

The Theological Case for Intelligent Design

William A. Dembski

Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth

Discovery Institute, Seattle



American Museum of Natural History



AMNH Debate Invitation

Date: Wed, 31 Oct 2001 16:30:21 -0500
To: "William A. Dembski" <dembski@discovery.org>
From: Nathaniel Johnson <natj@amnh.org>
Subject: "Blind Evolution or Intelligent Design?"

Dear Dr. Dembski:

I would like to invite you to participate in an upcoming panel discussion at the Museum, "Blind Evolution or Intelligent Design? A Debate on Evolution," from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Tuesday, March 12, 2002. This program is co-presented with Natural History Magazine, which as you know will publish a series of articles on the topic, in the March issue.

We would like you to discuss the concept of "the design inference" as part of this panel. Dr. Michael Behe, Lehigh University and Dr. Robert T. Pennock, Michigan State University have been invited to be a part of the panel. The panel will occur in our Kaufmann Theater at the Museum. Richard Milner, of Natural History has recommended you as a person who could best communicate this idea to our lay adult audience. They are generally well informed and include many people from the professional and non-academic community.

Niles Eldredge, curator in the Division of Paleontology will be moderating the discussion.

We would be able to provide you with round trip travel and overnight hotel accommodations and a modest per diem.

If you agree to participate, I can be reached by telephone (212) 769-5176, Fax (212) 769-5329 or email natj@amnh.org.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Johnson, Jr.
American Museum of Natural History
Education Department
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024
Tel: (212) 769-5176; Fax: (212) 769-5329
E-mail: natj@amnh.org

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AMNH Debate PROGRAM

**“Evolution or
Intelligent Design?”**





The Consensus in Biology?

“No one, and I mean *no one*, working in the field is debating whether **natural selection is the driving force behind evolution**, much less whether evolution happened or not.”

— Michael Shermer

WPBWT, 1997

The Majority Position in Biology

Biologists now tend to believe profoundly that **natural selection is the invisible hand that crafts well-wrought forms**. It may be an overstatement to claim that biologists view selection as the sole source of order in biology, but not by much. If current biology has a central canon, you have now heard it.

— Stuart Kauffman, *AHITU*, 1995

THE ALTENBERG 16:

**AN EXPOSÉ
OF THE
EVOLUTION
INDUSTRY**

"Running out of superlatives ...

Brilliant, a Brueghel really."

Nixon biographer

ROGER MORRIS

"Very glad to see the book."

