



## **Fossil Finds Raise More Questions Than Answers**

By Casey Luskin

As a follower of the scientific debate over evolution, I love it when new "missing links" are discovered. For it is then--and often only then--that the evolutionary biology community admits how precious little evidence it previously held for the evolutionary transition in question.

This phenomenon of evolutionists confessing their "retroactive ignorance" can be witnessed in recent media coverage of three supposedly "missing links" which have been found this year. Not only do these fossils provide paltry examples of Darwin's missing "transitional fossils," they have been accompanied by Darwinist admissions that prior to these finds, we really didn't know very much about the evolutionary issue in question.

The first example came in early April of 2006, when scientists announced the discovery of an alleged missing link - named *Tiktaalik roseae* - between fish and four-legged animals (called "tetrapods"). After making this find, evolutionists finally came clean about the previous lack of fossil evidence for such a transition. "[T]he origin of major tetrapod features has remained **obscure** for lack of fossils that document the sequence of evolutionary changes,"<sup>1</sup> wrote some leading scientists in the journal *Nature*. But this admission came only after they announce the finding of an alleged "missing link."

Later that same month, some paleoanthropologists reported discovering fossils of the hominid species *Australopithecus anamensis*. After finding a couple of canine teeth of intermediate size and calling it a "missing link,"<sup>2</sup> apparently the evolutionary biology community felt comfortable to finally admit that "until recently, the origins of *Australopithecus* were **obscured** by a sparse fossil record."<sup>3</sup>

In the same fashion, in September, 2006, an exciting australopithecine find was reported as scientists discovered what may be the most complete australopithecine fossil specimen ever found. The specimen represented the well-

### Contents

**Science Updates and Resources:**

Fossil Finds Raise More Questions Than Answers	1
Origins News Updates	4
Intelligent Design Theory in Sports Medicine	5

**Field Reports:**

IDEA Center News and Events	7
-----------------------------	---

**Getting Involved:**

Registration / Membership Form	8
--------------------------------	---

For more information about the IDEA Center, please visit

## www.ideacenter.org

<b>IDEA Center</b>	<b>Phone: (858) 337-3529</b>
<b>PO Box 17424</b>	
<b>San Diego, Ca 92177</b>	<b>E-mail: info@ideacenter.org</b>

<sup>1</sup> Edward B. Daeschler, Neil H. Shubin, and Farish A. Jenkins, "A Devonian tetrapod-like fish and the evolution of the tetrapod body plan," *Nature* Vol 440: 757-763 (April 6, 2006).

<sup>2</sup> For example, see John Roach, "Fossil Find Is Missing Link in Human Evolution, Scientists Say," *National Geographic News*, at [http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/04/0413\\_060413\\_evolution.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/04/0413_060413_evolution.html) (April 13, 2006).

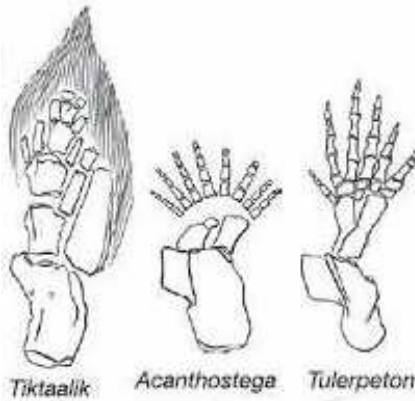
<sup>3</sup> White et al., "Asa Issie, Aramis and the origin of Australopithecus," *Nature*, Vol 440:883-889 (April 13, 2006); emphasis added.

known species *Australopithecus afarensis*, but was only of a baby specimen. It claimed to have had “a mixture of ape-like and human-like features”<sup>4</sup> which was “a critical missing link.”<sup>5</sup> Yet simultaneously, it was recognized that prior to finding this fossil there was a “developmental void”<sup>6</sup> or an “important gap”<sup>7</sup> in the fossil record. Funny how no one in the media was talking about these “gaps” and “voids” prior to finding this fossil.

