What is Intelligent Design?

- "A scientific research program that investigates the effects of intelligent causes;
- An intellectual movement that challenges Darwinism and its naturalistic legacy;
- And a way of understanding divine action"
  - i.e., relating to a god,
  - i.e., a being believed to have supernatural attributes and powers.

William Dembski, Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology, 1999, p. 3.

3 Prongs of Intelligent Design

- Life is complex and cannot be explained by naturalistic mechanisms. A scientific theory of design can explain the complexity
- Evolution as taught in public schools is fraudulent and leaves out evidence against evolution. This evidence should be taught
- Naturalistic thinking has bad consequences

1981

- McLean v. Arkansas

- There are two models:
  1. a supernatural, intelligent creator designed and created the world, or
  2. the world is not the result of intelligent intervention, but came about through random, mechanistic processes

1987


  Mount Rushmore as designed.

  Appendix: “Paley’s Updated Argument” talks of “specified complexity” (from 1984)
“Although accepting as all biologists must that the overall pattern of nature is expressed by an evolutionary tree of life, I am skeptical that major evolutionary changes or macroevolution can be adequately accounted for in terms of the Darwinian model: that is by the gradual accumulation of small selectively advantageous mutations.” (1989)

1. Disproving Darwinism is not the same as disproving the theory of common descent.

2. An irreducible gap in phenotypic space cannot be taken to imply that there is a similar gap in genotypic space.

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

- Formed in 1987 as “a group whose advice on scientific and educational matters was sought by members of the Christian Legal Society being drawn into public policy disputes in the courts.”
- Charles Thaxton, Paul Nelson, William Dembski, Steven Meyer ...
- Meyer invites Johnson to meeting in 1990
1990: Foundation for Thought & Ethics

Founded in 1991 by George Gilder and Bruce Chapman to “promote ideas in the common sense tradition of representative government, the free market and individual liberty” in the Pacific NW.

1991

Darwinism functions as the central cosmological myth of modern culture – as the centerpiece of a quasi-religious system that is known to be true a priori, rather than as a scientific hypothesis that must submit to rigorous testing.

1991: Michael Behe’s letter to Science

“In his book Johnson appears to be an interested, open-minded, and very intelligent layman …”


“The book, in short, is full of errors, badly argued, based on false criteria, and abysmally written. … the density of simple error is so high that I must question wider competence when attempts at extension yield such poor results. … he performs abysmally in the lawyer’s domain of the art of argument. To begin, he simply does not grasp (or chooses not to understand) the purpose and logic of evolutionary argument.”

1993: Ad Hoc Origins Committee defends Johnson and calls for a “critical re-evaluation of Darwinism.”

- Molecular & Cellular Biology (MCB) or Biochemistry – 7
- Engineering – 5
- Chemistry – 5
- Philosophy – 4
- Physics and Astronomy – 4
- Medicine – 4
- Psychology / Cognitive Science – 2
- Forestry – 1
- Entomology – 1
- Physiologist – 1
- Nutrition – 1
- Management Science – 1
- Law – 1
- Speech and Communication – 1
- Unknown “Biology” – 1

39 signatures
Darwinism: Scientific Inference or Philosophical Preference?

Southern Methodist University, 1992

“Darwinism and Neo-Darwinism, as generally held in our society, carry with them an a priori commitment to metaphysical naturalism, which is essential to make a convincing case on their behalf.

Organized by the Foundation for Thought and Ethics

1993
Authors, Reviewers and Editors for 2nd Edition

Percival Davis
Dean Kenyon
Charles Thaxton
John Baumgardner
Ray Bohlin
Walter Bradley
Norm Geisler
Stephen Meyer
Gordon Mills
Paul A. Nelson
Alvin Plantinga
John C. Wiester
Nancy Pearcey

1993: Second edition

Uses the term “intelligent design” (pp. 17, 119, 146, & 204).

Acknowledges prior use of the term in Of Pandas and People.

Behe and Pandas

› “critical reviewer” and uncredited author (pp 141 - 146)
› Presents blood clotting as system which would fail if one part was removed and thus could not have evolved through a step-wise pathway.

Pajaro Dunes Meeting (1993)

Phillip E. Johnson
Michael Behe
Paul Nelson
William Dembski
Jonathan Wells
Stephen Meyer
Dean Kenyon
Kurt Wise
Siegfried Scherer
John Angus Campbell
Walter Bradley
(+ two others)

‘[The meeting] became a model for what has come to be known as the ‘intelligent design movement.’ … What united the participants … was a deep dissatisfaction with neo-Darwinism and its naturalistic philosophical foundation and an interest in scientifically exploring the possibility of design.”

