

A NATION ASKS “WHY?”

by John D. Morris



The work day started that Monday as do many, with everyone tackling a variety of projects. But we noticed the continual sirens outside, and the helicopters flying overhead.

And then the news raced through the halls: a student at nearby Santana High School, on a deadly rampage, had shot and killed a number of his classmates. Thirteen were wounded, two were dead. It can't be! This is something that happens somewhere else! Now it happened here, at our local high school, just one mile from ICR. Just three weeks later it happened again, only five miles away at the Granite Hills High School in El Cajon.

Thankfully, none of the ICR family had been directly impacted, but we all knew people at the schools, some quite personally. Soon we were glued to the radio just like everyone else. We heard the same question, over and over again, “Why did this happen?” and, “Why would these young students resort to such violence?”

Twice the streets were choked with media from around the world. I counted about 40 broadcast trucks, each equipped with a satellite dish on the street outside each school. Each broadcast, each commentator asked the same “Why?” questions, and many had an answer that served their own agenda. “It's too many guns”

some would say. Others blamed lack of parental involvement in the kids' lives and education. Classmates related how the gunmen had been targets of "bullying." Others decried the entertainment industry with its songs and movies that glorify violence. "Something oughta be done."

Each of these answers to the "why?" question has an element of the truth to it, but each only seeks to alter a selected behavior. But the Christian knows that it is something deep inside man, his very nature, his inner motivations, and wrong ways of thinking which manifest themselves in wrong behavior patterns. The solution to any behavior problem must address these deeper issues, but still we seek an answer to the "why?" question.

Christians in the community rightly pointed out that the rise in school violence has paralleled the removal of God from the schools. Most students no longer have any understanding of right and wrong and know little of Biblical guidelines for life.

Who can doubt that American society as a whole is in decline? Not just violence, but drugs, divorce, dishonesty, and disrespect dominate society. Are we seeing the national fruit of abandoning the Christian worldview? I think so, but it is not simply that one worldview has been rejected; another has been embraced in its stead. Nowhere is this more evident than in the schools of our land.

A completely secular, yea, an anti-Christian worldview has now been aggressively taught in our schools ever since the cultural revolution of the sixties. Today's adults, school teachers, politicians, media commentators, judges, textbook writers, etc., were all recipients of this misinformation and all too often re-teach it as a fact. They act on their beliefs and encourage others to follow suit. They were taught, among other things, that humankind is merely a result of natural processes, like natural selection, that there is no Creator to whom they are ac-

countable for their actions and choices. They have been led to think that man is only a highly evolved animal, that personal pleasure outweighs consideration for others, that human life has no destiny. From this sewage of wrong thinking has come the outbreak of wrong behavior. In this milieu of false ideas, aberrant actions can flourish and find justification. Not every evolutionist commits vile acts, but as society adopts this wrong worldview, we can expect abundant wrong behavior.

Certainly the individual students are responsible for their actions and must face the consequences, but I submit that those who have taught them, and those who taught their teachers, their parents, their movie idols, and their favorite singers a wrong system of thinking, should bear some of the blame. If we are ever to rise above these awful consequences, the awful cause must be addressed and removed.

These episodes in San Diego, while they don't have good endings, do have their positive side. Several evangelical churches in the area moved quickly to minister the love of Christ to families who are hurting. Through it all, scores of students and parents have turned to God for solutions from the wrong thinking and choices that have been made. The tragedy has brought heartbreak to our community, and we extend ongoing prayers for continued healing. 🙏

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GISH-MAX DEBATE DRAWS OVERFLOW CROWD



Dr. Edward Max of the National Institutes of Health was Dr. Duane Gish's opponent in the debate held in Christ's Chapel of Gustavus Adolphus College, February 22. It was estimated that more than 1500 faculty, students, and citizens of Minnesota and several other states filled the auditorium to overflowing.

