



CSA News

The Creation Science Association for Mid-America

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men" Psalm 118:8

Volume 16(4) July/Aug, 1999

The "Proof" From Sub optimality

"Imperfections in Nature Prove God Didn't Do It"

Reflections on Another Great Proof of Evolution

by Tom Willis

Evolutionism, like other religious sects, especially the pagan ones, is always largely supported by a group of people who like to claim for themselves the title of "great thinker," "philosopher" (lover of wisdom), scientist, etc. The last few hundred years the title preferred by those promoting the pagan religion of evolutionism is "scientist." Like any religious belief, the devotees like to think of themselves as learned and wise. They **always** develop arguments, which they call "proofs," or "evidence" of their beliefs. Of course, the *proofs* of at least **one** religion must be sound. Likewise, the *proofs* of many others must be unsound. The challenge is to properly sift them, gleaning truth.

One of the less frequently heard (until recently) *proofs* of evolutionism is the "*proof from sub optimality.*" The contemporary *thinker* generally associated with this marvelous *proof* is Stephen J. Gould of Harvard. Frankly, I seldom encountered it, other than in Gould's writings, until very recently when a couple things seem to have given new life to this interesting "*proof*" of evolutionism:

1. The first is the moderate popularity of the "Mere Creation" movement which, since it avoids Biblical arguments, features "evidence for intelligent design." Even this rather liberal group of Deists, "moderate" Christians, and evolution critics have incurred the wrath of the priesthood of evolutionism.

Since the "intelligent design" folks don't stand for much, the only thing the priests could attack was "intelligent design."

2. Here locally, the alternate to the State Drafting Committee's proposed Science Standards was submitted by a Citizens Drafting Committee. This latter proposal included in a glossary definitions of 20 or so words, including "Creation," which was defined as "the belief that the complexity of life requires intelligent design." This, of course, is not a definition of *Creation* but an argument for it.

Nevertheless, a number of local "scientists" have trotted out, with much display of pride and even swaggering arrogance, a number of "proofs" that, "If God did it, He sure did a poor job."

But, let's let Gould do it himself:

The second argument - that the imperfection of nature reveals evolution - strikes many people as ironic... Evolution lies exposed in the imperfections that record a history of descent. Why should a rat run, a bat fly, a porpoise swim, and I type this essay with structures built of the same bones unless we all inherited them from a common ancestor? An engineer, starting from scratch, could design better limbs in each case.

Evolution as Fact and Theory, Discover, May 1981

Now many readers will chuckle at this, as I did. When I read it, I surmised that Gould was in a hurry to make a few dollars on another article, and we wouldn't see that nonsense again. But he has repeated it almost verbatim, and his disciples seem to like it. Before we critique it, we should acknowledge that his *proof* has been embellished considerably since 1981 by other authors. Recent applications of it in the Kansas Science Standards debate illustrate this. Leonard Krishtalka, Director of the Kansas University Natural History Museum writes in a Lawrence, Ks newspaper article:



Creation Safaris are family recreational outings with educational sessions providing a view of *nature* superior to the mythology offered in textbooks, movies, parks, museums and TV programs.

Remaining Safaris...

June 19: Greater Kansas City Geology and Fossil Outing, 9:00AM - 4:00PM

July 16: Astronomy Safari, 8:30-10:30PM

July 24: KU Natural History Museum, 9:00AM-4:00PM

August 13: Astronomy Safari, 8:00-10:00PM

August 21: KC Fossil Hunt #2, 1:00-4:00PM

September 10: Astronomy Safari, 7:00 - 9:00PM

September 24-26: Ozark Stream Canoe Float & Camp

October 1: Astronomy Safari, 7:00 - 9:00PM

October 16: KATY Bike Trail, 9:00AM-5:00PM

November 5: Astronomy Safari, 7:00 - 9:00PM

November 20: Squaw Creek Game Refuge, 9:00AM-5:00PM

CSA Creation Safari Detail Booklet for 1999

The calendar above is intended to give you only an outline of dates and events. To seriously consider participating in a Creation Safari, you should call or write for the booklet: [CSA Creation Safari Details for 1999](#), then make reservations.