(Nelson)

Creation Science Research Quarterly
VOLUME 31, JUNE 1994

NOT SO BLIND A WATCHMAKER

Review by: D. Lusser
Published: 11 May 1996. Revised: 15 December 1996

Abstract

Structural and operational principles underlying the organization of the vertebrate nervous system emerge in the context of William Johnson’s classic defense strategy against Oxford Darwinism, contemporary. Neural structure: recapitulation of evolutionary origin and function. The application of modern neuroanatomy and embryology to the anatomy of the vertebrate nervous system has been one of the most successful and revealing of the recent advances in biological science.

Introduction

Among the most powerful evidences for the functional significance of the vertebrate nervous system is the fact that it can be organized in such a way that it can coordinate the activity of the various parts of the body. The nervous system is made up of nerve tracts, which are composed of neurons, and these tracts are connected by a variety of synaptic connections. This allows for the communication of information between different parts of the body, which is essential for survival. The nervous system is also responsible for controlling movements, such as those involved in walking or running, and for regulating body functions, such as blood pressure and heart rate.

In the vertebrate nervous system, the brain is the central organ and is responsible for controlling the body. The brain is divided into several regions, each with its own specific function. The cerebral cortex is responsible for higher brain functions, such as thought, memory, and language. The cerebellum is responsible for coordination and balance, and the brainstem controls the autonomic functions, such as heart rate and breathing.

Search the Environmental Digest, Inquiries for the present digest at End Notes. It was later published in the December 1996 issue of the Creation Science Research Quarterly.

3/15/2009
“Systems that are of high complexity, that is functionally integrated multicomponent systems, systems that are of high specificity where only one or very few of many possible arrangements of these components works, and systems which are of low probability, at least of spontaneous occurrence . . . these are the hallmarks of purposefully designed engineered systems.”

For more than a century, science attempted to explain all human behavior as the subrational product of unbending chemical, genetic, or environmental forces. The spiritual side of human nature was ignored, if not denied outright.

This rigid scientific materialism infected all other areas of human knowledge, laying the foundations for much of modern psychology, sociology, economics, and political science. Yet today new developments in biology, physics, and artificial intelligence are raising serious doubts about scientific materialism and re-opening the case for the supernatural.

What do these exciting developments mean for the social sciences that were built upon the foundation of materialism? This project brings together leading scholars from the natural sciences and those from the humanities and social sciences in order to explore what the demise of materialism means for reviving the various disciplines.
George Gilder

“Darwinians ... believe in an anti-religion of materialism that liberates them to pursue pleasure any way they wish. It’s the highest purpose of their existence. They thus believe in a random, futilitarian universe where – if they’re existentialists – they might imagine that occasionally a heroic human being could assert some purpose above the froth of randomness, but in general, we’re all doomed to decay and destruction. That’s pretty much the philosophy, and it’s debauched a whole century of intellect. I think we’re going to transcend it in the 21st century”

Jerusalem Post, June 20th 2007

Fellows of the CRSC (1996 – ‘97)

Playing the Game of Science
Center for Renewal of Science and Culture Fellows

- Political Science: 7
- Theology: 5
- History: 5
- Philosophy: 4
- Law: 4
- Illustrator: 2
- Writer: 2
- Rhetoric: 1
- Linguistics: 1
- Molecular & Cell Biol.: 9
- Physics: 3
- Mathematics: 3
- Chemistry: 3
- Physiology: 1
- Engineering: 1
- Geology: 1
- Psychology: 1

Non-scientists (58.49%)  Scientists (41.51%)

Total of 53 (since 1996)

Mere Creation
BIOLA, November 1996

1996
Q: You talk very often of, and I quote, "the serious sciences." I take it you mean to exclude biology altogether. Is that your view?

A: To a certain extent. My real view is that there is only one science, and that is mathematics, and that the physical sciences are really forms of experimental mathematics.

"With the assistance of many friends I have developed a strategy for [affirming the reality of God by challenging the domination of materialism and naturalism] ... We call our strategy the 'wedge'"
1997: The Firing Line Debate

- PBS, December ‘97
- “Resolved: The Evolutionists should acknowledge Creation”
- Buckley, Johnson, Behe & Berlimski versus Richard Lynn, Eugenie Scott, Michael Ruse & Kenneth Miller

Political Activity
2000 – 2009

2000

Discovery Institute

Center for the Renewal of Science & Culture

Recent Articles
- Discovery Picture of the Century – A new and all of Center's reflections
- Creation Science
- Understanding and description of all Center books
- Discovery and learning life
- Science and nature
- Science and faith

Icons of Evolution
Science or Myth?

