

DISCOVERY INSTITUTE VIEWS

Winter 2006

New Discoveries

Discovery Responds to Dover Ruling

In the wake of a federal district judge's ruling against intelligent design in Dover, Pennsylvania, Discovery Institute scientists and legal experts are preparing a number of responses to submit to science publications and law reviews. CSC Associate Director Dr. John West has published a four-part series titled "Dover in Review," which is available on Discovery's homepage (www.discovery.org). Members will also have access to Discovery's detailed legal analysis of the ruling by Senior Fellow and Gonzaga University Law School professor David DeWolf and attorney Casey Luskin, our Program Officer for Public Policy and Legal Affairs. The title of the analysis is "Understanding Kitzmiller: A Response of the Discovery Institute to Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District." Additionally, Senior Fellow and biochemist Dr. Michael Behe has refuted the judge's assertions that intelligent design is "not science." As the issue shows no sign of letting up, neither will our fellows slow down in responding in detail. Be sure to [visit our website](#) where we regularly publish their papers, essays and op-eds.

Assisted Suicide, in Courts and Culture

Reaction to the Supreme Court ruling on Oregon's Assisted Suicide law included dozens of requests for interviews from Discovery Senior Fellow Wesley J. Smith. His analysis: it is not as sweeping a victory for the Right to Die side as the media have made out. It's a narrow ruling. How it is used in politics is another matter.

The Growing (Infrastructure) Deficit

Deficits make for great newspaper headlines: "U.S. Trade Deficit Continues to Grow" or "Greenspan Warns About Federal Budget Deficit." Yet one deficit—perhaps equal to the others in its impact on our economic health and future prosperity—is often minimized or overlooked. It is that of our national and regional infrastructure, from energy to transportation. Discovery's **Cascadia Center** has long recognized this growing challenge and has built a reputation for offering bold, long-term solutions. As a result, the *Puget Sound Business Journal* invited Cascadia to produce a **six-part series** on the regional infrastructure deficit. The articles—spanning the coming energy crunch, the dying federal role in transportation infrastructure, and the barriers to further development of broadband—appeared in the *Journal* on a biweekly basis from November through January. The final article will appear on January 27.

Discovery's Expanded D.C. Presence

In September, Discovery celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of its **Washington, D.C. office**. The office has given Discovery a stronger voice "inside the beltway" and has afforded us improved access to decision makers in policy and media

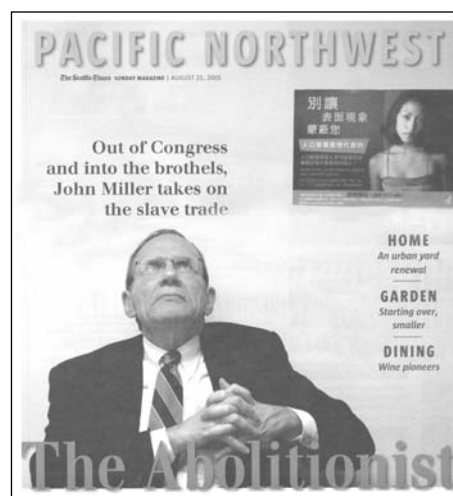
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Senior Fellow Stephen Meyer
on NBC Nightly News



Discovery President Bruce Chapman
(right) and National Center for
Science Education Executive Director
Eugenie C. Scott (left) on MSNBC



Ambassador John Miller featured on the cover
of *Pacific Northwest Magazine*. The former
congressman spoke before a Discovery
audience in July on his present work
combatting the international slave trade.

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President's Letter

Alternate Realities: Which Is Yours?

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Trite, and occasionally true. But not true now. Depending on the reality you inhabit, it is *either* the best of times or the worst of times. You have to take your pick.

As a history of the day, the major news media would have you think that the most important issue in America in early 2006 is the extent to which civil liberties have been violated by the National Security Agency spying on American citizens suspected of terrorism. The media Left would have you see as a backdrop to this supposedly sinister threat, a military quagmire in Iraq where they think that, at best, we will have replaced Saddam Hussein, a fanatical secularist tyrant, with fanatical tyrannical Islamic fundamentalists. Our costly invasion was in vain, unwarranted and deceitful. In Israel, it is implied, the Israelis are always ultimately responsible for attacks on their civilian citizens.

At home the economy is teetering, jobs are fleeing overseas, the middle class is shrinking, and runaway government spending (on defense, it turns out) portends rampant inflation in the future.

In the culture, far right fanatics are trying to impose their values—impose a theocracy, if given a chance—and the instrument of choice right now is their demand that evolution be taught with

evidence both for and against Darwin's theory. “Intelligent design,” we are warned by university presidents and a federal judge in central Pennsylvania, is a poisonous religious doctrine without scientific merit. An outfit called Discovery Institute is trying to force-feed it to the schools of the land. (If the “not science” argument doesn't persuade, try E.O. Wilson's contention that ID may be science, but it is wrong. Either way: no ID allowed.)

If that is your reality, MoveOn.org has a place for you to send money and Hollywood has several paranoid movies for you to see as they head toward assured Oscars.

Now, welcome to our reality. Two meetings with entrepreneurs recently revealed to me an economy that is even more robust and certainly better grounded than in the '90s boom days. In this reality (say these entrepreneurs) the greatest dangers we face are 1) that American leaders—though successful so far—will fail to apprehend serious terrorists and that those terrorists will do horrific damage to a great American city (gosh, someone should tell the NSA), and, 2) more imminent, that the media-battered American Congress will fail to extend the 2001 tax cuts. The reduced tax rates, entrepreneurs know, are largely responsible for the huge supply-side revenue influx that is outpacing even the grotesque overspending by Congress (on general government, not defense), so the deficit is being reduced as a result.

Some jobs are going overseas, but many more are created here. If the middle class is shrinking, it is because the upper-middle class is absorbing many of them up. Inflation, not the economy, is stagnant. Unemployment is so low it invites media scare headlines about labor shortages.

Home ownership is up to almost 70 percent, a near record. Crime is down to early '60s levels, drug use among teens is down, abortion rates are down, and at least some scholastic scores are up.

Overseas, the American military not only has brought democracy to Afghanistan and Iraq, but also quieted the ambitions of Libya, and stimulated Syria to depart Lebanon. Elections are being held in many parts of the region for the first time, and while Islamic parties win many of them, most winners are far more reasonable Islamists than those of Iran or even of the Saudi Arabia of recent memory. No progress like this has been seen in the region before. It was not predicted or especially desired by the alarmist Left in this country, let alone Europe.

Just as Ronald Reagan, during most of his tenure, suffered international derision for his “cowboy” Cold War foreign policy, so, too, has Bush in the fight against terrorism. But, as with the visionary Reagan then, so, too, under the visionary Bush, U.S. relations have finally improved in most of Europe and Canada, while our military's humanitarian relief

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New Discoveries, continued from front

circles. Helping us celebrate on September 21 were members of the **Discovery board** and a few luminaries, including **Senator Rick Santorum**, **Representative Tom Petri** and **Ambassador John Miller**. The daylong event—aptly named “Discovery Day”—began with our first-ever D.C. board meeting, and later featured a number of Discovery fellows, friends and staff speaking on topics ranging from transportation to technology. John Wohlsetter also entertained us at his beautiful Watergate condo overlooking the Potomac. Given the success of the event, it will likely be an annual autumn affair.

Fighting for Academic Freedom

We have entered a new front in the debate

over intelligent design—the need to protect academic freedom, particularly on college campuses. Our opponents, having abandoned the hope of limiting *public* debate on the issue, have now turned their attention to quashing opportunities for students to hear pro-ID arguments. An unanticipated result is a growing network of student-sponsored organizations called IDEA (Intelligent Design and Evolution Awareness) clubs that bring speakers from both sides of the issue together for collegial debates.

Of greater concern, however, is the treatment of scientists and college faculty—including graduate students and professors—who conduct intelligent design research, “teach the controversy” about Darwin's theory, or even think ID thoughts. The discrimination issue has gained national attention, first with an

[August 19 article](#) in *The Washington Post* and in November on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. Both described the persecution of Dr. Richard Sternberg, an evolutionary biologist with the Smithsonian Institute. A number of Discovery's own fellows—including **Guillermo Gonzalez**, an astronomy professor at Iowa State University and **Scott Minnich**, an associate professor of microbiology at the University of Idaho—have also faced recriminations for their research on intelligent design theory.

Gorton Seminar on Public Policy

This past summer, at the suggestion of Discovery board member **Mariana Parks**, the Institute launched an exciting new lecture series aimed at college students

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More Discoveries ... *Continued from previous page*

and young professionals. The Gorton Seminars honor former U.S. Senator and Discovery board member **Slade Gorton** and features lectures on politics and the importance of public service. Lectures this year included Senator Gorton, Discovery Institute President **Bruce Chapman** and **Ambassador John Miller**. Plans for summer 2006 are underway.

Re-Igniting the Tech Economy, Take Three

Discovery has long promoted telecom deregulation as a crucial stimulus for the U.S. economy. In fact, our first conference on the subject, "Re-Igniting the Tech Economy" featuring Senior Fellow **George Gilder**, was held in April of 2003, and a similar conference was held in May of 2004. But 2006 looks to be a seminal year for real reform, as Congress begins to revisit the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In preparation, the Institute's Technology Program Director **Hance Haney**, working from the Washington, D.C. office, is marshalling forces to promote deregulation. Much of the work is already underway. Hance Haney, Bret Swanson and George Gilder met in October with FCC Chairman **Kevin Martin** and Senator **Ted Stevens**, Commerce Committee Chairman. Gilder earlier briefed members of the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force, including Senators **George Allen**, **John Ensign** and **Wayne Allard**, among others.

Furthering the work of the technology program, Senior Fellow **Bret Swanson** is working with George Gilder to complete a book, tentatively titled *The Crossroads of Capitalism*. The book examines the impersonal regulatory environment that hinders innovation and risk in the U.S. technology sector—ironically comparing it with the relatively relaxed systems in contemporary China and Russia. The book, and his recent trip to China, were the topic of a "Tech Talk" lecture titled "China's Technology Challenge" that Bret delivered at Discovery on December 13.

