

My letter on 'Dawkins' weasel'

I have always believed that creationist writers distort truth by intentionally ignoring anything unfavourable to their preconceptions, i.e. by shielding their readers from scientific evidence that might reveal critical errors in creationist arguments. A creationist correspondent of mine wanted to convince me that I was wrong, and he gave me a year's subscription to *TJ* to show me that creationists can write real unbiased scientific papers. After reading two pieces from the first *TJ* issue on my subscription, I wrote a letter of response,¹ referring to—and providing the URL for—an evolutionist Web essay of mine on a related topic that I thought your readers might be interested in. I was curious to see whether you would print my letter or shield your readers from evolutionist views in my Web essay.

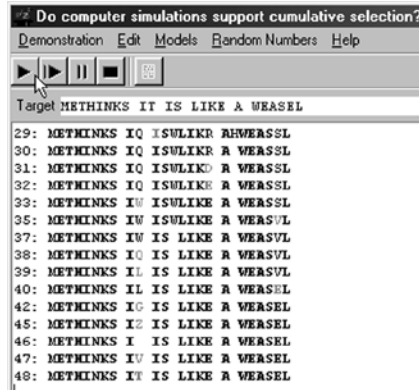
Now I have just received the current issue of *TJ*, and I see that you have found a way to do both. You might honourably have printed my letter plus the URL of a creationist site attacking it; or you might have declined to publish my letter altogether. Instead, you published my letter but omitted the URL that I provided to my Web essay (making me look like a fool for mentioning a Website without including the URL) and you provide only the URL for a creationist attack on it.

What a hoot! If one ever wanted a clear example of creationist distortion by intentional omission, your editing of my letter has provided it. My evolutionist friends on the Internet will get a real chuckle out of this example of the petty, unchristian sleaziness that creationists will stoop to.

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References

1. Max, E.E., Dawkins' weasel, *TJ* 16(1):54, 2002.



TJ Editors reply:

Dr Edward Max accuses *TJ* of 'creationist distortion by intentional omission'. But has anything really been omitted by replacing a URL to his Web site with that of Dr Lee Spetner? At the beginning of Spetner's Web article, he actually gives the URL to Max's site and, moreover, recommends readers to first read through Max's discussion before continuing with his own. So we fail to see any distortion by intentional omission here. The reason we replaced the URL was that Max has never published on his Web site Spetner's full reply to his article, only an incomplete version, nor has he at least included a link to Spetner's Web reply. So who, then, is really trying to shield readers? By including the link to Spetner's site, both sides of the argument can be read in full.

TJ would normally have asked Spetner to formulate a reply to Max's letter. But since Max has not presented any new material other than what is already discussed in Spetner's Web article, and in order to save Spetner time, we simply directed the readership to his site. Is this what Max brands as 'petty, unchristian sleaziness that creationists will stoop to'? (By way of aside—as an atheist, on what basis does Max complain about 'unchristian' behaviour? If we are all rearranged pond scum as Max passionately defends, where should we find objective morality?).

In our instructions to authors, it states that '*TJ* is dedicated to upholding the authority of the 66 books in the

Bible'. So it is hardly strange that we do not publish, or direct readers to, incomplete exchanges that subtly attack the Bible and Biblical Creation, and that advance anti-Biblical agendas. In evolutionist journals it is virtually impossible to publish any solid scientific results supporting Creation, no matter how good the data and how logical the deductions. In *TJ*, we have published Max's letter, and readers have been given the URL to his article in Spetner's Web article. Far from being unfair as Max suggests, it is in stark contrast to the treatment given to creationist scientific articles by secular journals, 'who distort truth by intentionally ignoring anything unfavourable to their preconceptions'. Examples of censorship of challenges to their materialistic faith have been amply documented in <www.AnswersInGenesis.org/sciam>.

We hope Max passes on this reply and the full article on Spetner's Web site to his friends on the internet as readily as he indicates he will his letter of criticism ... otherwise he is guilty of all the things he has sought to hang on us.

TJ Editorial Team

Forum on catastrophic plate tectonics

I enjoyed *TJ*'s recent forum on catastrophic plate tectonics. Both Baumgardner and Oard presented credible arguments for or against this theory. I appreciate Oard's cautious skepticism towards assumptions undergirding creationist plate tectonic theory. I agree, furthermore, with Oard's claim that 'it is unwise to become locked into one model'. Creationists' wholesale acceptance of the no-longer-so-popular canopy theory is a case in point. While Baumgardner's Flood model seems very good, it's probably not 100% correct. Other theories out there might have elements of truth. And the cause