

CAN MICHAEL DINI MAKE A MONKEY OUT OF ME?

A discussion on the separation of church and state and religion and science.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: AMENDMENT I:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press;

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Prof. Michael Dini's web site <http://www2.tlhc.ttu.edu/dini>: If you set up an appointment to discuss the writing of a letter of recommendation, I will ask you: "How do you think the human species originated?" If you cannot truthfully and forthrightly affirm a scientific answer to this question, then you should not seek my recommendation for admittance to further education in the biomedical sciences. Why do I ask this question? Let's consider the situation of one wishing to enter medical school. Whereas medicine is historically rooted first in the practice of magic and later in religion, modern medicine is an endeavor that springs from the sciences, biology first among these. The central, unifying principle of biology is the theory of evolution, which includes both micro- and macro-evolution, and which extends to ALL species. How can someone who does not accept the most important theory in biology expect to properly practice in a field that is so heavily based on biology? It is hard to imagine how this can be so, but it is easy to imagine how physicians who ignore or neglect the Darwinian aspects of medicine or the evolutionary origin of humans can make bad clinical decisions. The current crisis in antibiotic resistance is the result of such decisions. For others, please read the citations below. Good medicine, like good biology, is based on the collection and evaluation of physical evidence. So much physical evidence supports the evolution of humans from non-human ancestors that one can validly refer to the "fact" of human evolution, even if all of the details are not yet known. One can deny this evidence only at the risk of calling into question one's understanding of science and of the method of science. Such an individual has committed malpractice regarding the method of science, for good scientists would never throw out data that do not conform to their expectations or beliefs. This is the situation of those who deny the evolution of humans; such a one is throwing out information because it seems to contradict his/her cherished beliefs. Can a physician ignore data that s/he does not like and remain a physician for long? No. If modern medicine is based on the method of science, then how can someone who denies the theory of evolution -- the very pinnacle of modern biological science -- ask to be recommended into a scientific profession by a professional scientist?

Governments

Does a government employee have the right to tell you what to think or to believe?

Does a professor have the right to deny a letter of recommendation for any reason?

Does the US Constitution prevent us from praying in school?

Can we completely eliminate God from our laws and government? Should we? Should we remove God from the Pledge of Allegiance?

Should Pres. George W. Bush be allowed to talk about a Creator during his eulogies of the Columbia Astronauts or during the State of the Union address?

Science/Medicine

There's a strongly held bias that exists in academia that science (evolution) is completely without faith and religion (creationism) is completely devoid of facts. *Does every single bit of science really support evolution?*

Can creation ever be taught as a theory in the same way evolution is? Is creationism simply religious dogma or are there any facts that support it?

Are an understanding of and a belief in the theory of evolution necessary for one to be considered a good doctor? *Have all the creationist doctors messed up antibiotics by over prescribing them?*

Do you agree with this statement? "Science doesn't say anything about why, just how."

Can there be a complete separation between science and religion?

Does the Bible have anything to say on any of these subjects?

- Matthew 22: 15-22
- Matthew 10: 32-33
- Mark 8: 34-38
- Mark 13: 5-13
- Luke 6: 6-11
- Luke 12: 25-28
- Luke 16: 15
- John 1: 1-5
- Romans 1: 18-23

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."