New Faces at Discovery Institute

The past six months have witnessed the loss of some valued employees and the addition of several others. **Marshall Sana**, former assistant to Bruce Chapman, accepted a position with **The Barnabas Fund** in Washington, D.C. He is replaced by **Patrick Bell**, a recent graduate of

Pacific Lutheran University. Former Events Director **Rachel Krauskopf**, moved with her husband to London, England. She is replaced by **Annelise Davis**, who is also, coincidentally, the daughter of former board member **Fred Weiss**. Our former Program Officer for Legal Affairs, **Seth Cooper**, left Discovery in August to work as a clerk for State Supreme Court Justice Jim Johnson. Filling his position is **Casey Luskin**, a recent law graduate of the University of California at San Diego. Lastly, CSC Senior Fellow **Jay Richards** accepted the position of director of institutional relations with **Acton Institute** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He will continue to work with Discovery in his new capacity on issues of mutual concern.



Senior Fellow
David Klinghoffer

Meanwhile, Discovery is pleased to welcome in its Religion and Public Life program **David Klinghoffer**, as a Senior Fellow. David is a regular columnist for the *Jewish Forward* and a frequent contributor to *National Review* and *The Los Angeles Times*. He is currently completing a book on the Ten Commandments.

Other Items

The documentary version of *The Privileged Planet*, based on the book by Senior Fellows **Jay Richards** and **Guillermo Gonzalez**, aired locally on KCTS Public Television on Wednesday, November 23 and continues to be seen around the country.

Stephen Meyer, Director of Discovery's Center for Science and Culture participated in an international conference on intelligent design in Prague, Czech Republic in November. One notable result was numerous additional signatories to our "Dissent from Darwin" list. The new signers include members of the National Academies of Science in both the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Discovery hosted a sold-out premiere to the new Hollywood film, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* on December 8. More than 300 friends, fellows and staff attended. Profits will assist the C.S. Lewis program of our Religion and Public Life project.

An Unexpected Papal Blessing

Pope Benedict XVI gave a surprise boost to intelligent design when he mentioned it at the end of a recent Wednesday audience at the Vatican. With **Christoph Cardinal Schonborn** of Vienna seated nearby, the smiling Pontiff quoted the Fourth Century Saint Basil who had chastised those who "imagine that the universe was deprived of any guidance and order."

The pope's words were barely reported by Western media who have reported with uncritical acceptance the attacks on intelligent design by Vatican astronomer George Coyne. Discovery Institute has been mentioned often in the news stories that began last July with the publication of "Design for Nature," an essay by Cardinal Schonborn in *The New York Times*. Cardinal Schonborn is a former student of Pope Benedict (Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in those days) and later served under him as Senior Editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Attempts to discredit or minimize the recent writings of Cardinal Schonborn on Darwinism led to an amusing incident in October when the Cardinal had to correct the "English language media" on his official website.

Do You Read Our Blogs?

Traffic grows daily at [Discovery's website](#), and at the blogs attached to it. With an average of **20,000 daily visitors** overall, the specialized blogs are getting a healthy share of the cyber-callers. [EvolutionNews.org](#) (presided over by **Rob Crowther**) and [Disco-Tech.org](#) (Hance Haney, Bret Swanson) have been cited by reporters for the mainstream media and in editorials, too. [RussiaBlog.org](#) by **Yuri Mamchur** and [Asianist.org](#) by **James Na** are gaining an international audience, and we aim to build it with other foreign policy blogs as funds allow.

Letter From the Capitol, by **John Wohlstetter**, was a one-time private daily commentary for friends at a private listserv that was so piquant and sage that we persuaded John to go public at [LetterFromTheCapitol.org](#). Like **Wesley J. Smith's Secondhand Smoke**, LTC and the Asianist also have an independent following.

[IDtheFuture.org](#) allows intelligent design fellows at Discovery to write for the public. **Bill Dembski** has his own blog unconnected to Discovery, called [UncommonDescent.org](#).



Forbes

Moore's Law, Kurzweil and Telecosm Stocks

By George Gilder

Forbes

Published November 3, 2005

GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS.—Overflowing the Resort at Squaw Creek in Lake Tahoe, Calif. in late September into hotels in the nearby ski village, this was the Telecosm of the “Singularity.” A singularity designates a point in the future beyond which the “event horizon” darkens, as the horizons of the past darken beyond the reaches of the Big Bang. In between—we are to believe—is the known universe.

But still in the dark remains the question of when and whether Broadwing will break out into profits using MPLS (multiprotocol label switching) on the intelligent edge and fast all-optical switching at the core of its still industry-leading network, while Cisco struggles to keep the smarts in the core.

Even the present is enigmatic. We have little assurance whether bandwidth prices are stabilizing—as Jay Adelson of Equinix reported in a fascinating speech—or whether they are continuing their downward plunge as confidently testified by Cogent CEO Dave Shaeffer. Nor, even after all of the earnest explanations of CEO Eli Fruchter and CTO Amir Eyal, do we know when EZchip will begin an explosive ascent of revenue for ten-gigabit Ethernet and line-card processors. And despite the presence of representatives of both Foveon and Synaptics, we still don't know when these two kindred companies will burst into the huge markets for “tele-puter” sensors and imagers (though news from Foveon has been picking up since the conference, including the special “Progress Medal” from the Royal Photographic Society in London).

Introducing a dazzling new bestseller, *The Singularity is Near*, and generously giving a copy to each of the attendees, Ray Kurzweil acknowledged that macro-futurism, projecting Moore's law in all directions, is much easier than the micro of predicting what will happen to specific companies and technologies.

Nonetheless, on stage the first night

of Telecosm, Kurzweil faced a skeptical micro question from yours truly on the dismal failure of several teams of robotic engineers last year to create a device that could negotiate a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) course through the Mojave desert without plunging off the road into a ditch or an infinite loop. In response, Kurzweil confidently asserted that teams from Carnegie Mellon and Stanford would succeed in this task in October. Sure enough, he was on the button with this prophecy.

So far, so good. At the heart of his larger prophecies is the continued exponential progress of all the arts and sciences of information technology on beyond machines into a biological “singularity.” Ray's intriguing argument is that today's exponential curves merely follow in the train of the original evolutionary curve—which also reveals an accelerating pace of advance. It only took 13 billion years from the exquisitely

“In another four decades, so Kurzweil calculates, digital-machine intelligence will exceed human intelligence ...”

calibrated bang to the biosphere, with DNA processing in the eukaryotic (nucleated) cell, then the Cambrian explosion of life forms some 3 billion years ago, and then the rushed ascent of punctuated equilibrium to the emergence of man and Ray and the Telecosm list, after which things really start popping.

Discerned in all this heroic ascent is scant intelligence at all until the arrival of human technology, though the information processing underway in the some 300 trillions of cells in your body, each with some 6 billion base pairs of DNA programming, excels the output of all the world's supercomputers with all their intricate software and firmware.

As Ray points out (page 209), the ribosomes that translate DNA into amino acids accomplish 250 million billion “read” operations every second just in manufacturing the hemoglobin that carries oxygen from the lungs to body tissues.

While the genes are digital, much of the biocomputing is inscrutably analog. But in another four decades, so Kurzweil calculates, digital-machine intelligence will exceed human intelligence, precipitating the “singularity.”

Humans, he predicts, will use the machines massively to extend our lifespans and to project the reach of our learning by mastering the mysteries of consciousness within our own brains and out into space, with an imperial march of human intelligence incarnate in our machines and in our newly bionic bodies.

It is a grand and triumphant trajectory of thought on which Kurzweil is launched, and his argument is finely mounted and gracefully written, with much self-deprecating humor in artfully shaped “dialogs” at the end of each chapter. But as some attendees groused, it would be nice if by the time of the “singularity,” or even before, Microsoft (nasdaq: MSFT - news - people) could get Windows to boot in less than four seconds and could avoid the darkened event horizons of its chronic blue screens.

And after many projects at Caltech attempting to use neuromorphic models as the basis of electronic simulations of brain functions, Carver Mead observed that we still have no idea of the workings of the brain and nervous systems of a common housefly. As I describe in *The Silicon Eye*, it goes about its business, eluding the swatter and garnering chemical sustenance in the air, all on microwatts of power using means that remain beyond the grasp of our most sophisticated neuroscience.

Oh, well, observed my colleague Nick Tredennick, all these exponential curves look flat to the engineer attempting to solve the immediate problems he faces. So back to work, folks.

Excerpted from the November edition of the Gilder Technology Report.

Leaders Must Act Now to Avoid Severe Regional Crisis

By Bruce Agnew and Charles Ganske
Puget Sound Business Journal
Published November 18, 2005

Editor's note: The Cascadia Center has written a series of articles examining the state's infrastructure deficit. This is the first of the series, which is being published exclusively by the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Our predecessors understood the links between infrastructure and economic growth. They cut tunnels through the mountains that opened ports, dug a canal that linked Lake Washington and Puget Sound, and built dams that provided electricity and water. How can we recapture that spirit today in a way that promotes commerce and conservation? A series beginning today outlines the Cascadia Center's approach to addressing some of the major infrastructure challenges facing the region.

For decades Washington state has produced some of the nation's cheapest electricity. But with mounting demands from California and Canada, our power grid is spread thin. Washington's power supply is showing the strain of coping with an uncertain market, driven by declining hydropower resources, not enough new power plants and aging transmission lines.

Much of our surplus energy—just how much fluctuates greatly by the hour—is sent to California through an agreement signed in the 1970s. Not having built a single new power plant for a decade, Californians in 2001 experienced huge shortfalls in energy production, pushing the Northwest power grid to the brink. At the height of this crisis, Washington had its own problems, with Seattle-area utilities scrambling to meet an unexpected spike in power consumption from energy-hungry computer servers in the booming technology sector. “We came within eight minutes of a blackout,” recalls one utility executive.

Washington utilities received some reprieve in 2002 when several aging, multimegawatt-consuming smelters were shut down—saving their operators millions of dollars in operating losses. That same year, the Portland-based Northwest Power Planning Council, representing the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, warned that such one-time measures would only stave off rising regional demand through

2005. The council's prediction came to pass last summer, when BPA was again sorely tested by a surge in demand from California.