CSA, 22509 State Line Road, Cleveland, MO 64734

Also inquire about CSA membership, Free Lending Library, and a free subscription to CSA News and resources catalog.

[The]...creationists... usual metaphor for life is an intricate watch - intelligent design by an intelligent designer. Unfortunately, so much of life is poorly designed. Creationists would have to explain why a pig has two toes on each foot that touch the ground and two more toes that don't. Or why some birds have wings but can't fly... Or why so many insects with wings cannot fly... How about male nipples?

And From Tony Schountz, Ph.D. <tschount@mesastate.edu>:

"Regarding your position on IT [sic, I assume he meant ID "Intelligent Design"], I would like you to provide me with intelligent design reasons for the following facts.

"First, there are several molecules made by organisms that are known as "antifreeze proteins" because they reduce the freezing temperature of water (see Chen et al. 1997. PNAS. 94:3817). These proteins fall into 5 general categories based upon similarities in gene sequence. However, the 5 families show no similarity at the gene level. It is clear that any one of these five proteins would perform the task of reducing the freezing temperature of water. Why would an "intelligent designer" reinvent the wheel on 5 different occasions when once would have been enough?

"Second, why did this intelligent designer create transposable elements? These "jumping genes" are like molecular scissors in that they can cut and insert into DNA and compromise an organism's genomic integrity. Moreover, these elements can leave a genome and take flanking DNA sequences with them, and when they reinsert into another genome they introduce the genetic information. Why would an intelligent designer create something that compromises the design? Indeed, the human genome is 30% retrotransposons (Eickbush. 1999. Science. 283:1465). Why did this intelligent designer incorporate so much genetic baggage?

"Third, why is it that this intelligent designer created DNA polymerases with inherent mutation rates? All known DNA polymerases are error prone. Wouldn't an intelligent designer make polymerases that are error free so as to preserve the design?"

Schountz offered several more in the same vein, but Krish-talka made sweeping Bible attacks that were mostly interesting for their incredible (willful?) ignorance of the Bible. We haven't space for either, and I think these several are illustrative of the notion that...

"God Did a Poor Job, So God Didn't do It"

This is the essence of the arguments by Gould, Krishtalka, and Schountz. "The designs are sub optimum, i.e., less than optimum, a truly good designer would have done a better job." There are so many answers I fear I will run out of room:

1. Complex Systems, even "poorly designed" ones, all require a creator.

Not all pocket combs or airplanes are "perfectly designed," but only a fool would deny they are all created. In fact it is easy to state a testable, repeatable, falsifiable hypothesis: "All complex systems owe their existence to acts of creation by one or more intelligent living beings." We have billions of confirming experiments and observations, and no falsifying ones, making this a principle of science.

2. Creation by a Transcendent God clearly predicts that man will never figure out "reasons" for everything. If he

could, God would not be transcendent. Therefore, the fact that neither "creationists" nor "evolutionists" can truly explain the reason for everything among such magnificently designed creatures literally screams that God is transcendent.

3. **Optimum design can only be defined by the creator**, whether of pocket combs, pigs, birds, "jumping genes" or proteins. For people like Gould, Krishtalka and Shountz, who cannot begin to design a single living cell, to critique the design of these items tells you more about their arrogance than their science.

