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Dinosaur Dogma

On the BBC News website in November (goo.gl/KwE8OS) was a headline about the discovery of a new genus and species of fossil oviraptorid dinosaur from China. Dubbed *Tongtianlong limosus* (“muddy dragon on the road to heaven”), the fossil was discovered by workmen after blasting a rocky hillside with dynamite. Amazingly, the specimen was still in very good condition and almost complete.

The fossil is formally named by Dr Junchang Lü and his colleagues in a scientific report in *Nature* (goo.gl/8YzSsv). It includes an extremely detailed description. Clearly these scientists studied the fossil exhaustively and very carefully.

But here's the rub. The BBC News website states that the dinosaur “was preserved raising its beaked head, with feathered wings outstretched in the mud it was mired in when it died 72 million years ago”. Feathered wings? Really? Why is it, then, that the

scientific description of the fossil mentions not a single piece of evidence for any feathers at all? No, nothing! The BBC News article even includes an artist's depiction of the dinosaur when still alive, mired in clay, clearly showing it with feathered wings. Evidently the artist has a powerful imagination.

What does this really show? That evolutionism is dogma, not true science. The evolutionary theories require this dinosaur to have feathers and so, lo and behold, they are shown, even though there is not a scrap of scientific evidence for their existence! Hence, dear reader, we urge you not to get bogged down in the miry clay of



Image: Artist's impression of *T. limosus*, BBC News website, reproduced here under Fair Usage provisions.

Evolution. It is nonsense. The rational explanation for the scientific facts - as opposed to evolutionary fictions - of the world we see around us is that it was created, by a Designer.

And for more comment on dinosaur feathers, see page 15.

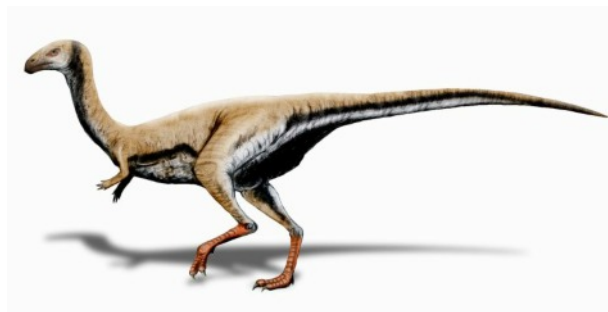
Teeth and Beaks

Only a few weeks after the previous article, the BBC News website (goo.gl/MgSpsU) reported on the work of a team of scientists led by Dr Shuo Wang of Capital Normal University in Beijing, China, who have been studying fossils of a dinosaur called *Limusaurus inextricabilis*. The team found that some of the fossils had teeth whereas others had beaks, leading them to conclude that the animals' morphology changed as they grew.

The website claims that the discovery is a surprise and has not been seen in any other reptile. However, way back in 2009 we reported (*Creation* vol. 16, no.

6: 1-2) that American palaeontologists Mark Goodwin and Jack Horner had concluded from a study of *Tyrannosaurus* and *Triceratops* fossils that the appearance of these dinosaurs, including their dentition, varied considerably during their lives.

The BBC News article reports Dr Stig Walsh, of National Museums Scotland, as commenting that the *Limusaurus* dinosaurs were switching from one sort of feeding type that required teeth to one in which teeth were a disadvantage, and a beak was better: "Other theropod dinosaurs in the group to which *Limusaurus* belongs are carnivores and I can't help wondering whether the driver for such a life cycle change was to allow *Limusaurus* to capitalise on a more abundant food source as they became larger". The writer of the article goes on to say that "The researchers think the toothed juveniles were probably omnivorous meat-eaters. The adults, which had beaks, moved on to a plant-based diet." He/she then concludes with the risibly optimistic comment that "The discovery will help explain how the beak, which is so important in the bird kingdom, evolved." So in the evolutionary Just So story of the transformation of reptiles to birds, teeth indicate meat-eaters and beaks indicate plant-eaters, do they? Someone should tell this overly enthusiastic writer about the existence of owls, eagles, hawks, vultures...



Artist's depiction of *Limusaurus inextricabilis*. Image: N. Tamura, Wikimedia, goo.gl/bI9DRf, under CCA 3 Unported licence.

Divided Creation?