NOAM CHOMSKY

SUZAN MAZUR

Joseph Campbell



Joseph Campbell



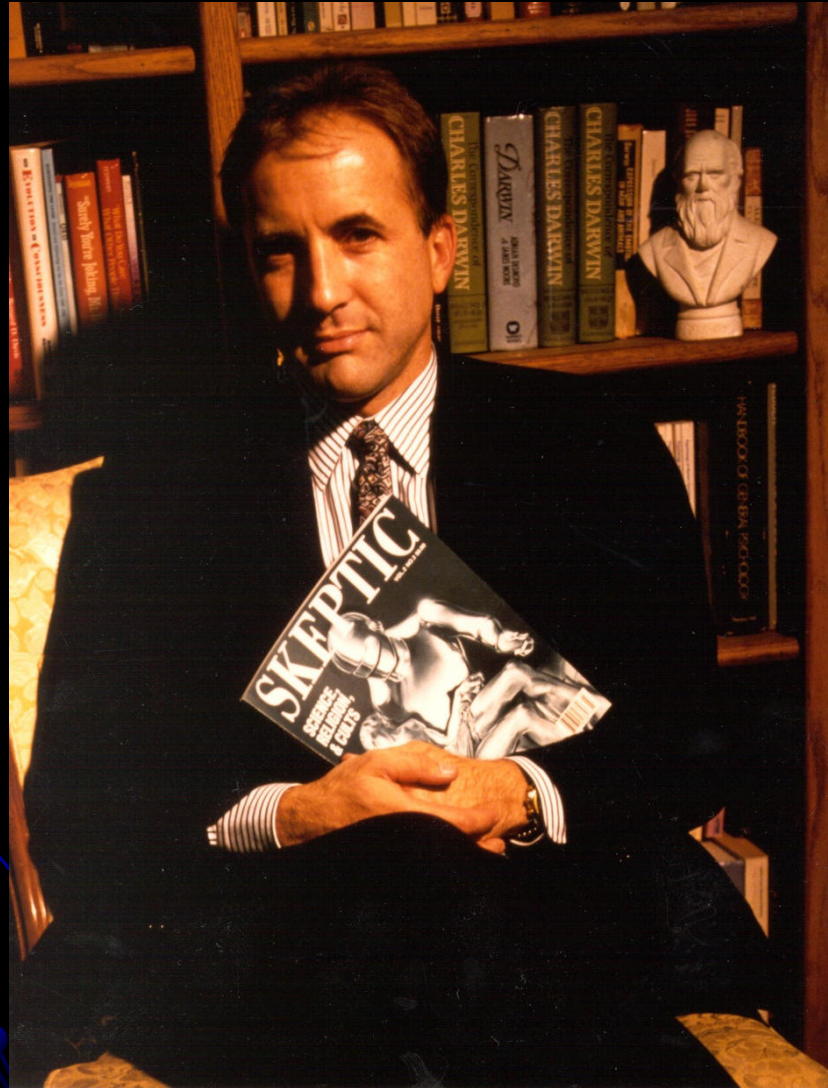
Joseph Campbell



E. O. Wilson



Michael Shermer



Christopher Hitchens

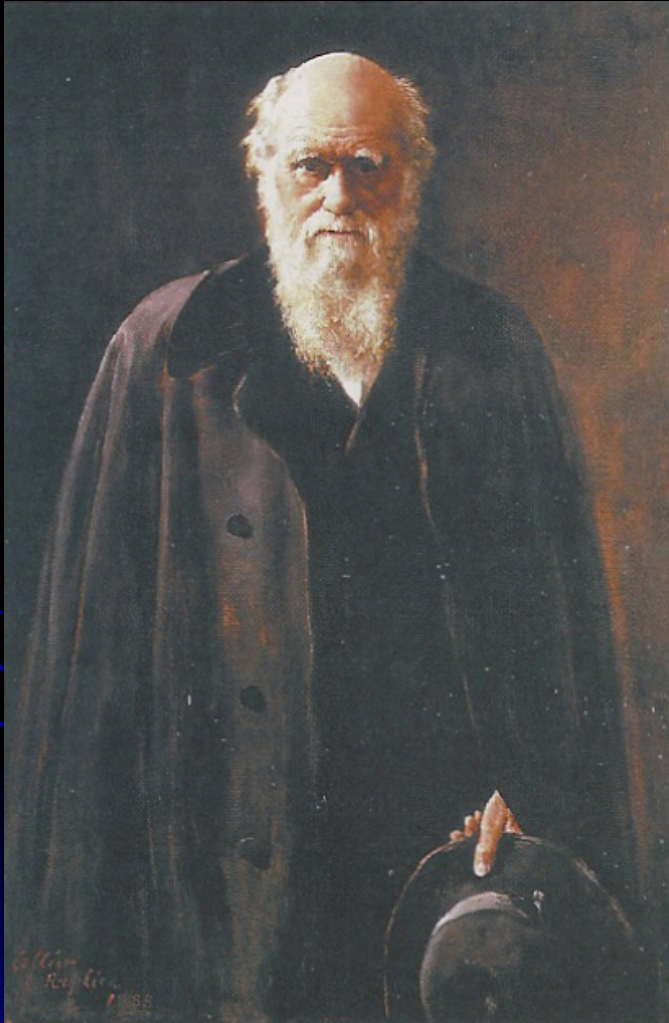


Will Provine



"Evolution is the greatest
engine of atheism ever invented."

Who is the inventor?



Natural
selection
and random
variation
can explain
the pattern
of life.

Chief theological problem facing Darwinism

Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been **clearly seen**, being **understood** from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

–Romans 1:20

Darwinism obscures God's role in the world

Francisco Ayala: Darwin's chief contribution was to explain biological organization without the need for a designer.

