

## Re: black holes and intelligent design

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.chem/2005-02/1444.html>

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**Date:** 02/28/05

Date: Sun, 27 Feb 2005 18:19:07 -0600

On 27 Feb 2005 15:59:47 -0800, [cafeinst@msn.com](mailto:cafeinst@msn.com) wrote:

> *I sense hostility in many of the replies to my arguments. Why? The  
> theory of intelligent design explains how life got here.*

Really? Just how does it "explain". If I come home to find a lamp broken, I don't consider my daughter saying "Sarah did it" to be an explanation of how it came to be broken. Please supply a good statement of just what the "theory" of intelligent design is and point out where it \*explains\* how life got here.

>  
> *It is a good scientific theory which is testible and has passed the  
> test: The fact that no one has ever been able to recreate life from  
> scratch or even describe precisely the steps of how life evolved  
> implies that the mechanism for producing life is too sophisticated for  
> man to understand. And this implies that life could not have started by  
> accident, since if so, man would be able to duplicate such an accident  
> in a laboratory easily. Therefore, life must have come about through  
> intelligent design.*

So hurricanes are intelligently designed. After all, we cannot re-create them, so they must be.

>  
> *I am sorry if you don't want to believe it, but it is the best  
> scientific theory out there for explaining the origin of life.*  
>

ID uses undefined, unquantified and/or unsupported metrics in an attempt to give some semblance of justification to an argument from ignorance: it's just so "complex" that it couldn't have happened on its own, so some unknown being or beings at some unknown point or points in history used some unknown method or methods to apply design developed for some unknown reason or reasons to some unknown number and type of chemicals and/or some unknown number and type of cells and/or some unknown number and type of biological systems and/or some unknown number and type of whole organisms and/or some unknown number and type of populations. No research into the resolution of any of the preceding unknowns has been

done, is currently in progress, is planned/proposed, or even postulated as possible (even if only in principle).

Tell me, what is posited as the possibly detectable (even if not right now) 'agent(s)/mechanism(s)' whereby ID is/was applied and what actual research is being done (or is planned on being done) to test such postulates?

In other words, just how is ID \*NOT\* an example of the 'occult'?

occult – (adj) of or relating to the occult; (noun) matters regarded as involving the action or influence of supernatural or supernormal powers or some secret knowledge of them.

supernatural – a: departing from what is usual or normal especially so as to appear to transcend the laws of nature b: attributed to an invisible agent.

ID cannot even compete with astrology! Astrology's adherents have claimed for centuries that the influences of the planets are \*real\* and are simply beyond our (then) current state of knowledge. They, too, offer a mathematical argument, statistical analyses \*proving\* said influences.

But, unlike ID, they can actually posit quite a bit about \*how\* such influences must work, some very specific attributes of their hypothesized force/mechanism of influence: not effective before birth; directional from certain solar system bodies; influences from different bodies being qualitatively distinct from one another; such influences combinatorial in that influences from different celestial bodies amplify, modify, nullify one another depending on positions relative to each other and relative to the background star field; and more. Nothing even remotely as specific as these still vague attributes has been postulated for any possible mechanisms by which ID might have been applied.

Hard to be taken seriously as a scientific endeavor when it displays less actual science than astrology.

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Jason A Cortina

"These are bagpipes. I understand the inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant, asthmatic pig under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity the sound achieved by the pig."

-- Alfred Hitchcock