpion Eater  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Feb 2004  
Location: Woodway  
Posts: 16,039  
My Mood: **Sneaky**  
Reputation Points: 1833

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Geaux Bears**  
*Is speciation falsifiable?*

Again, I'll defer to Leviathan in a thread posted above.

<http://baylorfans.com/forums/showpos...4&postcount=90>

<http://baylorfans.com/forums/showpos...9&postcount=92>

quote

09-20-2007, 08:33 AM

#8

**Leviathan**  
fan

Join Date: Sep 2004  
Posts: 229  
Reputation Points: 107

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Geaux Bears**  
*Is speciation falsifiable?*

Yes.

For example, when Darwin wrote The Origin of Species--which is all about speciation--the discovery of the structure of DNA by Watson and Crick was still 100 years in the future. However, Darwin knew at the time that there must be a biological mechanism of heredity common to all life and that it must have certain very specific properties in order for speciation to be viable. This is a testable prediction. It turns out that DNA has just such properties. But had Watson and Crick found something with different properties, properties inconsistent with the possibility of speciation, speciation may well have been falsified.

quote

09-20-2007, 01:43 PM

#9

**ecow**  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2000  
Location: moved  
Posts: 1,843  
Reputation Points: 30

I don't believe that ID should be forced into the classroom to be taught equally to evolution, but I do think science classes could do a better job of pointing out where the science is not complete. Evolution is blown way out of proportion and extended to support things that it never should have. The classes should do better job of highlighting the weaknesses in surrounding the theory of evolution as well as it's strengths.

The central problem in all this is that we basically don't have a pin head's worth of the knowledge that they're is to be found in the universe, but we're willing to extrapolate with that knowledge declare some things certain just to fit our own personal world view. This same problem that is highlighted by scripture in the Bible itself. One can waste a serious amount of time here, and we will never know all there is to know or even a significant portion of what their is to know about the universe we live in. Scientists, and atheists that love them, should be willing to admit that. All sides of this issue are practicing some sort of faith, and they always will.

I'm tried of little robots emerging from high schools and proclaiming that God does not exist because we can't explain the age of the earth, evolution, and the big bang.

Last edited by ecow : 09-20-2007 at 02:14 PM. Reason: grammar sucked

quote

09-20-2007, 01:59 PM

#10



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**Sin Bad**  
  
 Baylor fan

Join Date: Jun 2005  
 Posts: 2,549  
 Reputation Points: 273

I've seen straw-man arguments before. Never encountered a straw robot till now.

 quote

---

09-20-2007, 02:59 PM

**nein51**  
  
 Thesis  
 Baylor fan

Join Date: Mar 2005  
 Location: Chicago/Cleveland/Waco - The Golden Triangle  
 Posts: 16,783  
 My Mood:  Yeah  
 Reputation Points: 1617

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Sin Bad**  
*I've seen straw-man arguments before. Never encountered a straw robot till now.*

On the 8th day God created straw-robots...

Seriously, one of the funniest posts on here in a LONG time.

Some of the most successful relationships are based on lies and deceit. Since that's where they usually end up anyway, it's a logical place to start.

 quote

---

09-20-2007, 05:48 PM

**Bearbuns**  
  
 fan

Join Date: Jul 2004  
 Posts: 430  
 My Mood:  Warfare  
 Reputation Points: 31

Quote:

Originally Posted by **RD2WINAGNBEAR86**  
*I am a firm believer that it was GOD who created the "Big Bang Theory". RD2*

God created the Big Bang Theory?

Kinda reminds me of the grant proposal I ran into the other day for an engineering conference. The topic was "Jesus as the Greatest Engineering Pedagogue", or some such thing. At one point, the explanation in the abstract read, "after all, it was Jesus that created gravity".

Since, I have been wondering what man did before Jesus. Float around?

 quote

---

09-20-2007, 07:44 PM

**Bearprof**  
  
 Baylor fan

Join Date: Jun 2003  
 Posts: 1,027  
 Reputation Points: 126

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bearbuns**  
*...At one point, the explanation in the abstract read, "after all, it was Jesus that created gravity".  
 Since, I have been wondering what man did before Jesus. Float around?*

Now that's funny. Props to you, Bearbuns...

 quote

---

09-20-2007, 10:30 PM

**LordByron**  
  
 BaylorFans Sponsor  
 Baylor fan

Join Date: Dec 2003  
 Location: Arlington, TX  
 Posts: 6,236  
 My Mood:  Angelic  
 Reputation Points: 305

Quote:

Originally Posted by **flash**  
*Can someone explain to me Baylor's, or perhaps Baptists' problem with Intelligent Design? I have never studied or even read anything about ID, and am trying to learn some more about it.  
 From what little I have gathered, ID supposes that their is a "God" that formed things, but tries to prove this empirically (sp)? My first reaction was a misunderstanding of why Baylor has a problem with a theory that supposes a God created things, but then I thought the problem was with trying to make it scientific.  
 Anyway, Im pretty ignorant to this topic and need some basic info. Thanks in advance.*

The problem, flash, is that ID is religion not science. It's quite OK to believe there is an Intelligent Designer. Teach it in Sunday School, not science classes.

We simplify internet marketing  
[www.wsimarketing.com/bbeels/specialoffers.aspx](http://www.wsimarketing.com/bbeels/specialoffers.aspx)

 quote

---

09-20-2007, 10:39 PM

**West Coast Bear**  
  
 Baylor fan

Join Date: Jun 2000  
 Posts: 1,326  
 My Mood:  Relaxed  
 Reputation Points: 203

Quote:

Originally Posted by **LordByron**  
*The problem, flash, is that ID is religion not science. It's quite OK to believe there is an Intelligent Designer. Teach it in Sunday School, not science classes.*

How about artificial ID or stupid ID or lame ID or well you get the idea. This concept is dumber than thinking aTm could beat Miami.

 quote

---

09-20-2007, 11:20 PM

#16

**Bearprof**  
  
 Baylor fan

Quote:  
 Originally Posted by **LordByron**  
*The problem, flash, is that ID is religion not science. It's quite OK to believe there is an Intelligent Designer. Teach it in Sunday School, not science classes.*

Join Date: Jun 2003  
 Posts: 1,027  
 Reputation Points: 126

What he said... All of the hand wringing about ID from its proponents is just sad. ID isn't science. That doesn't make it better or worse, but it just isn't science. It has nothing to do with lack of faith or the light going out or the grand experiment of 2012 or evil secularism or whatever. It just isn't science. How difficult is that to figure out? For its proponents, however, it is one of the arrows in the conservative evangelical quiver to promote their culture war.

 quote

Yesterday, 12:39 AM
#17

**Leviathan**  
  
 fan

Quote:  
 Originally Posted by **ecow**  
*Evolution is blown way out of proportion and extended to support things that it never should have.*

Join Date: Sep 2004  
 Posts: 229  
 Reputation Points: 107

Like what?

Quote:  
 Originally Posted by **ecow**  
*One can waste a serious amount of time here, and we will never know all there is to know or even a significant portion of what their is to know about the universe we live in. Scientists, and atheists that love them, should be willing to admit that.*

Most scientists will freely admit we know very little of what might possibly be known, and to imply otherwise is disingenuous. Scientists, and atheists that love them..? Could you be any more antisience?

Quote:  
 Originally Posted by **ecow**  
*I'm tried of little robots emerging from high schools and proclaiming that God does not exist because we can't explain the age of the earth, evolution, and the big bang.*

What kind of paranoid world do you live in? Your implication that high schools--and high school science classes in particular--are mass producing atheists is unfounded and absurd. How about considering the results of an actual study of American teenagers' religious beliefs -- the NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION ("Mapping American Adolescent Subjective Religiosity..."; Smith, Faris, Denton & Regneris, *Sociology of Religion*, 2003):

"One of the most widespread and persistent conventional beliefs about American teenagers is that they are very alienated from "established" or "organized" religion, and are becoming increasingly so...But do empirical data support this alienation--from--religion view?"

A couple of the findings:

- Nearly 90% of American youth say religion has some level of importance in their lives.
- Two thirds pray daily or weekly.

But what about trends?

"We therefore find no notable, consistent trend in these data reviewing the last quarter of the 20th Century of any increase in alienation or antagonism toward organized religion among American youth."

But perhaps you won't believe these findings because they are scientific afterall.

Last edited by Leviathan : Yesterday at 12:41 AM. Reason: spelling

 quote

Yesterday, 06:56 AM
#18

**Bearprof**  
  
 Baylor fan

Quote:  
 Originally Posted by **Leviathan**  
 Like what?