Recently our attention was drawn to *Faithlife Blog* (goo.gl/Im712u), where an article by Ryan Nelson discusses a book by John Walton entitled *The Lost World of Genesis One*. Nelson agrees with Walton, that reading the Bible in English (or indeed in any language other than the original) adds layers of interpretation to the meanings of the words. Thus if we want to find out what is truly meant by the Hebrew word *bara*, for example, then rather than examining the English synonyms of the word “create” we should look to see how the Hebrew word was used and understood by Hebrew writers in other contexts in the Bible. Few would quarrel with this as it is clear commonsense, and scholarly study of the Bible reaps its own rewards.

But Nelson then goes on to comment on other points made by Walton which seem much more contentious, as they appear to be designed to support a particular agenda. According to Nelson, Walton distinguishes between “functional creation” and “material creation”. He draws an analogy with the creation of a temple, which (he says) does not constitute a temple if it consists of the building alone, but only when other, functional, factors such as rituals and the indwelling of God are included.

But is this a fair analogy? Such a viewpoint may seem persuasive at

first glance, but it suffers from some fatal defects. One has to ask whether this dualistic view of the nature of the creation that is so characteristic of the classical Greek mindset is fairly applicable to the much more holistic mindset of the writers of the Old Testament. We would suggest it is not.

Does the Bible in fact distinguish between functional creation and material creation to the extent that something created may have material existence but no function? For our guidance we need look no further than an example that the Lord himself gives. In Jeremiah 1: 5 God declares, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” It is clear from this scripture alone that God creates materially *and* imbues with function simultaneously and indivisibly: He does not do the one and omit the other. Indeed, can one think of anything whatsoever that God has created for which He had no purpose in mind? The very idea is ridiculous.



God created the world to be inhabited: material and function are intimately linked. Image: K. Tuck, www.rgbstock.com.

For these reasons it seems extraordinarily unlikely that God created the universe materially in six days, but thought about its function on some completely different occasion. Nelson notes that “Walton considers functional creation to be the moment purpose is established, whereas material creation is the moment physical shape is formed.” But surely this deference to “moments” is a limitation of God to the time dimension that we inhabit, whereas in reality God transcends time. As Walton himself lamely admits, “grammatical subjects of the verb are not easily identified in material terms, and even when they are, it is questionable that the context is objectifying them....That is, no clear example occurs that demands a material perspective for the verb, though many are ambiguous.”

So why, then, is Walton pushing his particular line of argument? A clue may be in the following comment (as reported by Nelson): “If the seven days ...concern origins of functions, not material, then the seven days and Genesis 1 as a whole have nothing to contribute to the discussion of the age of the earth. This is not a conclusion designed to accommodate science - it was drawn from an analysis and interpretation of the biblical text of Genesis in its ancient environment. The point is not that the biblical text therefore supports an old earth, but simply that there is no biblical position on the age of the earth. If it were to turn out that the earth is young, so be it. But

most people who seek to defend a young-earth view do so because they believe that the Bible obligates them to such a defence.”

So there you have it: Walton’s argument depends enormously on an entirely unproven initial ‘If’. At heart Walton appears to be unhappy with those who believe that both science and the Bible lead one to the conclusion that the Earth is young, and therefore he presents some subtle - but fallible - arguments which seemingly undermine that view. It is appropriate therefore to conclude with a quote from Isaiah 45: 18, noting how the material creation and the functional creation of the Earth go wholly hand in hand: “For thus says the Lord... Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited”.

Migrating insects

A study of migrating insects was reported upon by the BBC News website (goo.gl/HHCbHT) on 23rd December. The result of ten years of monitoring by an international team of researchers, the study has revealed that an incredible 3.5 trillion insects, totalling around 3200 tons of biomass, migrate above the UK annually. Many of these insects are tiny, such as aphids and midges, but the totals also include larger insects such as hoverflies, beetles, butterflies and moths.



Insects such as this Painted Lady butterfly may travel hundreds of miles as they migrate. The ability to navigate is essential to their survival. Image: S. Gjenero, www.rgbstock.com.

The report notes that although the smaller insects took off regardless of wind direction, all the medium and larger creatures showed a really clear pattern of seasonal movements. “The insects are basically measuring the wind direction and deciding whether or not to fly on that particular day or night,” said Dr Jason Chapman, from the University of Exeter, a co-author of the paper. “It signifies that the insects have a compass mechanism in order to know which is north and south, but they also have the capability to then fly up high into the sky and assess the direction of the wind and relate it to the compass direction and make a decision on whether to fly or not - that's a quite complex set of things and many, many species are doing this.”

One wonders how many millions of years it took these insect groups to evolve these complex mechanisms, and

how they managed to avoid getting lost and perishing in unsuitable areas in the meantime? Perhaps they were designed with these capabilities from the outset. This logical alternative is completely absent from the report's discussion.

