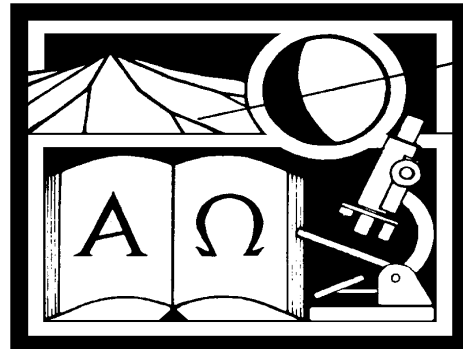


# Origins Insights

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



January 2001

## The Place of Design As a Tool for Creationists in the Great Debate

by Bob Harsh

*I sat down today at my computer to get a start on this newsletter. I had a couple of ideas in mind but each topic is going to demand more research in order to produce a valuable article. Before starting on the first article I needed to look up a couple of items on the web. That only took me about 18 hours; well not quite. You who are dabblers on the web know what I'm referring to. I next decided to check my two e-mail accounts. I always check my e-mail once a week, whether I need to or not. Needless to say, I had several messages and two of them were from readers of Origins Insights! I was interested in reading both messages.*

*The first one was in reference to my presentation of Design In Nature Demands a Designer that I delivered at our November CSF meeting. The second was from a reader who had philosophical concerns about the November and December newsletter articles. Both letters were welcome and the discussion that follows will, I hope, benefit the rest of our readers. I think I will take on the easier and more pleasant of the two first.*

*The reader wrote: "I was in attendance recently when you*

*gave a presentation on the complexity of the human eye. After your presentation, one person made a comment on the simplicity of his video camera, I guess implying God had made the human eye more complex than it need be."*

*My observation of nature, for many years has produced a strong belief that there is very little waste and unnecessary structures or bio-*

*chemistry in nature are certainly not the rule. I have no doubt that if I were to investigate the chemistry and structure of the eye that I would find even more complexity. My belief is that God created mammals and birds with eyes that worked very well. I don't believe that unnecessary complexity was added just to make the organ overly complex.*

### MEETING INFORMATION

**Host:** Bob Walsh

**Topic:** A Summary of the Creation Model: Where We Are and Where We Need to Go

At our January 2001 monthly meeting, Robert Walsh will bring to us a very unusual presentation on the history, current state, and necessary future of the Creation Movement and its associated Model. This fascinating presentation will be in two parts. First Bob will briefly look at an outline of the history of the Creation Movement from the time of Martin Luther to the present. In this discussion the history of the Creation Movement is divided into four distinct periods. The last two periods (Modern Creation [1961-1986] and Neo-Creation [1986-present] Periods) will be used as launching points into the second part of Bob's presentation. The second part is a discussion on the state of the Creation Model, past, present, and future. Areas to be discussed

(Continued on page 10)

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 16, 2001

**TIME:** 7:30 PM

**PLACE:** Mars Alliance Church, 997 Route 228, Mars, PA, 16046.  
Church Phone: (724)776-9400

(Continued from page 1)

*Our reader continued, "I have a severe visual impairment using a cane to assist my mobility. I can still distinguish the difference between daylight and darkness and can see the form of an object or person if they are within 3-4 feet." He enclosed a very interesting press release and he kindly suggested including that added information to my presentation. He recommended that I might "emphasize the complexity of human sight, the mechanics of which are encompassed within such a small container demonstrating how the human eye is the product of intelligent design." He noted that, "the combined intelligence of the best in the field of vision after many years of study and testing still requires a package which has considerable weight and provides only a basic primal form of vision."*

*The announcement was made by William H. Dobelle, Ph.D. and the title of the announcement was: ARTIFICIAL VISION SYSTEM FOR THE BLIND ANNOUNCED BY THE DOBELLE INSTITUTE-- Device Stimulating Visual Cortex of Brain Promises Independence for the Totally Blind --*

New York, NY, January 18, 2000 - A biomedical engineering team today announced development of an artificial vision system providing independent mobility to blind people. The system, reflecting more than 30 years in development work by the Dobelle Institute, enables a totally blind person to achieve visual acuity of about 20/400, in a narrow visual "tunnel".

The "Dobelle Eye" consists of a sub-mm television camera and an ultrasonic distance sensor, both of which are mounted on a pair of eyeglasses. The sensors connect through a cable to a miniature computer, which is worn in a pack on a person's belt.

Processing the video and distance signals, the computer uses sophisticated computer-imaging technology, including edge-detection algorithm simplify the image eliminating "noise". The computer then triggers a small micro-computer that transmits pulses to an array of 68 platinum electrodes implanted on the surface of the brain's visual cortex. Bringing wires through the skin for two decades without discomfort or infection is one of the independent inventions that has made the new visual prosthesis possible.