*Most scientists will freely admit we know very little of what might possibly be known, and to imply otherwise is disingenuous. Scientists, and atheists that love them..? Could you be any more antisience?*

*What kind of paranoid world do you live in? Your implication that high schools--and high school science classes in particular--are mass producing atheists is unfounded and absurd. How about considering the results of an actual study of American teenagers' religious beliefs -- the NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION ("Mapping American Adolescent Subjective Religiosity..."; Smith, Faris, Denton & Regneris, *Sociology of Religion*, 2003):*

*"One of the most widespread and persistent conventional beliefs about American teenagers is that they are very alienated from "established" or "organized" religion, and are becoming increasingly so...But do empirical data support this alienation--from--religion view?"*

*A couple of the findings:*

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*But what about trends?*

*"We therefore find no notable, consistent trend in these data reviewing the last quarter of the 20th Century of any increase in alienation or antagonism toward organized religion among American youth."*

*But perhaps you won't believe these findings because they are scientific afterall.*

Join Date: Jun 2003  
 Posts: 1,027  
 Reputation Points: 126

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the academic equivalent of a smackdown. Great Job, as usual, Leviathan.

 quote

Yesterday, 08:57 AM
#19

**houstonbear**  
  
 Baylor fan

is the Big Bang testable? Is it falsifiable?

Join Date: May 2000  
 Posts: 667  
 Reputation Points: 2

 quote

Yesterday, 09:40 AM
#20



WacoGone

Fartypants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,286  
My Mood: [sad](#)  
 Reputation Points: 1560

Yes. Yes.

Where there is DNA, there is life.

quote

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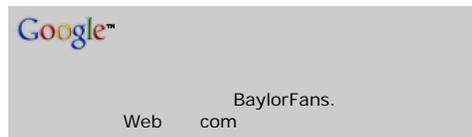
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09-21-2007, 10:18 AM

#21

ecow



Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2000  
Location: moved  
Posts: 1,871  
Reputation Points: 36

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bearprof**  
*That, ladies and gentlemen, is the academic equivalent of a smackdown. Great job, as usual, Leviathan.*

Agreed. Unfortunately, I wasn't trying to be academic, and I don't have much more time than just come on here, read, and spill my opinions and concerns, which can obviously be picked apart easily (it is a discussion board, not an academic debate board). I spend a lot of time browsing all sorts of websites technology related forums, web programming forums, religious debate forums, and Christian music forums to support my own projects and that is where my "opinions" come from. Maybe the audience is so skewed on those sites that it is not a good selection, but I find people spending way more time than necessary having to defend themselves in debates with these kids about whether or not God exists. I can only hope that I am wrong and that there are far more factors at play.

DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, CLICK! SIC THIS

quote

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09-21-2007, 10:34 AM

#22

JGTBH



Baylor fan

Join Date: Apr 2005  
Posts: 727  
My Mood: **Doubtful**  
Reputation Points: 28

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bearbuns**  
*God created the Big Bang Theory?*  
  
*Kinda reminds me of the grant proposal I ran into the other day for an engineering conference. The topic was "Jesus as the Greatest Engineering Pedagogue", or some such thing. At one point, the explanation in the abstract read, "after all, it was Jesus that created gravity".*  
  
*Since, I have been wondering what man did before Jesus. Float around?*

velcro

quote

09-21-2007, 11:22 AM

#23

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## Leviathan



fan

Join Date: Sep 2004  
 Posts: 230  
 Reputation Points: 117

Quote:

Originally Posted by [houstonbear](#)   
*Is the Big Bang testable? Is it falsifiable?*

The following draws excerpts from "Falsification and Demarcation in Astronomy and Cosmology", by Benjamin Sovacool, *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society*, Vol. 25, No. 1, 53-62 (2005).

Your question is a legitimate one. As the article notes, cosmology raises concerns about testability/falsifiability since it is a field from which grand theories about the origins of the universe emerge. And sometimes it is hard to imagine how such grand theories can be tested in totality. The following quote from the article expresses such a concern:

Michael Heller (1997), professor of philosophy at the Pontifical Academy of Theology, explained that cosmology pays a heavy price for its breadth in attempting to explain the universe. Because its theories are most often unverified, Heller (1997) argued they are prone to philosophical and theological abuse. Scientists and philosophers alike either construct the existence of God from weak points of scientific knowledge, or reject God on grounds there are no gaps in our science, making the science behind cosmology confusing and abstract.

The article goes on to review how well cosmologists/physicists/astronomers take seriously the ideas of Karl Popper about testability/falsifiability in trying to make sure their theories are "scientific". The conclusion is that scientists are acutely aware of the importance of testability/falsifiability for the legitimacy of their theories and spend most of their waking hours trying to make sure that their work is just that.

In an article analyzing the state of cosmology at the millennium, Michael S. Turner (2001) traced the developments of cosmology throughout the century. He noted that falsification has been the driving force in the evaluation of cosmological theories. For instance, the inflationary view of the universe—that the universe is in fact smooth and situated within a much larger, smooth inflationary bubble—was only developed after multiple observations falsified existing theories. The corroboration of cosmic microwave background was essential in developing a conception of nucleosynthesis and the notion that the universe can be perceived as an early oven that cooked the elements of the periodic table. Turner (2001) pointed directly to Popper's notion of risk taking in explaining these changes: This accounting speaks to the state of cosmology today—significant progress toward answering very basic questions but important issues still unresolved and room for more surprises. A new cosmological model, inspired by inflation and cold dark matter, aspires to the title of standard cosmology. However, with its unidentified dark matter and mysterious dark energy, it is currently very much on a limb. According to Karl Popper that's what strong theories do. (p. 655) New theories, Turner (2001) stated, are sound only because they are bold and testable. Cosmology must rely on observation and experimentation—rather than conjectures—to provide the testing of new theories consisting of the flatness of the universe, dark matter, and gravity waves.

Later, the article continues...

Scientists and scholars working in the field of astronomy turn directly and indirectly to Karl Popper when confronting these crises. Because astronomy, and especially cosmology, do not operate

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within a closed system, experiments and observations become difficult to test and verify. Many scientists use Popper to refine astronomical methodology and the construction of hypotheses. Carl Sagan relied on Popperian ideas when developing his theory of Venusian atmosphere. Boslough and Mather pointed to the use of Popper's philosophy in developing big bang theory and the discovery of cosmic background radiation. Balick and Frank place Popper as central in the construction of theories relating to planetary nebulae, stellar evolutionary theory, mass transfer in binary star systems, and putative magnetic fields.

Other astronomers, coping with these changes, have come to see Popper's ideas as a fundamental necessity in testing the legitimacy of theories that already exist. Freeman and Bland-Hawthorn (2002) used Popperian ideas when questioning theories of globular clusters; Gudel (2002) when refining stellar radio astronomy's approach to a variety of problems including polarized emission, energy processes of stars, and wind-collision shocks; Arnett (2001) and Massey (2003) when separately questioning stellar evolutionary theory.

Five other astronomers have invoked Popper in a variety of ways to critique the testability of cosmology: Turner (2001) on issues of nucleosynthesis, flatness of the universe, dark matter, and gravity waves; Narlikar and Padmanabhan (2001) on parameter adjustment and auxiliary hypotheses; Coles (2003) on contrasting a Bayesian inductive approach to cosmology; and Heller (1997) on creating a new methodological rigor as a precondition for a new cosmology.