4. **Man usually optimizes for "cost,"** within the limitations imposed by the market, his concern for performance, safety, etc. Animals do not cost God anything, so His criteria for "optimization" is obviously different than man's. Evolutionists always try to impose their own views of functionality on God. Typically they argue for "survival" (design that 'compromises the cell' offends them), or conservation of effort (God designed too many antifreeze proteins), or their idea of "sensible function" (pig's toes should all touch the ground, or males shouldn't have nipples). [An interesting aside, how do evolutionists explain male nipples? Did man originally nurse the young? Or did man evolve from females?] Each of these *evidences* against creation has many serious flaws. We have room for only a few here:

- Redundant design is something every good designer does, for many different reasons. The fact that Schountz doesn't understand this reflects more on his ignorance of design strategies than it does on his brilliance in proving God did not design antifreeze proteins. I would be much more impressed if Schountz had designed and built a frog which had survived a few thousand years using antifreeze proteins. While you're at it Tony, why don't you just toss in a mechanism for self replication and one to slow it's heart rate to one beat every 10 minutes? Frogs do both.
- "Survival" is not likely one of God's criteria, nor one of His problems. As man implements God's mandate to "fill the earth," God undoubtedly planned to make room for him.
- Designs that 'compromise the cell' are absolutely consistent with the "curse" of Genesis, and with Paul's description of it as the "bondage to decay" in the entire cosmos. When God redesigned the entire Cosmos to implement the curse, He obviously did so in a manner to prevent man from subverting **His** plan via technology. I predict man will learn that there are so many planned "decay" processes that man can never even discover them all, much less devise ways to subvert them. "Decay" is what we will have, and "science" will **NOT** explain it, much less overcome it!
- Designs that appear to have "lost information" ('species' that crossbreed but produce infertile offspring) and/or "lost function" (pig's toes), are completely consistent with the curse of Genesis and the "bondage to decay" (the curse) as described by Paul in Romans 8:21. They do not *prove* evolution, they confirm a master creator, with a decay goal.

Remember, as you reflect on these that they are merely the responses **I** could think of. But I cannot design a frog either. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9.

However, if, even I, with my limited knowledge can so easily refute such claims, think of the fate of these men when they must face Jesus on the day of judgment with such flimsy "evidence" for their heart decision to reject the knowledge of God. Can you imagine Gould telling Jesus *"An engineer, starting from scratch, could design better limbs in each case"?*

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Gould would be well advised to test his theory more carefully. I suggest he have an arm amputated, and ask an engineer to improve on it. Or how about Krishtalka, "Well Jesus, I think you did a terrible job on pig's feet." Can't you just hear Jesus saying, "I'll give you a thousand years Leonard; produce a better pig and I'll give you one 'Get Out of Hell Free' Card." Perhaps Tony Schountz will bring in one of his beautifully designed frogs with only one antifreeze protein. Hopefully Jesus will run a race for frog extinction with Schountz: the Jesus Frog versus the Shountz Frog. Which frog will you bet on? My bet? There will be only one frog in the race!

Thanks for the *really neat scientific advice* fellows, but I think I'll hang on to my Bible, **and** my confidence in Jesus.

Book of the Month:

The Origin of Caves

by: Tom Willis

When did caves form? How long did it take? How about cave decorations (dripstone, etc.), how long do they take? This book contains a completely new theory of cave formation, unlike any you have ever heard. Would you believe most cavern formation took place in less than 500 years, and most cavern decoration required much less time?

Mar/Apr 1999 Price: \$3.50 (plus \$1.50 postage and handling)

CSA Bumper Stickers: 3-3/4" x 17"

Black on Bright Yellow,

Price: 1: \$1.75, 5: \$7.00, 10: \$13.00, 50: \$50, 100: \$70



Are You Participating in CSA As Much as You Should?

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Are you doing all the Lord has called you to do in the war for the minds and hearts of our citizens... especially our youth? CSA is not a closed fraternity. Any born-again believer who is abiding in the words of Jesus, and has been gifted in research, computers, speaking, clerical activities, writing of articles or book reviews, etc., and who has heard a call to serve in an origins ministry should consider and pray about serving with us. Write or call for more information.

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Audio/Video Tapes of CSA Meetings:

APE Men Science or Myth

by: Bob Farwell

Nearly everyone alive has seen lineups of creatures purported to be human ancestors. Many people believe creatures like this are ancestors of ours, others do not. But surprisingly, few on either side have really taken a hard look at the evidence that sustain such a claim. Everyone has an opinion, few have anything to substantiate their opinion.