Polarised bee

Yet further astonishing sophistication in the ability of bees to navigate was reported last year in the journal *Current Biology* (goo.gl/sjHDZR). Dr Gavin Taylor, of Lund University, Sweden, and colleagues investigated the ability of the orchid bee (*Euglossa imperialis*) to find its way through the dense rainforest that forms its natural habitat. How, they wondered, does this insect cope with such enormous differences in illumination and obstruction of the sky by vegetation?

Insects such as bees are well known to possess not only compound eyes but also simple eyes called ocelli. But the research team found that in the orchid bee they are very far from just ‘simple’. The team discovered that the ocelli have two distinct visual fields - a focused monocular visual field and a large trinocular fronto-dorsal visual field shared by all the ocelli. The monocular field is suitable for detecting features elevated above the horizon and therefore assisting with flight stabilization. The trinocular field is more subtle: analyses showed that the photoreceptors have similar



Dorsal view of a *Euglossa imperialis* bee. Between the compound eyes are three circular dark ocelli (red arrow). Image: Yves Basset, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, used with permission.

orientations within each ocellus and are likely to be sensitive to polarized light. Furthermore, the average receptor orientation is offset between the ocelli, each having different axes of polarization sensitivity relative to the head. Unlike the eyes of any other insect described to date, this ocellar system meets the requirements of a true polarization analyzer. Hence the ocelli of this bee could provide not only sensitive compass information for navigation in the rainforest but additionally cues for visual discrimination or flight control. And all this sophistication developed just by chance? We think not.

Balance

“How amazing are the deeds of the LORD! All who delight in him should ponder them. Everything he does

reveals his glory and majesty. His righteousness never fails.”
Psalm 111: 2-3, NLT.

I have always loved biology right from school days. It was one of the things that helped lead me to the Lord Jesus when, as a mature student, I started studying for A level, and discovered that the lecturers with PhDs couldn't explain the gaps in what they call the 'evolutionary chain'. Then I went on to do my nurse training and just loved the classes when we learned all about the human body and how it all worked.

It's utterly amazing how the body is busy all day long keeping all the chemical balances right. An imbalance in some of these could be catastrophic to the body. Even when we treat our bodies badly, by not looking after ourselves, or eating, drinking and sleeping badly, still the body carries on doing the balancing. But eventually, of course, we'll get a problem if we persist in an unhealthy lifestyle.

So for many years I've looked at God's amazing creation in awe and wonder, and questioned how anyone could doubt that there's a God, and how people can believe it all happened by accident.

(D. Cockcroft, reproduced with kind permission from *Seeds of the Kingdom*, 23 July 2016, goo.gl/NENLo4.)

Evolution hangover

In one of the more logic-free articles to have come to our attention, the BBC News website (goo.gl/vFgJpV) reported on the work of scientists at the University of Oxford who have been looking into the reasons why humans get so much shoulder, hip and knee pain. According to the article, entitled “Hip pain may be 'hangover from evolution’”, the scientists started by presuming evolution; assumed ages of up to 400 million years for the specimens they examined even though dating methods are so unreliable; and attributed changes to the neck of the thigh bone as occurring “as man began standing up straight on two legs” - as if there was any evidence whatsoever for such changes in behaviour.

Continuing this blithe freewheeling through evidence-free speculation, the article then goes on to refer to other “evolutionary quirks” in humans, claiming that some people prone to lower back problems “could have spines closer in shape to those of our nearest ape relative”. Notice that it only applies to “some” people and is no more definite than “could have”. The article also notes that “The team then used their data to hazard a guess at the shape of human bones 4,000 years in the future - although they admit there are many uncertainties in future times that could not be accounted for.” Indeed. So much for that, then.

To cap it all, the article then ends by attributing these downsides to design!

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

15 October p.16 – Thirsty throats drink more easily

A study in Australia has found that swallowing is effortless when we are dehydrated, but more difficult if we have already drunk plenty, putting us off from drinking any more.

“Brain scans showed that when people were overhydrated, swallowing was linked to more activity in some parts of the brain that are responsible for conscious thought processes.”

“It shows we have very subtle mechanisms for regulating the amount we drink. If left to your own



Sophisticated feedback mechanisms regulate the desire to slake one's thirst. Image: J. Kollarova, www.rgbstock.com.

devices, you will drink the requisite amount of water to maintain balance.”

Any evolutionary Just So story to explain the origin of this feedback system would be hard to swallow.