Those astronomers and cosmologists that reference Popper directly demonstrate a formal familiarity with his philosophical writings. Those that referenced Popper indirectly demonstrate an informal familiarity with his concepts and ideas. In either case, they indicate the widespread acceptance of Popperian ideas within the field. Related to this conclusion, three interesting themes emerge. Astronomers tend to invoke Popper without a comprehensive investigation or review of his ideas. This indicates an assumption that their audience already grasps a fundamental understanding of Popper's philosophy. Moreover, none of the astronomers discussed here provided a comparative approach to the implications of Popper within the field. This indicates unfamiliarity with other astronomers' use of Popper's ideas. Furthermore, despite the first two themes, none seem to misunderstand or misuse Popper's concepts. Each of these tendencies seems to suggest a tacit agreement to view Popper as an important authority within the practice of astronomy.

 quote

09-21-2007, 01:49 PM

#24

[khmerbear](#)



Baylor U. fan

Join Date: Mar 2004  
Location: The Penh  
Posts: 82  
Reputation Points: 0



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Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bearprof**   
*That, ladies and gentlemen, is the academic equivalent of a smackdown. Great job, as usual, Leviathan.*

The academic equivalent of a smackdown? Slashing up Ecows opinions and thoughts with such a finely sharpened intellectual rapier is more equivalent to the schoolyard bully enraged with ego instead of brawn or a sort of Don Rickels routine of academic snobbery. I have been reading this "R&P Message Board for those; Spurned by a Fundy/Needing a Place to Flex Their Knowledge That is Unwanted in the Real World/Who do not have the Capacity to Communicate Their Feelings Through Traditional Forms of Communication/ Who are Total Whackjobs" for a few years now and I can state this day that there is little reason now for me to troll a forum overrun by well...trolls. Intellectual trolls at that which is a scary concept as they hold court on the silly everyday sports fan passing through or the hopelessly un-intellectual evangelical. I am glad I guess that there is a place for you fine people to hold court with your ne plus ultra thoughts. Maybe one day after I have been spurned by this world or find myself unable to effectively communicate outside of placing a mask of a great beast (was username "behemoth" taken?) over my burgeoning desire to have a voice I will begin my quest to join the message board commune here-where Wilco is the greatest band in the world, Underwood was an academic god, and people actually listen to Ron Paul. You can have your smackdowns Bearkopf and your logically reasoned reason as well. When more than bearded literary critics (you should see the males!) and edgy cool coffee house intellectuals care about them there smackdowns drop me a note. Calvin was French, it is pronounced 'kh-mai', I love Baylor, I hate Aggies. Goodnight.

Last edited by khmerbear : 09-21-2007 at 02:20 PM. Reason: yawn

 quote

09-21-2007, 02:42 PM

#25



**Solan=Christ!!!★**



Scorpion Eater  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Feb 2004  
 Location: Woodway  
 Posts: 16,059  
 My Mood:  Sneaky  
 Reputation Points: 1849

How dare you people THINK and RESPOND?!

 quote

09-21-2007, 08:25 PM

#26

**RD2WINAGNBEAR86**



Baylor fan

Join Date: Dec 2001  
 Location: Seguin, Tx.  
 Posts: 3,628  
 My Mood:  Relaxed  
 Reputation Points: 321

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bearbuns**   
*God created the Big Bang Theory?*

*Kinda reminds me of the grant proposal I ran into the other day for an engineering conference. The topic was "Jesus as the Greatest Engineering Pedagogue", or some such thing. At one point, the explanation in the abstract read, "after all, it was Jesus that created gravity".*

*Since, I have been wondering what man did before Jesus. Float around?*

Hello Bearbuns! I admire your skepticism.

You ask a very valid question that I even think about but quit when my brain starts aching, - "If God created the universe, then who created God?"

Believing in God and Jesus Christ is all about faith. No, many things about Christianity make no sense. Especially for those with a scientific background. That is why nobody has seen an actual ghost or there are no remaining living witnesses of Moses parting the Red Sea. If we had these things, there would be no need for faith.

RD2

Last edited by RD2WINAGNBEAR86 : 09-21-2007 at 08:29 PM.

 quote

09-21-2007, 09:35 PM

#27



**WacoGone**★



Fattypants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,295  
My Mood: TIRED  
 Reputation Points: 1560

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Solan=Christ!!!**   
*How dare you people THINK and RESPOND?!*

And Leviathan is, without question, one of the most insightful, thoughtful, and calmly informative people on this board, if not the most. Every post has so much good, clearly articulated and well-referenced information that it just makes me guuuhreeen with envy, even as I enjoy reading them.

Where there is DNA, there is life.

quote

09-21-2007, 11:17 PM

#28

**Bearbuns**



fan

Join Date: Jul 2004  
Posts: 430  
My Mood: INSPIRED  
 Reputation Points: 31

I'll second that.

quote

09-22-2007, 12:07 AM

#29

**Bearprof**



Baylor fan

Join Date: Jun 2003  
Posts: 1,028  
 Reputation Points: 128

Quote:

Originally Posted by **khmerbear**   
*The academic equivalent of a smackdown? Slashing up Ecows opinions and thoughts with such a finely sharpened intellectual rapier is more equivalent to the schoolyard bully enraged with ego instead of brawn or a sort of Don Rickels routine of academic snobbery. I have been reading this "R&P Message Board for those; Spurned by a Fundy/Needing a Place to Flex Their Knowledge That is Unwanted in the Real World/Who do not have the Capacity to Communicate Their Feelings Through Traditional Forms of Communication/Who are Total Whackjobs" for a few years now and I can state this day that there is little reason now for me to troll a forum overrun by well...trolls. Intellectual trolls at that which is a scary concept as they hold court on the silly everyday sports fan passing through or the hopelessly un-intellectual evangelical. I am glad I guess that there is a place for you fine people to hold court with your ne plus ultra thoughts. Maybe one day after I have been spurned by this world or find myself unable to effectively communicate outside of placing a mask of a great beast (was username "behemoth" taken?) over my burgeoning desire to have a voice I will begin my quest to join the message board commune here- where Wilco is the greatest band in the world, Underwood was an academic god, and people actually listen to Ron Paul. You can have your smackdowns Bearkopf and your logically reasoned reason as well. When more than bearded literary critics (you should see the males!) and edgy cool coffee house intellectuals care about them there smackdowns drop me a note. Calvin was French, it is pronounced 'kh-mai', I love Baylor, I hate Aggies. Goodnight.*

Nice stream of consciousness. I was admiring Leviathan's dismantling of the pseudo-logic of ID proponents who still don't realize that ID isn't science. As for your message, you might consider the notion that clarity of expression is greatly prized on this board. "Spurned by this world?" "Logically reasoned reason?" Please.

Smackdown is the right term. Lighten up, Francis.

quote

09-22-2007, 01:32 AM

#30



Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2000  
Location: moved  
Posts: 1,871  
Reputation Points: 36

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bearprof**  
*Nice stream of consciousness. I was admiring Leviathan's dismantling of the pseudo-logic of ID proponents who still don't realize that ID isn't science.*

Leviathan was right, but your post is wrong, and it mis-characterized the opinions I pitched. I wasn't pushing ID, and I did not claim it to be a science. My issues were with how I believe evolution is being taught in the classroom and elevated in the everyday media to our younger generation.



quote

09-22-2007, 09:32 AM

#31

Leviathan



fan

Join Date: Sep 2004  
Posts: 230  
Reputation Points: 117

everybody echill. ecow and I are ecool.

quote

09-22-2007, 10:14 AM

#32

Bearprof



Baylor fan

Join Date: Jun 2003  
Posts: 1,028  
Reputation Points: 128

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ecow**  
*Leviathan was right, but your post is wrong, and it mis-characterized the opinions I pitched. I wasn't pushing ID, and I did not claim it to be a science. My issues were with how I believe evolution is being taught in the classroom and elevated in the everyday media to our younger generation.*

Fair enough. As soon as ID can be verified using the scientific method, then it will be elevated in the media as well. We shouldn't be holding our breath, though. Some things have to be taken on faith.

quote

09-22-2007, 10:36 AM

#33



Solan=Christ!!!\*



Scorpion Eater  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Feb 2004  
Location: Woodway  
Posts: 16,059  
My Mood: Sneaky  
Reputation Points: 1849

Quote:

Originally Posted by **WacoGone** 

*And Leviathan is, without question, one of the most insightful, thoughtful, and calmly informative people on this board, if not the most. Every post has so much good, clearly articulated and well-referenced information that it just makes me guuuhreeen with envy, even as I enjoy reading them.*

If I could write half that clearly and effortlessly, my job would be exponentially easier.

 quote

09-22-2007, 07:13 PM

# 34

LIBEARal



Baylor fan

 Join Date: Oct 2002  
 Posts: 35  
 Reputation Points: 10

### Intelligent Design Is Creationism in a Cheap Tuxedo by Adrian L. Melott

My deliberately provocative title is borrowed from Leonard Krishtalka, who directs the Natural History Museum at the University of Kansas. Hired-gun "design theorists" in cheap tuxedos have met with some success in getting close to their target: public science education. I hope to convince you that this threat is worth paying attention to. As I write, intelligent design (ID) is a hot issue in the states of Washington and Ohio (see *Physics Today*, May 2002, page 31\*). Evolutionary biology is ID's primary target, but geology and physics are within its blast zone. Creationism evolves. As in biological evolution, old forms persist alongside new. After the Scopes "Monkey Trial" of 1925, creationists tried to get public schools to teach biblical accounts of the origin and diversity of life. Various courts ruled the strategy unconstitutional. Next came the invention of "creation science," which was intended to bypass constitutional protections. It, too, was recognized by the courts as religion. Despite adverse court rulings, creationists persist in reapplying these old strategies locally. In many places, the pressure keeps public school biology teachers intimidated and evolution quietly minimized.

