

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Danger! Cliff Ahead!

by Dave Nutting

Dave Harper, AOI's chairman of the Board, is a very perceptive man, with deep insights into spiritual truth. He also has a great sense of humor and a practical way of seeing lessons for life in everyday experiences.

One day he told me a story about his brother trying to make his way home on a horse on a very dark night. He came to a spot where the horse refused to go on. After several attempts at circling the horse back to the same spot, the horse would still not proceed. Of course,

Dave's brother got quite frustrated with that. Finally, he got off the horse and went to investigate. That's when he almost walked over a cliff!

The horse knew the problem and had refused to go.

Many young people are preparing to go to college this fall. What they don't know is that there is a cliff ahead. They need someone to warn them and prepare them for what they are about to encounter. I sometimes feel that the AOI staff is like the horse, trying to warn parents and students of the dangers ahead.

Just what is the "cliff" I am talking about? It is a spiritual one. When the

students hit the campus and all they get from their instructors and peers is the philosophy of evolution along with other anti-Biblical arguments, they often literally fall off the cliff in their faith. Mary Jo and I frequently meet these students when we speak on university campuses. Many are confused and floundering in their commitment to Christ. Some of them, even from Christian homes, are now arguing for atheism. Many parents have sadly told us about their son or daughter who "used to be active in the church," but have now fallen over that cliff.

This is much more prevalent than most parents would like to think. The secular colleges, for the most part, have become "change agents" with some professors actively and purposefully trying to shake the belief systems of the students. Unfortunately, many Christian colleges also deliver an evolutionary message.

That is one reason we speak at several universities every year. Hopefully, we can give the students some "reigns" to hold onto so they don't go over the edge. Many students have expressed appreciation for what AOI speakers have given them...but there are so many more that need to hear.

Students need your help! So what can you do? If you haven't been preparing your students all along, you will need some drastic action

to prepare them. Perhaps they have already fallen over the cliff in middle school or high school or are desperately clinging to a tree branch trying to hold on to their faith. Here are some steps you can take.

First and foremost, pray with and for them. Talk with them about

what they will encounter at school and equip them to stand firm.

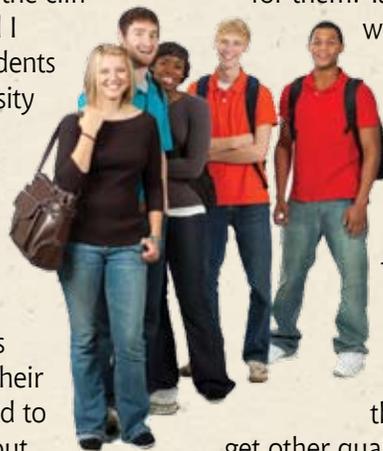
Bring them to our Creation Family Mountain Adventure or our Green River Raft Trip yet this summer.

Go through our Discover Creation DVD series with them. Direct them to our website,

get other quality resources in their hands, and schedule a Discover Creation Seminar in your church or on their campus this fall. These are not quick-fix cure-alls, but people have told us that AOI's creation teaching is what got them through college with their faith intact.

Over the next few issues of Think & Believe, you will also be hearing about a new undertaking that AOI is planning. See the Director's Column in this issue to learn more about AOI's plans for a one-year program to help train and equip students to stand firm in the battle they will encounter when they arrive on campus.

Whatever you do, keep in mind that there is a cliff ahead! Listen to the warning of these "ol' horses" at AOI and be that wise horse for your own family. **AOI**



Creation/Evolution - The Real Conflict by Dr. Tom Heinze, Guest Writer

What exactly is the point of conflict between creation and evolution? Some say there is no conflict because they think God created by evolution. Others have never thought it through. In this article I want to clarify the point at which creation and evolution are in conflict.

Evolutionists believe that the first living cell somehow popped into existence and reproduced, bringing to life other cells that were somewhat different from the first cell. They say that these gave life to other cells that had still greater differences, etc. Eventually people evolved.

The Bible however, does not say that God created a single first cell. Rather, He created a number of different kinds of animals: birds, creatures of the sea, and land animals. The land animals are summed up in Genesis 1:24-25: *“And God said, ‘Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind. And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.’”*

Note the words “according to their kinds.” Had God just created a first kind and left the origin of all the other kinds to evolution, He should have left out these words. Instead, He included them; and not just once. From Genesis 1 verse 11 through verse 25, I find the words “According to their kinds,” seven times; and “according to its kind” once.

Whether living things *only* reproduced according to their kinds, or reproduced *across* kinds is the big point of conflict between evolution and creation. Evolutionists don’t believe that animals etc. have reproduced only according to their kinds. They believe that a first single cell reproduced in enough ways to gradually give life to all the different kinds of plants and animals.