The Wedge of Truth

Phillip E. Johnson

Author of Darwin on Trial
2001: Ohio K12 Standards

"Describe how scientists continue to investigate and critically analyze aspects of evolutionary theory."

2002: 100 Scientists That Doubt Darwinism

"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."

Santorum “Amendment” to the No Child Left Behind Act (2001)

“The conferees recognize that a quality science education should prepare students to distinguish the data and testable theories of science from religious or philosophical claims that are made in the name of science. Where topics are taught that may generate controversy (such as biological evolution), the curriculum should help students to understand the full range of scientific views that exist, why such topics may generate controversy, and how scientific discoveries can profoundly affect society.”

“The International Society for Complexity, Information, and Design (ISCID) is a cross-disciplinary professional society that investigates complex systems apart from external programmatic constraints like materialism, naturalism, or reductionism. The society provides a forum for formulating, testing, and disseminating research on complex systems through critique, peer review, and publication. Its aim is to pursue the theoretical development, empirical application, and philosophical implications of information- and design-theoretic concepts for complex systems.”

Fellows: 30% have been, or are, CSC Fellows

- Philosophy – 12
- Physics – 11
- MCB or Biochemistry – 8
- Engineering – 6
- Chemistry – 5
- Mathematics – 3
- Neurosciences – 3
- Computer Science – 2
- Medicine – 2
- Organismal Biology – 1
- Atmospheric Sciences – 1
- Economics – 1
- Theology – 1
- History – 1
- Communications – 1
- Linguistics – 1
- “Reality Theory” – 1

66 Witherspoon Street, Suite 1800, Princeton, NJ
Teaching the controversy about Darwinism as it exists in the scientific community will engage student interest. It will motivate students to learn more about the biological evidence as they see why it matters to a big question.

Cincinnati Enquirer, 3/30/02
Why Engineers?

- The "Salem Hypothesis"
  - "Education in the engineering disciplines forms a predisposition to scientific creationist viewpoints."
- Creationists with advanced degrees are often engineers and these are by far the most religious group among academics
- "A disproportionate share of engineers seems to have a mindset that inclines them to entertain the quintessential right-wing features of monism", i.e. that there is one best – and simple – solution (Cambetta & Hertog, 2007).
- Engineering is an applied science (a technological field) that assumes design.

Why MCB / Biomedical?

"I believe that unless biologists have dissected real animals or experienced natural diversity for themselves, they are not worthy of the name. It was this same exposure that sowed the seeds of evolution in the mind of the young Darwin, turning him away from the theoretical, typological views of German Naturphilosophie that resonate still in those who argue for the presence of a designing hand. The artificial environment of the lab rat is as rarefied as the thought of Plato and Aristotle, the philosophy from which this idea derives. It no coincidence that it is in these very environments that Intelligent Design finds its most willing converts." (Henry Gee)
Many textbooks ignore evolution completely ... [Students] do not learn how Darwinian evolution might have produced any of the remarkable intricate biochemical systems that those texts describe.
“Science is the human activity of seeking natural explanations for what we observe in the world around us.”

“Science is a systematic method of continuing investigation that uses observation, hypothesis testing, measurement, experimentation, logical argument and theory–building to lead to more adequate explanations of natural phenomena.”

Majority Draft

Board Change

Jan 2005: Dover PA

The Pennsylvania Academic Standards require students to learn about Darwin’s Theory of Evolution and eventually to take a standardized test of which evolution is a part.

Because Darwin’s Theory is a theory, it continues to be tested as new evidence is discovered. The Theory is not a fact. Gaps in the Theory exist for which there is no evidence. A theory is defined as a well–tested explanation that unifies a broad range of observations.

Intelligent Design is an explanation of the origin of life that differs from Darwin’s view. The reference book, Of Pandas and People, is available for students who might be interested in gaining an understanding of what Intelligent Design actually involves.

With respect to any theory, students are encouraged to keep an open mind. The school leaves the discussion of the Origins of Life to individual students and their families. As a Standards–driven district, class instruction focuses upon preparing students to achieve proficiency on Standards–based assessments.