- **Kenneth Miller:** Design in biology is “scientifically undetectable.”

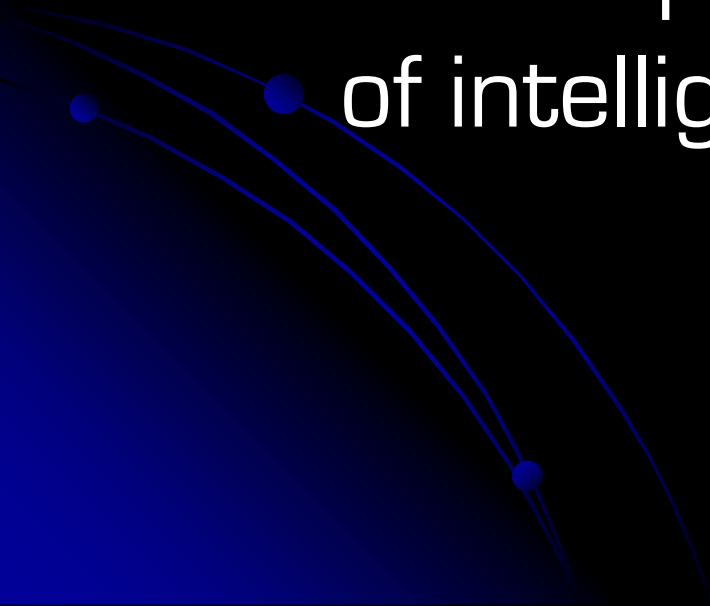
Intelligent design clarifies God's role in the world

Intelligent design shows that there are patterns in nature best explained as the product of intelligence.



Definition of intelligent design

Intelligent design is the study of patterns in nature that are best explained as the product of intelligence.



Who, ultimately, is responsible for these patterns in nature?

- Short answer: The Christian God.
- Long answer: The Christian God is the Creator of all that comes into existence. As such, he is the source of all being. But Scripture also clearly teaches that the Christian God brings order to being. The Christian God is therefore a designer. He is more than a designer, but he is at least a designer.

Is Intelligent Design Creationism?

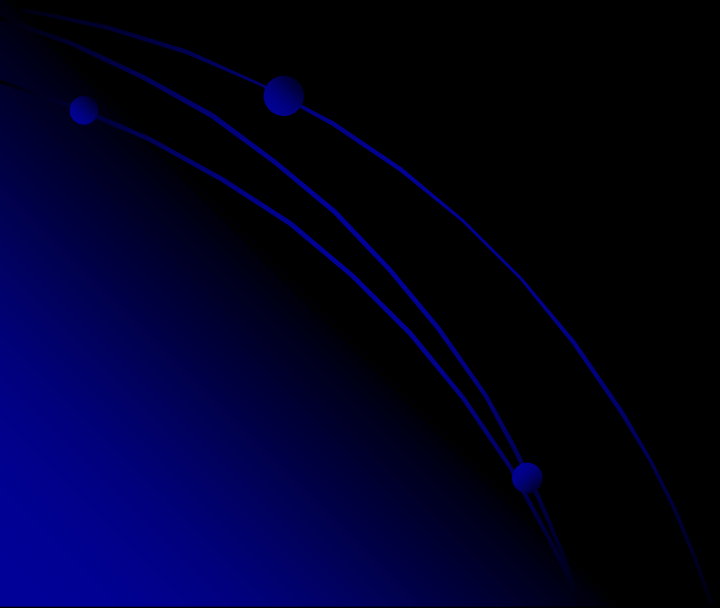


Christ as Designer and Redeemer



ID is a friend of the Christian
doctrine of Creation

Shows that Romans 1:20 got it right.




