



ETCSA

East Tennessee Creation Science Association

Volume 2, Issue 3

Letter to the Editor, Baptist & Reflector

Dear Editor,

I attended the Chapel service at Carson Newman College Thursday morning. A presentation was given by leading evolutionist Kenneth Miller, who proudly proclaimed that God uses evolution and that man has come from a long line of pre-human ancestors.

Despite what Miller presented, I do not believe I came from a fish. I am created in the 'image of God', not the ooze to zoo to you story.

But perhaps that is why so many Christians put those fish symbols on their automobiles, because that is a resemblance of their great, great, great, great grandfather.

The continued and openly pervasive

teaching of evolution as fact at Carson Newman is an affront to God, and it is undermining the faith of especially impressionable young people in our generation.

Martin Luther sums it all up when he wrote "It is not true, as several heretics and other vulgar persons allege, that God created everything in the beginning, and then let nature take its own independent course, so that all things now spring into being of their own power; thereby they put God on a level with a shoemaker or a tailor. This not only contradicts scripture, but it runs counter to experience".

In the Creators Service,
Kent Settlemyer

DEVOTIONAL WHY?

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" (Romans 9:20). In this scientific age, it is essential for us to remember that "science" can never answer any question beginning with "why." Scientific research seeks to answer questions of "what" and "how," and sometimes "where" and "when," but it can never deal with "why" questions. Such questions

require a moral or theological answer. Probably the most vexing of all such questions is: "Why do the righteous suffer?" Or, put another way: "Why is there evil in a world created by a God who is good?" The question becomes especially poignant when personal calamity comes and we ask, "Why did this happen to me?" Many think the Book of Job was written to answer such questions, for Job was one of the most godly men who ever lived, yet

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Special points of interest:

- March meeting: 16th, 7:00, Fireside Room, 1st Baptist, Concord
- April Meeting: 20th, 7:00, Fireside Room, 1st Baptist, Concord
- May meeting: 18th, 7:00, Fireside Room, 1st Baptist, Concord
- We have books, videos and tapes for sale! Check out our website for more details: www.etcса.org/

Letter Submitted to The Daily Beacon (UT's newspaper)

January 29, 2000

Editor, Daily Beacon:

Christopher Patton reports that paleontologist Donald Prothero "presented numerous examples of evolution in his slide show....fossils of the transitional forms in evolution." (Daily Beacon, "Darwin Coalition lecture examines fossil 'evidence'", 1/26/00)

If transitional fossils really exist, why did Eldredge and Gould (1972) come up with the "punctuated equilibria" model of evolution? It must be the only theory put forth in the history of science which claims to be scientific, but then explains why evidence for it cannot be found.

Prothero says "the internal hip and thigh bones of the whale means they once had hind legs", and that several bones in the lower jaw of snakes "gradually shifted over time to form the anvil and hammer in the mammal ear."

Really? These claims by Darwinists are simply interpretations of data. For example, read Ashby L. Camp's web article, "The Overselling of Whale Evolution" at <http://www.trueorigin.org/whales.htm>

According to Phillip Johnson: "The fossils provide much more discouragement than support for Darwinism when they are examined objectively, but objective examination has rarely been the object of Darwinist paleontology. The Darwinist approach has consistently been to find some supporting fossil evidence, claim it as proof for "evolution," and then ignore all the difficulties." (Darwin on Trial, 2nd edition 1993, p. 86)

Darwinists may cite certain fossils to claim the fish-to-amphibian sequence has been proven, but they cannot provide an explanation of a testable mechanism that can accomplish that kind of transformation. What is Prothero's objective standard for telling the difference between fossils that merely resemble each other in some respects, and those in a genuine ancestor-descendant relationship?

Prothero also says "a human's DNA is 98 percent identical to that of a chimpanzee's". Nicholas Wade's August 1/99 column in the New York Times mentions that some scientists are now claiming the human genome might have a billion more chemical units than previously thought. If that's true, what becomes

My Impressions at Darwin "Day"

It wasn't what I thought! Academia is not all that academic. I didn't talk to more than a dozen people at length in two days of 'manning' the ETCSA booth. And those people were tired, not really wanting to have to exert themselves enough to re-think what they had been taught. I wondered what ever happened to the passion for new ideas, new concepts, new data that changes the paradigm. Actually, the only fervor, besides ours, was a panicky defense of the theory of evolution on the grounds that it wasn't really a theory. (It must have evolved into a fact.) My biggest disappointment was the Christians that I spoke with

of Prothero's claims? Wouldn't scientists have to sequence both ours' and the chimps' genomes to know for certain?