However, a new strategy, based on so-called ID theory, is now at the cutting edge of creationism. ID is different from its forebears. It does a better job of disguising its sectarian intent. It is well funded and nationally coordinated. To appeal to a wider range of people, biblical literalism, Earth's age, and other awkward issues are swept under the rug. Indeed, ID obfuscates sufficiently well that some educated people with little background in the relevant science have been taken in by it. Among ID's diverse adherents are engineers, doctors--and even physicists.

ID advocates can't accept the inability of science to deal with supernatural hypotheses, and they see this limitation as a sacrilegious denial of God's work and presence. Desperately in need of affirmation, they invent "theistic science" in which the design of the Creator is manifest. Perhaps because their religious faith is rather weak, they need to bolster their beliefs every way they can--including hijacking science to save souls and prove the existence of God.

William Dembski, a mathematician and philosopher at Baylor University and one of ID's chief advocates, asserts that: ". . . any view of the sciences that leaves Christ out of the picture must be seen as fundamentally deficient."<sup>1</sup> Whether or not they agree with Dembski on this point, most Americans hold some form of religious belief. Using what they call the Wedge Strategy,<sup>2</sup> ID advocates seek to pry Americans away from "naturalistic science" by forcing them to choose between science and religion. ID advocates know that science will lose. They portray science as we know it as innately antireligious, thereby blurring the distinction between science and how science may be interpreted.

When presenting their views before the public, ID advocates generally disguise their religious intent. In academic venues, they avoid any direct reference to the Designer. They portray ID as merely an exercise in detecting design, citing examples from archaeology, the SETI (search for extraterrestrial intelligence) project, and other enterprises. Cambridge University Press has published one ID book,<sup>3</sup> which, the ID advocates repeatedly proclaim, constitutes evidence that their case has real scientific merit. ID creationist publications are nearly absent from refereed journals, and this state of affairs is presented as evidence of censorship.

This censorship, ID advocates argue, justifies the exploitation of public schools and the children in them to circumvent established scientific procedures. In tort law, expert scientific testimony must agree with the consensus of experts in a given field. No such limitation exists with respect to public education. ID advocates can snow the public and school boards with pseudoscientific presentations. As represented by ID advocates, biological evolution is a theory in crisis, fraught with numerous plausible-sounding failures, most of which are recycled from overt creationists. It is "only fair," the ID case continues, to present alternatives so that children can make up their own minds. Yesterday's alternative was "Flood geology." Today's is "design theory."

Fairness, open discussion, and democracy are core American values and often problematic. Unfortunately, journalists routinely present controversies where none exist, or they present political controversies as scientific controversies. Stories on conflicts gain readers, and advertising follows. This bias toward reporting conflicts, along with journalists' inability to evaluate scientific content and their unwillingness to do accuracy checks (with notable exceptions), are among the greatest challenges to the broad public understanding of science.

ID creationism is largely content-free rhetoric. Michael Behe, a biochemist at Lehigh University and an ID proponent, argues that many biochemical and biophysical mechanisms are "irreducibly complex."<sup>4</sup> He means that, if partially dismembered, they would not work, so they could not have evolved. This line of argument ignores the large number of biological functions that look irreducibly complex, but for which intermediates have been found. One response to Behe's claims consists of the tedious task of demonstrating functions in a possible evolutionary path to the claimed irreducibly complex state. When presented with these paths, Behe typically ignores them and moves on. I admire the people who are willing to spend the time to put together the detailed refutations.<sup>5</sup>

The position of an ID creationist can be summarized as: "I can't understand how this complex outcome could have arisen, so it must be a miracle." In an inversion of the usual procedure in science, the null hypothesis is taken to be the thing Dembski, Behe, and their cohorts want to prove, albeit with considerable window-dressing. Dembski classifies all phenomena as resulting from necessity, chance, or design. In ruling out necessity, he means approximately that one could not predict the detailed structures and information we see in biological systems from the laws of physics. His reference to chance is essentially equivalent to the creationist use of one of the red herrings introduced by Fred Hoyle:

A junkyard contains all the bits and pieces of a Boeing 747, dismembered and in disarray. A whirlwind happens to blow through the yard. What is the chance that after its passage a fully assembled 747, ready to fly, will be found standing there?<sup>6</sup>

Having dispensed with necessity and chance, Dembski concludes that design has been detected on the grounds that nothing else can explain the phenomenon--at least according to him. Of course, design has no predictive power. ID is not a scientific theory. If we had previously attributed the unexplainable to design, we would still be using Thor's hammer to explain thunder. Nor does ID have any technological applications. It can be fun to ask ID advocates about the practical applications of their work. Evolution has numerous practical technological applications, including vaccine development. ID has none.

As organisms evolve, they become more complex, but evolution doesn't contravene the second law of thermodynamics. Dembski, like his creationist predecessors, misuses thermodynamics. To support the case for ID, he has presented arguments based on a supposed Law of Conservation of Information, an axiomatic law that applies only to closed systems with very restricted assumptions.<sup>7</sup> Organisms, of course, are not closed systems.

ID's reach extends beyond biology to physics and cosmology. One interesting discussion concerns the fundamental constants. There is a well-known point of view that our existence depends on a number of constants lying within a narrow range. As one might expect, the religious community has generally viewed this coincidence as evidence in favor of--or at least as a plausibility argument for--their beliefs. The ID creationist community has adopted the fundamental constants as additional evidence for their Designer of Life--apparently not realizing that many fine-tuning arguments are based on physical constants allowing evolution to proceed. Physical cosmology is largely absent from school science standards. Where present, as in Kansas, it is likely to come under ID attack.

I have only scratched the surface here. Don't assume everything is fine in your school system even if it seems free of conflict. Peace may mean that evolution, the core concept of biology, is minimized. No region of the country is immune. Watch out for the guys in tuxedos--they don't have violins in those cases.

Adrian Melott is a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He is also a founding board member of Kansas Citizens for Science.

quote

Yesterday, 12:46 PM

#35

[caseman](#)



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000  
 Location: Dallas  
 Posts: 15,832  
 My Mood: Pensive  
 Reputation Points: 1207

khmer

Wow dude. Nicely played! 🙄

Last edited by caseman : Yesterday at 01:08 PM. Reason: I made myself sound like a tacky ass-hole, and that was not my intention

quote

Yesterday, 01:11 PM

#36

[KODIAK](#)



Baylor fan

Join Date: Oct 1999  
 Posts: 8,740  
 Reputation Points: 280

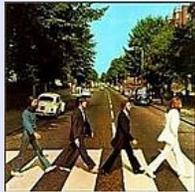
What a completely dumb ass quote. " Any science that leaves Christ out is deficient" is what Dembskii said. What the hell does any science have to do with Jesus. In other words why would Jesus be mentioned in a science text. Furthermore I thought the ID folks always said it is not about God but an intelligence that created. Well if so what is the deal with Jesus.

Man I'm embarrassed Baylor's name ever was or is attempted to be associated with this. This is a route to being Tier 1 like Steele was the route to a national title.

quote

Yesterday, 01:11 PM

#37



[Maxwell's Silver Hammer](#)



Father McKenzie fan

Join Date: Oct 1999  
 Location: Abbey Road, London  
 Posts: 7,967  
 My Mood: Psychedelic  
 Reputation Points: 873

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Tuxedo article**

*Dembski, like his creationist predecessors, misuses thermodynamics. To support the case for ID, he has presented arguments based on a supposed Law of Conservation of Information, an axiomatic law that applies only to closed systems with very restricted assumptions. 7 Organisms, of course, are not closed systems.*

And here you have the link between Dembski and Marks's "evolutionary informatics" research - and probably the explanation for how Dembski ended up back on the BU payroll through a soft money grant that, quite likely, came from a non-profit organization that is a front for the Discovery Institute. Sounds like Marks sets up computing systems that simulate Dembski's closed systems, "proving" that such systems don't create new information.

quote

Yesterday, 01:28 PM

#38

[caseman](#)



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000  
 Location: Dallas  
 Posts: 15,832  
 My Mood: Pensive  
 Reputation Points: 1207

Dembski is just claiming that it would be hard to imagine the intricacies of science without God. I know a lot of people do not like the man, and I certainly do not want the Polyani Institute associated with my Chemistry degree, but the guy has cred. He graduated from U Chicago with PhD in mathematics (not applied mathematics, btw), he did post-doc work with NSF and Harvard, I think (for sure with NSF). This dude isn't the Global Warming debunker of the month from Saskatchewan Institute of Trapping and Hunting that the usual suspects roll out every week or so.