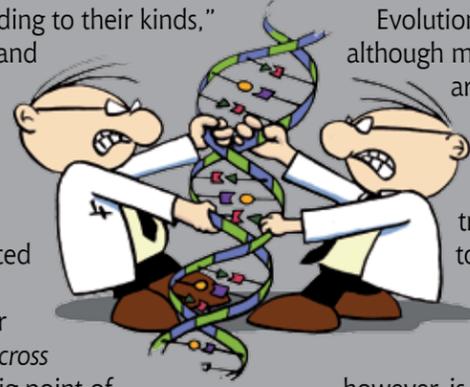
This is an important point of conflict that goes beyond whether animals first came about by spontaneous generation or creation. The reason is that evolution is not really about origin. It is a theory of what happened after the imagined origin of a first living cell. Evolutionists

believe that accidental, random mutations happened to the DNA code causing plants, animals and us to evolve to our present condition. In essence, evolutionists believe that mutations wrote the entire DNA code!

Evolutionists assume that, although most random mutations are harmful and can cause damage, some might provide an improvement. They trust natural selection to weed out damaging changes and enhance the good ones.

The DNA code, however, is not random but carefully and intelligently written. Therefore, random changes of any significance tend to make it worse, not improve it!

If you believe that random mutations made all living things, put that concept to the test. Lean your bicycle against your car, pick up your sledge hammer, put on a blindfold, and start beating on them. If it makes them into a new Ferrari and racing bicycle worth \$5,000, I was wrong, and I apologize. **AOI**



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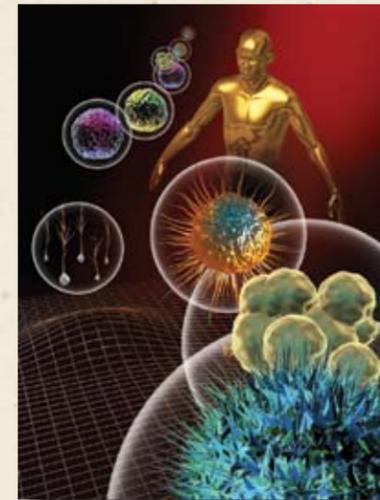
New Research and “The Fountain of Youth”

by Dr. Dave Demick

The problem of aging and death has always haunted mankind. Men have vainly searched for the “Elixir of Life” and the “Fountain of Youth” to overcome this universal curse. Some deny that death is a curse, saying “death is just a part of life.” This foolishness follows directly from atheistic Darwinism. However, most people are unwilling to accept that idea. They know in their hearts that longer life is a blessing. Advertisers are well aware of this deep human longing, and so we receive promotions for all sorts of anti-aging products. Medical science has also focused much research on the aging process. Several breakthroughs have been made in recent years. One of these advances has surprising implications for the creation-evolution issue.

This breakthrough began fifty years ago, and involved human cells grown in artificial culture. Studies showed that normal cells from a newborn baby could divide and replicate themselves in a culture bottle about 50 times before wearing out and dying. Cells taken from middle-aged adults had lost much of this ability—they could replicate only about 20 times. Cells taken from old people could hardly replicate at all—only 5 or 10 times before dying. This implied that human aging goes on at the cellular level and limits a cell’s ability to replicate. Curiously, it has been found that a select population of human cells does not suffer from this cellular aging process. Could these cells—and some mechanism in them—be a clue to the elusive goal of immortality? Perhaps.

These “deathless” human cells are the original reproductive cells in the male testes and female ovaries. They have been passed on from generation to generation ever since the beginning. It happens like this: each new human being (since Adam and Eve) starts as a single cell, a fertilized egg. The fertilized egg comes from the union of two germ cells, with one coming



from each of the parents. This new cell must divide and multiply itself to produce the 100 trillion cells of an adult human. However, early in embryonic life, a few stem cells separate themselves into a developing gonad, and become the new germ cells

that will eventually form the next generation. Meanwhile, the rest of the embryonic cells become the differentiated cells that form specialized organs and tissues. These body cells are called “somatic cells.” However, in the process of maturing, the somatic cells lose much of their replicative ability and are condemned to wear out and die. It is as though a limit is imposed on their life span. But what of the original germ cells? Do they suffer replicative aging and die? Far from it! If these germ cells wore out and died after only 50 replications, the human race would have been extinct long ago. So, the obvious question is this: why do our somatic cells age and die while our germ cells live on through thousands of

generations, seemingly immortal?