BPA-operated hydroelectric dams—the foundation of the Northwest power grid—provide roughly half of the state's electricity production. But after five consecutive years of near-drought conditions and open-ended salmon recovery obligations, that foundation is eroding. In response to environmental litigation, a federal judge in Portland is considering a new order to increase spill and stream-flow requirements in order to aid the salmon population. By reducing water flows through hydroelectric dam turbines, a decision for the plaintiffs would further reduce regional power production.

Power from another renewable energy source, wind, must travel through a bottleneck of aging electric transmission lines in order to get over the Cascades from Eastern Washington's turbine farms. Puget Sound Energy CEO Steve Reynolds recently stressed the need for “solid, reliable energy infrastructure, not wishful thinking,” admitting that conservation and wind power alone won't meet the region's demands.

“For decades Washington state has produced some of the nation's cheapest electricity. But with mounting demands from California and Canada, our power grid is spread thin.”

Better infrastructure is not all that's needed. Utilities also need some measure of certainty in an uncertain market. This means stable, long-term power contracts and a streamlined federal and state permitting process for new facilities. In 2000, five gas-fired power plants were submitted for federal and state approval, and today have been cleared for construction. But while the power plant operators were waiting five years for their permits, the price of natural gas quadrupled from \$3 to \$13 per BTU, making future power from these plants too expensive.

Combined, these plants could have generated roughly enough electricity daily to power Seattle and Bellevue. Instead all

five permitted plants are idle construction sites, including two key plants close to the Canadian border. Regional utility contracts with California customers are negotiable, but our power transmission to Canada is governed by the 1961 Columbia River Treaty. To compensate Canada for dams built upstream on the Columbia River in Canadian territory, the United States must return half its downstream benefits in the form of electricity. The location Canada has negotiated for returns to be made (at the Interstate 5 border crossing in Blaine) favors power production west of the Cascades. But both National Energy Systems' Sumas and BP's Cherry Point gas-fired cogeneration projects—optimally located to help meet our treaty obligations—remain on hold indefinitely.

Current natural gas prices stymie BP's and Nesco's search for long-term utility contracts, but it will probably not prove financially prudent for the utilities to pass on buying power from them. Regionally and nationwide, utilities consistently find electricity demand surpassing their projections, due to the blistering pace of technological change. Demand from electricity-hungry network servers and plasma TVs will seem like small change in a few years, when fleets of plug-in hybrid vehicles will recharge their batteries nightly from the Northwest power grid.

Clean energy is a laudable long-term goal but a limited one. With wind power, hydroelectricity and high natural gas prices working as wild cards, it's stable energy supplies that we need. We need to act now to avoid an all-out energy crisis. We need to build more power plants and boost our output—before a blackout lets us know we're too late. Building the permitted gas-fired plants is the near-term solution. Energy producers, policy makers and environmentalists need to come together to find the long-term answer.

Right now, everyone's waiting for someone else to act. It may take blackouts and brownouts before the public demands reform. That won't be pretty, and will prove far more expensive than paying slightly more on our monthly electric bills for gas-fired power.

BRUCE AGNEW is director and CHARLES GANSKE is a writer for the Discovery Institute's Cascadia Center, a nonprofit public policy center based in Seattle.

The Washington Times

Eradicating European Flu

By Richard W. Rahn
The Washington Times
Published January 2, 2006

Europe has not yet suffered from bird flu, but it suffers from an even more debilitating economic flu—excessive government dependency. That dependency is sapping both its economic vitality and its spirit and has grown most acute in the core of Europe: Germany, France and Italy.

We need to help our European friends fight this disease, not through a new Marshall plan but through a sound economic education campaign.

The European Union is still the world's second-largest economy after the United States and is the major or significant trading partner for almost every country. Europe provided mankind the modern concepts of liberty and justice, and European culture and civilization have enriched the lives of most of the world's people. It has also been the source of great evil—fascism, communism and socialism, all European constructs, which collectively have cost the lives of upward of 200 million people.

History has shown an economically healthy and free Europe is a boon to all mankind, while a depressed and failed Europe puts all at risk.

Europe's share of world gross economic product (GDP) has fallen from roughly a third, two generations ago, to only one-fifth today. The U.S. economy has grown about twice as fast as major European economies for the last two decades, resulting in the average American living about 40 percent better than his European counterpart. In the last quarter-century, Europe has created only 4 million new jobs (almost all in government). The U.S., despite a smaller population, has created 57 million new, overwhelmingly private sector, jobs.

The portion of the U.S. population working is about 20 percent higher than in Germany, France and Italy. The U.S. unemployment rate is about half theirs (5 versus 10 percent).

U.S. total government spending is about one-third our GDP; in Germany, France, and Italy the average is about half

their GDP. Homeownership rates are far lower in Europe than in the U.S.—where more than two-thirds of the people own their homes, which on average have about twice the square footage of the average European home.

Even more disturbing is the decline of optimism in Europe. A recent Harris Interactive poll found 57 percent of the people in the U.S. were very satisfied with their lives, compared with an average of only 16 percent in Germany, France and Italy.

This fall in status in Europe has resulted in a rise in envy and often an irrational dislike of the outside world (much of it directed at the U.S.). Many Europeans are in denial about the failures of their socialist or “social market

“As the European economic flu has become more acute, there are signs more of their citizens and companies are prepared to support those who fight for economic literacy.”

models.” All too many are woefully ignorant about the reasons for economic growth or failure. Europe is strangling itself in bureaucracy and killing incentives through excessive taxation. Now the Germans and French are trying to infect the new free market economies in Eastern Europe with this status flu.

Though it may be tempting to gloat about the problems of the French and the others, it is in nobody's interest to do so. The United States, in particular, and its free market allies should be much more pro-active by supporting the pro-growth policies of some of the smaller and newer free market countries. Many in the European ruling elite put down pro-growth policies by disdainfully referring to them as the “Anglo-Saxon model.”

Yet, perhaps, the most influential architect of the high-growth economic policies followed by many countries was the great 20th century Austrian economist F.A. Hayek.

The U.S. government ought to wage an aggressive information campaign in Europe to offset many factual misrepresentations about the U.S. in the European press—particularly in health care, levels of poverty, schooling, crime,

justice, etc. By almost any measure, though far from perfect, the U.S. comes out better than much of Europe.

Such a campaign will not cause Europeans to love Americans, but it might help force them to view their own failed policies more critically, the first step in bringing about change.

The Bush administration also should take a much tougher line, including full or partial defunding, with the multinational institutions, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations and others that promote tax and regulatory policies which have brought so much misery to Europe and other parts of the world.

The vaccine for economic flu is economic literacy. European (and other) economic education organizations have been dispensing the vaccine, but their resources are too meager to stop the spread of economic ignorance. Americans have in general greater economic literacy, and hence have been less infected by economic flu, because private individuals and businesses have understood it is both their responsibility and in their long-run interest to support economic education programs run by nongovernment organizations.

As the European economic flu has become more acute, there are signs more of their citizens and companies are prepared to support those who fight for economic literacy. If Europeans were as familiar with the teachings of Hayek as those of Karl Marx, most of their economic problems would disappear.

The question then becomes: Who is responsible for teaching Hayekian economics? Hurricane Katrina showed the costly folly of relying on government bulwarks against the on-coming flood. Economic despair in Europe will also result in a destructive flood unless those private individuals and organizations, both inside and outside the Continent, help strengthen the bulwarks of limited government, free market, democratic capitalism so all can enjoy hope, opportunity and prosperity.

Richard W. Rahn is director general of the Center for Global Economic Growth, a project of the FreedomWorks Foundation.

Brace for the UN Tax Man

By James J. Na
The Seattle Times
Published October 11, 2005

When I extolled the virtues of our federal system of government in a previous column (“Sovereignty, from sea to sea,” *Times* op-ed, Sept. 21), I left out an unfortunate and pernicious side effect of having a government of multiple jurisdictions—taxes.

Multiple layers of government, while encouraging balance of power and competing regulatory ideas, also mean multiple layers of taxation. In Seattle, this means the federal government, state government, King County and the city of Seattle all take their pick at one’s paycheck, business, house, car and, of course, purchases of goods, including gasoline.

The complexity and opaqueness of all these taxes and their attendant regulations are so arcane that they keep legions of accountants and tax lawyers employed to make sense of them all, acting as a huge drag on economic activities of the nation.

Yet, if Seattleites thought that the statewide gasoline tax was the last word on taxation debate for now, there is another thing coming their way: global taxation.

Unbeknownst to many Americans, the United Nations—yes, that organization of endemic cronyism and corruption, oil-for-food scandal and sex abuse by “blue helmets”—has been attempting for years to levy global taxes, particularly on wealthy nations.

Despite the best efforts of John Bolton, the Bush-appointed U.S. ambassador to the U.N., to defeat such schemes, yet another incarnation of global taxation made its appearance in the U.N. World Summit outcome document last month.

The document refers to “the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target

of 0.7 percent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015.” It then goes on to tout “the value of innovative sources of financing, provided those sources do not unduly burden developing countries.”

Translation: Selected rich countries, including the United States, should be obligated to transfer their wealth to poor nations by what is, in effect, a global income tax (after the U.N. siphons off its “administrative costs,” of course). The document also makes a specific mention of one such “innovative source” of funding in the form of “a contribution on airline tickets,” i.e., a global taxation on air travel, reputedly pushed by France.

According to the Center for Individual Freedom, other “innovative” global-taxation schemes under discussion in and

“Multiple layers of government, while encouraging balance of power and competing regulatory ideas, also mean multiple layers of taxation.”

out of the U.N., in addition to the air-travel tax, include an e-mail tax, a “carbon” tax on gasoline, coal, oil and natural gas, a currency-transaction tax and an aviation-fuel tax. There are apparently other global-taxation ideas, including taxes on arms trade, ocean dumping, commercial fishing, satellites, electronic spectrum and international advertising.

These taxes would be in addition to, not in lieu of, the myriad of taxes that Americans are already subjected to by varying layers of jurisdictions within the United States.

Cliff Kincaid, editor of Accuracy in Media Report, has been tracking these global-taxation efforts tirelessly. Kincaid, quoting U.N. adviser Jeffrey Sachs, writes that the U.N. proposed “Millennium

Development Goals” associated with the summit document would “obligate the U.S. to spend an additional \$845 billion in foreign aid” above what it already contributes. To give a sense of scale, that figure is close to half of the French gross national product in 2004.