Max cited the hierarchical arrangements of organisms and molecular biology as support for evolution. He claimed that creation scientists' arguments against evolution based on the Second Law of Thermodynamics ignored the fact that local decreases in entropy (local increases in order) can occur without violating the Second Law. He illustrated this by the example of placing a copper ball cooled to -10° in a water bath. The ball warms up and the bath cools down. Max believes that this is relevant to evolution and illustrates an evasion of the Second Law. He claimed that creationist arguments on probability are invalid because they propose an all at once origin rather than a step-by-step origin of a protein molecule. He defined homology as the origin of similar structures in different animals by inheritance from a common ancestor. (As evidence he cited the existence in different creatures, such as chimp, gorilla, and man of genetic structures called pseudogenes.) He claimed pseudogenes were useless genetic structures that resulted from mutations. He claimed that the probability that the same mutation could have occurred in chimp, gorilla, and man is so vanishingly small that these

pseudogenes had to be inherited from a common ancestor, and were thus homologous. He claimed that the fossil record exhibits a ladder of life as expected on the basis of evolution. He claimed that *Basilosaurus* was an intermediate in the evolution of modern whales. He asserted that evolution occurs rapidly in small populations, and that many creatures are soft-bodied and thus rarely leave fossils and these are some of the reasons more transitional forms aren't found. He stated that ICR scientists are able to sway non-scientific audiences because such audiences are poorly informed.

Gish began by contrasting the concept of a non-theistic, mechanistic evolutionary theory with the concept of a theistic, supernatural origin by the deliberate creative acts of an intelligent agent external to and independent of the natural universe. He pointed out why evolution is no more scientific and is no less religious than creation. He quoted the well-known Darwinian evolutionist and philosopher of science, Dr. Michael Ruse, who now points out that evolution (as is now being taught) is an ideology, a full-fledged alternative to Christianity. He states flatly that evolution is a religion.

Gish cited several biology books used in schools today that illustrate the atheistic nature of the evolutionary theory being taught in our schools, colleges, and universities. He described the fact that the Second Law of Thermodynamics states that an isolated system can never increase in ordered complexity and organization

but always, without exception, runs down and deteriorates. Evolutionists believe, however, the universe is an isolated system that began in the chaos and disorder of a hypothetical big bang and the simplicity of hydrogen gas and transformed itself into the incredibly complex universe we have today, in direct contradiction to the Second Law. He asserted that Max's example of the copper ball in a water bath was irrelevant to evolution.

To refute the evolutionist claims concerning homology, Gish attacked their claim that two bones from the reptilian ear moved up into the ear of the mammal to constitute the incus and malleus of the mammalian ear. He pointed out that for this to happen, the columella bone of the reptilian ear had to become detached from the tympanic membrane (and to become the mammalian stapes) in order to allow the insertion of the incus and malleus, the malleus now being attached to the tympanic membrane of the mammalian ear. He asked how the creature could hear between the time the columella detaches from the tympanic membrane and the newly formed malleus becomes attached. He then illustrated the incredibly complex organ of Corti, the essential organ of hearing of the mammal. No mammal can hear without the organ of Corti. It is found in every mammal but occurs in no reptile, and there is nothing in the reptile from which it could have evolved. The argument that two of the bones in the mammalian ear are homologous to and derived from two bones of a reptilian ear is demolished by the evidence. Gish cited further evidence from papers published by evolutionists that they have failed to relate homology to evolutionary processes.

Finally, Gish documented the total absence of any fossil evidence of ancestors to and transitional forms between complex invertebrates and the total absence of any fossil transitional forms between these invertebrates and fish, supposedly

the first vertebrates. He asserted that this evidence alone is sufficient to destroy evolutionary theory.

In his rebuttals Max claimed that there are transitional forms in the fossil record. He stated several times that ICR scientists are pseudoscientists who sway naïve audiences. He displayed what he claimed were skeletal structures of chimpanzees, humans, and *Australopithecus* (Johanson's famous "Lucy"). The skeletal structures of the limbs and pelvis of *Australopithecus* was essentially the same as that of the human but significantly different from that of the chimp, Max claimed.

In his rebuttals Gish pointed out that Max failed to answer Gish's challenge based on the total absence of an evolutionary origin of complex invertebrates and fish. He asserted that Max's illustration of skeletons of humans and *Australopithecus* was actually fraudulent, as the evidence produced, for example, by Charles Oxnard and Lord Zuckerman (both evolutionists) has documented that the skeletal structure of humans and australopithecines as so significantly different that australopithecines could not have been ancestral to man. Gish quoted from a book by Barbara Stahl (an evolutionist) in which she said that based on the teeth and serpentine structure of *Basilosaurus*, it could not possibly have been ancestral to modern whales.