When stimulated, each electrode produces one to four closely situated phosphenes, which have been described as resembling "stars in the sky". White phosphene on a black background "map" is roughly eight inches by inches at arms length.

After learning to use the system and "read" the display, the patient in the study who has been blind for 32 years is now able to read 3 inch tall letters at a distance of five feet, representing a visual acuity of 20/400 and appears as tunnel vision.

The computer package employed in the initial system was the size of a bookcase and weighed several thousand pounds. After six generation improvements over the last 21 years, the external electronics package has been miniaturized so it is about the size of a dictionary and weighs approximately ten pounds, including batteries.

*I cannot believe that any sane person with a minimal education can believe for a second that any part of that devise came about by pure chance random placing parts together until it worked.*

*The big question that begs for an answer is; "How can intelligent people, who understand the complexity of a mammal's eye, really believe that it came about by ran-*

*dom mistakes in the DNA?"*

*I guarantee you; there is no direct evidence for the evolution of a mammal eye. Likewise, there is no direct empirical evidence for the creation of a mammal eye.*

The artificial vision developed by THE DOBELLE INSTITUTE is a masterpiece of engineering. We know the history of the development of that devise. If a person were to say that "it took a miracle to create that devise", we would be able to demonstrate that neither a miracle nor pure chance had anything to do with its invention or construction.

*OK. We have the mammal eye that is superior by far to the artificial eye. We all agree how it got manufactured. The DNA the animal was born with contained all of the information to construct the eye and to cause it to function. We know that the information in the DNA must be exactly right because we know about several major causes of blindness due to minor mistakes in the DNA [mutations].*

Where we disagree is: "How did that vast amount of DNA needed to produce a functional mammal eye get lined up just right?" It may help at this point to review all of the different types of cells, the sequence of steps, and the chemicals that are needed for sight. Locate your December issue of Origins Insight. [You may have to retrieve it from lining the bottom of your bird's cage.]

The details are supremely important to a proper evaluation of this example of design. It is very simple for evolutionists to say, "As time has gone by, the eye has evolved from a very 'primitive' light sensing structure to the highly efficient color vision receptor that "Mother Nature" has provided for birds and mammals." Any intelligent fifth grader

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

can understand that concept. For that matter, any intelligent fifth grade science teacher can convey that simple concept to their students. The problem is; it's not the truth. No intelligent fifth grade teacher would suggest that "Mother Nature" was the source of the DOBELLE INSTITUTE's artificial vision system. The mammal eye is much superior to that artificial sight system, yet it seems acceptable to attribute its development to blind forces of genetic mistakes while, at the same time, marveling at the great engineering feat of the inferior artificial vision system. DETAILS!

Let's look at just a small part of the chemistry of sight. A protein called Rhodopsin absorbs light. This causes the Rhodopsin to change shape which, in turn, activates another protein, Transducin. Activated Transducin then activates an enzyme, Cyclic GMP Phosphodiesterase that brings about the release of Cyclic GMP from the sodium channels that are attached to the cell membrane of the neuroreceptor cells. This causes the sodium channels to close and the rod cell becomes hyperpolarized. This stops the rod cell from releasing the neurotransmitter inhibitor. The bipolar cells then pass on the message to the ganglion cells that light has struck that photoreceptor cell. Of course, the structure of the eyeball, the optic nerves, the blood supply and the brain must all be functional in order for sight to occur. One mistake in the genetic code will cause sight impairment or even blindness.

Stay with me now. If you want the simple, although false, explanation, just be satisfied with, Mother Nature caused sight to evolve. That way you don't have to bother with the details!

How do you know how, for

example, to manufacture Cyclic GMP Phosphodiesterase? You have the DNA that contains exactly the right recipe. Where did you get that recipe? As I pointed out in my lecture and article, only two viable explanations exist. The genes for Cyclic GMP Phosphodiesterase either evolved by pure chance changes and additions to existing DNA or the DNA to produce Cyclic GMP Phosphodiesterase was created within the first animals. I have not researched the number of amino acid monomer units that are contained in Cyclic GMP Phosphodiesterase. I think we are safe in assuming that it contains a string of at least 80 amino acids. You will recall that it is the sequence of the nucleotides in DNA that arrange the proper sequence of amino acids to produce a specific protein. In other words; if the sequence of nucleotides that make up the DNA change, the sequence of amino acids change. That change in DNA is called a mutation. Mutations are always undirected random changes in the genetic code. There is no such force that directs mutations the way they "should go".