Recognizing the danger, the U.S. Senate has sprung into action. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., along with 17 co-sponsors, is in the process of proposing legislation that “would require the withholding of United States contributions to the United Nations until the president certifies that the United Nations is not engaged in global-taxation schemes.”

The vast dollar figure is outlandish enough for most Americans, but beyond the money, the underlying ideology behind global taxation is far more sinister. The left, while raising the phony specter of a fascist theocracy in the United States, has been ridiculing the right’s fear of “one world government.” But the ability to tax is one of the surest manifestations of sovereignty and, as such, the acceptance of global taxation under the guise of international development aid is an alarming precedent for international intrusion into what has been traditionally the domain of sovereign national governments.

No reasonable critic of global taxation is suggesting that Americans would be subjected to one world government overnight. But if we accept such precedents, inch-by-inch, step-by-step, we will creep toward “global governance,” another euphemism for one world government, and will gradually relinquish our unique American way of life.

James J. Na, a Senior Fellow in foreign policy at the Discovery Institute (www.discovery.org), runs “Guns and Butter Blog” (gunsandbutter.blogspot.com) and “The Asianist” (www.asianist.org). He can be reached at jamesjna@hotmail.com.

Viaduct: A Tunnel's the Best Choice

By Bruce Agnew, Tom Till and Bruce Chapman
The Seattle Times
Published October 27, 2005

Few realize that if Seattle chooses the aerial alternative to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct, it would have to be 50 percent larger and 7 feet higher than today's structure. Federal standards for safety require it. Also, it would not carry any more traffic than it does now—or did when the current elevated roadway was built in the early '50s. A "new" viaduct would contribute exactly nothing to easing congestion. Not now. Not for the 50 years of its likely life span.

A new, bigger viaduct wouldn't just be obsolete the day it opens—it would be obsolete before it is even designed. And, learning lessons from San Francisco and Kobe, Japan, it's not the safest choice in case of an earthquake. Transportation leaders concur that, of five viaduct-replacement options, the tunnel is the best choice.

All the options combine replacement of the viaduct—which is a state road—and replacement of the seawall—which is a city of Seattle facility—for both engineering and practical reasons. Comparing the tunnel with the aerial alternative, the tunnel-seawall construction period is two years shorter, and the tunnel combines the added advantage of integrating \$300 million of the seawall's \$650 million total cost into its western wall.

Following the monorail meltdown, however, angst has been growing among a number of civic leaders over the possibility that voters may cancel the Legislature's transportation package, and many are now second-guessing the costs of tunneling the viaduct.

"We can't afford the tunnel," the mantra goes. "Go with a cheaper rebuild."

Compounding local self-doubt are

barbed protests against paying for what is perceived as an economic development and beautification project for Seattle. From Port Angeles to Pullman, people gripe about the latte-sipping liberals trying to raise our taxes to improve the view from their yuppie condos, while others struggle to make payroll.

But such rhetoric misses the fundamental values that underlie Mayor Greg Nickels' decision:

- **Regional Value.** Key to restructuring Highway 99 as a stronger complement for north-south traffic on Interstates 5 and 405, tunneling the viaduct has value that reaches past the city and takes on high regional importance.

"A new, bigger viaduct wouldn't just be obsolete the day it opens—it would be obsolete before it is even designed."

- **Safety Value.** A tunnel can sustain natural disasters better than an aerial structure. In the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, aerial structures like the Nimitz Freeway pancaked and crushed motorists, while the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) tunnel under San Francisco Bay stayed intact and remained a lifeline after the quake. Because tunnel entrances can be designed to guard against rising water, tunnels are also better protection against tsunamis.

- **Urban Land Value.** The aerial alternative would wipe out another 22 acres of economically valuable land. Do we really want to further wall off the city's recreational, commercial and residential areas—thereby thwarting a major source of future property-tax revenues from a redeveloped waterfront?

- **Urban Transit Value.** If the monorail project finally shuts down, opportunities arise anew. The Highway 99 tunnel could do for Seattle what the monorail

tried to, but couldn't. Alternative transit technologies for the Ballard-to-Westlake Green Line—including more express bus rapid transit in the tunnel with connections to Colman Ferry Dock, streetcars and the Link light-rail line to the airport—could make Seattle and the Highway 99 corridor more transit-friendly. This is a winning way to reduce congestion.

We already have a leg up on the financing, thanks to our state Legislature's earmark of \$2 billion for the viaduct from the 9.5-cent gas-tax package, together with the \$238 million federal grant for the waterfront project, which has been recognized as a "project of national significance."

The region (King, Pierce and Snohomish counties) can reasonably add another \$1 billion to the federal and state contributions—which would bring the total funding up to nearly \$3.24 billion. This can be achieved through the Regional Transportation Investment

District's funding proposal now under preparation—as well as through contributions from the Port of Seattle, which would benefit from the freight and mobility improvements created by a more functional Highway 99.

The tunnel's remaining balance of up to \$712 million can be financed reasonably and effectively the following ways: payments from Seattle Public Utilities for upgrading and modernizing the current utility corridor—estimated to range from \$50 million to \$300 million; a variety of grants for environmental cleanup of Elliott Bay; from plans to build a new Colman Ferry Dock; local improvement districts that will capture increased land values (by taxing developers); and the additional taxes paid by more and higher-quality visits to a transformed waterfront.

Current plans envisage a viaduct for the coming 50 years that would have no

Viaduct, continued on next page

more passenger-carrying capacity than the present one, built in 1953. To deal with the growing north-south congestion in the region, therefore, a tunnel should add two more lanes to the present six. These lanes would serve toll-payers and carpools, plus high-frequency, high-capacity express buses (bus rapid transit) to link downtown and the western reaches of the metropolitan area.

Yes, \$3.95 billion is a lot of money; so what can we do to cut costs? The state is doing what it calls "value-added engineering," which provides a sharper focus on true costs. Recently, its track record in bringing big construction projects in on time and on budget has also been excellent.

The sooner we get started, the better. Central Puget Sound's population almost tripled from 1.2 million in 1950 (two years before the viaduct opened) to 3.3 million in 2000. It is slated to increase by another quarter before 2020. More people translates into more cars, and presently, the region's north-south traffic crawls along three major corridors: Interstates 5 and 405 and Highway 99.

Taking care of the viaduct is urgent. But even a stopgap solution will last 50 years or more. What we do now, we leave for our children and grandchildren, a footprint after we're gone. From better transit, to increased land values, to a more efficient regional transportation corridor, the mayor's "Waterfront For All" vision creates economic value for the region, the city and the waterfront. Value for today, a legacy for tomorrow.

Bruce Agnew and Tom Till are co-directors of Discovery Institute's Cascadia Center for Transportation. Agnew is also a member of the Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Leadership Group. Bruce Chapman is president of Discovery Institute.



It's Over in Dover, But Not For Intelligent Design

By John G. West
USA Today
Published December 24, 2005

Pyrhic victory. It's a phrase proponents of Darwin's theory might do well to ponder as they crow over the decision by a federal judge in Pennsylvania "permanently enjoining" the Dover school district from mentioning the theory of intelligent design in science classes.

Contrary to Judge John Jones' assertions, intelligent design is not a religious-based idea, but instead an evidence-based scientific theory that holds there are certain features of living systems and the universe that are best explained by an intelligent cause. No legal decree can remove the digitally coded information from DNA, nor molecular machines from cells. The facts of biology cannot be overruled by a federal judge. Research on intelligent design will continue to go forward, and the scientific evidence will win out in the end.

Still, Darwinists clearly won this latest skirmish in the evolution wars. But at what cost?

Evolutionists used to style themselves the champions of free speech and academic freedom against unthinking dogmatism. But increasingly, they have become the new dogmatists, demanding judicially-imposed

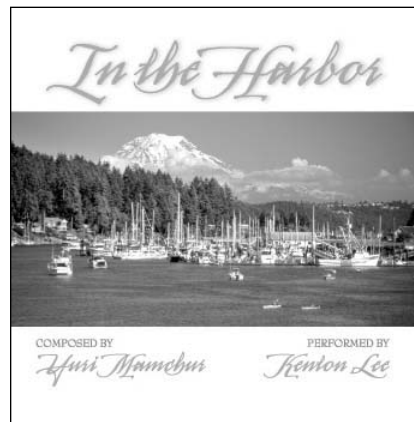
censorship of dissent.

Now, Darwinists are trying to silence debate through persecution. At Ohio State University, a graduate student's dissertation is in limbo because he was openly critical of Darwin's theory. At George Mason University, a biology professor lost her job after she mentioned intelligent design in class. At the Smithsonian, an evolutionary biologist was harassed and vilified for permitting an article favoring intelligent design to be published in a peer-reviewed biology journal.

Those who think they can stop the growing interest in intelligent design through court orders or intimidation are deluding themselves. Americans don't like being told there are some ideas they aren't permitted to investigate. Try to ban an idea, and you will generate even more interest in it.

Efforts to mandate intelligent design are misguided, but efforts to shut down discussion of a scientific idea through harassment and judicial decrees hurt democratic pluralism. The more Darwinists resort to censorship and persecution, the clearer it will become that they are championing dogmatism, not science.

John G. West is associate director of Discovery Institute's Center for Science & Culture, and associate professor of political science at Seattle Pacific University.



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Past Discovery Events

AMBASSADOR JOHN R. MILLER On Fighting Slavery



John R. Miller, the former U.S. Congressman from Seattle whose work combating slavery was profiled in the August 21st edition of the Sunday *Seattle Times*' *Pacific Northwest* magazine, spoke at Discovery Institute August 25th. Miller is the Director the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and carries the rank of Ambassador at Large.

Ambassador Miller, a native of New York City, moved to Seattle after earning his J.D. at Yale. He served on the Seattle City Council in the 1970s and was elected to Congress in 1984, representing Seattle's 1st Congressional District for eight years. From 2000 to 2002, Miller chaired Discovery Institute's Board of Directors. Miller was selected by President Bush for his current post in 2002, while he was teaching at Northwest Yeshiva High School on Mercer Island.

PAST EVENTS ...