For those who follow the evolution debate, this behavior is not new: evolutionists regularly confess their prior ignorance on some important point of their theory *only after* they report some new and allegedly big breakthrough. This behavior may be conscious or unplanned, but either way, one thing is clear: next time we’re told about some “missing link,” we’ll also hear about how precious little we previously knew about evolution, making a reasonable person wonder, “How strong is the evidence for Darwinism, really?”

One also must wonder if these fossils really provide the evidence evolutionists claim they do for large-scale evolutionary change. *Tiktaalik* was a fish with fins and does little to tell us how fins supposedly evolved into feet. In another confession of retroactive ignorance, an evolutionist writing about *Tiktaalik* said that the gap between fish and fins was previously “frustratingly wide”<sup>8</sup> but even conceded that “[t]here remains a large morphological gap between them and digits as seen in, for example, *Acanthostega*.”<sup>9</sup> In truth, there are no fossils showing exactly how fins turned into feet:

**Figure 1: Comparison of *Tiktaalik* fin and the legs of true tetrapods**



The diagram at left adapted from an article published in *Nature*,<sup>10</sup> shows how the finlike fin of *Tiktaalike* (far left) is completely different from the true fingered limbs of real tetrapod feet of *Acanthostega* (middle) and *Tulerpeton* (far right). The *Nature* article placed *Tiktaalik* as the closest known fish specimen to four-legged tetrapods, revealing the stark lack of fossils documenting any kind of a transition between fins and feet.

More poignantly, some of the australopithecine fossils reported in April, 2006 were called “intermediate” simply because of a couple canine teeth of intermediate size and shape. The technical term used in the scientific paper reporting the find was intermediate “masticatory robusticity.”<sup>11</sup> But a couple teeth extra good at chewing harder stuff does not a major evolutionary transition make.<sup>12</sup>

What is more, this “missing link,” highlighted on a front page MSNBC article, was said to document “human evolution.” That is very misleading. Not only was the species *Australopithecus anamensis* already known from prior fossils, but it is said to have lived over 4 million years ago, far removed from the appearance of our own species and even from our genus *Homo*! Yet MSNBC called this “the most complete chain of human evolution so far.”<sup>13</sup> If a couple of 4 million year old teeth of “intermediate size” makes “the most complete chain of human evolution so far” then I feel quite comfortable being a skeptic of Darwinian claims on scientific grounds.

Finally, when reporting on the recent “baby ape” fossil specimen of *Australopithecus afarensis*, the media called it an “[a]pe-man skeleton”<sup>14</sup> that was “half-ape half-human”<sup>15</sup> These descriptions are incredibly misleading, or even outright

<sup>4</sup> “Lucy’s baby’ found in Ethiopia,” Wednesday, 20 September 2006 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/5363328.stm>  
<sup>5</sup> Mark Henderson, Science Editor, “Meet the relatives: Little Lucy, the half-ape half-human,” *London Times*, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2367940,00.html> (Sept. 21, 2006).  
<sup>6</sup> Lenore Pipes, “Child fossil discovery sparks debate, bridges gaps,” <http://phoenix.swarthmore.edu/2006-09-28/opinions/16372> (Sept 28, 2006).  
<sup>7</sup> David McAlary, “Prehuman Skeleton Offers Clues to Evolution,” <http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-09-21-voa4.cfm> (Sept. 21, 2006); “Scientists Find Ape-Man Skeleton Leading to Clues on Evolution,” [http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/37570/Scientists\\_Find\\_Ape\\_Man\\_Skeleton\\_Leading\\_to\\_Clues\\_on\\_Evolution](http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/37570/Scientists_Find_Ape_Man_Skeleton_Leading_to_Clues_on_Evolution) (Sept. 25, 2006).  
<sup>8</sup> Jennifer A. Clack & Per Erik Ahlberg, “A firm step from water to land,” *Nature* 440:747-749 (April 6, 2006).  
<sup>9</sup> Jennifer A. Clack & Per Erik Ahlberg, “A firm step from water to land,” *Nature* 440:747-749 (April 6, 2006).  
<sup>10</sup> “The pectoral fin of *Tiktaalik roseae* and the origin of the tetrapod limb,” by Shubin *et al.* (*Nature*, Vol 440:764-771, April 6, 2006).  
<sup>11</sup> White *et al.*, “Asa Iessie, Aramis and the origin of Australopithecus,” *Nature*, Vol 440:883-889 (April 13, 2006).  
<sup>12</sup> See <http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/filesDB-download.php?command=download&id=754> a picture of the actual “intermediate” teeth from the *Nature* article.  
<sup>13</sup> Seth Borenstein, “Fossil discovery fills gap in human evolution,” Associated Press, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12286206/> (April 12, 2006)  
<sup>14</sup> “Scientists Find Ape-Man Skeleton Leading to Clues on Evolution,” [http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/37570/Scientists\\_Find\\_Ape\\_Man\\_Skeleton\\_Leading\\_to\\_Clues\\_on\\_Evolution](http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/37570/Scientists_Find_Ape_Man_Skeleton_Leading_to_Clues_on_Evolution) (Sept. 25, 2006).  
<sup>15</sup> Mark Henderson, Science Editor, “Meet the relatives: Little Lucy, the half-ape half-human,” *London Times*, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2367940,00.html> (Sept. 21, 2006).