Massimo Pigliucci, president of the Darwin Tennessee Coalition, was quoted: "Recent decisions by school boards in several states make it painfully obvious that the public needs to be educated on the issue and that scientists must do their part."

Of course the public needs to be educated on the issue. Last August 16 on CNN's TalkBack Live, Johnson commented: "I think we should teach a lot about evolution. In fact, I think we should teach more than the evolutionary science teachers want the students to know. The problem is what we're getting is a philosophy that's claimed to be scientific fact, a lot of distortion in the textbooks, and all the difficult problems left out, because they don't want people to ask tough questions. This is indoctrination not genuine science education, which should teach people to raise those tough questions and to look at the philosophy and separate the philosophical claims from the real facts. That's the kind of education we need, and there's a public protest that is going on that wants to get that kind of education." <http://cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/9908/16/tl.00.html>

In April '98 the National Academy of Sciences published the guidebook, "Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science", and sent copies to science teachers throughout the United States.

Last summer Australian physical chemist Dr. Jonathan Sarfati published "Refuting Evolution" --written in direct response to the evolution guidebook.

As there are now 185,000 copies of "Refuting Evolution" in print, I suggest the Darwinists fasten their seatbelts.

David Buckna

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

* David Buckna is a public schoolteacher and the author of the Top Ten list, "Cool Things About Being an Evolutionist", viewed on the net at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/4881/topten.html>

(Unfortunately, the Beacon did not publish David Buckna's letter.)

by Ginger Shamblin

who thought the whole thing was a 'non-issue' for them. (As if not knowing who made something and for what purpose it was made had anything to do with it's use. No wonder we have so many people malfunctioning and abusing themselves. They haven't read the instruction manual of the Creator--especially the first page.)

Then there was the educator who kept saying "what about the tar pits in California?" I really didn't know what she was getting at until later. She didn't think we believed in dinosaurs at

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The Duckbilled Platypus by Mark Stewart

The animals that are included in the class Mammalia are a diverse group. All are warm-blooded and the females possess mammary glands for suckling the young. The mammals comprise 32 orders, most of which are placental mammals but which also include the Monotremata, which embrace the egg-laying spiny ant-eater and the egg-laying duckbilled platypus, and the Marsupialia, which include the opossums and the pouched marsupials, such as the kangaroo and wallabies.

The platypus is a mammal, and yet it has a duckbill, webbed feet, and lays eggs, in addition to possessing other characteristics that might be called reptilian. It has characteristics of mammals, reptiles and birds, and perhaps could be called a "primitive" mammal. It could not possibly be ancestral to mammals, however, because it appeared very recently according to the evolutionary scenario, about 150 million years too late to be the ancestor of mammals! In fact, this unique combination of structural features renders it impossible to suggest that it arose from any particular class of vertebrates or that it could have been an intermediate between any two classes. Many similar examples could be cited. Thus the existence in a single creature of characteristics possessed by animals of two different types does not necessarily indicate that this creature is an intermediate between these two types.

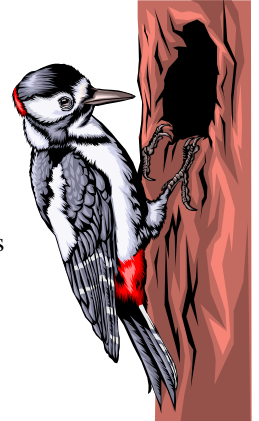
There are times when organisms, which are very similar are not classified as being closely related. The platypus isn't regarded as a link between birds and mammals. It has a bill, but that resembles the bill of a duck only superficially. It has webbed feet and tarsal spurs, but these, too, are believed to be only superficial resemblances. If this is true, isn't it possible that many of the other resemblances referred to in the argument from homology are superficial too?

The monotremes include the platypus and the Echidna. At one time it was thought that the platypus might be a link between the birds and the mammals, but this theory was rejected many years ago, and few, if any, evolutionists hold to it today. It's true that the platypus has three birdlike features: the duckbill, from which it gets its name, the webbed feet, and the tarsal spurs. However, the bill as mentioned above resembles only superficially the bill of a duck. It's not at all horny like the bill of a duck, but rather is soft, made up of a sort of kidskin leather. The webbed feet are found in a number of organisms, and the webbing in the platypus is believed to be fundamentally similar to the connections between the bases of the human fin-

gers. The spur is hollow, unlike the spur of a rooster, which is solid. It is connected to a gland, which gives off a poisonous secretion. The animal, as indicated above, lays eggs. While this isn't exclusively a bird characteristic, it might also suggest a relationship to the bird.