What Canada's National Election Means for the U.S.

Featuring Bruce Chapman

Your Navy and the Pacific

Featuring U.S. Navy Admiral Gary Roughead

Handicapping the Supreme Court Battle

Featuring Senior Fellow Phillip Munoz

A Jealous God:

Science's Crusade Against Religion

Featuring Author Pamela R. Winnick

China's Technology Challenge

Featuring Bret Swanson

A McNaughton Fellows Event &

Part of Discovery's "Tech Talk" Series

Discovery Preview Screening:

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

The Student Response to ID:

Attempts to Ban Intelligent Design on

University Campuses Fuel Student Interest

in Debate Over Evolution

Featuring Casey Luskin

Rediscovering Narnia:

The Continuing Relevance of C.S. Lewis's

Narnian Chronicles

C.S. Lewis Autumn Event Series

Russian Business & Politics: What's Next?

Featuring Yuri Mamchur, Sr.

Darwin and Design:

An International Science Conference

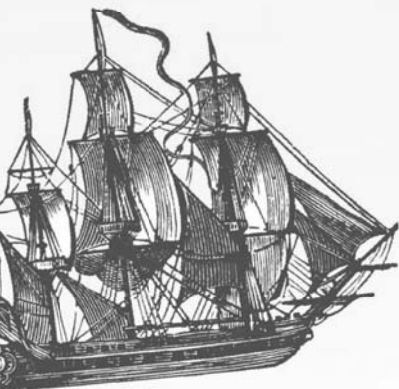
Prague, Czech Republic

Young People Gather Career Advice From Slade Gorton

The annual Gorton Summer Program, named for our distinguished board member and former U.S. Senator Slade Gorton, introduces young people to the nature and ideals of public service. The series also examines current political issues and their potential impact. This last summer, the program included an event—also part of the McNaughton Fellows Lecture Series—featuring Senator Gorton, who discussed his life in public office and the lessons he learned along the way.



DISCOVERY DAY WASHINGTON, D.C.



DISCOVERY DAY WASHINGTON, D.C.

This last September, Discovery Institute's "Discovery Day" in Washington, D.C. offered participants the opportunity to get better acquainted with our board, fellows and staff—and for them to interact, in an intimate setting, with some of our supporters in the nation's capital. The day featured discussion and open dialogue on many of Discovery's Institute's programs.



EVENTS CONTINUED ...

Building Economic Prosperity and Opportunity in Africa
Featuring Franklin Cudjoe of Accra, Ghana

The Abolition of Man Revisited:
C.S. Lewis and the Case Against Scientism
C.S. Lewis Autumn Event Series

From Scopes to Dover:
Should the Courts Permit Public Schools to Teach Intelligent Design?

Discovery Day in Washington, D.C.
Featuring Institute Fellows & Friends

A Tale of Three Cities
Transportation Success Stories From San Diego, Denver and Vancouver, B.C.

Slavery and Human Rights:
Lessons in 21st Century Diplomacy
Featuring Ambassador John R. Miller

The Meaning of Public Service
Featuring former U.S. Senator Slade Gorton

Summer 2005 Western COG Conference
Building a Freight Movement Framework for the West Coast

Uncommon Dissent Forum
Scientists Who Find Darwinism Unconvincing

What Think Tanks Think About
With Discovery President Bruce Chapman

The New Supreme Court Appointment:
The Ten Commandments as a Case in Point
Featuring Senior Fellow Phillip Muñoz

CHINA'S TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

As China's economy grows, so does its status as both a geopolitical actor and as a policy issue in Washington, D.C. With an unlimited labor supply and world-class prowess in science and technology, China is a key resource and partner for American technology companies. It is a key market for American consumer goods companies, as well as a key supplier of consumer goods to America. But it is also a major competitor for many traditional American industries—and American jobs. How will this impact the United States in the years ahead? And should Americans view this as a threat to U.S. leadership in technology and global affairs, or as an opportunity?

In December, Discovery Institute Senior Fellow Bret Swanson addressed these questions and others, drawing from his own experiences writing a book on the subject and from a recent, two-week visit to the country.



Discovery Events

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

IT'S CLEAR: PLAN TODAY FOR WATER TOMORROW

By Matt Rosenberg
The News Tribune
Published September 11, 2005

Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire's statewide emergency drought declaration in March 2005 energized a growing public information campaign for water conservation in central Puget Sound.

But with the many rains that soon followed came an important realization: The real water challenge in Western Washington is not scarcity. It is future population and economic growth.

A 2001 Central Puget Sound Water Supply Forum report projects the combined population of Pierce, King and Snohomish counties will grow from 3 million people in 2000 to nearly 4 million by 2020, and 5 million by 2050.

These figures dovetail with more recent Puget Sound Regional Council projections, including a preliminary estimate of 4.6 million by 2040.

The region's future water needs, for both man and fish, will require more than conservation and more than the current fragmented approach to planning and decision-making on in-stream and out-of-stream water supplies.

What's to be done?

The Water Supply Forum report asserted the need to start sooner, rather than later, on long-term planning to meet future regional water supply needs. The forum is a consortium of the three counties, plus the cities of Seattle, Everett and Tacoma and eight suburban water utilities, water utility associations and committees.

The report states: "The Central Puget Sound area faces significant challenges in meeting the water needs for people and fish habitat with available resources. ... Demands on this natural resource have been increasing and are likely to continue to do so in the future, although they will increase more slowly due to conservation."

The report goes on to explain that the region "does not currently have a structure or process for making collective regional water resource decisions" and that "such a process is needed now."

In December of 2001, Jim Waldo, water adviser to Gov. Gary Locke, initiated work with dozens of stakeholders

from all key sectors, including forum member agencies, on a follow-up effort known as the Central Puget Sound Regional Water Initiative (CPSI).

Delivered in April 2003, the CPSI report also stressed the need for a regional decision-making process putting human consumption on equal footing with fish concerns.

The CPSI report also noted pointedly what some scientists and water utility managers freely acknowledge: "It is clear that lack of knowledge (regarding in-stream needs of fish) is a significant impediment to successful water resource management."

While the viewpoints of American Indian tribes, environmental groups and political leaders are undoubtedly important, it is also essential that the perspective of the water utility manager receives equal emphasis as the dialogue continues to unfold.

Don Perry is general manager of the Lakehaven Utility District, which serves a population of about 100,000 in and around Federal Way. He says his jurisdiction has not experienced drought this year despite the governor's pronouncement.

"The region's future water needs, for both man and fish, will require more than conservation and more than the current fragmented approach to planning and decision-making on in-stream and out-of-stream water supplies."

"We haven't hit a threshold for this district for a drought. There's substantial groundwater storage. Our definition of drought is 'not enough water to serve our customers.' Some call it lack of planning."

John Kirner, Tacoma Water superintendent, says, "We have a substantially increased population (in the three-county region) versus 1970, and the Puget Sound Regional Council forecasts a significant increase beyond today's population."

"That means more economic development. The homes, roads, streets, malls, parking lots, schools and workplaces to support population growth all put stress on the water resource."

"Add to that more emphasis than ever

on leaving water in streams for salmon, and you're faced with the choice of people using less water, or making new water supplies and water storage facilities available."

In the face of further growth and environmental pressures, Kirner adds, conservation and increased storage and supply need not be, and must not be, mutually exclusive.

In addition, Central Puget Sound must further develop an infrastructure of pipelines and "interties" between pipelines throughout the region so utilities can more easily buy, sell and deliver water to each other, especially when some are low on supplies and others are flush.

This infrastructure is growing gradually but without any real regional consensus on what the final map should look like.

Don Ellis is chairman of the Snohomish River Regional Water Authority and has been a Northshore Utility District commissioner for almost 40 years.

"The ideal would be a multicounty regional system with the ability to shunt water from watershed to watershed," he says. "If you had major pipelines and cooperation between the agencies, you could forestall some of the expensive development."

Because a regional process has not materialized, some utilities have understandably felt compelled to press forward with projects—each benefiting a host of water utility districts. Prime examples the Cascade Water Alliance's Lake Tapps project (awaiting final Department of Ecology approvals), and Tacoma's important Second Supply Project on the Green River.

Yet some of the best choices for the future deserve more discussion. Future supply options must include a serious look at underground water storage projects of potentially great regional significance, such as the Lakehaven Utility District's Mirror Lake Oasis aquifer in Federal Way.

It could yield up to 81 million gallons per day during the four-month dry season, based on what Lakehaven officials call a "conservative" estimate of 27 wells each producing 3 million gallons per day.

It's Clear, continued on 19

Paradigm Shift for the Nation on Transportation

By Bruce Agnew and Jessica Cantelon
Puget Sound Business Journal
Published December 30, 2005

Editor's note: The Cascadia Center has written a series of articles examining the state's infrastructure deficit. This is the fourth article of the series, which is being published exclusively by the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Earlier in this series, we indicated the need for Congress and the administration to reaffirm their commitment to our nation's infrastructure. What should the new shape of this role be, and how should it reflect the changing paradigm of our transportation system?

The first component of the solution is crucial: a revamped federal budget policy, beginning with a long-due tax increase on transportation infrastructure. President Reagan did this in 1983 with his Nickel for America package.

Secondly, antiquated federal distribution formulas that return at least 90 percent of federal taxes to the 50 states need to be replaced with targeted block grants to multistate trade corridors. In today's global economy, the regional, national and international implications of infrastructure investment defy state lines. Mobility needs of the 21st century are increasingly defined by international border crossings, rural/urban trade corridors and metropolitan gateways.

Historically, the primary purpose of America's transportation network has been intranational mobility, connecting our cities and fueling westward expansion. Think of the Erie Canal, the transcontinental rail lines and the interstate highway system.

Today, however, we expect a lot more out of that same infrastructure. Consider the tri-national West Coast corridor. As the nexus of APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) and NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), the region—rather than its individual states—is most fairly able to determine how to invest in the infrastructure that supports our national economy.

Reduction in trade barriers to imports from China—coupled with the pending completion of that nation's massive

infrastructure program—will soon heighten the velocity of trade to the United States. Within the next five to 11 years, container traffic through West Coast ports is projected to double.