Still, like I said before, I think we need to sever ties with him as my Chemistry degree may suffer due to our association...

quote

Yesterday, 02:30 PM

#39



**WacoGone**★

Fattypants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,295  
My Mood: TIRED  
 Reputation Points: 1560

He's not "just" claiming that, case. He's being disingenuous in a way that reflects badly on both science and religion. He and his colleagues are part of a planned agenda to drive a wedge--their word--between science and religion. I don't care if he got his PhD in mathematics from God. His "science" is awful. His hypotheses are untestable nonsense not subjectable to the standards or practice of the scientific method. The entire "movement" is designed to get creationism into science classrooms, and not just any creationism, but specifically Christian creationism. It would be laughable, what with the reactionary spawning of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, etc.--were not some dullards out there on various school boards actually taking this idiocy seriously.

Go to their Website. The entire thing is disingenuous from beginning to end. They have a statement on their about "Darwinism" (a code word for them; no scientist I know actually seriously refers to themselves as a Darwinist; we've come waaay too far beyond Darwin at this point to limit any of this to him) and natural selection. It happens to be a statement that ANY scientist with decent training would agree with. It's called "A scientific dissent from Darwinism," and the statement is as follows:

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Discovery Insitute**  
*We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.*

Guess what? NO SCIENTIST who knows anything about this subject claims that random mutation and natural selection account for the complexity of life. There are many many other ways that DNA is rearranged and transferred that do not involve either of these mechanisms. And of course, careful examination of "Darwinian theory" is not only encouraged among actual scientists, but required, and it always has been. What is NOT stated in this little manifesto is the underlying agenda, which is actually directly counter to this call for a "careful examination" of anything scientific. What they really intend is for this to be a condemnation of "Darwinism" in favor of Christian creationism. Many scientists have signed this statement, quite a few from non-English-speaking countries. It's quite easy to take the statement at face value and agree with it. But these people operate at a much deeper level, and this carefully worded statement is fully intended to dupe and deceive for the furtherance of their agenda.

Where there is DNA, there is life.

quote

Yesterday, 02:35 PM

#40

**caseman**



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000  
Location: Dallas  
Posts: 15,832  
My Mood: Pensive  
 Reputation Points: 1207

I am not a huge fan, but his books are thought provoking. I was just defending his education because it was inferred that he was a complete dumbass due to his statement. Not so.

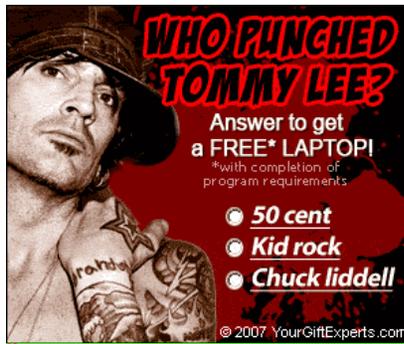
quote

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Yesterday, 02:40 PM #41

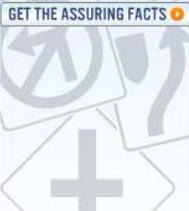
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**BOLD MOVES**

caseman



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000  
 Location: Dallas  
 Posts: 15,832  
 My Mood: Pensive  
 Reputation Points: 1207

...oh and by the way, I am well aware about the "Darwinist" stuff. It is, like you said, driving a wedge between good, God-fearing people who either don't understand science, or listen to the Ayn Rand masturbators about scientists being all ivory tower liberals with no use (read: not contributing to the economy supposedly) to industrialized society versus those good, God-fearing people who are educated in science, or at least understand it, and think it is wonderful that we are shooting for manned missions to Mars and trying to understand biologically how we got here.

I hate it as a Christian more than anything.....and like I said earlier, the Polyani Institute's association with Baylor could be costly to me and any other BS/MS/PhD holder from the biological and physical sciences at Baylor.



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Yesterday, 02:57 PM

#42



WacoGone

Fattypants!  
 300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
 Location: In my house  
 Posts: 12,295  
 My Mood: TIRED  
 Reputation Points: 1560

Quote:

Originally Posted by **caseman**  
*I am not a huge fan, but his books are thought provoking. I was just defending his education because it was inferred that he was a complete dumbass due to his statement. Not so.*

As my children demonstrate daily, one can be extremely bright yet have no real common sense.

Where there is DNA, there is life.



Yesterday, 04:19 PM

#43

ecow



Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2000  
 Location: moved  
 Posts: 1,871  
 Reputation Points: 36

Quote:

Originally Posted by **KODIAK**  
*What a completely dumb ass quote. "Any science that leaves Christ out is deficient" is what Dembskii said. What the hell does any science have to do with Jesus. In other words why would Jesus be mentioned in a science text. Furthermore I thought the ID folks always said it is not about God but an intelligence that created. Well if so what is the deal with Jesus.*  
*Man I'm embarrassed Baylor's name ever was or is attempted to be associated with this. This is a route to being Tier 1 like Steele was the route to a national title.*

Even one is going to bother to believe in Christ than how can it not be relevant to their own Science? It is a factor. Should it be used to stop research and education in some fields? I don't think so.

The reason they have to say "It's not about God." is because they don't want the distraction. If what they are then saying is not science, then disprove it and let's move on. This appears to be a failure of communication. They don't believe they are being being disproven, but people here clearly think they are.

I'm not embarrassed about God's role in science being discussed at a University with religious ties. However, I am a believer myself, if I was not then I might be embarrassed, who knows.



Last edited by ecow : Yesterday at 04:24 PM.



Yesterday, 05:51 PM

#44

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**KODIAK**



Baylor fan

Join Date: Oct 1999  
 Posts: 8,740  
 Reputation Points: 280

He said Jesus not God. Show me anything scientific that is written in red in the Gospels for Heaven's sake.

quote

Yesterday, 06:09 PM

#45

**caseman**



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000  
 Location: Dallas  
 Posts: 15,832  
 My Mood: Pensive  
 Reputation Points: 1207

Good point, Kodiak, I didn't realize that. The only 'scientific' parts of the bible are in Genesis or the Psalms.

Yes, Dembski is disingenuous and yes, one can be book smart and not street smart. However, I am pretty certain that Dembski himself doesn't parade himself as a Scientist, but a mathematician and philosopher. He likely has a little of common sense, as well. THIS isn't a blind support of the ID movement by me, quite the contrary. I do think that Dembski has some credentials in various academic fields.

quote

Yesterday, 06:17 PM

#46



**WacoGone**



Fattypants!  
 300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
 Location: In my house  
 Posts: 12,295  
 My Mood: TIRED  
 Reputation Points: 1560

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ecow**

*Even one is going to bother to believe in Christ than how can it not be relevant to their own Science? It is a factor. Should it be used to stop research and education in some fields? I don't think so.*

It may not be irrelevant to the practice of their work, to the ethics that they apply, to their day-to-day interactions with colleagues and others, or their decision not to engage in stem cell research. However, belief or disbelief in Christ has absolutely nothing to do with the conduct and implementation of the scientific method, the steps of which are:

1. Observe and formulate a question (e.g., How do people smell stuff?)
2. Hypothesize
3. Design experiments to test hypothesis.
4. Gather data/information.
5. Analyze data/information. Do the results fit the prediction of the hypothesis? If no, discard or adjust hypothesis. If yes, lather, rinse, repeat.

There is no need or place for religion in this practice. God, if He is what people say, is indeed above all of this, literally metaphysical, supernatural. He cannot be hypothesized and experimentalized and tested, and to aver that He can is, in my opinion, demeaning Him.

Quote:

The reason they have to say "It's not about God." is because they don't want the distraction. If what they are then saying is not science, then disprove it and let's move on. This appears to be a failure of communication. They don't believe they are being being disproven, but people here clearly think they are.

No. The reason they have to say that is because it's not about God. It's about the physical, material world. Sure, God coulda made that. But science cannot prove or disprove that or even design experiments to do so. Ergo, God is not a distraction in the conduct of a scientific investigation because God is not part of the questions being addressed. These questions are not about why, but about how, and the only "how" we lowly humans can address scientifically relates to the physical laws of the universe. When we stray into discussing "why," we've crossed into philosophy. Lovely stuff, but not science.

There is no failure of communication to say that the hypotheses proposed by IDers, and yea verily, even their fallacious arguments, simply are not addressible as science. They just aren't, God or not.

Quote:

I'm not embarrassed about God's role in science being discussed at a University with religious ties. However, I am a believer myself, if I was not then I might be embarrassed, who knows.