What are the odds of a specific amino acid being the one that is added to the sequence of amino acids to produce a proper protein? Since there are 20 different amino acids used by living organisms, the odds are one in twenty. The odds of three specific amino acids in a row are  $1/20 \times 1/20 \times 1/20 = 1/8,000$ . What are the odds of Cyclic GMP Phosphodiesterase being produced if addition type mutations would occur 80 times? You are correct.  $1/20$  to the 80<sup>th</sup> power! That is a statistically impossible event! If we compound the problem by the "need" to have evolved all of the rest of the chemicals for sight you can easily see that "Mother Nature evolved it [don't bother me with the details]" is a much more satisfying explanation! Many parts of the

anatomy and biochemistry of sight are irreducibly complex systems. The absence of any one part of the system will cause the failure of the whole system.

The truth in the study of nature is often so complicated that we are satisfied with the simple explanation, even though it is in error. The passing on of that false information is the perpetuation of a lie!

I do not have enough space left this month to do the other topic stimulated by my e-mail justice, so I'll have to save that discussion for next month. Let me just say, by way of conclusion to this discussion and introduction to next month's discussion, that I believe that presentation of design in nature demands a designer is a vital component in the arsenal of weapons Creationists can use to battle against the atheistic dogma of Evolutionists. William Paley got it right. DESIGN IN NATURE DEMANDS A DESIGNER! I have another bit of information to share with you that is most timely.

## **A Christian Who Reads His Bible Through Every Other Year is Our New President!**

As we all know by now, we are going to have a new President for the next four years. I, for one, am very excited that we are going to have a President who is very open about his faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior and guide. I was so impressed, early in the primaries, with George W. Bush's answer to who was his hero. His clear serious answer was, Jesus Christ. Many of us have been praying for some time that our country could get some leadership that could lead us who had a worldview that

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

**had dedication to obedience to God as a foundation.**

**Regardless of how we voted, I would like to encourage us to lift up President George W. Bush in prayer. Satan and his slaves will be working overtime. I would suggest that we speak out in protest when our friends repeat the unfounded caricature of Mr. Bush as an "empty-head". It astounds me how much influence the late night comedians hold over American people. Let us encourage him as much as we can to follow through with what is right in the national holocaust of abortion, especially partial birth abortion. [Without the "so called" as the media like to label this atrocity!]**

**I read the following personal testimony of George W. Bush in the Sept-Nov 2000 Newsletter of the ARK Foundation of Dayton. Enjoy your getting to learn about the foundational philosophy of our new President.**

## **PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF GEORGE W. BUSH**

Actually, the seeds of my decision had been planted the year before, by the Rev. Billy Graham. He visited my family for a summer weekend in Maine. I saw him preach at the small summer church, St. Ann's by the Sea. We all had lunch on the patio overlooking the ocean.

One evening my Dad asked Billy to answer questions from a big group of family gathered for the weekend. He sat by the fire and talked.

And what he said sparked a change in my heart. I don't remember the exact words. It was more the power of his example. The Lord was so clearly reflected in his gentle and loving demeanor.

The next day we walked and talked at Walker's Point, and I knew I was in the presence of a great man.

He was like a magnet; I felt drawn to seek something different. He didn't lecture or admonish; he shared warmth and concern. Billy Graham didn't make you feel guilty; he made you feel loved. Over the course of that weekend, Rev. Graham planted a mustard seed in my soul, a seed that grew over the next year. He led me to the path, and I began walking. It was the beginning of a change in my life.

I had always been a "religious" person, had regularly attended church, even taught Sunday School and served as an altar boy. But that weekend my faith took on a new meaning. It was the beginning of a new walk where I would commit my heart to Jesus Christ. I was humbled to learn that God sent His Son to die for a sinner like me.

I was comforted to know that through the Son, I could find God's amazing grace, a grace that crosses every border, every barrier and is open to everyone. Through the love of Christ's life, I could understand the life changing powers of faith.

When I returned to Midland, I began reading the Bible regularly. Don Evans talked me into joining him and another friend, Don Jones, at a men's community Bible study. The group had first assembled the year before, in the spring of 1984, at the beginning of the downturn in the energy industry. Midland was hurting. A lot of people were looking for comfort and strength and direction. A couple of men started the Bible study as a support group, and it grew.

By the time I began attending, in the fall of 1985, almost 120 men would gather. We met in small discussion groups of ten or twelve, then joined the larger group for full meetings. Don Jones

picked me up every week for the meetings. I remember looking forward to them.