Since most freight moves via truck, a lot more 18-wheelers will be accompanying you on Interstate 5. Already, the drive through the narrow stretch near Centralia can require a harrowing maneuver through a line of trucks throwing a wall of rain onto your windshield. Double those trucks, and you'll be clutching your steering wheel with white knuckles.

Washington state is using part of the recent state gas tax increase to fund the expansion of half that 40-mile choke point. Who should pick up the rest of the tab? The good folks of Lewis County can

***“In today's global economy,
the regional, national and
international implications
of infrastructure investment
defy state lines.”***

hardly be expected to fork over hundreds of millions of dollars to expand a freeway that connects Canada to Mexico.

This brings us to the equity dilemma accompanying global trade. Regional economist Glenn Pascall notes, “Despite the national benefits of trade, a disproportionate burden has fallen on geographic locales that site critical facilities.” Coastal states—from the Eastern Seaboard to the Katrina-ravaged Gulf Coast to our own West Coast—house the bulk of infrastructure critical to international trade and national security.

Trade involves an intricate web of beneficiaries—from foreign trade partners to the neighborhood Costco and Wal-Mart—which should bear an appropriate proportion of the costs.

This notion, called use-based financing, works well for utilities, which charge variable fees based on time of day. In addition, the commercial air industry utilizes public authorities to build the basic airport infrastructure, which private

airlines use with variable gate and landing fees. The idea is simple: The more you use, the more you pay. It's time the rest of the transportation sector catches on.

The West Coast is beginning to. California leads the nation in implementing High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, which allow single-occupant vehicles to use a premium lane for a variable fee. Meanwhile, Oregon and Washington are building toll bridges and planning new toll facilities.

Use-based financing can help strengthen West Coast ports, but the model must be applied both smartly and regionally. Maritime commerce already assesses tens of billions of dollars in federal customs and container fees, which are either spent on unrelated purposes or benefit some but not all ports.

We need to consolidate these funds into a dedicated “Maritime Infrastructure and Security Trust Fund”—similar to the Highway Trust Fund for surface transportation. The difference would be targeted regional disbursement as opposed to the nonstrategic, 50-state return formula of the Highway Trust Fund. Offsetting the immediate effect, which could exacerbate the budget deficit, the increased trade in the long run will help balance the budget and boost the economy.

In addition to the shippers and carriers who profit from trade, part of the costs should be borne by countries whose prosperity depends on access to U.S. markets. Potential direct or indirect Chinese investment in West Coast infrastructure has been raised in a dialogue between the West Coast Corridor Coalition and regional Chinese leaders. America's relationship with our soon-to-be-largest trading partner is only as strong as the infrastructure that facilitates our two-way trade.

American problem solvers are preoccupied with the trade and budget deficits. Soon, perhaps they will realize that addressing the third deficit—infrastructure—could be key to solving the other two.

Bruce Agnew is director and Jessica Cantelon is a writer for Discovery Institute's Cascadia Center, a nonprofit public policy center based in Seattle.

San Francisco Chronicle

BIOHAZARDS:

Advances in Biological Science Raise Troubling Questions

About What It Means to Be Human

By Wesley J. Smith
San Francisco Chronicle
Published November 6, 2005

“By the end of the 21st century,” writes Reason magazine science editor Ronald Bailey in his book “Liberation Biology,” “the typical American may attend a family reunion in which five generations are playing together. And great-great-great grandma, at 150 years old, will be as vital ... as her 30-year-old great-great grandson with whom she’s playing touch football.”

UCLA futurist Gregory Stock predicts in “Redesigning Humans” that the genetic engineering of progeny for health, intelligence, physical beauty, even sociability, will be so successful that procreation through intercourse will be deemed “too unpredictable,” making “laboratory conception ... obligatory rather than optional.”

Princeton biologist Lee Silver believes fervently, as described in “Remaking Eden,” that the wonders of human redesign will eventually lead to a “special point” where our posterity will create themselves into a “special group of mental beings who “are as different from humans as humans are from primitive worms. ... ‘Intelligence’ will “not do justice to their cognitive abilities. ‘Knowledge’ does not explain the depth of their understanding. ... ‘Power’ is not strong enough to describe the control they have over technologies that can be used to shape the universe in which they live.”

The prospect of a 150-year-old living human being sounds fantastical. So does pre-designing children or future generations with godlike powers. But many futurists and scientists say we humans are about to seize control of our own evolution.

If the impeters of scientific progress can just be pushed out of the way, they predict, the wonders of science and biotechnology will re-create us into superior beings who will live longer, look better, play harder and think smarter than any of us can even dream of doing today.

Others (including this writer) see such scenarios as more hype than hope.

Some of us also worry that advocates of unfettered research are changing science from a means into an end, a belief system rather than a method.

Indeed, “bioskeptics,” as they are sometimes called, see a utopian ideology of “scientism” forming that threatens to upend society’s belief in human equality and unleash a “new eugenics,” in which Aldous Huxley’s dystopian vision of mind control from “Brave New World” could become a reality.

Look out America: The trajectory of science is coming into conflict with venerable human values. Which side prevails will depend less on what scientists

personhood theory already advocate infanticide for profoundly disabled babies and organ harvesting from people diagnosed to be in a persistent vegetative state.

The already simmering humanhood versus personhood controversy is going to boil over as our scientific and biotechnological capacities advance.

For example, what if it becomes technologically feasible to create cloned human embryos and gestate them in real or artificial wombs to fetal stage for use in drug testing or for organ procurement? (Such experiments have already been conducted successfully in cows.)

Those who believe that humanhood provides intrinsic value argue that such “fetal farming” should be prohibited because it reduces nascent human life to the status of a mere harvestable commodity.

Personhood theorists, on the other hand, would tend to support using cloned fetal nonpersons to save the lives of persons and to reduce the suffering of animals currently

used in medical research, which are seen as having greater moral value because they possess higher cognitive capacities.

New Jersey has already legalized the creation of cloned embryos and their gestation through the ninth month.

Another issue touching on the meaning and importance of human life is the creation of animals called chimeras that have been genetically engineered to contain some human DNA.

Promoters of this research point out that great good could result, for example, from obtaining human proteins from the milk of these altered animals for use in pharmaceuticals, a process known as “pharming.” Other than a scattering of environmentalists and animal rights activists, few object to creation of these “transgenic” animals.

But important questions remain: How much human DNA in an animal is too much? (James Hughes believes that chimps should be “uplifted,” that is, enhanced genetically to “have human intellectual capacities.” That’s a way,

“Once having children was generally conducted in a simple way: Men and women got married, made love, and had babies—although not always in that order. To the delight of some and the dismay of others, human reproduction has become a far more complicated matter.”

can do than upon the ethical principles that govern society in an era of biological control.

In the United States today, every human being who is born possesses full moral and legal rights. But this is under pronounced assault. Influential philosophers, such as Princeton University’s Peter Singer, assert that basing an individual’s moral value on humanhood is irrational and grounded in outdated religion.

In place of humanness as the criterion for ultimate value, these advocates offer “personhood theory,” in which rights belong to “persons,” a status earned by any organism or machine possessing minimal cognitive capacities.

If personhood theory ever governs society, the impact would be incalculable, for as futurist James Hughes writes in “Citizen Cyborg,” “Persons don’t have to be human, and not all humans are persons.”

Opponents of personhood theory warn that it would lead to the most vulnerable humans being exploited as mere objects.

They note that some supporters of

Biohazards, continued on next page

Cascadia Center Expands Focus AND Intensifies It

With Initiative 912's failure last November, Washington state voters demonstrated clear approval for investment in transportation infrastructure. Of course, much work remains before trust in leadership is completely restored to a healthy state. And as we now face a political landscape marked both by great encouragement and great challenge, a critical window of opportunity is opening for Discovery's [Cascadia Center for Regional Development](#). It is in this vein, then, that the Center presses forward to bolster accountability and transparency in government at the regional level (Central Puget Sound). For starters, this means consolidating regional transportation agencies and, at the local level, encouraging government performance audits (approved in Initiative 900).

Cascadia is also endorsing innovative regional funding strategies, such as high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes—HOV lanes that also permit toll access to single-occupancy vehicles. This logical, "user pays" approach to funding is currently proposed as a pilot project on State Route 167. Ultimately expanding HOT lanes and express bus service to a tunneled Alaskan Way, State Route 520, and Interstate 405 will reduce the need for general tax increases.

This fall, Cascadia stepped up its focus on regional infrastructure. In October, *The Seattle Times* printed an [opinion editorial](#) advocating tearing down the Alaskan Way Viaduct and replacing it with a six-lane tunnel. The piece, authored by Bruce Agnew, Bruce

Chapman, and Tom Till, appears on page 8 of this issue. In addition, the *Puget Sound Business Journal* is currently running a [series of six op-eds](#) by Cascadia on the topic of infrastructure. The series, which began in November with a look at the state's power grid, continues this month on topics ranging from transportation to technology.

Public education on transportation took a major leap forward this fall with the launch of Cascadia's new Transportation Washington website (www.transportation.washington.org). The new site contains a wealth of information and sheds much-needed light on Washington state's transportation system—the way it works, who's in charge, how it's funded, as well as futuristic ideas like plug-in hybrid cars.

In September, Cascadia partnered with the Seattle Chamber of Commerce to host "A Tale of Three Regions," a forum highlighting success stories from San Diego, Denver, and Vancouver, B.C. The event featured a panel of transportation representatives from the three cities, discussing how imaginative funding strategies solved common funding challenges.

In November, Cascadia Co-Director Tom Till participated in [discussions on talk shows](#) on NPR affiliates WAMU (Washington, D.C.), and KUOW (Seattle) about the November 2005 firing of Amtrak CEO David Gunn. These interviews followed Till's National Rail Forum in D.C. on Amtrak's long-distance trains in September. Hosted by Reps. Mike Castle (R-DE) and Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA), the forum featured representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Amtrak, freight railroads, the railway supply industry, and railway finance

organizations. A follow-up event is expected early in 2006.

This spring, Cascadia looks forward to its third annual technology conference co-sponsored with Microsoft. Focusing on the nexus between transportation and technology, the event will include national and international speakers with expertise in policy, government, break-through technology, and more. The event is currently scheduled for April 12–13.

