

**From:** Wilson Gunn [wilson.gunn@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2005 10:15 AM

**To:** eugenerobinson@washpost.com

**Cc:** Wilson Gunn

**Subject:** thanks for your editorial

Dear Mr. Robinson,

Thank you for your editorial today. So much has been written about "intelligent design" as bad science, I am encouraged that you have also broached the subject of it also being bad theology. Bill Cosby once asked "Why is there air?" That is a different question than "What is air?" The "What" question is the appropriate domain of science which restricts itself to the rules of "observable" and "repeatable" as measures of truth. Religion appropriately speaks to "Why." A scientist can parse the contents of air, attest to the dynamics of air-flow, even speak to the human necessity of such. Bill Cosby's question is the appropriate domain of religion, though scientists are no doubt welcome in the conversation, but different rules about "truth" are then at play. Bill Cosby's response to the question "Why is there air?" is a religious response, shaped as it is by his being a Physical Education major in college: "To inflate basketballs." The religions of the world address the issue of "Why" there is life. I, as a Christian, will attest to a God whose fundamental nature is love and who for that reason is self-compelled to create objects for that love. That perspective shapes how I live and relate to others. To insist that the state teach this principle would be to argue for a theocracy rather than the democracy we share here with persons of different religious (or ostensibly non-religious) perspectives. Not only that, but I don't see evidence (repeatable and observable) that the state can convey this religious truth. The state inevitably twists such to its own purposes (love not being the nature of the state). Every "Christian" state in recorded history has resorted to double speak when they have tried. The state says it is filling the basketball with air, but it bounces like a medicine ball.

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PS. "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" Hebrews 11:1. Hebrews was definitely (scientifically speaking) NOT written by Paul.

PSS – we might be cousins! Robin and Gunnsei were brothers about 9 centuries ago.

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