My interest in reading the Bible grew stronger and stronger, and the words became clearer and more meaningful. We studied Acts, the story of the Apostles building the Christian Church, and next year, the Gospel of Luke. The preparation for each meeting took several hours, reading the Scripture passages and thinking through responses to discussion questions.

I took it seriously, with my usual touch of humor. Laura and I were active members of the First Methodist Church of Midland, and we participated in many family programs, including James Dobson's Focus on the Family series on raising children.

As I studied and learned, Scripture took on greater meaning, and I gained confidence and understanding in my faith. I read the Bible regularly. Don Evans gave me the "one-year" Bible, a Bible divided into 365 daily readings, each one including a section from the New Testament, the Old Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. I read through that Bible every other year. During the years in between, I pick different chapters to study at different times. I have also learned the power of prayer.

I pray for guidance. I do not pray for earthly things, but for heavenly things, for wisdom and patience and understanding. My faith gives me focus and perspective. It teaches humility. But I also recognize that faith can be misinterpreted in the political process.

Faith is an important part of my life. I believe it is important so I live my faith, not flaunt it.

America is a great country be-

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

cause of our religious freedoms. It is important for any leader to respect the faith of others. That point was driven home when Laura and I visited Israel in 1998. We had traveled to Rome to spend Thanksgiving with our daughter, who was attending a school program there, and spent three days in Israel on the way home.

It was an incredible experience. I remember waking up at the Jerusalem Hilton and opening the curtains and seeing the Old City before us, the Jerusalem stone glowing gold. We visited the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. And we went to the Sea of Galilee and stood atop the hill where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. It was an overwhelming feeling to stand in the spot where the most famous speech in the history of the world was delivered, the spot where Jesus outlined the character and conduct of a believer and gave his disciples and the world the beatitudes, the golden rule, and the Lord's Prayer.

Our delegation included four gentile governors—one Methodist, two Catholics, and a Mormon, and several Jewish-American friends.

Someone suggested we read Scripture. I chose to read "Amazing Grace," my favorite hymn. Later that night we all gathered at a restaurant in Tel Aviv for dinner before we boarded our middle-of-night flight back to America. We talked about the wonderful experiences and thanked the guides and government officials who had introduced us to their country. And toward the end of the meal, one of our friends rose to share a story, to tell us how he, a gentile, and his friend, a Jew, had (unbeknownst to the rest of us) walked down to the Sea of Galilee, joined hands

underwater, and prayed together, on bended knee. Then out of his mouth came a hymn he had known as a child, a hymn he hadn't thought about in years. He got every word right:

Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold, when all shall dwell together, One Shepherd and one fold. Now Jew and gentile, meeting, from many a distant shore, around an altar kneeling, one common Lord adore.

Faith changes lives. I know, because faith has changed mine. I could not be governor if I did not believe in a divine plan that supersedes all human plans. Politics is a fickle business. Polls change. Today's friend is tomorrow's adversary. People lavish praise and attention. Many times it is genuine; sometimes it is not. Yet I build my life on a foundation that will not shift.

My faith frees me. Frees me to put the problem of the moment in proper perspective. Frees me to make decisions that others might not like. Frees me to try to do the right thing, even though it may not poll well. The death penalty is a difficult issue for supporters as well as its opponents. I have a reverence for life; my faith teaches that life is a gift from our Creator. In a perfect world, life is given by God and only taken by God. I hope someday our society will respect life, the full spectrum of life, from the unborn to the elderly. I hope someday unborn children will be protected by law and welcomed in life. I support the death penalty because I believe, if administered swiftly and justly, capital punishment is a deterrent against future violence and will save other innocent lives. Some advocates of life will challenge why I oppose abortion yet support the death penalty. To me, it's the difference between innocence and

guilt.

Today, two weeks after Jeb's inauguration, in my church in downtown Austin, Pastor Mark Craig, was telling me that my reelection was the first Governor to win back-to-back, four-year terms in the history of the state of Texas. It was a beginning, not an end.

People are starved for faithfulness. He talked of the need for honesty in government. He warned that leaders who cheat on their wives will cheat their country, will cheat their colleagues, will cheat themselves. Pastor Craig said that America is starved for honest leaders. He told the story of Moses, asked by God to lead his people to a land of milk and honey. Moses had a lot of reasons to shirk the task. As the Pastor told it, Moses' basic reaction was, "Sorry, God, I'm busy. I've got a family. I've got sheep to tend. I've got a life. Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt? The people won't believe me, he protested. I'm not a very good speaker. Oh, my Lord, send, I pray, some other person," Moses pleaded. But God did not, and Moses ultimately did His bidding, leading his people through forty years of wilderness and wandering, relying on God for strength and direction and inspiration. "People are starved for leadership," Pastor Craig said, "starved for leaders who have ethical and moral courage. It is not enough to have an ethical compass to know right from wrong," he argued. "America needs leaders who have the moral courage to do what is right for the right reason. It's not always easy or convenient for leaders to step forward," he acknowledged.