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–Romans 1:20

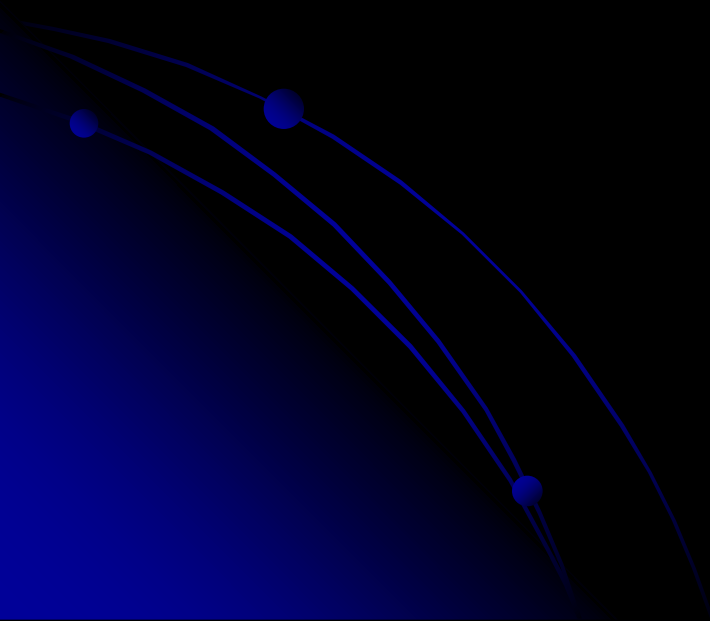
ID vs. Natural Theology

Intelligent design is not trying to extract a Christian view of God from nature. It is trying to remove atheist walls erected to keep the Christian God out of nature!




ID vs. Natural Theology

Intelligent design is not the Gospel. It is trying to make room for the Gospel.




ID vs. Darwinism

Intelligent design makes the conflict with Darwinism one of **science vs. science, NOT religion vs. science** (as with the Christian doctrine of creation).



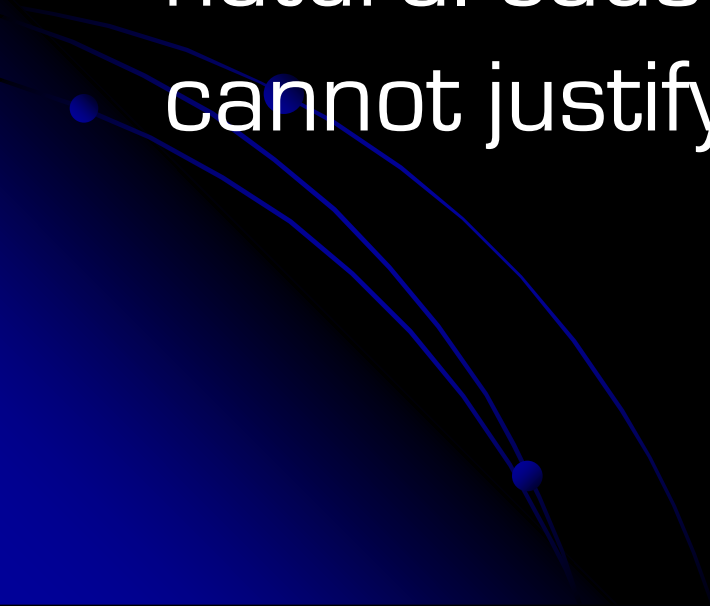
ID vs. Darwinism

Intelligent design therefore becomes an effective tool – indeed, the only effective tool – for destroying Darwinian materialism within a secular culture.



ID vs. Scientific Materialism

Intelligent design shows that science cannot be limited to material or natural causes. Moreover, science cannot justify materialism.



ID vs. Atheism

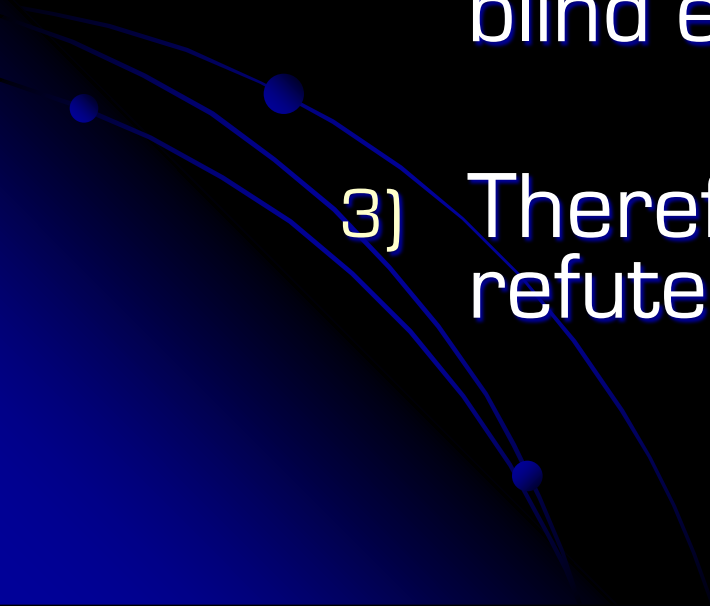
Darwinism implies atheism – FALSE.