You make the mistake here of equating Dembski et al. and their goofy, insupportable ideas with God. God will have a role in whatever God presumably wants a role. Being a believer or not actually should not influence one's attitude about this ID nonsense. Either way, one should be embarrassed to have one's university associated with ID. It is bad science because it is untestable and not subject to the scientific method. It is bad theology because it attempts to reduce God to science, to something that can be established empirically. ID, in effect, attempts to efface faith from the theological equation. Where is God in that?

Where there is DNA, there is life.

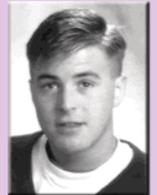
quote



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Yesterday, 06:20 PM #47



**WacoGone**★  
Fattypants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,295  
My Mood:  Tired  
 Reputation Points: 1560

Quote:

Originally Posted by **caseaman** 

*Good point, Kodiak, I didn't realize that. The only 'scientific' parts of the bible are in Genesis or the Psalms.*

*Yes, Dembski is disingenuous and yes, one can be book smart and not street smart. However, I am pretty certain that Dembski himself doesn't parade himself as a Scientist, but a mathematician and philosopher. He likely has a little of common sense, as well. This isn't a blind support of the ID movement by me, quite the contrary. I do think that Dembski has some credentials in various academic fields.*

I've read his stuff, and I find it irritatingly transparent in ideology and lacking in imagination. I don't even think he's a very good philosopher. And don't get me started on Behe. I don't really care how they "parade" themselves. It's what they're obviously attempting to parade as science that I find insidious.

Where there is DNA, there is life.

 quote

Yesterday, 06:21 PM #48



**ecow**★  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2000  
Location: moved  
Posts: 1,871  
 Reputation Points: 36

Quote:

Originally Posted by **KODIAK** 

*He said Jesus not God. Show me anything scientific that is written in red in the Gospels for Heaven's sake.*

News flash, to many people that is one in the same and their relationship with Jesus might just effect their life and beliefs some. Why limit Jesus to the red text?

**DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, CLICK!** **SIG THIS**

 quote

Yesterday, 06:34 PM #49



**ecow**★  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2000  
Location: moved  
Posts: 1,871  
 Reputation Points: 36

Quote:

Originally Posted by **WacoGone** 

*It may not be irrelevant to the practice of their work, to the ethics that they apply, to their day-to-day interactions with colleagues and others, or their decision not to engage in stem cell research. However, belief or disbelief in Christ has absolutely nothing to do with the conduct and implementation of the scientific method, the steps of which are:*

1. Observe and formulate a question (e.g., How do people smell stuff?)
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3. Design experiments to test hypothesis.
4. Gather data/information.
5. Analyze data/information. Do the results fit the prediction of the hypothesis? If no, discard or adjust hypothesis. If yes, lather, rinse, repeat.

*There is no need or place for religion in this practice. God, if He is what people say, is indeed above all of this, literally metaphysical, supernatural. He cannot be hypothesized and experimentalized and tested, and to aver that He can is, in my opinion, demeaning Him.*

*No. The reason they have to say that is because it's not about God. It's about the physical, material world. Sure, God coulda made that. But science cannot prove or disprove that or even design experiments to do so. Ergo, God is not a distraction in the conduct of a scientific investigation because God is not part of the questions being addressed. These questions are not about why, but about how, and the only "how" we lowly humans can address scientifically relates to the physical laws of the universe. When we stray into discussing "why," we've crossed into philosophy. Lovely stuff, but not science.*

*There is no failure of communication to say that the hypotheses proposed by IDers, and yea verily, even their fallacious arguments, simply are not addressible as science. They just aren't, God or not.*

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## Rent Movies From Netflix



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You make the mistake here of equating Dembski et al. and their goofy, insupportable ideas with God. God will have a role in whatever God presumably wants a role. Being a believer or not actually should not influence one's attitude about this ID nonsense. Either way, one should be embarrassed to have one's university associated with ID. It is bad science because it is untestable and not subject to the scientific method. It is bad theology because it attempts to reduce God to science, to something that can be established empirically. ID, in effect, attempts to efface faith from the theological equation. Where is God in that?

I agree with most of what you said when it is worded that way. I do believe ID is being over-generalized here. If they are trying to pitch it as science then at least the scientific parts of it should be testable, disproven, and then tossed aside without all this debate.

DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, CLICK! **SIC THIS**

quote

Yesterday, 08:08 PM

#50



**piratestef**   
Flying Spaghetti Monster Herself.  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Jan 2006  
Location: A vote of no-confidence  
Posts: 13,425  
My Mood: Amused  
 Reputation Points: 1000

There's a reason people look at BYU funny for having profs whose research goals include proving their own theology.

We'd look just as silly having any support behind Marks' or Dembski's research. Again, it's taking a hypothesis that's already proved in the researchers' minds and trying to prove it with means that are simply inadequate. You can't start the scientific process with a conclusion.

Fool me once, shame on thee. Fool me twice, shame on me.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **LinuxBear**   
'we can do all things thru coca.' - BoL

Last edited by **piratestef** : Yesterday at 08:23 PM.

quote

Yesterday, 08:15 PM

#51



**WacoGone**   
Fattypants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,295  
My Mood: TIRED  
 Reputation Points: 1560

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ecow**   
I agree with most of what you said when it is worded that way. I do believe ID is being over-generalized here. If they are trying to pitch it as science then at least the scientific parts of it should be testable, disproven, and then tossed aside without all this debate.

Ecow, the trouble is finding something to test. IDer Michael Behe's stated hypothesis, for example, is "that perhaps molecular machines appear to look designed because they really are designed." Looking at the scientific method, something that has been applied with tremendous success since the time of Galileo as a way to evaluate and test a hypothesis, you will find that there is no way to test what is essentially a form of tautology (they're designed because they are designed). How do you form experiments to test whether or not things "really are designed"?

Where there is DNA, there is life.

quote

Yesterday, 08:21 PM

#52



**WacoGone**★

Fatty pants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,295  
My Mood: Tired  
Reputation Points: 1560

And Dembski's obsession with natural selection, as though that were the ONLY agent of evolutionary change, drives me nuts. In addition to the standard genetic drift and gene flow, we also have gene transfer, jumping genes, lateral transfer, symbiosis, rearrangement of chromosomes, and probably the most amazing mechanisms of all, regulation of genes themselves--sometimes huge swaths of genes--by other genes. This myopic focus on "Darwinism," as though scientists adamantly insist that this is the ONLY way differential traits have arisen, is simply a straw man. Possibly evolved from a straw monkey, but straw, nevertheless.

It's something that they try to use to dupe people--especially Christians--whom they believe either don't know any better or won't bother to find out. That's possibly the most insidious thing of all: These people either willfully or out of stupidity use misinformation to mislead Christians, as though Christians have something to fear from facts and data and therefore must be protected through this misleading campaign of filtered, buzzworded "ideas." Any self-respecting Christian ought to find it insulting.

Where there is DNA, there is life.

quote

Yesterday, 08:38 PM

#53

**ecow**★



Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2000  
Location: moved  
Posts: 1,871  
Reputation Points: 36

Quote:

Originally Posted by **WacoGone**

*And Dembski's obsession with natural selection, as though that were the ONLY agent of evolutionary change, drives me nuts. In addition to the standard genetic drift and gene flow, we also have gene transfer, jumping genes, lateral transfer, symbiosis, rearrangement of chromosomes, and probably the most amazing mechanisms of all, regulation of genes themselves--sometimes huge swaths of genes--by other genes. This myopic focus on "Darwinism," as though scientists adamantly insist that this is the ONLY way differential traits have arisen, is simply a straw man. Possibly evolved from a straw monkey, but straw, nevertheless.*

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There is a definite tendency among the ID supporters to only the develop the idea for the purposes of evangelism and not to any detail strong enough to pass a scientific test of any sort.



quote

Yesterday, 09:07 PM

#54

**caseman**



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000  
Location: Dallas  
Posts: 15,832  
My Mood: Pensive  
Reputation Points: 1207

Quote:

Originally Posted by **WacoGone**

*I've read his stuff, and I find it irritatingly transparent in ideology and lacking in imagination. I don't even think he's a very good philosopher. And don't get me started on Behe. I don't really care how they "parade" themselves. It's what they're obviously attempting to parade as science that I find insidious.*

Maybe I should rephrase what I was trying to say. The ID movement, after I was 'shown the way' back about half a year ago, is filled with people who have no science or math knowledge past Bill Nye the Science Guy and Plane Geometry that they received a C- in back in high school. They listen to people like Ann Coulter, who spent about half of her bestseller, *Godless* trying to convince people that Darwin's theory evolution was a left wing conspiracy. Many of them are simpletons who pick sides because they think darwin='secular progressive' (thanks Bill O'Reilly for that wonderful addition to the political lexicon) and ID=Christian. The movement is filled of a lot of people who are unobjective, disingenuous, insidious, mendacious and spurious (how'd you like \*those\* adjectives???)