Gish stated the reason creation scientists do not publish articles relative to creation/evolution in standard scientific journals is because the editors and referees flatly refuse even to consider publishing such articles. Gish challenged Max to quit reiterating charges that creation scientists are pseudoscientists and rather provide answers to the scientific evidence for creation and against evolution provided by Gish.

The debate closed with questions from the audience directed alternatively to each debater, permitting further opportunity for lively exchanges. 🍷

Meeting Highlights

MISSION VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

ICR speakers, Dr. John Morris and Frank Sherwin, spoke at three evening services in February at the dynamic Mission Valley Christian Fellowship in San Diego, CA. Pastor Leo Giovanetti and his son-in-law, Pastor Art Murillo, are to be commended for their strong stand for Genesis while countering the myth of neo-Darwinism.



Attendance and interest was high for all three evenings as Scriptural and scientific evidences for Biblical creation were presented to an attentive audience of approximately 1,600 over the three evening conference.

Sherwin spoke the first evening on dinosaurs and the Flood, followed by Dr. Morris giving his highly acclaimed Mount St. Helens slide presentation the next evening. The third evening Sherwin closed by speaking on numerous scientific evidences for creation, using Romans 1:20 as the text.

At the close of the seminar, Pastor Leo said that his congregation was now in a much better position to be proactive in this important issue of origins.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Dr. Duane Gish spoke to an audience of 250 people at the monthly meeting of the Twin Cities Creation Science Association of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area on Tuesday evening, February 20. The meeting had been arranged by Linda Gunderson. At their request Dr. Gish gave his personal testimony and related some of the most interesting experiences he has had during his debates and lectures throughout the world during the past 30 years. He then answered questions from the audience for approximately an additional 60 minutes. 🌟

SPECIAL EVENT IN MAY

The Creation Research Society is offering a special “workshop” on Debating Creation/Evolution featuring Dr. Duane T. Gish (with 300 creation/evolution debates to his credit). Eligible attendees must be voting/sustaining members of the Creation Research Society or members of a creationist organization. “Workshop A” will be in Livingston, NJ, Friday, May 18, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. “Workshop B” will be in Phoenix, AZ, Friday, June 1, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Call Dr. Kaufmann at 352/378-9112; e-mail: (kaufmann_d@hotmail.com). 🌟



E-mail

“I am 19 and have been saved for about two years. I love science and am (now) a creationist. Evolution was what kept me an atheist. I used to be a strong supporter of evolution, but when I got saved websites like yours strengthened my faith and helped me get rooted in Christ.” 🌟

NAUTILOID FOSSILS AND A CATASTROPHIC BURIAL EVENT

Over the Presidents' Day weekend (February 17–19, 2001) Dr. Austin and fourteen others went searching for additional fossil nautiloid sites in the mountains near Las Vegas. Nautiloids are tropical, cephalopod (head-foot) mollusks with many-chambered shells which have a pearly interior. Living marine nautiloids are coiled like snails; the fossils sought in this study have straight, cone-shaped shells. The inventory of nautiloid sites in and around the Grand Canyon is now up to fifteen and speaks of an unusual geological event that apparently caused the quick death of billions of animals. This event was certainly a catastrophic happening that somehow has eluded uniformitarian geologists up to this time.

This field trip included examination of the Monte Cristo Limestone on Frenchman Mountain just east of Las Vegas. Graduate student Blair Redfearn will be using the formation as the basis of his geology thesis and will focus primarily on the lower Anchor and upper Dawn Members of the Monte Cristo Formation, Clark County, Nevada. The Anchor Member is typically alternating limestone or dolomite beds varying in thickness from six to eighteen inches with thin beds or nodules of dark red to black chert (one to four inches thick). The upper Dawn Member typically consists of a massive, coarser crystalline limestone or dolomite (typically two meters thick) with no chert or evidence of grading/cross bedding features. Fast moving currents will typically winnow out fine-grained material and leave behind the coarser material. This massive portion of the Dawn Member is interpreted to be a widespread sediment gravity flow (event bed).