"Remember, even Moses had doubts." "He was talking to you,"

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

my mother later said. The pastor was, of course, talking to all of us, challenging each one of us to make the most of our lives, to assume the mantle of leadership and responsibility wherever we find it. He was calling on us to use whatever power we have, in business, in politics, in our communities, and in our families, to do good for the right reason. And his sermon spoke directly to my heart and my life. There was no magic moment of decision. After talking with my family during the Christmas holidays, then hearing this rousing sermon, to make the most of every moment, during my inaugural church service, I gradually felt more comfortable with the prospect of a presidential campaign. My family would love me, my faith would sustain me, no matter what.

During the more than half century of my life, we have seen an unprecedented decay in our American culture, a decay that has eroded the foundations of our collective values and moral standards of conduct. Our sense of personal responsibility has declined dramatically, just as the role and responsibility of the federal government have increased.

The changing culture blurred the sharp contrast between right and wrong and created a new standard of conduct: "If it feels good, do it." and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else. Individuals are not responsible for their actions," the new culture has said. "We are all victims of forces beyond our control." We have gone from a culture of sacrifice and saving to a culture obsessed with grabbing all the gusto. We went from accepting responsibility to assigning blame. As government did more and more, individuals were required

to do less and less. The new culture said: "if people were poor, the government should feed them. If someone had no house, the government should provide one. If criminals are not responsible for their acts, then the answers are not prisons, but social programs."

For our culture to change, it must change one heart, one soul, and one conscience at a time. Government can spend money, but it cannot put hope in our hearts or a sense of purpose in our lives. But government should welcome the active involvement of people who are following a religious imperative to love their neighbors through after school programs, child care, drug treatment, maternity group homes, and a range of other services. Supporting these men and women - the soldiers in the armies of compassion - is the next bold step of welfare reform, because I know that changing hearts will change our entire society.

During the opening months of my presidential campaign, I have traveled our country and my heart has been warmed. My experiences have reinvigorated my faith in the greatness of Americans. They have reminded me that societies are renewed from the bottom up, not the top down. Everywhere I go, I see people of love and faith, taking time to help a neighbor in need. These people and thousands like them are the heart and soul and greatness of America. And I want to do my part.

I am running for President because I believe America must seize this moment, America must lead. We must give our prosperity a greater purpose, a purpose of peace and freedom and hope. We are a great nation of good and loving people. And together, we have a charge to keep.

***Is that a breath of fresh air, or what?! And what a statement George W. Bush the day after he was confirmed as the President elect. Do you remember what he did? He went to a special church service! And it wasn't even a Sunday.***

## **ATTENTION ALL NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS:**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** We need to hear from you if your subscription to the newsletter has expired. The date on the top line of your label is your expiration. Can you please call, write, or email us and let us know that you still want to receive our newsletter, ORIGINS INSIGHTS. We will extend your subscription for one year as soon as we hear from you. As long as you are interested in ORIGINS INSIGHTS you are welcome to receive a continuing subscription at no charge.

However, our publishing and mailing costs run about \$300 a month. So, if you can help by joining as a member and sending us the \$15.00 annual membership fee it would certainly be appreciated. In addition, members get to vote, submit articles for ORIGINS INSIGHTS, and get a 10% discount on all CSF bookstore purchases. However, if you can't afford to send us anything, that's okay. We just need to hear from you so we know that you still want the newsletter delivered.

Thank for your cooperation  
Dennis E. Wert, Chairman

---

### ***Creation Science Fellowship Monthly Meeting Tape List***

**CSF**

**PO BOX 99303**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15233**

**(412)341-4908**

**EMAIL:** csficc@csfpittsburgh.org

### ***Attention: Tape Orders***

For those who are unable to attend our monthly meetings. In response to requests, we are making available tapes and study notes from the following meet-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

ings for 1999 and 2000. The tapes are up to 90 minutes long and most include the very extensive set of overheads and notes used by the speakers for these presentations.

Prices are: \$5.00 for tape and notes + \$5.00 Shipping for 1 to 4 tapes and then add \$1.00 for each additional tape shipping. Order by title given below by check, Visa, Mastercard or you may purchase with cash at the meeting.

