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## Rumors of God's Death are Greatly Exaggerated

Nathan Schneider ([bio](#))

JULY 16, 2008



A good magazine cover never dies

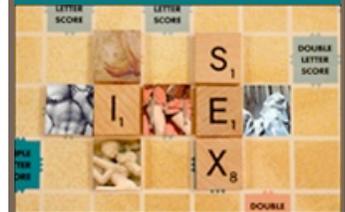
This month's issue of *Christianity Today* evokes the epoch-making 1966 cover of *Time* magazine, which asked, strikingly, "Is God Dead?" In *Christianity Today*, which since the 1950s has been the flagship journal of the evangelical movement, William Lane Craig replies, "God Is Not Dead Yet." Dr. Craig, a professor of philosophy at Talbot School of Theology, has made a name for himself as an apologist and veteran debater against prominent atheists. A winning smile and clean haircut, visible from every corner of [his website](#), accompany a nimble mind with vast aptitude for repeating intricate theological arguments.

Craig's [feature article](#) makes clear that he means something somewhat more decisive than "yet" might give on. God is not only hanging on for dear life against an inevitable death "yet" to come; rather, the evidences for His existence are causing, he claims, a growing "revolution" in the ivory tower. The scientism of New Atheists like Richard Dawkins is now obviously "bygone": "Atheism, though perhaps still the dominant viewpoint at the American university, is a philosophy in retreat."

In what follows, he combines a tango through some of the major traditional arguments for God's existence (almost exclusively in terms of their modern celebrators) with a revealing discussion about the performative place of natural theology—the study of God through nature's evidence—in modern culture.

Craig's confidence in his revolution struck me, a product of entirely secular education (even with two degrees in religion), as a testament to the critical mass of the evangelical academic subculture. Among my teachers, by and large, traditional arguments for the existence of God were at best fatally flawed and at worst totally irrelevant. I have, however, seen enough to know that Craig isn't making this stuff up. At the many specifically Christian colleges and universities in the United States, where professors are often required to assent to certain creeds in order to teach, there is much more patience for exploring such arguments. I have met a fair number of

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