

# Creationist and biologist lock horns on evolution

By Chris Courtner  
Of the Emerald

Creationism is a mask for Fundamentalism, says David Wagner, assistant professor of biology at the University.

But, says Norm Fox of the Institute for Creation Research, the creation theory is not necessarily based on the Bible.

Wagner and Fox debated the evolution and creation controversy at the Koinonia Center Friday during a Mars Hill Forum. The event was sponsored by the Restoration Campus Ministry.

"When I want to know about the Earth, I'll read the geologic record, not the Bible," said Wagner. "It is impossible for an objective scientist to believe that the Bible is scientifically correct."

The Bible contradicts itself in many areas, said Wagner.

"The creation story is particularly messed up," he said. "You have to struggle with these things if you're going to accept the Bible as historical fact."

"The differences are there," he said. "I'm not going to try and resolve them, just point them out."

But Fox said one can believe in creation without having to believe in the Bible.

"The creation model is not dependent on the Bible," he



Photo by David Corey

**Norm Fox of the Institute for Creation Research says creation theory is not necessarily based on the bible.**

said. "We're dealing with models that make predictions. Both the creation and the evolution models cannot prove origin, they can only interpret data."

Fox said evolution within species is common and active now, but evolution as the source of creation is improbable.

As an example, scientists say animals acquired — by evolution — the ability to fly, but that cannot be found in the fossil record, Fox said.

"We have found animals with wings and animals without wings, but there is no evidence of animals with partial wings," he said, adding that animals with partial wings would indicate evolution had occurred.

If one species were to evolve into another, extensive genetic damage would occur, Fox said.

"And you don't get increased diversity within the species with genetic damage."

Wagner, however, said there is evidence of evolution in the geologic record.

"Evolution isn't a story. It is a process that is testable and continuing today," he said.

Fox said the evolution theory is based on speculation — as creation is.

"To assume evolution you have to make assumptions about the past — which is both unrecorded and unrepeatable."

Evolution is silent on the question of whether or not a designer exists, Wagner said. To assume there is "design" in the universe is to make a "religious leap," he said.

Fox said the burden of proof is on the evolutionist to prove there is not design in the universe.

## ODE board adds student

By Dane Claussen  
Of the Emerald

The University student body will have the opportunity to directly elect one member of the Emerald board of directors as the board voted for the second time in two months on Thursday to change its own composition.

The vote also assured a student majority on the 10-member board, as at least six members will have to be students.

Acting on the recommendation of a three-person committee, the board voted to make one community-at-large position a student-at-large position. The board decided the student could be elected during student body elections in mid-April, much as president of the University's Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group is elected.

It has not been decided whether to appoint a person temporarily to hold the post until April elections, board member Ann Portal says.

The board now will consist of the editor, representatives of the news-editorial, advertising, and production departments, two ASUO representatives serving staggered two-year terms, two faculty members, a community representative and a student-at-large position.

A Jan. 15 vote had enlarged the board from nine to 10 members by adding a community

member and thus placing five students and five non-students on the board.

The board committee, appointed Feb. 2, was established to formulate plans to change the board back to a student majority and study concerns about staff composition raised by some news-editorial staff, ASUO officials, and Incidental Fee Committee members.

The IFC has decided to require a student majority on the board for the Emerald to obtain the student body's subscription, which last year was more than \$90,000.

"They've met our threshold requirement for a budget hearing," Rasmussen said about the Thursday decision.

Many questions about the Emerald remain to be asked by the IFC during budget hearings however, he says.

"The committee has to be convinced that the Emerald is a student organization to receive incidental fees," Rasmussen says.

A policy statement giving preferential hiring treatment to students in accordance with Emerald bylaws and conclusions regarding employment of non-students was also submitted to the board by the committee. One recommendation was that all positions — excepting department heads — that currently are held by non-students would be opened to students March 1, 1983.

The proposed policy statement is under advisement by the Emerald's attorneys.

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