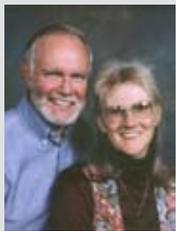
A molecular basis for this strange phenomenon was finally found.^{1,2} A cellular enzyme complex called telomerase was discovered, which rejuvenates a cell’s chromosomes after cell division takes place. (Chromosomes carry genetic material in all cells except bacteria.) Without telomerase, chromosomes deteriorate successively after each division until cell replication can no longer occur. Single-celled yeasts, the simplest cells with chromosomes, have strong telomerase activity and are practically immortal. “Higher” organisms also have telomerase—it has been found in all vertebrates tested so far. However, in multicellular creatures, it often does not express full activity. Telomerase is present and highly active in human germ cells, allowing the human race to continue, even though we die as individuals. Its genetic instructions are also present in all other (somatic) cells of the human body. However, in the somatic cells, it is only partially active. Why doesn’t it work fully in all human cells? If it did, we could conceivably live much longer lives. The very personal question for each of us is this: if Darwinian evolution is true, why should our cells have evolved what seems to be a potential fountain of youth, only to keep it mostly hidden away? **AOI**

¹Bergman, Jerry, “The Life Clock and Paley’s Watch: The Telomeres,” *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, v. 37 (2000), p. 176-182.

²Krupp, Klapper, and Parwaresch, “Review: Cell Proliferation, Carcinogenesis, and Diverse Mechanisms of Telomerase Regulation,” *Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences*, v. 57 (2000), p. 465.

[Editors note:]In the second half of this article, Dr. Demick answers evolutionary objections and shows how the creation model of origins is far superior to the evolutionary model in explaining the origin and selective function of telomerase. Read this on our web at: DiscoverCreation.org <http://www.discovercreation.org/newsletters/NewResearchandTheFountainofYouth.htm>

“Heads-Up” *by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting*



We would like to give you a heads-up as we anticipate an exciting addition to the ministry of Alpha Omega

Institute. You have heard us speak to the fact that the faith of a high percentage of young people is getting blasted out of the water by evolutionary and other anti-Biblical philosophies. Our desire at AOI has been to help stem that tide.

We are currently setting the groundwork for a specialized training institute designed to fortify students with a Biblical, creation-based worldview. We anticipate that the institute will have an emphasis on creation evidences, applied apologetics, personal discipleship, and practical ministry outreach. This program could provide a “bridge” for students transitioning from high school to college. It may also provide a powerful alternative to a typical

first-year college program. For some students who have already been to college and have experienced the battle first hand, it can provide mid-course “first-aid” and fortification. Ultimately, we hope to equip students to become connected with their own community, church or future college in creation and other apologetics ministries.

Along with direct instruction, Bible study, and discipleship, a variety of learning opportunities are being planned, including “round-table” group interaction, research projects, multiple field trips, hands-on experiences and practical ministry opportunities. It is anticipated that the instructional program will be followed by a focused ministry practicum to solidify the training and help spread the message.

We covet your prayers and input as we formulate this program so that it will maximize ministry outreach and eternal fruit. If this interests you please email us ASAP at AOI@DiscoverCreation.org. 

Upcoming Events

See www.DiscoverCreation.org for a schedule of AOI's upcoming events. Also, perhaps you or your group would like to have us come. Contact us today at 970-523-9943.



Creation Family Adventures

July 29-Aug.3 or Aug. 5-10

There are still a few spots left! Join us this summer for the vacation of a lifetime or start planning for next year.

Check the Web



Make sure you go to www.DiscoverCreation.org for the latest improvements/additions to the site. Our blog is updated several times per week. That can keep you right up to date with the speakers. Come along with us in this ministry and encourage others to visit the website as well!

Creation Raft Trip! Aug. 26-30

Join Mary Jo, Dave, and AOI as we partner with Journey Quest and float the Green River through Gray's and Desolation Canyons. Lots of Flood geology, Indian ruins, and cliff paintings. Easy enough for the family but has plenty of exciting class II and III rapids! Great time to learn creation firsthand! Most meals and equipment provided. Meet in Grand Junction, CO Cost of the trip is \$495. For more information, call 970-523-9943. To register, visit: journeyquest.org/overnight-trips/aoi-green/.



Financial Update

Ooooooops. We mentioned at the first of the year that we finished the year in the black. That was true. However, as of right now, that won't happen this year unless God moves on the heart of many individuals like you to contribute. Perhaps it's because it is an election year or because of the economy, but if you see the importance of AOI's creation ministry, would you please help? Remember, it is easy to donate on-line if you prefer. www.DiscoverCreation.org



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