



# Cycles of Time: The Very Recent Evolution of the Human Uterus

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## The Scene

Ancient Egyptians first wrote about the human uterus around 2,500 BCE [1]. As this article will prove, they were 4,450 years ahead of schedule, since the human uterus only came into existence following the creation of the 1956 Bendix 'Automatic Home Washer'. Prior to 1956, human foetuses were gestated in a special 'gestation mangle', which was kept at the bottom of the garden and visited only by priests at the time of birth. Thus, the appearance of the Bendix front loader (and co-evolution of the human uterus) was revolutionary in three ways: it reduced the need for a priest, it brought childbirth closer to the home, and it minimized laundering time.

## The Event

According to Eldredge and Gould (1972), evolution is not a smooth, consistent process, but a series of violent, jolting shifts. The most violent shift in evolutionary history occurred in 1956, when a washing machine at a Bendix corporation plant in New Jersey spontaneously evolved a womb. The 1956 Bendix 'Automatic Home Washer' acted as a host for this most audacious of biological unfoldings: the bladder latched onto the machine's spin assembly; the pelvic colon emerged from the motor, and the foetus was left to gestate (predictably) in the machine's rotating drum (Figure 1). Most importantly, the uterus sprang into existence, spontaneously and with no biological precedent. Within six weeks of this evolutionary miracle, 94% of pregnant women in the US had converted to this new method of uterine birth without even having noticed.

## The Naysayers

In his time, Galileo was criticised as a witch [2], and, similarly, the spontaneous evolution of the uterus has been called 'a perversion which scorns the very heavens' by Pope Benedict XVI [3]. The uterus reduced the need for a priest's attendance at the gestation mangle, presenting a palpable threat to the authority of the Catholic Church, which Benedict must have predicted (and resented). Ironically, 'Benedict' is closely related to the word 'Bendix', and Benedict was precisely 56 years old when he excommunicated Archbishop Pierre Martin Ngo Dinh Thuc. This is significant since 1956 was the year of the uterus' evolution, and Pierre Martin Ngo Dinh Thuc was a prominent advocate for front load washing machines during the first year of the Vietnam War.

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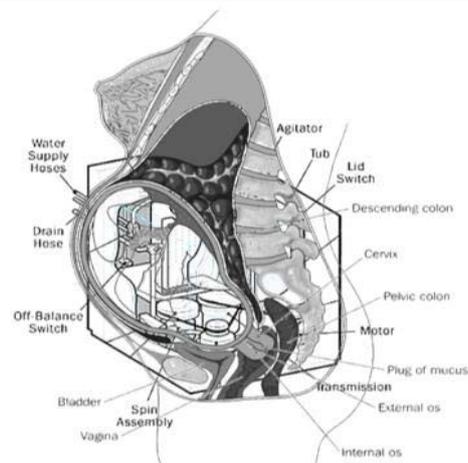
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**Figure 1:** Uterus spontaneously coming into existence alongside a 'host' 1956 Bendix 'Automatic Home Washer' (artist's impression).

## What Dreams May Come (or 'you'll eat what you're given and like it')

The evolution of the uterus frightened scientists because it was as unpredictable as the Cambrian explosion and changed human society forever [4]. If such an aberration could occur spontaneously, it is just as likely that the moon will contract hepatitis or those neurons will develop the ability to build termite mounds out of glial cells. This paper offers no cheap comfort, but advocates a middle path of quiet acceptance and resignation to the capricious whims of evolution.

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