**JAN 99: "Developing the creation model for yourself" by Robert Walsh.** A how-to-guide on doing Biblical creation studies at home and studying the Bible in general. Excellent resource and guide.

**FEB 99: "The age of the earth. What does the Bible say?" by Robert Walsh and Don Schell.** An in depth scripture study of two of the most popular compromise explanations for genesis account of origins given in the church. Learn about the day/age and gap theories.

**MAR 99: "Rocks around the clock" - Chuck Danley.** What does the Bible say about the original created geology of the world and do any of those features remain on the earth today?

**MAY 99: "The pre-flood world" - Robert Walsh and Henry Jackson.** A close look at the Biblical descriptions of the pre-fall and pre-flood world in the areas of climate, geology, anthropology, and religion. A discussion of the zodiac and its relationship to the Bible is included in this lively presentation.

**JUN 99: "Noah's Ark" - Robert Walsh and Jeff Lawther.** This presentation developed the Biblical framework regarding the

Ark and Flood, examining the sequence and duration of Noah's Flood. The Biblical texts that discuss the sources of the Flood waters were examined along with the data provided for the Ark itself. Jeff and Bob examined some of the frequent questions that often arise when discussing Noah's Ark. These questions include (1) Was the Ark large enough to repopulate the world with all of the known extinct and extant creatures?; (2) How could fresh and salt water fish exist in the same ocean?; (3) Was Noah's Flood local or global in extent?; (4) If the Ark existed, could it be sea worthy? (5) How could Noah feed and care for all of the required animals while on the Ark?; and more...

**AUG 99: "The Dead Speak" - Dennis E. Wert.** This talk examined the effect of the flood on living things. In particular, what was the impact of the world wide flood of Noah on all the living creatures on the earth at the time of that flood. We looked at the questions of evidences for the flood in the fossil record and effect of the flood on the survival of the animals taken on the ark and those that were not taken. This lively talk had a number of good questions and answers at the end.

**SEP 99: "Should Creationism be Taught in Public Schools?"**

This presentation is done by Robert Walsh at a local secular political "think tank" meeting. It defines and examines the issues involved and clears of the confusion that clouds this topic. It attacks the assumption that evolution is science and creation is religion and clearly differentiates what science can say about how the universe operates versus what they "believe" about how the universe came to be.

**NOV 99: "Creation: What's All the Fuss" is the topic of Bob Walsh's talk at this monthly meeting.** His emphasis is on the effect of "compromise" efforts by the Church have had on its effectiveness and doctrine. He clearly shows how the doctrine of creation affects all aspects of

Christian Doctrine and Practice. The destructive effect on the Christian view of marriage and the family is also discussed. The very basis of our political founding documents rest on the fact of the creation of man by God.

**JAN 2000: "Philosophical and Logical Evidences for Creation" by Dr. Stephen Rodabaugh.**

This talk investigates the basis and consequences of a person's worldview" or guiding philosophy on not only what they think but how they act. Dr. Rodabaugh points out the moral bankruptcy of the evolutionary philosophy and the superiority of life from a creationist perspective..

**APR 2000: "Living Things As Evidence for Creation".**

This presentation was done by Dennis Wert and seeks to compare and contrast the views of life - including mankind - as seen from an evolutionary and creationist perspective. The more explanatory and scientifically valid theory of why living things look the same as well as different is shown to be creationism. Its logical and satisfying elements better describe not only what we see but how living things came to be as they appear today. This is short and BASIC introductory talk suitable for 6th grade and up.

**MAY 2000: "Geologic Evidences for Creation and the Flood" by Chuck Danley.**

Chuck gives an overview of the geologic evidences for the creation of the earth and the worldwide flood of Noah. In this talk he compares and contrasts the evidences as described by evolutionary geology with the better explanation of a fiat creation and the sedimentary effects of a global flood. A must hear talk on basic creationist geology.

**JUN 2000: "Evidences for a Young Earth" presented by Jeff Lawther.**

Jeff first examines the issue of, Does a young earth position matter to the origin's debate and the church. His reasons will clearly

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

demonstrate the necessity of affirming the Biblical young earth model. Then Jeff moves on to cite the physical evidences for a young age for the earth and the universe: decay of the earth's magnetic field, decay of comets, sea-floor sediments, out of sequence fossils, polystrate fossils, helium in the atmosphere, abrupt appearance of history and society, radio halos of Polonium 210, population of the earth, and the recession of the moon. This is another excellent overview, introductory talk on the basics of these evidence for a recent creation.