Audio: A0169 - \$5.00. Video: V0169 - \$13.00

The Origin of Kinds:
The Myth of Biological Evolution

by: Tom Willis

Like "Ape Men," virtually everyone has an opinion about evolution. Some say, "I'm a Christian too, I see no problem with evolution." Some say, "Evolution is science. Creation is religion. Religion has no place in science." Everyone has an opinion, but, in twenty years I have never met anyone, regardless of the number of titles of nobility strung after his name, who could present a cogent defense of evolution. See for yourself in the "**9 Great Proofs of Evolution.**"

Audio A0170: \$5.00. Video: V0170 - \$13.00

Too Far Away To Attend CSA Meetings?
Why Not Attend Via Audio or Video Tape

Attend CSA Meetings by ordering the Audio (\$5.00) or Video (\$13.00) tape. To order, request the meeting date, topic, or item number (at the end of the meeting announcement), e.g. V0188. Advanced Session Tapes are not available for Purchase, but they (as well as meeting tapes and many others) can be borrowed from...

The CSA Lending Library
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**The Creation Science Association
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BULK RATE

Address Correction Requested

CSA Monthly Meeting Location: Westbrooke Church 9898 West 95th, Overland Park, KS

Two blocks East of 69 Highway (or Switzer) on North side of 95th Street

Refreshments: 6:15PM - Meeting: 7:00PM Nursery Available: \$2.50 per child (Reservations required for nursery)

CSA Meeting - Tuesday, July 6, 1999

The Basic Institute in Creation Science

National Science Standards

What Are They? What Do They Mean?

by: Tom Willis

The National Science Foundation and many others are aggressively pushing for National "Science" Standards. Presently, Kansas is evaluating standards largely copied from the NSF "standard." A citizens group and some wise School Board members took the academic and media establishments by surprise, proposing alternate standards that require (Heaven forbid) **teaching science in science classes**. This is one of the most important public issues in many years.

(Tapes: A0195: \$5.00 or V0195: \$13.00)

**The Advanced Institute in Creation Science
Patterns of Ocean Circulation Over
Continents During Noah's Flood**

by: J.R. Baumgardner & Daniel Barnette

Terra, John Baumgardner's global geophysical model predicts catastrophic, runaway subduction of the pre-flood ocean bottom, causing unimaginable tidal waves and sedimentation, rock and fossil formation. Now, he and Barnette work on the pattern of water movement to assess it's effects. [IC94T-040]

CSA Meeting - Tuesday, Aug 3, 1999

The Basic Institute in Creation Science

Mount St. Helens

Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe

by: Steve Austin, Ph.D.

The ink had barely dried on Steve Austin's Ph.D. when Mount St. Helens blew it's top. Steve's thesis had involved the "floating mat" theory of coal formation (as opposed to the notion that coal is material that grew in swamps). Among other things, Mt. St. Helens produced an enormous floating mat of trees severed from their stumps by 700 mph winds. This video is the 2nd Steve has produced. You will not soon forget it. (Video: C-173: \$20.00)

**The Advanced Institute in Creation Science
Regional Metamorphism within a Creationist
Framework: Garnet Composition**

Andrew A. Snelling, Ph.D.

Both Advanced Sessions are Videos of Papers Presented
at the 1994 International Conference on Creation

What is Garnet? Where did it come from? Did it really take a long time to form? Garnet may not be high on your interest list, but it will be after thinking about this presentation. [IC94T-045]

Special Youth Sessions at CSA Meetings
for High School Students. 7:00 - 9:00PM.

*No Youth Sessions in July or August. Youth sessions will
resume with the September 7, 1999 CSA meeting.*

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Just Say NO!
Seminar**

**Have you had one in your
Community, School or
Church lately? Contact
CSA for info.**

