

## The Story Behind the Intelligent Design Movement



Phillip E. Johnson,  
author of *Darwin on  
Trial*

### Q: What started the intelligent design movement?

**PHILLIP E. JOHNSON:** The intelligent design movement started in 1993 following publication of my book *Darwin on Trial*, which began to expose the truths about the science and Darwinian philosophers. The ID movement started in order to explore ways to bring to public attention scientific and philosophical weaknesses in Darwinian theory, which the guardians of scientific orthodoxy have so far managed to suppress.

### Q: Why has the intelligent design movement been attracting attention, and why is it so controversial?

**WILLIAM A. DEMBSKI:** The intelligent design movement represents the first serious challenge to Darwinism and naturalism in over a hundred years. Theists of all stripes have been beleaguered all this time by scientific and materialistic conception of the world, which tells them that science is against them. In fact, the science is against the materialists. Design is real and it is the materialist's "material world" which is the great instance of mystery mongering in our day. The reason the movement is so controversial is because intelligent design challenges our understanding of the world at a very fundamental level. People's worldviews can only take so much strain, and in a materialistic culture the strain that intelligent design places on it is especially great.



William A. Dembski, author of  
*The Design Revolution*

### Q: Why should the intelligent design discussions be important to the general public?

**DEMBSKI:** Intelligent design addresses the fundamental questions people ask: How did we get here? Why are we here at all? Where are we going? Does life have meaning? Is that meaning one that I have to construct for myself, or is it a meaning that derives from a transcendent source?