false. As previously noted, these ape-like australopithecine fossils predated humans by millions of years. Moreover, a scientific study in the *Journal of Molecular Biology and Evolution* found that *Homo* and *Australopithecus* differ dramatically:

We, like many others, interpret the anatomical evidence to show that early *H. sapiens* was significantly and dramatically different from ... australopithecines in virtually every element of its skeleton and every remnant of its behavior.<sup>16</sup>

Noting these many changes, the study called the evolutionary origin of humans, "a real acceleration of evolutionary change from the more slowly changing pace of australopithecine evolution" and noted that this transformation must have included radical changes:

The anatomy of the earliest *H. sapiens* sample indicates significant modifications of the ancestral genome and is not simply an extension of evolutionary trends in an earlier australopithecine lineage throughout the Pliocene. In fact, its combination of features never appears earlier...<sup>17</sup>

These rapid, unique, and genetically significant changes are termed "a genetic revolution" where "no australopithecine species is obviously transitional." One commentator proposed this evidence implies a "big bang theory"<sup>18</sup> of human evolution. Now that "*Homo habilis*" is best recognized as an australopithecine due to its ape-like skeletal structure,<sup>19</sup> it is no wonder an article in *Nature* last year recognized the lack of a clear-cut immediate ancestor for our genus *Homo*:

*H. ergaster* marks such a radical departure from previous forms of *Homo* (such as *H. habilis*) in its height, reduced sexual dimorphism, long limbs and modern body proportions that it is **hard at present to identify its immediate ancestry** in east Africa. Not for nothing has it been described as a hominin "**without an ancestor**, without a clear past"<sup>20</sup>

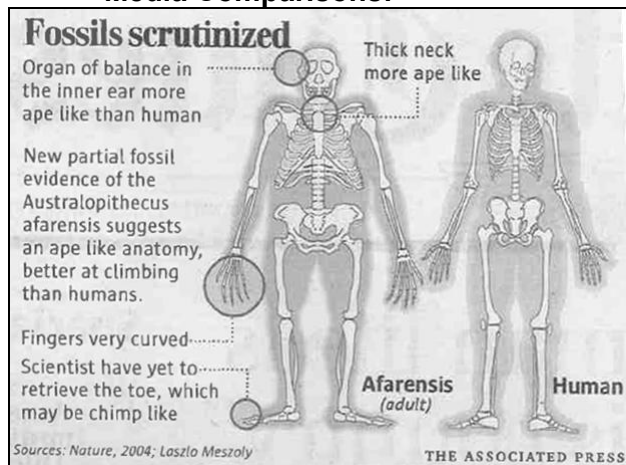
Clearly these australopithecine finds are not "half-ape half-human," as the australopithecine apes were sharply distinct from our genus *Homo* which is apparently "without an ancestor, without a clear past."