Approximately one meter below the lower Anchor chert/upper Dawn contact, in the event bed, large orthocone nautiloid fossils are usually abundant. These fossils are thought to represent a mass kill event; showing evidence of burial prior to soft part deterioration and in some cases live burial. These fossils also provide a directional indicator of sediment flow. The nautiloids are key figures in the sediment gravity flow interpretation. Not only do their positions in the rock indicate a flow direction for the sediment, but they also provide key evidence concerning the density and rate of sediment flow. Oftentimes long tubular structures are present above the nautiloid bed, which are interpreted to be escape burrows for other organisms. Other fossils are commonly found in the event bed (i.e., a variety of corals, brachiopods and crinoids). The facts that the bed is 1) widespread with no bedding or grading and is 2) typically coarser crystalline limestone or dolomite containing coarse fragments of fossilized coral/crinoids, and shows 3) presence of directionally oriented nautiloids, present strong evidence for a gigantic sediment gravity flow. 🌊



Nautiloid fossil standing upright in dolomite bed, South Virgin Mountains, Clark County, Nevada (Photo courtesy: Tom Folk).



Two of the newest adventures of Jonathan Park are set to air Memorial Day weekend. In “Jonathan Park & the Disaster at Brenan Bluff,” Kendall and Jim discover a large dinosaur graveyard on the ranch. Unfortunately the cliffs above the discovery are unstable and might collapse at any moment. Meanwhile, Kendall goes on a nationwide radio talk show to defend his faith, while Jonathan explores great scientists of the past for a school report. This broadcast features real scientists of today who also believe in creation. The moral lesson stems from the Biblical teaching of pride going before a fall.

In “Jonathan Park & the African Safari,” the Brenans and the Parks are asked to come to Africa to help with an archaeological dig to unearth a supposed ape-man discovery. That’s when the kids discover a secret plan being carried out by the project leader. The program is complete with all of the adventure found on an African safari—including a run-in with some scary animals! The scientific lesson will help equip kids to understand the problems with the argument for human evolution and to trust that we were created in God’s image.

Would you like to make sure Jonathan Park airs on your local radio station? Here’s your chance to help ICR make good creation science information available to families via the airwaves. Nothing beats a call from a local listener. Call the station manager or program director and ask if they plan to air the newest episodes. If they are uncertain or need more information, call us for a demo CD of the broadcast and deliver it personally. Please contact us at (619) 596-6059 for demo CDs. You can also check out our preview line at (619) 448-8198 for audio bites of the adventures.

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”:

Weekend of: **Title/Topic:**

- May 5 **“Haeckel’s Theory”**
Do you remember the drawings comparing chicken, fish, and human embryos in your high school biology textbooks? Although those drawings were exposed as a fraud decades ago—they still appear in print today. Why? Tune in to find out.
- May 12 **“Fall of Man”**
Sometimes it is hard to explain the presence of death, disease, pain, and suffering in our world today. Did these terrible things exist for millions of years before Adam’s sin—or are they the consequences of that first sin? Listen and learn!
- May 19 **“Language Sets Us Apart”**
Evolutionists have a hard time explaining the origin of human language. Did languages evolve or were they always a complex form of communication designed by an infinitely intelligent Creator?
- May 26 **“The Search for Noah’s Ark”**
Many researchers and scientists have climbed the treacherous Mt. Ararat in search of Noah’s Ark. Ark sightings over the years continue to fuel the curiosity and controversy. Why the fascination? Don’t touch that dial! 📻



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IT CAN'T BE BOTH WAYS!

HERE LIES

Thomas L. Manning

“Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness” (Psalm 52:7).

Matthew 6:24,25
Mark 10:21–25
Luke 8:14; 12:19
Galatians 6:6–10
I Timothy 5:6
II Timothy 3:1–5
James 5:1–5
Titus 3:3

HERE LIES

Thomas L. Manning

“His Lord said to him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:21).

Jeremiah 17:7,8
Psalm 15; 31:19; 34:9,10
Luke 14:33
I Corinthians 3:10–14
Galatians 5:24
Philippians 3:8
Revelation 22:12

“ . . . choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . ” (Joshua 24:15)

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