Atheism implies Darwinism – TRUE.

Therefore, by defeating Darwinism ID defeats atheism.



ID vs. Atheism

- 1) If atheism is true, then blind evolution follows.
 - 2) But intelligent design refutes blind evolution.
 - 3) Therefore intelligent design refutes atheism.
- 

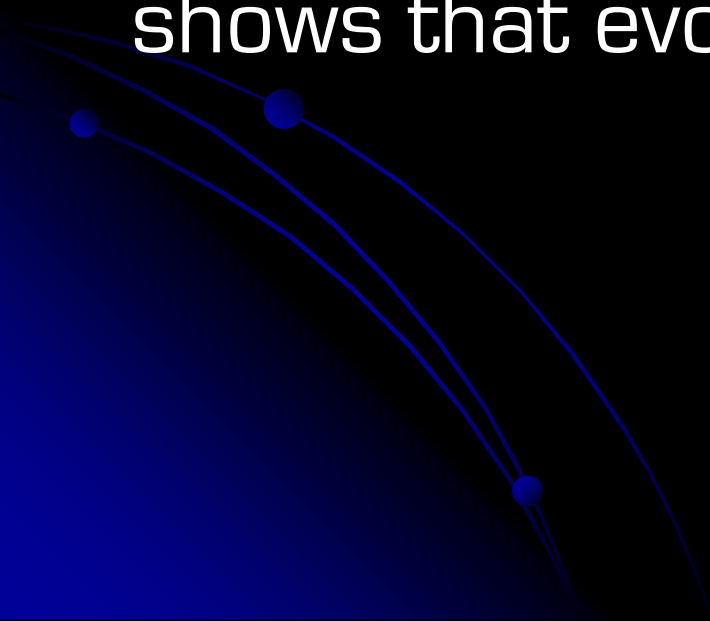
ID vs. Secularism

Intelligent design shows that secularism in all its varieties is without rational grounds. ID therefore cuts the legs from under enlightenment rationalism, secular humanism, moral relativism, postmodern neo-pragmatism, liberal progressivism, and legal positivism.




ID gives teeth to the Natural Law

Intelligent design shows that ethics rightly understood matches the scientific facts of human nature. At the same time, it shows that evolutionary ethics does not.



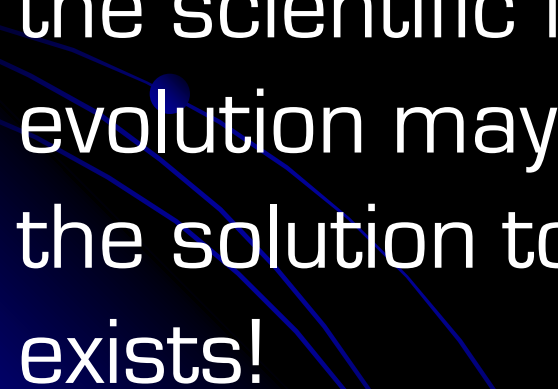
ID as the basis of a theistic worldview

Worldviews do 4 things: they give an account of **start** and **finish**, **problem** and **solution**. Intelligent design, in providing a scientific account of origins that places intelligence front and center, reinstates a theistic worldview.



ID vs. theistic evolution

Intelligent design shows that theistic evolution is unreconstructed Darwinism with a paper-thin theological veneer. Given the scientific failure of Darwinism, theistic evolution may now rightly be regarded as the solution to a problem that no longer exists!