**JUL 2000: "Chinese Pictographs and Creation."**

Reid Moon presents evidence of the antiquity and shared nature of the Genesis account of creation, the flood and Tower of Babel as found in the pictographs of the Chinese language. His presentation looked at the language and the elements of various words that demonstrate not only the monotheistic history of China but also attest to a knowledge of the events recorded in the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis. You will be fascinated of truths that make up words like: man, to create, garden, and boat.

**AUG 2000: "Fossil Evidence for the Flood" by Bob Ivey.**

Bob presents some basic information on what fossils are and what the term "fossil record" means to geologists. He examines how information formerly cited as supporting evolution better supports the catastrophic flood model found in the book of Genesis. He discusses fossils positions and succession as well as why the lack of human fossil evidence in the rocks. He discusses how even some modern evolutionary geologists suggest catastrophic event(s) for the formation of these large fossil remains.

**OCT 2000: "Man, The Image of GOD" by Robert Walsh.**

Bob gives information on the Biblical phrase of man being created in God's image. He demonstrates from Scripture how the Trinitarian nature of God is evidenced in his creation of the world and man in particular. He pro-

vides insight into how the "ancient of days" is a icon of God and then how man is in the likeness of this Icon of God. Bob discusses in what fundamental spiritual ways man is like and God and yet in physical likeness similar to the rest of the biological creation. However, Bob shows that man is very different at his core and purpose. Good Bible study group starter material.

**NOV 2000: "Eye Design Demands a Designer" by Robert Harsh.**

The first part of Bob's presentation consisted of a review of some very interesting facts about how the human body points towards the necessity of the Designer, God. The second half provided fascinating information about the structure of the human eye and the biochemistry of sight. This lecture provided excellent information for those who have no formal training in biology as well as a very detailed description that will even be new information for those who have training in Biology.

**GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS REGARDING EVOLUTION IN THE PA PROPOSED SCIENCE STANDARDS**

The PA State Department of Education is developing science standards that will be a mandatory part of the curriculum in every public school in Pennsylvania. Like it or not, the theory of evolution is one of the required topics. How evolution is presented is a matter of hot debate right now during this public comment period. The standards have not been finalized yet. They are asking for public input right now – so now is the time to read the details below and write letters and send emails to key officials.

**Good News**

The State Board recently made some excellent revisions to the proposed standards. Although there is no mention of creationism in the standards, language was added that encourages a much more critical approach to the teaching of evolution. The first draft of standards, dated 1998, was extremely dogmatic concerning evolution. Last spring many creationists asked the state board to approach the topic more critically. The State Board listened and modified the standards so that evolution would be taught more like a theory than a fact.

Let me cite three of the positive changes:

1. The 1998 version required students to "explain the theory of evolution." The Revised Version requires students to "analyze the theory of evolution."

2. The Revised Version added a standard requiring students to "Compare and contrast scientific theories and beliefs."

3. The Revised Version requires students to "Analyze evidence of fossil records, similarities in body structures, embryological studies and DNA studies that support or do not support the theory of evolution." The phrase, "or do not support", was not in the 1998 version.

This is a phenomenal breakthrough. If the standards pass as is, public schools will be required to expose students to scientific evidences that do not support the theory of evolution. These positive modifications remove the "holy cow" status that evolution has held for decades.

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

Creationists will need to help equip science teachers who are not aware of the evidence against evolution. Science textbooks depict evolution as a virtual fact, selectively exposing students only to data that supports evolution and they censor out all oppositional data and alternative interpretations of the data. If the revised standards pass with these critical elements, we will need to contribute books and videos to public school teachers so they are aware of the evidences against macro-evolution. I suggest a new book by Dr. Jonathan Wells entitled, *Icons of Evolution – Science or Myth?* (ISBN 0-89526-276-2). This hard-back book includes a well-reasoned scientific rebuttal to the common evidences for evolution including the peppered moths, Darwin's finches, the famous horse series and several alleged ape-men. Use this link to order the book:

<http://www.dxmarket.com/worldnetdaily/products/B0039.html>

## Bad News

One element of the standards remains that is worded as though human evolution from early hominids is an accepted fact. It reads, "Examine human history by describing the progression from early hominids to modern humans." (Section 3.3.12.D)

We should urge the state board to change that standard to something like:

"Critically evaluate the validity of the hominids that evolutionists claim to be ancestral to modern man."