**Quick Quote**

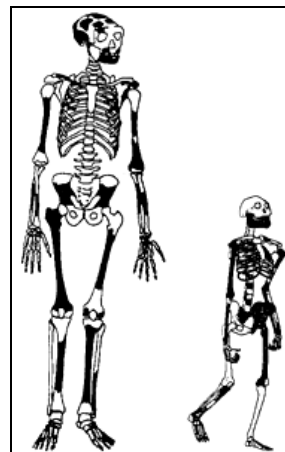
**"If they could demonstrate the power of material mechanisms to generate biological complexity and diversity, we wouldn't be having this discussion -- Darwin on Trial would never have been written and the intelligent design movement would not exist."**

*Dr. William Dembski*

**Figure 2: Comparisons of Media vs. Scientific Comparisons of *Homo* and *Australopithecus*:**



**Scientific Comparisons:**



<sup>16</sup> Id.  
<sup>17</sup> Id.  
<sup>18</sup> New study suggests big bang theory of human evolution, <http://www.umich.edu/~newsinfo/Releases/2000/Jan00/r011000b.html> (January 10, 2000).  
<sup>19</sup> See Bernard Wood and Mark Collard, "The Human Genus," *Science*, 284(5411):65-71 (April 2, 1999).  
<sup>20</sup> Robin Dennell & Wil Roebroeks, "An Asian perspective on early human dispersal from Africa," *Nature*, 438: 1099-1104 (Dec. 22/29, 2005) (internal citations removed) (emphasis added).

On the left is a misleading diagram from the *Seattle Times* (“Scientists Find Fossil Child from 3.3 Million Years Ago,” Thursday Sept. 21, 2006, pg. A2) which portrays humans and *Australopithecus afarensis* as being similar in size and shape. On the right is a diagram from an actual scientific study<sup>21</sup> revealing the “dramatic” differences between *Homo* (left) and *Australopithecus* (right).

Regardless of how the media spins these finds, these are all fascinating fossil finds that will surely stir the debate over biological origins. But anyone who thinks that we’ve found “the missing link” or even clear evidence of an evolutionary transition has either forgotten history, or isn’t looking very carefully at the evidence.

---

## Origins News Updates:

**Junk DNA Strikes Out Again!** An article published in the Mexican science journal “Revista Mexicana de Física” (Mexican magazine of Physics) entitled “Statistical Properties and Linguistic Coherence in noncoding DNA sequences” found that DNA “contains a large quantity of information arranged in a coherent, structured and complex manner whose linguistic character (coding?) lead us to think some kind of biological function.”<sup>22</sup> Similarly, in 2002 Dr. Richard Sternberg of the Smithsonian wrote that “a new conceptual framework is needed for understanding the roles of repetitive DNA in genomic/epigenetic systems, and that neo-Darwinian ‘narratives’ have been the primary obstacle to elucidating the effects of these enigmatic components of chromosomes.”<sup>23</sup> He concludes the notion that repetitive elements found in DNA are “junk” has become an icon which needs to be discarded, writing “the selfish DNA narrative and allied frameworks must join the other “icons” of neo-Darwinian evolutionary theory that, despite their variance with empirical evidence, nevertheless persist in the literature.” Dr. Sternberg concludes in another paper that “Our expectation is that, one day, we will think of what used to be called ‘junk DNA’ as a critical component of truly “expert” cellular control regimes.”<sup>24</sup> Indeed, just as this issue went to publication, Time Magazine quoted a biologist saying that much of the non-coding DNA “dark matter” “governs a lot of what we actually see.”<sup>25</sup>