However, this egg-laying characteristic is believed to be a heritage from the ancestral reptiles. All of these characteristics are believed to have developed in the birds and monotremes by convergent evolution rather than as a result of the organism's being a link between the birds and the mammals. No one today argues that these features are the links between reptiles and mammals. Neither are they said to be bird and mammal links. There are several reasons for this: 1) The egg structures and milk glands of these creatures are fully developed. They offer no clue as to the origin of the womb or the milk glands; 2) Platypus fossils look just like forms living today; 3) "Regular" mammals are found much lower in the column than the egg-laying platypus. Some argue that the platypus is a distinct kind, a mosaic or mixture of complete traits. These traits are found both in living forms and among fossils. Fossils of these creatures have been found in Australia and in Patagonia (near the tip of South America). Platypus teeth are unique and distinctive, with a V-shaped, double-crested blade system. Today's platypuses have no teeth. Following the notion that absence of teeth denotes a more "advanced" state, then the platypus and the spiny anteater, mammals that do not have teeth, should be considered more advanced or highly evolved than man, yet in many other ways, as previously mentioned, the duck-billed platypus and spiny anteater could be considered the most primitive of all mammals. Thus, the possession or absence of teeth proves nothing about ultimate ancestry.

As there is no evidence from fossils or anywhere else to indicate that echidnas and platypuses have evolved from non-monotremes, it's surely morological to deduce that they have never evolved at all, but that they were created that way in the beginning as Genesis implies.



"It has characteristics of mammals, reptiles and birds..."

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he suffered more than anyone. But God answered Job's searching questions only by pointing to the wonders of His Creation. God has made us for Himself, and He is "forming" us for His own holy purpose; that is all we need to know right now. "What I do thou knowest not now," said Jesus, "but thou shalt know hereafter" (John 13:7). Yet even Jesus in His human suffering cried out on the cross: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). We do know, at least in part,

the answer to this question. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21). For answers to the other "why" questions, we may well have to await God's own time. Until then, "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28), and we can say with Job: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15).

Henry M Morris

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We're on the Web!
www.etcsa.org/



ETCSA

“Set in the Defense of Creation Science”

Upcoming Speaker:

At our next meeting, March 16th, Jack Sofield will be our speaker. The title of his presentation is "World Views Regarding Origins".

Mr. Sofield is the founder of Sofield Science Services, Inc. , a company specializing in the technical aspects of cancer treatments with high energy radiation.

The company has also produced custom software and hardware for use in radiation oncology departments. Mr. Sofield holds two patents for this type of equipment.

He received his specialty training as a post graduate fellow in medical physics at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Center in New York City.

Mr. Sofield resides in Seymour, Tennessee with Carolyn, his wife of forty plus years, and none of their four children.

Upcoming Events:

Coming in May: Answers in Genesis seminar at Grace Baptist Church, Oak Ridge Hwy. May 22-24. The speakers will be Ken Ham, Buddy Davis and David Menton. There will be a free breakfast, Christian Leaders Meeting for all Pastors, April 12th, to inform them of the need for this seminar. For more information, please call (865) 692-3865 or Kent (865) 376-5186

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all! That was a revelation to me. The propaganda videos that had been showing all day (extra credit for students who attended) had convinced their audience that "fundamentalists" (those who actually believe the Bible) are in total denial of paleontology. No wonder they avoided our booth. I felt like a 'moonie' after that.

Perhaps, next time, we could post a few clarifications for those who are 'out of touch' with the Creation Science movement. Yes, we believe in natural selection (what they call micro 'evolution'). Yes, we believe in great variation within species. Yes, we believe bacteria that are 'most fit' survive and reproduce in living organisms. Yes, we even believe that there were dinosaurs.

These Darwin "Days" would be a tremendous evangelical tool if enough un-stereotypical fundamentalists attended as 'exhibit A.' At least, that's my impression.

March 13: Darwin Day at UT

3:00 PM Technical Lecture: "The Rewards of Cooperation: Cognitive Aspects of Primate Reciprocity"

- Dr. Frans de Waal, Primatologist, Emory University, Auditorium, Science and Engineering

7:00 PM Public Lecture: "Good Natured: The Evolution of Morality in Humans and Other Animals" - Dr. Frans de Waal, Shiloh Room, UT University Center