

The LEADER ^{CORNING} ^{NEW YORK} OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Celebrate science and religion

TO THE EDITOR | Glenn Lambertz suggests in his Saturday, April 26 Life and Faith column that intelligent design belongs in the science classroom. And as proof for his claim, he states that 40 percent of scientists believe in God. The problem is that even if 100 percent of scientists believed in God, intelligent design would still not be appropriate for the science classroom. Scientists are not interested in beliefs; they are only interested in facts.

There is a good chance that every person who wrote any part of the Bible believed what he or she wrote was true about their universe. In addition, there is also a good chance that every person who wrote any part of the Bible believed that the world was flat, that there were two lights in the sky – one for day and one for night – that the sun and the stars all revolved around the Earth, that disease was the result of evil spirits and many other ideas most 12-year-olds would today dismiss as ancient knowledge inappropriate to consider in any serious science classroom.

No one wants to be examined by a doctor with scientific knowledge that is 2,000 years old. Why do Creationists still insist 2,000-year-old knowledge about the universe should even be considered good science for 21st century minds?

There is a fear that any one who believes in evolution has to renounce all faith in God. This is simply not true. A recent press release from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) states: "For more than a decade, the non-profit AAAS has been working to build a constructive bridge between scientific and religious communities through its 'Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion' and other programs. There also have been many efforts by religious leaders to accomplish the same goal. For example, more than 11,000 clergy have signed an open letter supporting the view that faith and science should be seen as complementary, not competing." I signed that clergy letter and my faith in God is just fine. (www.butler.edu/clergyproject/rel_evolution_sun.htm)

Science addresses the "How?" questions of the universe and religion addresses the "Why?" questions. Both inquiries can exist together to help humans begin to understand and appreciate life on planet Earth and the grand galactic ride through space we all share. Let's celebrate religion and science instead of trying to make ancient religious beliefs speak for modern science.

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