Dr Dembski, however, is an academic. He may teach at SWBTS, but his background is very impressive. It is so easy these days to just put a label on something or someone and then one doesn't have to encounter the actual points, etc. that said labeled person is promoting. Examples may include WacoGone is a lesbo with 21 partial birth abortions! or Bumaruski is a nut! Dembski may be the #1 most guileful and deceptive man on the planet, but he isn't a simpleton, and he sure isn't an idiot. In fact, I saw him on The Daily Show once and he seemed geeky, but articulate.

Regarding *The Design Inference*, I thought it was a good read. Dembski isn't the first mathematician to introduce these types of statistical theories. LaPlace (maybe the most important mathematician of his time), Emile Borel, Andrey Kolmogorov (author of the Kolmogorov complexity) et al have come up with similar theories to the Law of Small Probabilities. *Darwin's Black Box*, on the other hand was a bunch of mumbo jumbo to me. So no Behe defense from me...

OK, back to the Cowboy game.

Yesterday, 09:29 PM

#55



WacoGone★

Fatty pants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,295  
My Mood: Tired  
Reputation Points: 1560

Quote:

Originally Posted by [caseman](#)

*Maybe I should rephrase what I was trying to say. The ID movement, after I was 'shown the way' back about half a year ago, is filled with people who have no science or math knowledge past Bill Nye the Science Guy and Plane Geometry that they received a C- in back in high school. They listen to people like Ann Coulter, who spent about half of her bestseller, Godless trying to convince people that Darwin's theory evolution was a left wing conspiracy. Many of them are simpletons who pick sides because they think darwin='secular progressive' (thanks Bill O'Reilly for that wonderful addition to the political lexicon) and ID=Christian. The movement is filled of a lot of people who are unobjective, disingenuous, insidious, mendacious and spurious (how'd you like \*those\* adjectives???)*

*Dr Dembski, however, is an academic. He may teach at SWBTS, but his background is very impressive. It is so easy these days to just put a label on something or someone and then one doesn't have to encounter the actual points, etc. that said labeled person is promoting. Examples may include WacoGone is a lesbo with 21 partial birth abortions! or BUmaruski is a nut! Dembski may be the #1 most guileful and deceptive man on the planet, but he isn't a simpleton, and he sure isn't an idiot. In fact, I saw him on The Daily Show once and he seemed geeky, but articulate.*

*Regarding The Design Inference , I thought it was a good read. Dembski isn't the first mathematician to introduce these types of statistical theories. LaPlace (maybe the most important mathematician of his time), Emile Borel, Andrey Kolmogorov (author of the Kolmogorov complexity) et al have come up with similar theories to the Law of Small Probabilities. Darwin's Black Box , on the other hand was a bunch of mumbo jumbo to me. So no Behe defense from me...*

*OK, back to the Cowboy game.*

Did I call him an idiot? I don't remember. I don't recall just pinning a label on him. I think I said that one can be quite bright and still lack common sense and that I remain unimpressed with his philosophizing. His ideas are simply not watertight enough for me, and his philosophy plays fast and loose with facts. Dembski, in spite of the implied brightness reflected in his degrees, seems to be unable to see past his own agenda. That doesn't make him a simpleton, although based on what I've read of his writings, he's either mouthing off about things of which he really doesn't know much, or he's being willfully disingenuous to further his "Christian" agenda.

Where there is DNA, there is life.

quote

Yesterday, 09:33 PM

#56

Bearprof



Baylor fan

Join Date: Jun 2003  
Posts: 1,028  
Reputation Points: 128

Quote:

Originally Posted by [caseman](#)

*I am not a huge fan, but his books are thought provoking. I was just defending his education because it was inferred that he was a complete dumbass due to his statement. Not so.*

I think you are confusing academic degrees with intelligence (or common sense or "smarts"). Just because Dembski graduated from prestigious universities, that doesn't mean that what he has done with those degrees after commencement should entitle him to any more respect than anyone else. It's one thing to provoke commentary, it's another thing to prove something using bad science or whatever he's trying to do.

quote

Yesterday, 10:14 PM

#57



nein51★

Thesis  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Mar 2005  
Location: Chicago/Cleveland/Waco - The Golden Triangle  
Posts: 16,890  
My Mood: Yeehaw  
Reputation Points: 1644

Quote:

Originally Posted by **WacoGone**

*It is bad science because it is untestable and not subject to the scientific method. It is bad theology because it attempts to reduce God to science, to something that can be established empirically. ID, in effect, attempts to efface faith from the theological equation. Where is God in that?*

WG, it is sort of an interesting progression. Some of the earliest work in statistics was to try to answer the question [para] "Is God real?"

Some of the most successful relationships are based on lies and deceit. Since that's where they usually end up anyway, it's a logical place to start.

quote

Yesterday, 10:34 PM

#58

[caseman](#)



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000

Location: Dallas

Posts: 15,832

My Mood: Pensive

Reputation Points: 1207

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bearprof**

*I think you are confusing academic degrees with intelligence (or common sense or "smarts"). Just because Dembski graduated from prestigious universities, that doesn't mean that what he has done with those degrees after commencement should entitle him to any more respect than anyone else. It's one thing to provoke commentary, it's another thing to prove something using bad science or whatever he's trying to do.*

I'm sure he is smart. You don't receive a PhD in Mathematics from the most prestigious math program in the country without being smart....and I suppose he probably has common sense, too, maybe not though.... Not to mention his PhD in Philosophy from UIC and a MDiv. I don't agree with his agenda, nor do I necessarily like how he is supposedly tarnishing my beloved alma mater by his association with Polyani (although I imagine maybe 100 people outside of current profs or students even are aware of Dembski=Baylor). He also may be a huge dickhead. I am not sure because I haven't met the guy.

Even though I am fully on the side of the academics in this 'debate,' I also think it is a little amusing that the same people (professors or academics) who insist that receiving a PhD and becoming a professor and getting grants, etc. is the hardest thing on the planet, even if you received said degree from Oklahoma Panhandle State University are the same people who seem to be so harsh on Dembski's academic credentials when he graduated and therefore defended an original dissertation in pure mathematics at the #1 math grad program in the entire world.....and he isn't, once again, calling himself a scientist (because the law of small probabilities is pure statistical and probability theory), but a mathematician or a philosopher. It is Michael Behe who is pushing the science/bio agenda (although in Dembski's second book, he alludes to biological concepts and seems to take a more haughty approach to this new field he has supposedly unearthed).

Anyway, just an observation, nothing personal. Maybe I should research more into the association with Baylor, because on the surface, design inference, law of small probabilities and the explanatory filter doesn't really offend me.

quote

Yesterday, 10:36 PM

#59

[caseman](#)



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000

Location: Dallas

Posts: 15,832

My Mood: Pensive

Reputation Points: 1207

Quote:

Originally Posted by **WacoGone**

*Did I call him an idiot? I don't remember. I don't recall just pinning a label on him. I think I said that one can be quite bright and still lack common sense and that I remain unimpressed with his philosophizing. His ideas are simply not watertight enough for me, and his philosophy plays fast and loose with facts. Dembski, in spite of the implied brightness reflected in his degrees, seems to be unable to see past his own agenda. That doesn't make him a simpleton, although based on what I've read of his writings, he's either mouthing off about things of which he really doesn't know much, or he's being willfully disingenuous to further his "Christian" agenda.*

I don't think you did, but I am sure that people who couldn't care less about probability theory or mathematics do. Maybe not, I dunno. Maybe everyone who criticizes Dembski's association with Baylor is rational and looks at and considers both sides. With the track record of Baylor politics, I REALLY doubt it, however.... I didn't mean to accuse you of being bitchy. Sorry about that.

For the record, I do agree with what you are saying above.

*Last edited by caseman : Yesterday at 10:56 PM.*

quote

Yesterday, 11:02 PM

#60

[LordByron](#)



BaylorFans Sponsor  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Dec 2003

Location: Arlington, TX

Posts: 6,251

My Mood: Angelic

Reputation Points: 315

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ecow**

...

*The reason they have to say "It's not about God." is because they don't want the distraction. If what they are then saying is not science, then disprove it and let's move on. This appears to be a failure of communication. They don't believe they are being disproven, but people here clearly think they are.*

....

I have a Grandson who believes in ghosts. Maybe ecow can help me disprove it.

