

Intelligent Design

By Chris Copsy

LET'S GET IT right from the start- it is neither intelligent, nor designed, nor a theory. A little harsh you might say but given what is at stake probably not hard enough. ID as it is known is something that I and I'm sure you and probably the vast majority of the population of these islands has never taken a great deal of interest in, so why now? We have a school of thought that has a sympathetic ear within government circles that says if parents wish to set up their own religious school then what is wrong with that? Why shouldn't community leaders (this is what 'the people' generally means) be given free rein to teach children any and every mythology going, the fact that these may fly in the face of reason and science is neither here nor there. Nothing matters as long as the children are brought up in a particular communities religious culture. This in turn will eventually give that community more power when it wishes to object to infringements upon it's 'rights' and the rights of others until at last we have religious/cultural power bases alienated from all the 'others'. Anyone objecting to these communities is of course a cultural fascist. Where does ID come in? It is coming here! We have in Northern Ireland a large and vocal Evangelical movement, that movement promotes ID through its strong connections with their sister organisations in America. It is also growing in other areas of the United Kingdom. In March at the Waterfront Hall Ken Ham, co-author of the AnswersInGenesis web site is going to spread the 'theory' to the gullible of the Northern Ireland evangelicals. Ken Ham is part of a wider movement throughout America that wants to see the science of evolution banned from schools in favour of ID. Much of the so-called 'science' of ID is carried out at the Discovery's Institute Center for the Renewal of Science



and Culture. Below are its aims and policies as constituted in what is termed the 'Wedge Strategy'.

Governing Goals

1. To defeat scientific materialism and its destructive moral, cultural and political legacies.
2. To replace materialistic explanations with the theistic understanding that nature and human beings are created by God.

Five Year Goals

1. To see intelligent design theory as an accepted alternative in the sciences and scientific research being done from the perspective of design theory.
2. To see the beginning of the influence of design theory in spheres other than natural science.
3. To see major new debates in education, life issues, legal and personal responsibility pushed to the front of the national agenda.

Twenty Year Goals

1. To see intelligent design theory as the dominant perspective in science.
2. To see design theory application

in specific fields, including molecular biology, biochemistry, palaeontology, physics and cosmology in the natural sciences; psychology, ethics, politics, theology and philosophy in the humanities; and to see its influence in the fine arts.

3. To see design theory permeate our religious, cultural, moral and political life.

The Twenty Year Goals contain some very disturbing aims and is more akin to the theocratic states within Islam. In fact and despite the wars in the Middle East Intelligent design theorists are getting on very well with their Islamic counterparts. Harun Yahya, an Islamic ID exponent and author of, *Evolution Deceit: The Scientific Collapse of Darwinism and its Ideological Background*, states, 'For this reason, if some people commit terrorism using the concepts and symbols of Islam, Christianity and Judaism in the name of those religions, you can be sure that those people are not Muslims, Christians or Jews. They are real Social Darwinists. They hide under the cloak of religion, but they are not genuine believers...That is because they are ruthlessly committing a crime that religion forbids, and in such a way as to blacken religion in peoples' eyes. For this reason the root of terrorism that plagues our planet is not any of the divine religions, but is in atheism, and the expression of atheism in our times: 'Darwinism' and 'materialism', (2001, 19-20). There you have it – it wasn't Muslims that flew into the Twin Towers but undercover atheists. Does anybody else find that particularly disturbing?

ID Theory thus covers a lot of ground and judging by their statements one would think that they had a very valid scientific case to present. It is, however, difficult to come up with the names of many scientists who support ID even though one of the most used phrases in ID literature is, 'there are a growing number of scientists'. The Director of ➤