Meanwhile, Cascadia serves on the steering committee for the congressionally-funded West Coast Corridor Coalition—composed of transportation leaders from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California—which continues to work on transportation infrastructure financing and Homeland Security issues from Alaska to Baja, California. Fifty percent of the international trade in and out of the U.S. comes through West Coast ports, yet the region receives only 20 percent of federal infrastructure funding—a challenge the Coalition is taking head on.

Established in 1993, the [Cascadia Center for Regional Development](#) focuses on transportation, commerce, and conservation in the greater Cascadia region of Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. The Center brings the private, corporate and philanthropic sectors of the region together with all levels of government to discuss and find solutions to common economic problems. For more information, please visit Cascadia's website at www.cascadiaproject.org.

Biohazards, continued from last page

he says, of proving that "personhood not humanness" should "be the ticket to citizenship.")

Should any animal DNA ever be permitted to re-engineer human embryos?

Such experiments are far from unthinkable. A new social movement called "transhumanism" advocates the creation of a "post-human species," which would include using animal genes in progeny to increase strength or make senses more acute.

Once having children was generally conducted in a simple way: Men and women got married, made love, and had babies—although not always in that order.

To the delight of some and the dismay

of others, human reproduction has become a far more complicated matter.

Infertile couples now conceive through in vitro fertilization. Women who can't carry a child can arrange to have their baby gestated by a surrogate birth mother. Gay and lesbian partners are demanding the right to marry and have families. Sex selection has already begun.

The social controversies raised by these behavioral changes, already white-hot, are going to grow even more intense as cutting-edge procreative advances offer ever-greater latitude to those wanting children and more-precise control over the kind of children they have.

But critics worry that our growing mastery over reproduction could slide from liberty into license and even into

reproductive anarchy. Look for these issues to cut through the body politic like a laser in the coming decades:

- Is there a right to reproduce?

This issue strikes at core beliefs about the importance of natural limits, age, gender, sexual orientation, feminism, traditionalism, normality and the purposes of becoming a parent.

- Should a 65 year-old woman be allowed to receive technological assistance giving birth? How about an 80-year-old?

- Should a man be allowed a uterus transplant so he can become a mother, as bioethicist Joseph Fletcher suggested?

- Will it be acceptable for a woman to

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JUDGING DARWIN AND GOD

By David Klinghoffer
The Seattle Times
Published December 23, 2005

Issuing theological statements isn't normally thought of as the job of a federal judge. Yet, this week when U.S. District Court Judge John E. Jones III released the first federal ruling on intelligent design, there was at the core of his written decision an unambiguously theological ruling: that evolution as formulated by Charles Darwin presents no conflict with the God of the Bible.

Quite apart from what one thinks of his legal decision, what should we make of his theology?

In brief, Jones ruled that disparaging Darwinian evolutionary theory in biology class violates the separation of church and state. The context is *Kitzmiller v. Dover*, a case dealing with the question of whether a school district may teach about an alternative theory, intelligent design (ID). The latter finds hallmarks of a designer's work in the evidence of nature.

Wrote Jones, "[M]any of the leading proponents of ID make a bedrock assumption which is utterly false. Their presupposition is that evolutionary theory is antithetical to a belief in the existence of a supreme being and to religion in general. Repeatedly in this trial, [p]laintiffs' scientific experts testified that the theory of evolution... in no way conflicts with, nor does it deny, the existence of a divine creator."

As a matter of fact, Jones is wrong. Darwinism is indeed "antithetical to a belief in the existence of a supreme being and to religion in general." There are three reasons for this, and you don't have to be a theologian to grasp the point.

First, consider the views on religion from leading Darwinists themselves. Oxford biologist Richard Dawkins, the most distinguished of modern Darwin advocates, writes that "faith is one of the world's great evils, comparable to the

smallpox virus but harder to eradicate."

In his book "Darwin's Dangerous Idea," Daniel Dennett, of Tufts University, condemns conservative Christians for, among other things, "misinforming [their] children about the natural world" and compares such a religion to a wild animal: "Safety demands that religions be put in cages, too—when absolutely necessary."

Nobel laureate Steven Weinberg, at the University of Texas, declares, "I personally feel that the teaching of modern science is corrosive of religious belief, and I'm all for that."

At the University of Minnesota, biologist P.Z. Myers, a bulldog for

"Darwinism and religious faith begin from antithetical metaphysical assumptions."

Darwin, writes about how he wishes he could use a time machine to go back and eliminate the biblical patriarch Abraham: "I wouldn't do anything as trivial as using it to take out Hitler."

And so on. These are just a few examples but the bottom line is evident: Not all Darwinists, including the most famous and admired, share Judge Jones' view that Darwin and God may coexist peacefully.

Second, and more fundamentally, Darwinism and religious faith begin from antithetical metaphysical assumptions. In "The Origin of Species," Darwin's working premise is that God has no role in the unfolding of the history of life. In view of this belief, which he never states or defends but simply assumes, Darwin goes on to detail his theory about natural selection operating on random variation. It is only in the absence of a supreme being working out his will in the evolution of life that we would even undertake Darwin's search in the first place. That was a search for a purely materialistic

explanation of how complex organisms arise.

As Darwin himself clarified in his correspondence, "I would give absolutely nothing for the theory of natural selection if it requires miraculous additions at any one stage of descent."

Religion, by contrast, does not assume that material reality is all there is.

This may be why, third and finally, thinkers who have tried to assert the compatibility of God and Darwin invariably end up changing the meaning of one or the other. Those, for example, who say that God may operate through the medium of Darwinian evolution have resorted to a logical fallacy. Again, the whole purpose of Darwin's theory is to discover a model by which life could have evolved without a need for God. Anyone asserting a full-bodied Darwinism has, by definition, rendered God superfluous and irrelevant.

The comforting thought articulated by Judge Jones, that we may have both our God and our Darwin, doesn't stand up to scrutiny, as some of the fiercer Darwinists themselves evidently recognize.

What this says about the public-policy question—What may be taught in schools?—should be clear enough. Whether children are taught materialism (Darwin), or an openness to what transcends nature (intelligent design), they are being taught not merely science but a philosophy about life and existence itself.

The idea that it is constitutional to expose young people to one such worldview, but not lawful to introduce them to another, is not really education. It is indoctrination.

David Klinghoffer of Mercer Island is a columnist for the Jewish Forward, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, and the author most recently of "Why the Jews Rejected Jesus: The Turning Point in Western History" (Doubleday).

Holy Rights

Church and state and the Bush justice

By Vincent Phillip Munoz
National Review Online
 Published September 14, 2005

Abortion continues to dominate discussion about John Roberts's nomination and will certainly dominate commentary surrounding President Bush's second nominee. Beyond the posturing and polemics, however, the core issue is not in play. Even if President Bush is successful in appointing two anti-abortion justices, five votes will remain on the Court to uphold Roe's essential holding protecting a woman's right to choose. Of more immediate consequence is the new appointees' impact on constitutional questions that have been largely overlooked, in particular the relationship between church and state.

With Chief Justice Rehnquist's death and Justice O'Connor's retirement, the Court lacks a five-vote majority regarding the purpose and meaning of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. On cases such as posting the Ten Commandments on public property and allowing public-school children to say "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance," the new nominees will control future jurisprudence. As potential holders of the "swing vote," they should be pressed about their understanding of religious freedom.

Four sitting justices—Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, and Breyer—embrace the "wall of separation." They interpret the First Amendment to prohibit the government from advancing one religion over others or from favoring religion generally over non-religion. In practice this creates serious doubts about religious groups participating in state-funded programs and about governmental endorsement of religion in the public square.

In 2002, for example, the four "strict-separationists" voted against allowing religious schools to participate in an Ohio school-voucher program. They argued that to allow public funds to flow to private (mostly Catholic) schools has the impermissible effect of advancing

religion. The same four voted with Justice O'Connor last June to strike down Ten Commandments displays posted in two Kentucky county courthouses.

The three other remaining justices—Scalia, Kennedy, and Thomas—take a different approach. They argue that "strict-separationism" misinterprets the Constitution's text and flatly contradicts our nation's traditions. They interpret the Establishment Clause to prohibit "coercion" of religion—that is, compelling belief, practice, or financial support of religion. They would allow religious groups to participate in public programs like school vouchers as long as the religious groups do so on the same terms as non-religious groups. Their approach also allows non-coercive governmental acknowledgement of religion, like posting of the Ten Commandments.

The split on the Court reflects deep differences in jurisprudential philosophy, contrary understandings of the judiciary's

"While at times paying lip service to the Founders, the more liberal justices ultimately defend the "wall" by claiming that it is the best way to prevent social strife in modern day, pluralistic America."

role, and competing assessments of the potential harmfulness of religion.

While at times paying lip service to the Founders, the more liberal justices ultimately defend the "wall" by claiming that it is the best way to prevent social strife in modern day, pluralistic America. They argue that the Court should withdraw from the normal political process questions that might divide the American public along religious lines. The implication is that the judiciary is most capable of determining how, when, and under what conditions religion may safely appear in public. And more often than not, when exercising that judgment, the "strict-separationists" vote to limit religion's public presence because they believe it is so potentially divisive.

The more conservative justices understand their role to be more limited. They take their bearings not from what they perceive to be best for contemporary society, but rather from the Constitution's text. What is determinative for them is that the First Amendment prohibits religious establishments and establishments, at the time of the Founding, involved coercion of religious practice by force of law and threat of penalty. They confirm this interpretation with our nation's history, which reveals that many of the Framers who drafted the First Amendment themselves embraced non-coercive, governmental endorsement of religion. If the American people now want to allow a non-coercive religious presence in the public square, the conservative justices will not object.

From his record, we know almost nothing about John Roberts's views on church and state. He is not going to answer questions about specific cases, but queries about judicial philosophy are fair game. Senators concerned about religious freedom should ask Roberts how he would discern the meaning of the Constitution's prohibition of religious establishments. Would he take his bearings from the meaning of the words as they were understood at the time of the drafting and ratification of the First Amendment? Or would he follow modern day precedents that take their bearing from the judiciary's perception of the demands of social cohesion? The same question should also be asked of Bush's second nominee.

Before anyone assumes the awesome power of a Supreme Court justice, the American public deserves to hear responses to such questions. The meaning and extent of the Constitution's separation of church and state, not to mention the role of the judiciary in contemporary American politics, will depend on the answers provided.

