

## My letter on 'Dawkins' weasel'

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

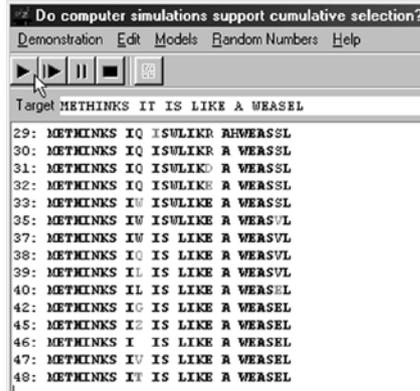
Now I have just received the current issue of *TJ*, and I see that you have found a way to do both. You might honourably have printed my letter plus the URL of a creationist site attacking it; or you might have declined to publish my letter altogether. Instead, you published my letter but omitted the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

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

Edward E. Max  
Bethesda, Maryland  
UNITED STATES of AMERICA

### References

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



### *TJ* Editors reply:

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

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

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

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

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

*TJ* Editorial Team

## Forum on catastrophic plate tectonics

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

of promoting creationism is probably better served by several competing, plausible creationist Flood models than a prevailing one that eventually loses its explanatory power.

For instance, Walt Brown's hydroplate theory seems quite credible to me in many respects. It explains mid-oceanic ridges, how the continents fit together before the Flood, continental shelves and many other enigmatic phenomena better, I think, than catastrophic plate tectonics. Perhaps lesser-known theories like Patten's Astral Catastrophism also have value. May I suggest that future forums include young-Earth creationist authors/models outside the AiG/ICR/CRS umbrella. I would be very interested in Oard's and Baumgardner's views on Brown's model in particular.

Gordon Hohensee  
Chilliwack, British Columbia  
CANADA

## Reducing volume below the crust

I have seen a number of articles on Plate Tectonics in *TJ* 16(1) and previous issues, but haven't seen mention of what seems to me to be an obvious evidence in support of it.

The magnetic field of the Earth is decaying and is said to be the cause of heat within the Earth. This means that as the field decays the internal temperature reduces, so the volume of the Earth is decreased. Also volcanoes expel magma and steam which reduces the volume below the crust.

Therefore if the crust remains the same size it will not have the necessary support, so something has to give. Sliding one plate under another reduces the circumference and volume and gives support to the crust. Admittedly some of this movement raises some areas—New Zealand normally goes up—but this is probably counter-balanced by the total volume that goes down, or the reduction in volume due to reducing the circumference.

When the fountains of the deep broke up, this would have caused stress on the crust, through lack of support, possibly causing plate movement, or was caused by movement, and would have been catastrophic, according to the Bible's description. As earth is heavier than water, there would be a mighty rush when a crack developed, as there is still a lot of water trapped below.

Kenneth Malley  
Lower Hutt  
NEW ZEALAND

## Intriguing aspects worthy of further study

Baumgardner's model of rapid motions of whole continents during the Flood seems incredible but contains many intriguing aspects and explanations worthy of further study.

1. It may be worth looking at analogies between runaway subduction and other processes such as runaway chemical reactions and runaway nuclear processes.
2. Baumgardner's model would be enhanced if he could better explain what might initiate the runaway subduction. He mentions a temperature perturbation but does not suggest what could cause this, though he does point out the difficulties of theorizing about initial conditions.
3. In 'Dealing carefully with the data' he suggests 'all of the pre-Flood ocean floor has disappeared from the face of the Earth'. But looking at the movement from the Pangean distribution to the present location of the continents it would seem there should be some rather large areas of primordial ocean floor particularly in the Pacific. If available, it might be fruitful to compare any data on seafloor drilling from primordial areas with that from areas produced from seafloor spreading.
4. I am surprised that neither Baum-

gardner nor Oard refer to Genesis 1:9 which includes, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place' (NIV). Of course verse 10 refers to the gathered waters or seas in the plural so the configuration is not entirely clear. However Baumgardner's initial condition of a Pangean configuration of continents with the remaining surface covered by sea seems to be more consistent with what appears to be the most obvious meaning of these words in Genesis.

Graham Fraser  
Dee Why, New South Wales  
AUSTRALIA

## Basis for correlation needed?

I found the recent Forum on Catastrophic Plate Tectonics interesting and relevant to understanding Flood geology. I think I agree with Oard that it is a viable model, at least for part of the Flood, but this is far from proven.

Baumgardner succinctly summarises the creationist concept of successive burial of ecosystems. Such is an acknowledgment by creationists that fossils tend to follow a similar order in different areas. However, there is no basis for a precise correlation of the deposition of similar fossil assemblages in different parts of the world. The only basis evolutionists have for correlating these sequences is their belief that the evolution and the extinction of life forms were simultaneous worldwide events. The Bible makes it clear that all the different kinds were present prior to the Flood. A general similarity of fossil succession in different parts of the world may involve similar processes, but other objective criteria are needed if we are to correlate the timing of such events on a worldwide basis.

Robert Lawrence  
Adelaide, South Australia  
AUSTRALIA