**Extreme Convergent Evolution or Common Design?** A chapter by biologist Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig in a genetics text explicitly supports irreducible complexity and intelligent design.<sup>26</sup> It also finds incredible examples of convergence writing that “[n]o theorist in evolutionary biology will ever derive chicken and insects from a winged common ancestor, and yet, clearly related sequences are specifically expressed in wing buds and imaginal disks.”<sup>27</sup> Other dramatic examples find the same genes controlling eye or limb growth in different organisms whose alleged common ancestors are not even thought to have had eyes<sup>28</sup> or limbs.<sup>29</sup> Similar “convergence” at the genetic level is being found in genes producing proteins used in insect flight muscles<sup>30</sup> and “convergence” is also reported between chicken and squid crystalline genes used in eye development.<sup>31</sup> A paper published in *Revista di Biologia* attempts to find new explanations for the origin of convergence among biological forms, as biologist John Davison argues that “[t]he so-called phenomenon of convergent evolution may not be that at all, but simply the expression of the same preformed ‘blueprints’ by unrelated organisms.” Davison finds a remarkable examples “convergent evolution” in marsupial and placental saber-toothed cats, and explains that this evidence “bears, not only on the questions raised here, but also, on the whole issue of Intelligent Design.”<sup>32</sup> Evolutionists would call these unexpected extreme examples of “convergent evolution,” but data fits most naturally with common design.

---

<sup>21</sup> J. Hawks et. al, "Population Bottlenecks and Pleistocene Evolution," *Journal of Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 17(1):2-22 (2000).

<sup>22</sup> B. Cantú-Golán, E. Hernández-Lemus, "Statistical properties and linguistic coherence in noncoding DNA sequences," *Revista Mexicana de Física E*, Vol 51(2):118-125 (December, 2005).

<sup>23</sup> Richard v. Sternberg, "On the Roles of Repetitive DNA Elements in the Context of a Unified Genomic– Epigenetic System," *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 981: 154–188 (2002).

<sup>24</sup> Richard v. Sternberg and J. A. Shapiro, "How Repeated Retroelements format genome function," *Cytogenet Genome Res* 110:108–116 (2005).

<sup>25</sup> Michael D. Lemonick, *Time Magazine*, "What Makes Us Different," (October 1, 2006) (cover story).

<sup>26</sup> Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig, "Dynamic genomes, morphological stasis, and the origin of irreducible complexity," in *Dynamical Genetics* pgs. 101-119 (Valerio Parisi, Valeria De Fonzo, and Filippo Aluffi-Pentini eds., 2004).

<sup>27</sup> Id. quoting Cohn M.J., and Tickle, C. 1996, *Trends Genet.* 12, 253-257.

<sup>28</sup> Quiring, R., et al. "Homology of the eyeless gene of drosophila to the small eye in mice and aniridia in humans," *Science*, Vol 265 (1994): 78

<sup>29</sup> See Paul Nelson and Jonathan Wells, "Homology in Biology," in *Darwinism, Design, and Public Education* (2003).

<sup>30</sup> S. Schmitz et al., "Molecular Evolutionary Convergence of the Flight Muscle Protein Arthrin in Diptera and Hemiptera," *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 20(12):2019–2033. 2003.

<sup>31</sup> Joram Piatigorsky, *Gene Sharing, Lens Crystallins and Speculations on an Eye/Ear Evolutionary Relationship, Integrated Comparative Biology.*, 43:492–499 (2003).

<sup>32</sup> From John A. Davison, "A Prescribed Evolutionary Hypothesis," *Rivista di Biologia/Biology Forum* 98 (2005): 155-166.

# Intelligent Design Theory in Sports Medicine - Detecting Enhanced Performance

By Lee Penick



It's sad to see a hero fall, but this hero may have served the greater good: truth. 2006 Tour de France winner Floyd Landis

may have fallen from grace as a world-famous cycling super star, but his story demonstrates intelligent-design reasoning in action in a biological-science setting. Apparently there are certain features in biological systems that are best explained by an intelligent cause, as opposed to a natural cause, such as elevated levels of testosterone.

According to the Associated Press, after his second doping sample tested positive for higher-than-allowed levels of testosterone, Landis was fired by his cycling team and the Tour de France no longer considered him the 2006 champion.