2005: Kitzmiller v. Dover

“Intelligent Design is an explanation of the origin of life that differs from Darwin’s view. The reference book, Of Pandas and People, is available for students who might be interested in gaining an understanding of what Intelligent Design actually involves.”
1. Life is complex and cannot be explained by naturalistic mechanisms. A scientific theory of design can explain the complexity (pace Brennan)
   - Exemplified by "irreducible complexity" (Michael Behe) and "complex specified information" (William Dembski)
2. Evolution as taught in public schools is fraudulent and leaves out evidence against evolution. This evidence should be taught (pace Scalia)
   - Exemplified by Jonathan Wells' Icons of Evolution
Shifting Audiences post-Dover

“The Darwinists have had your young people long enough to shape, subvert, and corrupt. Send them to www.overwhelmingevidence.com and mobilize this sleeping giant! The old guard is not going to change. The hope of the future lies with our youth. The new... site is modeled on Xanga and Myspace and aimed at concentrating the power of youth to throw off the indoctrination that is being shoved down their throats by groups like the NCSE and enforced by inept judicial rulings like those of Judge Jones (note the image of Jones on the splash page). The NCSE, the ACLU, Jones, etc. have effectively disenfranchised our young people when it comes to the teaching of biological origins. Today’s high school and college students are going to need to reclaim their own freedom.”


"Why student activism is the key to winning this war"

“This war will not be decided by courts, legislators, or school boards, but by young people as they wake up to the fact that dogmatic Darwinists have been systematically indoctrinating and disenfranchising them. Just as the counterculture of the 60s overturned the status quo, so a new counterculture, with high school, college, and university students taking the lead, will overturn the Darwinian status quo.”

[Dembski, Uncommon Descent, August 2, 2006]

Loving God With All Your Mind Conference

Intelligent Design Under Fire

Experts Cross-Examine the Top Proponents of Intelligent Design Theory

May 12

Poole

Sutherland Auditorium, Biola University

2007: Pandas, Take 3

“When future intellectual historians list the books that toppled Darwin’s theory, The Design of Life will be at the top”

Michael Behe
2007: Pandas, Take 3

- Human Origins
- Genetics and Macroevolution
- The Fossil Record
- The Origin of Species
- Similar Features
- Irreducible Complexity
- Specified Complexity
- Origin of Life

2007

- Fossil succession
- Homology
- Embryology
- Biogeography
- Natural Selection
- Mutation
- Molecular Machines

Two Views of Life

- One branching tree ("monophyletic" view)
- Orchard of trees ("polyphyletic" view)

Some Questions about ID

1. How do you reliably detect organized complexity due to a designer (versus natural causation)?
2. What about the mechanism used by the designer?
3. What can you clearly infer about the identity of the designer(s) from an artifact?

Q1: Detection?

Shift from discussion of design of organs and organisms to design of information (DNA).

Biology becomes a part of information theory.
William Dembski (2007)

“If I ever became the president of a university … I would dissolve the biology department and divide the faculty with tenure that I couldn’t get rid of into two new departments: those who know engineering and how it applies to biological systems would be assigned to the new "Department of Biological Engineering"; the rest, and that includes the evolutionists, would be consigned to the new “Department of Nature Appreciation” (didn’t Darwin think of himself as a naturalist?).”

http://www.uncommondescent.com/archives/1945

Q2: Mechanism?

“I’m not going to take the bait. You’re asking me to play a game: ‘Provide as much detail in terms of possible causal mechanisms for your ID position as I do for my Darwinian position.’ ID is not a mechanistic theory, and it’s not ID’s task to match your pathetic level of detail in telling mechanistic stories. If ID is correct and an intelligence is responsible and indispensable for certain structures, then it makes no sense to try to ape your method of connecting the dots.”


Q3: The Designer?

“If theistic science or intelligent design theory is to become a progressive research program, it must do more than poke holes in the evidence for Darwinism: it must acquire auxiliary hypotheses about the intentions and preferences of the designer from which we can generate specific, testable predictions and informative explanations.”

Rob Koons, Naturalism, Theism and the Scientific Enterprise (Final Conference Report), 1997
www.leaderu.com/offices/koons/docs/ntsereport.html

The Designer?

“Intelligent design is just the Logos theology of John’s Gospel restated in the idiom of information theory” (Dembski, 1999)

William Dembski

Q: Does your research conclude that God is the Intelligent Designer?

A: … The Designer of intelligent design is, ultimately, the Christian God.

CitizenLink interview (12/14/2007)
http://www.citizenlink.org/content/A000006139.cfm
"The Wedge of Truth ... enables people to recognize that ‘In the beginning was the Word’ is as true scientifically as it is in every other respect.”