Vincent Phillip Muñoz is an assistant professor of political science at Tufts University and a fellow of the Discovery Institute.

Article Excerpts ...

The Free Press is Essential But Journalists Cannot Be Above the Law

By Howard Chapman
The Fort Wayne News-Sentinel
Published July 13, 2005

The New York Times had an editorial the other day about a highly paid corporate CEO who was charged with questionable accounting practices. 'He knew what the law was,' it said, 'but he thought the law was wrong. He thought that gave him the right to disregard the law. America does not work that way. If we don't like a law, we can say so, and try to change it, but in the meantime, we have to obey it.'

"OK, I made that up. It is, however, exactly the kind of thing that *The New York Times* editors would say – about somebody else. They think of themselves, however, as if they were my imaginary CEO, entitled to ignore a law they disagree with. They have been ordered by a court of law to disclose the source, or sources, of information gathered by a reporter. The case has gone all the way to the United States Supreme Court, and they have lost ..."

Howard Chapman, a resident of Fort Wayne, is an Adjunct Fellow of Discovery Institute.

Intelligent Design Could Be a Bridge Between Civilizations

By Mustafa Akyol
National Review Online
Published December 1, 2005

"When President Bush declared his support for the teaching of Intelligent Design (ID) theory in public schools along with Darwinian evolution, both he and the theory itself drew a lot of criticism. Among the many lines of attack the critics launch, one theme remains strikingly constant: the notion that ID is a Trojan Horse of Christian fundamentalists whose ultimate aim is to turn the U.S. into an theocracy.

"In a [furious New Republic cover story](#), "The Case Against Intelligent Design," Jerry Coyne joins in this hype and implies that all non-Christians, including Muslims, should be alarmed by this supposedly Christian theory of beginnings that "might offend those of other faiths." Little does he realize that if there is any view on the origin of life that might seriously offend other faiths—including mine, Islam—it is the materialist dogma: the assumptions that God, by definition, is a superstition, and that rationality is inherently atheistic ..."

Mustafa Akyol is a Muslim writer based in Istanbul, Turkey, and one of the expert witnesses who testified to the Kansas State Education Board during the hearings on evolution.

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use animal or artificial wombs to gestate her baby so as not to have her professional life inconvenienced by a wanted pregnancy?

- Is there a right to have genetically related offspring? Reproductive cloning is off the table for now because cloning isn't safe. But what if it were? Some bioethicists are already suggesting that outlawing reproductive cloning, at least for gay or infertile couples, would be unconstitutional because "procreative liberty" includes the right to have biologically related offspring.

- Is there a right to genetically engineer offspring? Eradicating genetic disease is one thing. But there is a chorus of advocates who want to harness our growing knowledge of the human genome to "improve" our children through germ line genetic manipulations.

James Watson, co-discoverer of the DNA double helix, argued that prospective parents should use biotechnology to eradicate undesirable traits—or fabricate wanted enhancements—in their children.

More bluntly, bioethicist Gregory Pence suggested in "Who's Afraid of Human Cloning?" that parents should be allowed to use biotechnology to "aim for a certain type" of child "in the same way that great breeders ... try to match a breed of dog to the needs of a family."

- Will the artificial womb affect the right to abortion?

Within 20 years, it is expected that artificial wombs will be available to save troubled pregnancies. If so, it is foreseeable that some anti-abortion states would pass laws requiring women wanting mid- or late-term abortions to instead have their unwanted fetuses saved through transfer into artificial wombs.

Science is opening the door to procreative "quality control." Whether society will permit made-to-order children will be the subject of debate for years to come.

All this begs the question: Who decides?

Some believe scientists should have the exclusive say because of their unique expertise. Thus, bioethicist Rahul Dhandu, wrote in "Guiding Icarus," that science "knows what is good for society, like a parent knows what is good for the child."

Professor Francis Fukuyama, a noted public intellectual, took a different view in "Our Posthuman Future." "True freedom means the freedom of political communities to protect the values they hold most dear," he wrote, "and it is that freedom that we need to exercise with regard to the biotechnology revolution today."

The intellectual foundation is being laid for lawsuits that will seek a constitutional right to conduct scientific research -- perhaps in response to passage of a new federal law outlawing all human cloning.

Some scholars believe such a right

is contained in the First Amendment. In this view, scientific experimentation is analogous to a reporter's right to research a story.

If there is a right to conduct experiments implicit in the First Amendment, only a compelling state interest—such as preventing a plague—would justify the government infringing a scientist's fundamental freedom of inquiry.

Opponents of unfettered research say the scientist-equals-a-reporter analogy fails because granting a right to research would actually be akin to allowing a reporter to set fire to a building so he could write a story about the arson.

How all of this will turn out, nobody knows. But as Leon Kass, former chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics, has said: "All of the natural boundaries are up for grabs. All of the boundaries that have defined us as human beings, boundaries between a human being and an animal on one side and between a human being and a super human being or a god on the other. The boundaries of life, the boundaries of death. These are the questions of the 21st century, and nothing could be more important."

Wesley J. Smith is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute and a special consultant to the Center for Bioethics and Culture. His current book is [Consumer's Guide to a Brave New World](#). Contact the San Francisco Chronicle at insight@sfchronicle.com.

Notice to Members and Friends WELCOME 2006!

Discovery's membership has doubled (to 780) in the past year and half, DVDs based on our intelligent activities have sold 100,000 copies, more books than ever are scheduled to print, and our transportation documentary is widely seen. Our daily average number of visitors (not "hits") to discovery.org is about that of a medium-sized city newspaper circulation—only our readership is national and international! And [our blogs](#) make news as well as report it.

We are straining to keep up the pace. We desperately need general purpose funds to cover maintenance of existing programs and to expand where we are needed.

Discovery Institute is obviously filling a need that has not been met by universities, politics or the media. As a side matter, we are training and encouraging hundreds of ambitions, bright young people and college professors for whom Discovery is a unique resource. Through their work, our positive impact on the culture of these times has never been so extensive. You can see the results in international—as well as national and local—newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV.

We cannot even keep track of the publicity now, let alone respond adequately to it; we don't have the funds. We're having an exciting time, but it's a strain on many people. We have to keep growing just to keep up with the research and promotional challenges ahead.

This year we received our first bequest and thought from the estate of Edward Westfall of Olympia, Washington—a generous and thoughtful gift we hope will stimulate others to remember us in their wills.

But we also need current gifts to help us meet the growing demands for our fellows' expertise and assistance. Won't you consider a gift to give 2006 a big boost? Discovery Institute is not an ordinary cause, but the work of our fellows, researchers, conference planners, writers and staff isn't ordinary either. Neither are our wonderful, loyal members and friends!

President's Letter, *continued from 2*

program after the Asian tsunami has won us more friends in that area than diplomats ever did.

And the culture? Well, actually, you should read the statements of biochemist Michael Behe, political scientist John West, law professor David DeWolf and our staff lawyer Casey Luskin on what really is under legal contest in the issues of Darwinism and design. Suffice that these far-reaching questions have been pushed into international consciousness, as never before—and when they are answered, they will pose the strongest rebuff yet to the moral relativism of our age.

Discovery isn't trying to require the teaching of intelligent design, only the teaching of the scientific evidence for and against Darwin's theory. And we are calling for protection for ID-friendly scientists currently under attack at several universities and the Smithsonian. Critics can make such a program sound radical only by misrepresenting it.

But it doesn't matter how many silly and ignorant articles are written by commentators in defense of Darwin and against the logic of design. What matters

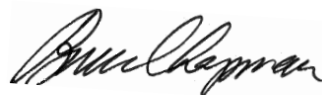
is that others are examining these subjects for themselves and their discoveries are changing their worldviews—and them.

Only five years ago a PBS series on evolution asserted that hardly any scientific doubters of Darwin's theory could be found. Today, unbowed by ACLU lawyers and intimidating professional bodies, some 500 scientists from around the world have signed a "Dissent from Darwin." The Darwinists can't stop people from reading and thinking.

So our reality displays gratitude, cheerfulness and hope. It embraces the future of transportation, economics, foreign policy, technology and democracy, as well as science and culture.

Our reality is both more pleasant and more serious than the dreary alternative. As I like to point out: In America, nothing is so naïve as cynicism, or so ridiculous as despair.

Cheer up, people! You can start by joining Discovery Institute!



It's Clear, *continued from 12*

In the eight rainy months, water would be treated and pumped into the aquifer by the ASR (aquifer storage and recovery) wells, which would withdraw the water for treatment and use in summer months. During the drier period, the aquifer would be recharged by Tacoma's Second Supply project and other municipal sources.

Other, less conventional water supply sources for Central Puget Sound's future growth must receive more analysis as well. These include desalination, use of reclaimed wastewater for nonpotable purposes and managing development-related stormwater runoff to boost infiltration to groundwater supplies.

Balancing economic and environmental concerns will be challenging, but the twain can, and must, meet. The recently drafted, 14-watershed Shared Strategy salmon recovery plan for Puget Sound delineates additional factors affecting salmon, provides recent and current examples of salmon recovery and acknowledges the need for more research on in-stream flows.

It also holds that, given sufficient public involvement and political leadership, both salmon recovery and expected population growth can be accommodated.

Shared Strategy highlights the need for salmon habitat improvements, including estuaries, floodplains, and riparian and nearshore areas, and with respect to water quantity and quality and harvest and hatchery management.

Shared Strategy estimates a cost of \$1.2 billion to implement recommended salmon recovery measures in the 14 watersheds from 2006 to 2015. The cost for securing adequate future water supplies for the region's growing population will certainly be higher.

The piecemeal approach doesn't work. The clock is ticking, and the costs of securing enough water for our region's future grow daily. Gov. Gregoire needs to show real leadership and bring all the right parties to the table, in a binding regional decision-making process for central Puget Sound, where the water needs of homes, businesses and public institutions are firmly placed on equal footing with those of fish.

Matt Rosenberg is a Seattle writer, blogger and consultant. This article is adapted from a report he wrote for the Cascadia Center of the Seattle-based Discovery Institute. The paper is available in full [here](#). Rosenberg's e-mail is oudist@comcast.net.

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