The head of France's anti-doping commission said the samples contained synthetic testosterone, indicating that it came from an outside source. The second or "B" sample "confirmed the result of an adverse analytical finding" in a recent "A" sample, the International Cycling Union (ICU) said.

Pierre Bordry, who heads the French anti-doping council, said the lab that found higher-than-allowable levels of the hormone in both samples also discovered synthetic testosterone.

"I have received a text message from Chatenay-Malabry lab that indicates the 'B' sample of Floyd Landis' urine confirms testosterone was taken in an exogenous way," Bordry told The Associated Press. Landis had claimed the testosterone was "natural and produced by my own organism."

Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme said Landis no longer was considered champion, but the decision to strip him of his title rests with the ICU.

"It goes without saying that for us Floyd Landis is no longer the winner of the 2006 Tour de France," Prudhomme told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "Our determination is even stronger now to fight against doping and to defend this magnificent sport."

If stripped of the title, Landis would become the first winner in the 103-year history of cycling's premier race to lose his Tour crown over doping allegations. Landis' spokesman, Michael Henson, confirmed recently that the rider had tested positive for a testosterone-epitestosterone ratio of 11:1, well above the 4:1 limit.

Earlier, a *New York Times* report cited a source from the ICU saying that a second analysis of Landis' "A" sample by carbon isotope ratio testing had detected synthetic testosterone, meaning it was ingested.

Since the Phonak team was informed of the positive test on July 27, Landis and his defense team have offered varying explanations for the high testosterone reading:

- Cortisone shots taken for pain in Landis' degenerating hip
- Drinking beer and whiskey the night before
- Thyroid medication
- His natural metabolism



According to Neo-Darwinists, Landis can't be a cheater because science is limited and cannot detect intelligent causes in biological structures. Indeed, according to the logic and evidence presented at the recent *Kitzmiller v. Dover* case in

Pennsylvania, a search for causes apart from unguided material causes is "not science" if one is dealing with the biological sciences. According to the Dover Darwinists, science is not allowed to go beyond the thought of unguided material causes, and apparently any substance or apparatus found in a biologic body must have arrived there via naturalistic means. But what are we to do when we detect clear evidence of intelligent causes in nature?

Surely if a micro-machine like a flagellum (which can spin at up to 100,000 rpm to provide propulsion and operate in both forward and reverse) is the result of natural causes and nothing more, then the minor issue of elevated testosterone must be naturalistic in cause also? (I say this tongue-in-cheek, but perhaps the same type-III secretory system that Neo-Darwinists postulate evolved into the flagellum may have just as well secreted extra testosterone into Landis in a purely naturalistic way - despite the evidence and odds.)

Intuitively, if a blind watchmaker is responsible for the biological cascade that enables blood to clot when Landis and friends take a tumble and get some road rash, then perhaps this incredible blind watchmaker

also made some extra testosterone for Landis. We simply don't realize that Landis and those before him are evolving into a family of super-cyclists, far more fit than his cycling friends. "Better cycling through superior chemical evolution!"

In seriousness, in the relatively simple case of Landis, we don't put much faith in the just-so-stories of:

- Beer and whisky before the race
- Type-III secretory system injecting extra testosterone into his system
- His superior ancestral evolution into a testosterone-laden cyclist able to soundly defeat the less fit

Instead the cycling and scientific communities see this as a rather simple case of cheating to enhance performance. Once again, we observe that science is quite able to detect that there are certain features of biological systems that are best explained by an intelligent cause rather than a naturalistic cause, and the elevated testosterone levels of Landis' biological system is being explained by both the cycling authorities and scientific studies as the result of an intelligent cause.

While the verdict of intelligent cause vs. natural cause is clear, there is still no determination of who invoked the "intelligent cause." We don't know if:

- Landis took banned substances knowingly
- A trainer slipped them into his food or drink before a race
- A competitor contaminated his food or drink in a deliberate act to disqualify Landis

True to the theory of intelligent design, we don't necessarily have the evidence to determine who or what the intelligent agent is that committed the intelligent act, but we do have the capability to distinguish between intelligent cause and non-intelligent cause (natural cause).