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[www.wsimarketing.com/bbeets/specialoffers.aspx](http://www.wsimarketing.com/bbeets/specialoffers.aspx)

quote

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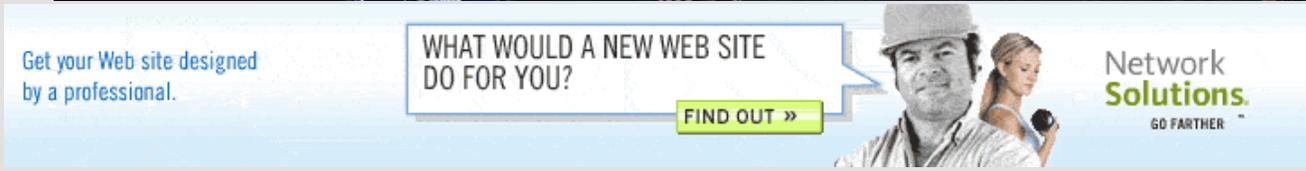
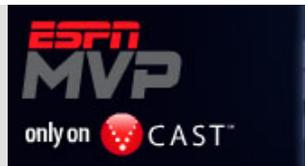
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Forum Jump

All times are GMT -5. The time now is 10:33 PM.

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Today, 09:14 AM #61



WacoGone★



Fattypants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,295  
My Mood: TIRED  
 Reputation Points: 1560

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Quote:

Originally Posted by [nein51](#)

*WG, it is sort of an interesting progression. Some of the earliest work in statistics was to try to answer the question [para] "Is God real?"*

It is an interesting progression. It is not, however, (in my opinion) science or even good theology. It is a statistical exercise. As we see repeatedly in life, God defies statistics.

Where there is DNA, there is life.

quote

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Today, 09:20 AM

#62



**WacoGone**★



Fattypants!  
300 fan

Join Date: Jun 2004  
Location: In my house  
Posts: 12,295  
My Mood: TIRED  
Reputation Points: 1560

Quote:

Originally Posted by [caseman](#)

*Even though I am fully on the side of the academics in this 'debate,' I also think it is a little amusing that the same people (professors or academics) who insist that receiving a PhD and becoming a professor and getting grants, etc. is the hardest thing on the planet, even if you received said degree from Oklahoma Panhandle State University are the same people who seem to be so harsh on Dembski's academic credentials when he graduated and therefore defended an original dissertation in pure mathematics at the #1 math grad program in the entire world.....and he isn't, once again, calling himself a scientist (because the law of small probabilities is pure statistical and probability theory), but a mathematician or a philosopher. It is Michael Behe who is pushing the science/bio agenda (although in Dembski's second book, he alludes to biological concepts and seems to take a more haughty approach to this new field he has supposedly unearthed).*

I think I've responded to this already. I haven't been "harsh" about his credentials; I just don't care about them because I find his arguments full of holes and his efforts to use science to support them (scientist or not) based either in a willful disregard for the evidence or ignorance of it. His credentials don't really enter into it except to make me think that with such credentials, he ought to be a bit better at this; it is for this reason that I believe he is so blinded by his personal agenda. And he is pushing that agenda right along with Behe.

I'm not sure where seeking grants or getting the PhD or the related difficulties thereof enter into this. It's sometimes harder to earn the PhD at a small school because they can be very uptight right to the end of the process. R01 schools often are much more lax because they figure that if you can get in and make it through the work in your PI's lab, that's enough. Bio PhDs from Yale don't even do oral exams. But that's all a digression. I don't see what earning the PhD or getting a grant has to do

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this discussion of the merits or lack thereof of the ID arguments. I don't think of Dembski in personal terms; I think of his scholarship.

Where there is DNA, there is life.

quote

Today, 09:32 AM

#63

### Sin Bad



Baylor fan

Join Date: Jun 2005  
Posts: 2,557  
Reputation Points: 273

As witnessed by George Bush's Harvard MBA and John Kerry's Harvard degree, I think we've all seen that credentials don't necessarily mean squat.

quote

Today, 12:15 PM

#64

### TheRadvocate



Baylor fan

Join Date: Jan 2002  
Posts: 3,357  
My Mood: ASLEEP  
Reputation Points: 135

Quote:

Originally Posted by [khmerbear](#)  
*my quest to join the message board commune here-where Wilco is the greatest band in the world.*

well this may not be the place for you - there are far more Carrie Underwood fans here than Wilco fans ...

quote

Today, 12:36 PM

#65

### caseman



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2000  
Location: Dallas  
Posts: 15,832  
My Mood: Pensive  
Reputation Points: 1207

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Quote:

Originally Posted by **Sin Bad**

*As witnessed by George Bush's Harvard MBA and John Kerry's Harvard degree, I think we've all seen that credentials don't necessarily mean squat.*

First, W and Kerry are certainly smart guys. You don't get elected to the Senate or President without being smart. At least smarter than me.

Second, a math PhD from ANYWHERE impresses me more than an MBA from ANYWHERE. MBAs don't have to write bond book copies of dissertations. Original research, even if at New Mexico Highlands Univ. is much tougher than finance or economics. Harvard MBA might be cutthroat, but it prepares you for real life whereas a PhD in mathematics, especially pure mathematics from Univ of Chicago prepares you for a career in research or at places like NASA.

Third, to WG, I wasn't necessarily referring to you, per se. I just respect the hell out of anyone who writes and defends a thesis, much less a dissertation. In my previous grad school experience in a field that is so straightforward it takes little study or reading past basic epidemiology, the thesis track was a beotch. Also, I like to read journals, sometimes in math and statistics (since my field of choice is epi/biostats). The kind of esoteric crap that is peer reviewed in pure mathematics (as opposed to stuff that anyone with calculus background can understand in applied math) is really boring. Boolean algebra, knot theory, etc. For Dembski to equate statistics with theology is right up my alley. Maybe I just defend the guy bc I enjoyed his first book and respect him for gaining so much education. 2 PhDs and a MDiv is impressive, no matter what one decides to do with it. I am pretty sure Dembski could research computer science theory and write boring ass journal articles and teach diff eq. at State U, he just decided to, agenda based or not, go into another 'field.'

That's all for now. Transfusion time! WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

quote

Today, 12:51 PM

#66



**quash**★



Baylor fan

Join Date: Aug 2003  
 Location: Dallas  
 Posts: 985  
 My Mood: Cheeky  
 Reputation Points: 216

Quote:

Originally Posted by **caseman**

*I don't agree with his agenda, nor do I necessarily like how he is supposedly tarnishing my beloved alma mater by his association with Polyani (although I imagine maybe 100 people outside of current profs or students even are aware of Dembski=Baylor).*

Woohoo, count me in that One Hundred. And I may have added a few to the total with my ranting about it. Mostly, though, people don't get why I'm pissed. You guys sure get it. And thanks.

KALLISTI y'all!!!

quote

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Today, 04:40 PM

#67

[bugramps](#)



Baylor fan

Join Date: Sep 2002  
Location: Waco  
Posts: 1,608  
Reputation Points: 2

Quote:

Originally Posted by [RD2WINAGNBEAR86](#)

*I am a firm believer that it was GOD who created the "Big Bang Theory". I feel strongly both ways. Not my way or the highway! I see no reason that Evolution and Creationism can't co-exist!*

*No reason to be offended by evolution. Don't believe we were monkeys, -just hairier and more hunched over versions of what we have become.*

*If not, methinks wisdom teeth and our appendix must be just two Intelligent Design flaws.*

RD2

Didn't a Catholic priest named Georges Lemaître put the Big Bang Theory together? I've never understood why some Christians had such a problem with a theory that essentially fell in line with Genesis. From my limited understanding, Lemaitre had to ask the church to be quiet in promoting the Big Bang Theory because he found it a matter of science and not faith. He apparently also feared that with the church advocating it, then it would cause it to be more easily dismissed.

I'm a believer that faith and science can co-exist and should. Christians should be at the forefront of all scientific discovery. We shouldn't be afraid of any truth or any question if we believe truth is on our side.

My two cents.

quote

Today, 06:05 PM

#68

[nein51](#) ★  
  
Thesis  
Baylor fan

Join Date: Mar 2005  
Location: Chicago/Cleveland/Waco - The Golden Triangle  
Posts: 16,890  
My Mood: Yeehaw  
 Reputation Points: 1644

Quote:

Originally Posted by **WacoGone**

*It is an interesting progression. It is not, however, (in my opinion) science or even good theology. It is a statistical exercise. As we see repeatedly in life, God defies statistics.*

In fact, that is the answer that early statisticians came to. 😊

Some of the most successful relationships are based on lies and deceit. Since that's where they usually end up anyway, it's a logical place to start.

quote

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