



## End of an era; thou shall steal an election; rock the world

**December passed, and** with it went the final year of the Twentieth Century and the second millennium, all in one gulp. In progressive India's state of Uttar Pradesh a Hindu rigorist organization associated with India's ruling coalition banned any celebration whatsoever of the New Year as so much Christian hocus pocus—and with good reason. In Nagoya, Japan, on December 31, Mr. Kengo Kanemori, 24, was sitting down to a New Year's glass of vodka when it burst into flames. He was immediately taken to hospital. January 1, 2001 would have been so much better for young Mr. Kanemori had he spent New Year's Eve with a cow.

**The American presidential** election was stolen in a most unlikely scenario. According to the keepers of the national conscience huffing and puffing up there in the *Kultursmog*, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, yes the party of country clubbers and fuddy duddies, was transformed by the devious Bush family into a gang of political second-story men. Wearing ski masks and carrying burglary equipment they followed the hellish Mr. James Baker into Florida, where they picked the pockets of a saintly Democratic team headed by urban reformers such as Chicago's Mr. William Daley and Mr. Mark Fabiani, the Conscience of the Clinton White House. And so the Republican treachery continues. Eight years after transforming a Baptist Altar Boy from Hope, Arkansas, into an impeachable rogue, this monstrous cabal tapped five members of the John Birch Society on the Supreme Court to thwart the will of 50,158,094 Gore voters and certify this historic electoral heist. Not even Senator-Elect Hillary R. Clinton, the Kennedys, or any of the other rightful heirs to our Founding Fathers could save the Republic. Mr. Gore completely disappeared from public view, perhaps to be admitted into a mental institution where he is still shouting "I am the President." Pious Liberals all over the Republic bang their heads on their prayer mats, moaning "It *did* happen here,"

while the Republican mobsters wheel their Stutz Bearca up to the White House and conspire to "end abortion as we know it." This is how the grisly episode will be recorded in our history books. All future American elections will have to be held under the supervision of United Nations poll watcher

if there ever are future elections. On December 31 the Boy President signed the Republic up to the International Criminal Court, but too late. Mr. Ke Starr has triumphed!



**American pop culture's** growing cosmopolitanism was demonstrated throughout the month. Rocker extraordinaire Mr. John Mellencamp, former piano player was nominated to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitive list, and not for the usual rocker's indiscretions relating to drug abuse or wife-beating. Mr. Eric Franklin Rosser, 48, is accused of committing child pornography while running music schools for children in Indianapolis and Thailand. Mr. Rosser, perhaps better remembered for his rather naïve performance of chopsticks on Mr. Mellencamp's 1980 album "Nothin' Matters and What If It Did," faces a hefty fine, a 15-year sentence, and confiscation of his Cabbage Patch Doll collection. He was last seen in Bangkok where he may have been trying to contact Mr. Michael Jackson or perhaps Mr. Elton John. Sir Elton was in London auctioning off his clothes for

favorite charity. The auction raised nearly \$800,000, a figure that could be reduced considerably if Sir Elton is reimbursed for the cost of delousing them.

**Madonna was married** without incident. The nuptials were celebrated at historic Skibo Castle in Dornoch, Scotland, the "Mildew Capital of the World." Afterwards her husband Mr. Guy Ritchie, surprised the press by going carp fishing with "Sting" while the new bride remained in the castle completing plans for a charity of her own, reportedly an international effort "to eliminate yeast infection among Third World

omen." Madonna revised the traditional marital vow from promise "to honor and obey" to a promise "to cherish, honor, delight in family, and always keep and hold to one another"—that last phrase, perhaps, being a reflection of her new-found concern for yeast infection. London's prestigious Plain English Campaign (PEC) bestowed its "Foot in the Mouth" award to Hollywood actress Miss Alicia Silverstone for her brightly asseveration, "I think that the film 'Clueless' was very deep. I think it was deep in the way that it was very light. I think lightness has to come from a very deep place if it's true lightness." The category was "Bafflement."

**Do not expect Mr.** Don D. Astorga, 31, to attempt his old lizard-in-the-underpants" routine again. The Las Vegas, Nevada, Casanova was arrested at the airport in June when bulges in his groin area aroused police. Upon further inquiry the coppers found he had stuffed a dozen rare lizards into his underpants, 11 dead except for three. The surviving three, all geckos, were very much alive, perhaps explaining the silly smile on Mr. Astorga's face when he was taken into custody. He's been given a stiff sentence for violating the Endangered Species Act, not to mention violating the species. Luna, that 1,000-year-old redwood that the celebrated Miss Julia Butterfly Hill protected from the ministrations of the vile Pacific Lumber Company, has suffered another indignity. The gigantic tree was slashed by an unknown passerby equipped with a chainsaw. The law of *cui prodest* casts the spotlight on Miss Hill, who has been having dif-

ficulty getting on television talk shows recently, and whose chances for a Presidential Medal have gone aglimmer with the defeat of Vice President Al-Gore.

**A furniture shop owner** in Lower Saxony was threatened with prosecution for advertising chairs and sofas with names recalling Nazi luminaries such as Mr. Adolf Hitler and Mr. Hermann Goering. The entrepreneur, Mr. Franz-Georg Schwetje, pulled such ads as "Three-piece sofa set Adolf" and "Cabinet Rommel" when their pro-Nazi theme was brought to the attention of prosecutors. State prosecutor Bernd Seemann noted the ads' dubious taste but said that "as long as you can call a child Adolf or Hermann you can give a sofa the same name." But would you ever be allowed to sit on your child, Herr Seemann, or watch television on him, you dinkelspiel! Beijing has begun a diplomatic offensive geared to gaining the Olympic games eight years hence by installing musical public comfort stations in place of the disgusting outhouses that now serve that city.