Greg LeMond, the first American to win the Tour said, "When I heard it was synthetic hormone, it is almost impossible to be caused by natural events. It's kind of a downer... I hope Floyd will come clean on it and help the sport. We need to figure out how to clean the sport up, and we need the help of

Floyd."

A telling similarity exists between cycling and the biological sciences, and perhaps a rephrasing of LeMond's statement will make it clear:

"When I heard there was irreducible complexity and complex specified information inside biological systems, it is almost impossible to be caused by natural events. I hope those scientists with a prior commitment to methodological naturalism will come clean and help out science. We need to figure out how to clean up this aspect of science, and we need the help of all scientists to honestly consider intelligent causes not just in sports medicine, archeology, forensic science, cryptology, copyright violations, and the search for extra-terrestrial life (where it is already used extensively), but in all science, including biological science, evolutionary biology, and origin-of-life research."

It is sad to see a hero fall, and Landis may have unknowingly served the greater good, for his case has brought to the public's eye the prevalence of the use of causal determination and science's ability to differentiate between a natural and intelligent cause within biology. The theory and techniques of intelligent design are not outside science, they are used by science with regularity in a variety of scientific fields.

*Many thanks to Dr. Paul Nelson for the conceptual idea for this article and for his writings on [www.IDthefuture.com](http://www.IDthefuture.com)*

## Quick Quote

**"The origin of the [genetic] code is perhaps the most perplexing problem in evolutionary biology. The existing translational machinery is at the same time so complex, so universal) and so essential that it is hard to see how it could have come into existences or how life could have existed without it. The discovery of ribozymes has made it easier to imagine an answer to the second of these questions, but the transformation of an 'RNA world' into one in which catalysis is performed by proteins, and nucleic acids specialize in the transmission of information, remains a formidable problem."**

***John Maynard Smith and Eors Szathmary, *The Major Transitions in Evolution*, (W.H. Freeman: Oxford UK, 1995), pg.81***

# **IDEA Center News and Events:**

## ***SALVO Magazine launched!***

Many IDEA Clubs have been recently looking at *Salvo Magazine*, a new magazine with a barrage of interesting articles. If you think evolutionary theory doesn't have an impact on our society, read again!

"With debates over evolution, stem-cell research, cloning, designer babies, and abortion dominating the headlines, it's more important now than ever to have a thorough understanding of where science is leading us and why." *SALVO Editor Bobby Maddex.* [www.salvomag.com](http://www.salvomag.com)

## ***IDEA Clubs Highlights:***

Cornell IDEA Club helped spur interest in ID on the campus which led to the teaching of an ID course in the biology department of Cornell University.

Franciscan University of Steubenville IDEA Club hosted a conference with pro-ID scholar Paul Nelson.

UCSD IDEA Club hosted a debate between Paul Nelson and a UCSD evolutionary anthropologist.

An article about IDEA Clubs was featured in the Chicago Tribune in fall of 2005. IDEA Clubs also gained some infamy by being mentioned in the anti-religious book "Righteous" by Lauren Sandler.

April 28, 2005, GMU IDEA club and co-founder Salvador Cordova featured on cover story of prestigious scientific journal, *Nature*.

November 10, 2005, GMU IDEA club treasurer Jessica Young, president Christine Chenette, and IDEA member Caroline Crocker were on National Public Radio (NPR) for a program about ID and academic freedom.

August 13, 2006, GMU IDEA club on national TV through the Coral Ridge Hour.

In Virginia, various IDEA Clubs have hosted scientists such as biologist Caroline Crocker, origins of life theorist Robert Hazen, Professor Karl Fryxell, Professor Jason Rosenhouse (an evolutionist mathematician), and astronomer Mark Whittle. Much of this work is thanks to the connections of IDEA Club Leader Salvador Cordova.