ID vs. theistic evolution

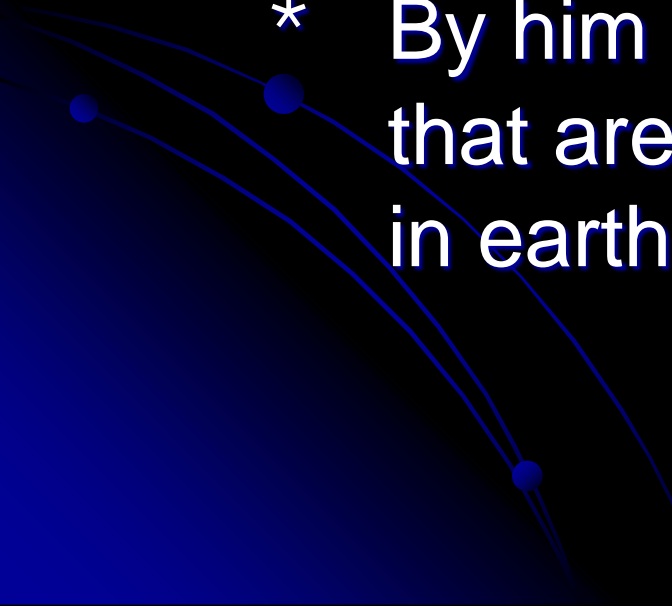
Intelligent design shows that theistic evolution is not just **bad science** but also **bad theology**. Alister McGrath, Denis Alexander, Francis Collins and his

- followers at Biologos are wrong and doing the Church harm in promoting theistic evolution.

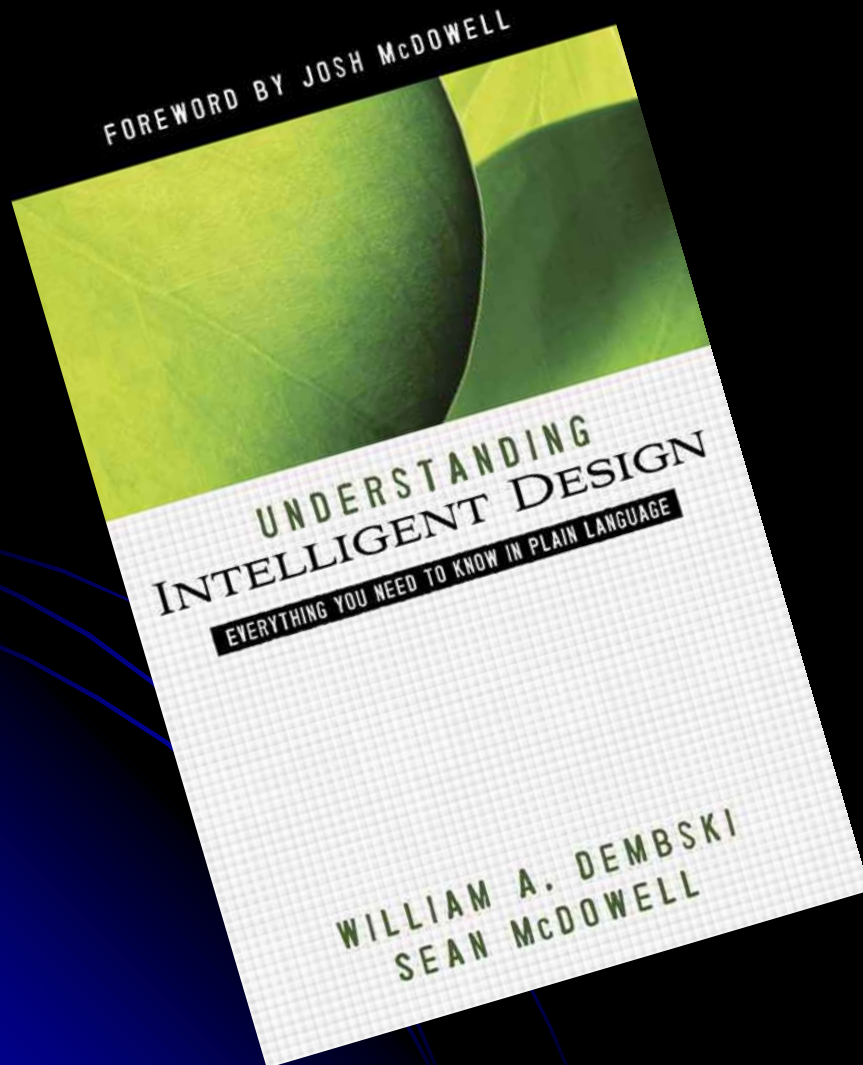
ID = the bridge between science and theology