**In the United Kingdom** a seven-foot figure of Frosty the Snowman was reported to authorities for committing "gross indecency" in public. The mechanical figure is supposed to pop out of a Christmas cracker atop the Ripley, Derby's town hall and wave his arm. Unfortunately he does other unspeakable things with the arm and Little Englanders are alarmed. This is crisis material.

—RET

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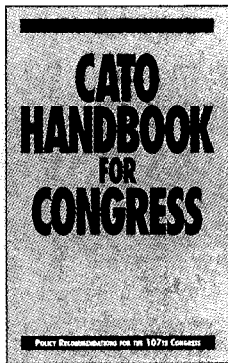
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## A Conservative Second

I was absolutely appalled by your current cover story attacking the Darwinian theory of evolution ("Survival of the Fakest," by Jonathan Wells, *TAS*, December 2000-January 2001).

I am a conservative. I support traditional social values and maintaining the crucial role of organized religion in our society. On most issues, I would probably be characterized as a strong social conservative. But I am a scientist first and a conservative second.

Although I am a conservative, I would rather support an ultra-liberal political leader who believed that the world was round than a conservative political leader who believed that it was flat, because the latter belief is clear proof either of appalling ignorance or complete insanity. Disbelief in the modern theory of evolution falls into much the same category.

Today, even the most extremist and backward Islamic fundamentalists have accepted modern evolutionary theory. The Roman Catholic Church, which unlike most of the American enemies of evolution, is led by men who have real theological and philosophical training, accepts evolution. If America's conservative movement turns against evolution it will totally discredit itself, and become a complete laughingstock.

Modern evolutionary theory is the thoroughly documented foundation of half of all modern science. Although I am a theoretical physicist by training, I would admit that Darwinian evolution is far more important and solidly established a scientific doctrine than Einsteinian relativity, Newtonian mechanics, or Heisenberg's quantum physics. Darwinian evolution is (arguably) the single most important scientific discovery in all human history.

If conservatives reject Darwinian evolution, they will lose the support of nearly every scientist, every technology entrepreneur, every practical businessman, and the bulk of America's college educated population. They will transform themselves into a fanatic cult drawing its pri-

mary support from the most ignorant elements of the population.

I urge conservatives not to follow that path.

—RON UNZ

*Chairman, English for the Children  
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### Tom Bethell replies:

Ron Unz gives no evidence of having read the article he deplores. "Modern evolutionary theory," he writes, "is the thoroughly documented foundation of half of all modern science." Let him reveal some of the "documented" facts about evolution. Jonathan Wells's article, adapted from *Icons of Evolution*, examines some of the best known claims. Some are shown to be false, others misleading, others based on faked evidence. If Mr. Unz is acquainted with facts about evolution that Wells failed to mention, or with errors in his argument, he should send us chapter and verse. Hit the books, Ron, and get off your high horse.

In 1981, Colin Patterson, a prominent paleontologist at the British Museum of Natural History, gave a seminar at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He had recently tried putting a simple question to various groups. "Can you tell me anything you know about evolution, any one thing, any one thing that you think is true? I tried that question on the geology staff in the Field Museum of Natural History, and the only answer I got was silence. I tried it on the members of the Evolutionary Morphology Seminar in the University of Chicago, a very prestigious body of evolutionists, and all I got there was silence for a long time."

So, you tell us, Ron.

It is going to come as a shock to a lot of people, not just Ron Unz, to realize how little we know about the "single most important scientific discovery in all human history." To be sure, it stirs passionate emotions in true believers, as Unz shows. But I think he will in the end agree that it is more important to know the truth about an important subject than to cherish our prejudices about it.

## Mystery Loves Company

I'm 70 years old and I read my first mystery when I was nine or ten. I have : novels I have purchased in the last 50 years, broadly classified as mysteries that I haven't read, except for a couple pages or chapters, and that I shall never read. I know why, and S.T. Karnick has confirmed my beliefs ("Holiday Guide: Mystery Books," *TAS*, December 2000/January 2001).

Although he mentions reasons, I believe the primary cause of the gradual disappearance of the genre, as we once knew it, is as follows (and at my age I can damn well say what I like). My research reveals the following: The current selections of the Mystery Guild reveal that 75% are written by male authors, 25% by female authors. Thirty-five of the protagonists are female, 13 male. Literary agents and editors at publishing houses are predominantly women. Approximately 65% of all novels are purchased by women. This would indicate reading differences between men and women, which I am not qualified to explain, but which influence the final product.

It is always tempting to add one's favorites to any reading list, and Mr. Karnick's are excellent, but I would like to mention one author and two of his books: Phillip MacDonald's *Murder Gone Mad* (1931) and *Warrant For X* (1938), considered by many two of the best mysteries ever written.

—ALLEN C. STOWELL  
*Clinton, Iowa*

## Designer Fabrics

As a reformed atheist, I was fascinated by the article on Baylor and Dembski ("The Lynching of Bill Dembski," by Fred Heeren, *TAS*, November 2000). Intelligent Design will have more impact than Darwin in a few decades, especially since the math backs it up. Anyone who has studied complex, chaotic, self-organizing systems cannot help but see that the laws of the universe are organized so that any complex system will eventually reach chaos, and then from that chaos, order.