Jonathan Wells' recent book "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Darwinism and Intelligent Design" devotes the last few pages to discussing why IDEA Clubs give him hope for the ID movement. Wells concludes after discussing IDEA that, "a growing number of bright young men and women have the courage to question Darwinism, study intelligent design, and follow the evidence wherever it leads. They know that they are in the midst of a major scientific revolution. And the future belongs to them." (pg. 207)

In December, 2006, University of Virginia Magazine published articles by Salvador Cordova and Casey Luskin.

## ***Quick Quote***

**"The likelihood of the formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 nought's after it...It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of Evolution. There was no primeval soup, neither on this planet nor on any other, and if the beginnings of life were not random, they must therefore have been the product of purposeful intelligence."**

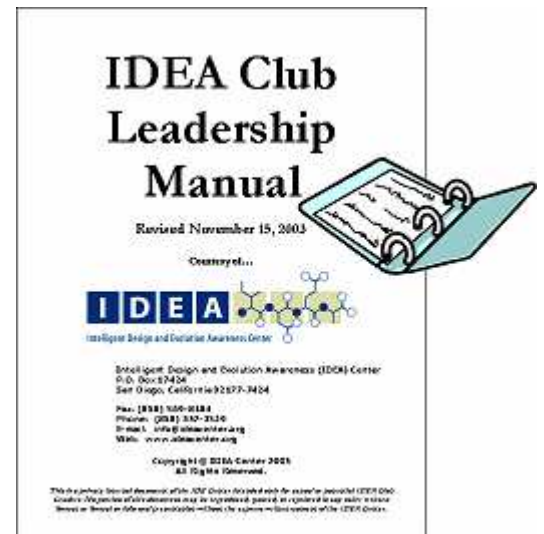
***Sir Fred Hoyle,  
British physicist and astronomer***

## Revised IDEA Club Leadership Manual!

Every person who wants to form an IDEA Club, or becomes the leader of one, will receive an *IDEA Club Leadership Manual*. The manual is a "how-to" reference guide with tips and advice to help a prospective or current IDEA Club leader to deal with just about any situation that could arise. Topics covered in detail in the manual include:

- How to Start a Club
- Background on the IDEA Center
- How to Schedule Meetings and Choose Meeting Topics
- How to Start and Lead Discussion
- How to Handle Heated Meetings
- How to Create a Budget and Plan an Event
- How to Publicize Events and Meetings
- Creating a Website
- Promoting Intelligent Design with Integrity
- Answering Common Objections to Design

If you would like to request an *IDEA Club Leadership Manual* please contact Casey Luskin at [casey@ideacenter.org](mailto:casey@ideacenter.org) for more information!



### Please make me an IDEA Center Member:

- General Member (free):** Receive free electronic semi-annual newsletter, and e-mail updates.
- Complex Member (\$25 donation):** Receive free biannual newsletter, e-mail updates.
- Irreducibly Complex Member (\$100 donation):** Receive free biannual newsletter, e-mail updates. Choose any one of these three items: 1) Free intelligent design video, 2) Free IDEA Center T-shirt, 3) Free IDEA Center Hat.
- Sustaining Member (\$500 donation):** Receive free biannual newsletter, e-mail updates, and annual IDEA Budget. Choose any two of these three items: 1) Free intelligent design video, 2) Free IDEA Center T-shirt, 3) Free IDEA Center Hat.
- Founding Member (\$1000+ donation):** Receive free biannual newsletter, e-mail updates, and annual IDEA Budget. Choose any one of these three items: 1) Free intelligent design video, 2) Free official IDEA Center T-shirt, 3) Free official IDEA Center Hat. Additionally, receive an invitation to our annual Founder's Luncheon.
- Order a T-shirt (\$15 donation):** You'll receive an IDEA Center t-shirt. Circle your size: small medium large x-large
- Order a Hat (\$15 donation).**
- I would like to receive an IDEA Club Leadership Manual! (free)**

Please make any donation checks out to the "IDEA Center." Thanks for your support!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation / Academic Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure check all appropriate boxes and mail this form to:  
IDEA Center / P.O. Box 17424 / San Diego, CA 92177