Some other bad news is that

major newspapers in Pennsylvania including the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Philadelphia Inquirer have launched efforts to revert the standards back to their original dogmatic form. For example, the Post-Gazette editor urged the public to, "seize the opportunity to revise the standards back to their original, sensible, rational form." Staff writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer, Faye Flam, wrote, "In the world of science, a debate on the legitimacy of evolution would not be considered intellectually stimulating." Andrew Petto, editor of the National Center for Science Education, said in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article that he particularly objected to the standard that would allow schools to "analyze the impact of new scientific facts on the theory of evolution". He said, "It smacks of anti-evolution intervention... someone is trying to raise doubts specifically about evolution." Petto told the Philadelphia Inquirer that questioning the legitimacy of evolution is "like debating the theory of gravity, or the atomic theory."

Evolutionists like Mr. Petto will not be satisfied until every aspect of the standards demands unquestioning acceptance of evolution theory. That's why it is so important for citizens like you to write letters or emails to the PA State Board of Education to ask them to modify the hominid standard as recommended above and ask them to keep all of the elements of the standards that encourage a critical, objective approach to the teaching of origins.

Whatever suggestions you have should be mailed to Dr. Peter H. Garland, Executive Director of the PA State Board of Edu-

cation, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333. His telephone number is 717-787-3787. The email address is - **00statbd@psupen.psu.edu** (note that the two leading zeros are not letters). Also contact:

Senator James Rhoades, Senate Educ. Committee, 32 East Center Street, Mahanoy City, 17948-2703 (717) 787-2637

The Honorable Jess Stairs, Chairman of the House Education Committee. RD# 1, Acme, PA 15610, (724) 423-5141

Additional information including email links to other key officials can be found online at **www.GetEquipped.org**

### *E-MAIL Preferences*

**Update:** We now have Adobe Acrobat for newsletter publication. **JUST A REMINDER, if you haven't already**, please verify whether or not you want to receive the newsletter via e-mail. [csficc@csfpittsburgh.org](mailto:csficc@csfpittsburgh.org).

**UPCOMING EVENT:** March 10 (Saturday) 2001—South Hills Home Educators/Book sale. More details to come in a future newsletter. We're looking to borrow a TV/VCR unit to show some videos to people at the conference.

### **2001 CALENDARS**

If you didn't get your "God the Creator 2001 Creation calendar" at the November meeting, we have 23 left! Contact CSF via phone or e-mail (located on the back page) if you are interested in having any shipped to you. The cost per calendar is \$11.99 plus \$1 per calendar for shipping and handling. *Happy New Year!*

**CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP, INC.**

P.O. Box 99303  
Pittsburgh PA USA 15233-4303  
Phone: (412) 341-4908

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 2548

Address Service Requested

(Meeting Information Continued from page 1)

will be portions of the Creation Model fairly well known and understood, and those requiring a major effort of development. Other items to be discussed include areas of the Model that require significant rethought and perhaps even abandoned. Some of the items discussed at this presentation are controversial even within the Creation Camp and should provide some very interesting and fascinating discussion (as Mr. Spock would say). We look forward to seeing you all at this very informative and unusual presentation.

**CSF MEETING TOPICS 2001, FIRST QUARTER**

**JAN 16** A Summary of the Creation Model: Where We Are and Where We Need to Go. Presenter: Bob Walsh

**FEB 20** Disease: How and When in a Creation Model. Presenter: Dennis Wert

**MAR 20** The Wedge of Truth: The Case Against Naturalism. Presenter: Bob Harsh

**NOTE TO INTERESTED PARTIES:** Pre-order "The Wedge" at the January meeting, pick it up at the February meeting so it can be read prior to the March meeting. E-mail CSF for more details.

**WINTER WEATHER SCHEDULE CHANGES:**

If the monthly meeting will be cancelled due to any weather related problem—or still go on as scheduled, please call the CSF phone number at **412-341-4908** after 12 noon on the day of the meeting date and there will be a message indicating any cancellation or confirmation of the meeting scheduled.

**Creation Science Fellowship, Inc.** newsletter is published monthly.

**Purpose:** The aim of Creation Science Fellowship is to inform and educate people of the biblical, philosophical, and scientific validity of creationism.

**Circulation:** 500

**Officers**

Dennis E. Wert . . . Chmn, Corres. Sec.  
Robert Harsh Vice Chmn, Newsltr. Ed.  
Jim Hawk . . . . . Book Coordinator  
Reid Moon . . . . . Treasurer  
Robert Ivey . . . . . Web Site Manager

**Ex-officio:**

Robert Walsh . . . ICC Proceedings Ed.

**Email Address:**

csficc@csfpittsburgh.org

**CSF Page:** <http://trfn.clpgh.org/csf>

**Editors Address:** Robert Harsh  
439 Little Creek Road, Harmony,  
Pennsylvania, USA 16037  
Email: naturbob@juno.com