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Editors' Notes

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Editors' Notes

D'ESTA LOVE AND STUART LOVE

It is a pleasure to introduce our guest editor for this issue on theology and science. For those of us who teach at Pepperdine University, Chris Doran is one of our own. He did his undergraduate work at Pepperdine with a major in biology and a minor in religion. His studies with us culminated in the completion of the master of divinity degree with a special love for systematic theology. After graduation, Chris's theological interests took him to the Bay Area where he completed an academic doctorate in theology at the Graduate Theological Union with a special emphasis in the relationship of theology and science. All of us who taught him at Pepperdine were impressed by his academic abilities, interest in theological studies and devotion to serve the Church. Chris demonstrated that those who think can pray and those who pray can think. It was our pleasure to have him return to Pepperdine to teach theology in the Religion Division. In the process, he renewed and established close ties with our scientists. We came to the conclusion that Chris would be the perfect choice to guest edit an issue of *Leaven* on the topic of theology and science. We rejoice that he accepted this assignment.

We ask for your continued prayers. Future issues are in the works on such topics as unfamiliar voices in the Restoration heritage, great biblical hymns, the insights of young African-American preachers, the Gospel of Mark, and Paul's letter to the Romans.

GUEST EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

CHRIS DORAN

If the American media had its way, Christians would believe that there is a war between science and religion. Headlines often read: "Science versus Religion" or "Evolution versus Creation" or even worse yet "Faith versus Reason." The problem (well at least one of the problems) with this sort of characterization is that it highlights a type of conflict that makes for good ratings, but fails to take into account the considerable depth and sophistication of thinking that Christians have been doing on this subject for centuries. Whether it be Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin or even Alexander Campbell, Christians have long believed that Christian theology and science are not in conflict with each other, but can actually be in dialogue. As many Christian thinkers have put it, the book of scripture *and* the book of nature tell us something about the God we worship. The good news then is that the either/or model of relating theology and science that the media has sold us for the last fifty years or so is a false choice. If the God who is revealed in scripture is in fact the same God who created the universe, then Christians and scientists, whether Christian or not, should in fact be able to talk to each other about what they see in creation. I am thankful that Stuart and D'Esta have agreed to let me share some of the various types of work that seek to engage in this sort of constructive conversation.

DONNA NOFZIGER PLANK starts off with "A Letter to Christian Ministers," in which she invites ministers to treat science as seriously as possible, because chances are someone sitting in the pews is. Next, in an interview with Pulitzer Prize winning author ED LARSON, D'ESTA LOVE reviews the history of the Scopes

trial and some of its consequences for American Christians. In the first of two student submissions, **JESSICA PIEPGRASS** asks the very important question about whether or not scientific creationism is really as helpful as some Christians maintain in “The Problem with Scientific Creationism.” In my article, “Intelligent Design: Is It Really Worth It?” I look at the recent popularity of the Intelligent Design movement in many Christian fellowships and argue that it causes far more problems for how we understand God than it solves. In the second student submission, “The Futility of Ethics Apart from God,” **COREY WILLIAMS** looks at how some philosophers have used a particular interpretation of a branch of science called sociobiology to conclude that there is no such thing as a foundation to ethics with which all humans can agree. **JENNIFER THWEATT-BATES**, in her article “Too Much Faith in Progress,” examines a currently popular philosophy and lifestyle that idealizes, if not idolizes, technology and considers the possible implications. In “Reconciling Science and Religion,” **RODNEY HONEYCUTT** shares how he has come to a place in his life where he feels comfortable with being both a Christian and an evolutionary biologist. In the penultimate piece, “Suggestions for Future Reading,” I provide a brief overview of some of the resources that you might want to consider if you are interested in further exploring this dialogue between theology and science. Finally, I am pleased to include a beautiful liturgical meditation from **LEE MAGNESS**, appropriate for Holy Week services.