**Five Year Goals**

- To see intelligent design theory as an accepted alternative in the sciences and scientific research being done from the perspective of design theory.
- To see the beginning of the influence of design theory in spheres other than natural science.
- To see major new debates in education, life issues, legal and personal responsibility pushed to the front of the national agenda.
- A major public debate between design theorists and Darwinists.
- Thirty published books on design and its cultural implications (sex, gender issues, medicine, law, and religion).
- One hundred scientific, academic and technical articles by our fellows.
- Significant coverage in national media.

**Twenty Year Goals**

- To see intelligent design theory as the dominant perspective in science.
- To see design theory application in specific fields, including molecular biology, biochemistry, paleontology, physics and cosmology in the natural sciences, psychology, ethics, politics, theology and philosophy in the humanities; to see its influence in the fine arts.
- To see design theory permeate our religious, cultural, moral and political life.

**New York Times**

21st August 2005

"Since its founding in 1996, the [Center for Science and Culture] has spent 39% of its $9.3 million [i.e. ~ $3.6 million] on research, Dr. Meyer said, underwriting books or papers, or often just paying universities to release professors from some teaching responsibilities so that they can ponder intelligent design.”

**Playing the Game of Science**

ID-relevant publications (1991 to 2009)

- Philosophy of Science
- British Journal for the Philosophy of Science
- Princeton Theological Review
- Perspectives on Science & Christian Faith
- Biology & Philosophy
- Utah Law Review
- San Diego Law Review

The “peer-reviewed science journal articles.”

- Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington (Meyer)
- Protein Science (Behe)
- Rivista di Biologia (Wells)

**Bruce Chapman**

“If I were to carry around Discovery fellows’ peer-reviewed science journal articles on Darwinian theory and intelligent design I would need a suitcase, not a coat pocket.”

Recapturing America

“We’re the ones that stand for good science, objective reasoning, assumptions on the table, a high level of education, and freedom of conscience to think as we are capable of thinking. That’s what America stands for, and that’s something we stand for, and that’s something the Christian Church and the Christian Gospel stand for – the truth that makes you free. Let’s recapture that, while we’re recapturing America.”

William Dembski

“This is really an opportunity to mobilize a new generation of scholars and pastors not just to equip the saints but also to engage the culture and reclaim it for Christ. That’s really what is driving me.”

Initial Funding for CRSC

- Stewardship Foundation
  - Created “to contribute to the propagation of the Christian Gospel by evangelical and missionary work and to teach the Christian faith as laid down in the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Scriptures.”
- The Macellan Foundation
  - Goal of “funding strategic evangelical, Christian organizations” and “furthing the Kingdom of Christ”
- Fieldstead & Company
  - Howard Ahmanson – “My purpose is total integration of Biblical law into our lives.”
  - Involved with R.J. Rushdoony’s Chalcedon Foundation

Chalcedon Foundation

“We believe that the whole Word of God must be applied to all of life. It is not only our duty as individuals, families and churches to be Christian, but it is also the duty of the state, the school, the arts and sciences, law, economics, and every other sphere to be under Christ the King. Nothing is exempt from His dominion. We must live by His Word, not our own.”
Gary North

“We must use the doctrine of religious liberty to gain independence for Christian schools until we train up a generation of people who know that there is no religious neutrality, no neutral law, no neutral education, and no neutral civil government. Then they will get busy in constructing a Bible-based social, political and religious order which finally denies the religious liberty of the enemies of God.”

George Grant (1987)

“Christians have an obligation, a mandate, a commission, a holy responsibility to reclaim the land for Jesus Christ – to have dominion in civil structures, just as in every other aspect of life and godliness. But it is dominion we are after. Not just a voice. It is dominion we are after. Not just influence. It is dominion we are after. Not just equal time. It is dominion we are after. World conquest. That’s what Christ has commissioned us to accomplish. And we must settle for nothing less.”

How are Young Earth Creationism and Intelligent Design related?

- Same arguments (design, gaps in fossil record, etc)
  - Avoid the issue of the age of the Earth ("big tent")
- Shared support base
- Same interest in cultural renewal

3 Prongs of Intelligent Design

- Life is complex and cannot be explained by naturalistic mechanisms. A scientific theory of design can explain the complexity (Behe & Dembski)
- Evolution as taught in public schools is fraudulent and leaves out evidence against evolution. This evidence should be taught (Wells)
- Naturalistic thinking has bad consequences