Intelligent design provides a scientific redescription of how God, as the Logos of John's Gospel, imparts information into the world in the act of creation. It shows that the relation between science and theology is dynamic and bidirectional.

Who Is the Designer?

- * In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)
 - * By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth. (Colossians 1:16)
- 

What Can I Do About It?



- * * Inform yourself
- * * Ask the right questions
- * * Get active online
- * * Write op-eds
- * * Organize pro-ID events
- * * Give money and time
- * * Get a PhD

What Can I Do About It?

Plenty of people **wish well** to any good cause, but very few care to **exert** themselves to help it, and still fewer will **risk** anything in its support. “Some one ought to do it, but why should I?” is the ever re-echoed phrase of weak-kneed amiability. “Some one ought to do it, so why not I?” is the cry of some earnest servant of man, eagerly forward springing to face some perilous duty.

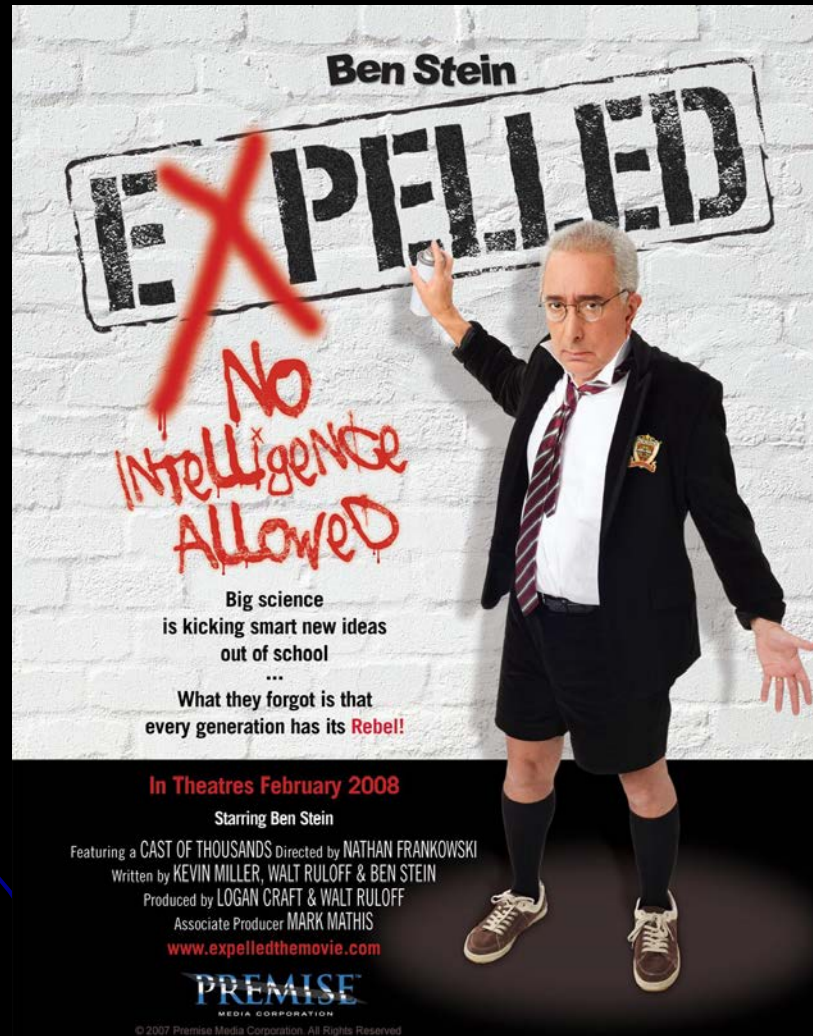
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