15 October p.38 – History lessons

“Seshat is a vast and growing database of historical and archaeological knowledge that can be explored using scientific techniques. That makes it a powerful tool for testing and ultimately discarding hypotheses.” It aims to understand the forces that have shaped human societies in the past.

It hopes to trace how hunter-gatherers settled down into farming communities, developed hierarchies and raised armies. A graph plots the course of advances in social complexity for communities in China, Egypt, Italy, Pakistan and Peru.

Interestingly, the graph shows general low complexity before 4,000 BC, with steep rises for China and Egypt soon after this time. Similar steep rises occurred with the Romans in the second millennium BC.

One Book that is rich in historical facts isn't mentioned – the Bible. The Seshat database will not pick up on Creation, the Flood, and the dispersal from Babel. The Table of Nations in Genesis 10-11 has been verified (see *After the Flood*, Cooper). Biblical history speaks of cities, complex metallurgy and music from the beginning, with folk with few mutations to their brains and bodies living for close to 1,000 years, passing on information gleaned from Adam's

walks in the Garden. All the skills had to be rediscovered after the Flood, so that graph was correct in showing rises in organisation. Today the build-up of genetic entropy has flattened out the plot. The Bible also lays out the future of history in some detail. Seshat, the ancient Egyptian goddess of wisdom, never managed that.

22 October p.6 – Salvation by dung?

Referring to whale faeces, this article says:

“Research is revealing that their dung brings nutrients to surface waters, which generates more food for fish by stimulating the growth of phytoplankton. These tiny organisms are eaten by krill, which become prey for fish. Phytoplankton also suck carbon dioxide out of the air, helping to limit global warming.

“It inspires us to see whales not as resources to be exploited, or as competitors for fish stocks, but as ecologically essential geoengineers.” The whole designed system needs to be in place for it to operate.

22 October p.10 – Gene-swapping orgies ... in cheese

Bacteria in cheeses stacked in store houses exchange genes among themselves.

A study showed that altogether nearly 5,000 genes have been swapped, affecting the tastes of individual cheeses. One finding was based on genome comparisons from 30 bacteria found in the rinds of traditional aged cheeses from various countries. They



Cheese: teeming with microbial genetic activity.
Image: Devanath, www.pixabay.com.

were matured in bulk in places such as caves, and microbes escaped into the surroundings and colonised new batches.

“There’s been evolution going on for millennia,’ says Paul Kindstedt of the University of Vermont in Burlington.”

No Paul, the genes swapped are all bacterial genes. Bacteria are also known to swap genes through fibres on their surface known as pili. This isn’t evolution.

22 October p.15 – First birds honked in dinosaur times

“Birds developed the unique vocal organ that enables them to sing more than 66 million years ago when dinosaurs walked the Earth, a fossil discovery shows.

“But the earliest syrinx, an arrangement of vibrating cartilage

rings at the base of the windpipe, was still a long way from producing the lilting notes of the blackbird.”

Instead, the extinct duck was only able to honk. Ducks and geese today still honk. The millions of years are based on the assumption that sediments are laid down gradually under tranquil conditions such as prevail today. History tells us of a worldwide violent flood that destroyed all life outside Noah’s Ark. One might expect marine birds like ducks to be buried ahead of flying birds like blackbirds.

22 October p.34 – Life’s subatomic secret

“The cryptic nucleus that gives rise to life is weirder than we thought.”

All living tissue is made of carbon compounds – organic chemistry.

“But the abundance of this element in our universe depends on a seemingly miraculous coincidence – an excited state of the carbon nucleus that our best models say shouldn’t exist, but clearly does. The nature of this weird form of carbon has baffled us for more than 60 years, much to the distress of nuclear physicists. Its existence is so essential in the sequence of reactions making life possible that our failure to explain it is deeply embarrassing.”

The cause of this embarrassment is the assumption that the universe started from nothing with a big bang explosion. This theory permits the initial formation of only sub-atomic particles plus hydrogen and helium. All heavier elements, including carbon, must be

synthesised in this hot plasma. Two helium-4 atoms might come together to form beryllium-8. If this could capture a third helium atom it might form the desired carbon-12, except that Be-8 is highly unstable and decays in the blink of an eye.

The only other theoretical possibility would be a three helium collision, but this would be so unlikely as to be too rare to account for the present abundance of carbon, even given aeons of time.

Our Creator didn't need time. He created time so is outside of time. Past and future are all present with him. He chose to make the Earth with all its elements on Day One (Genesis 1) and everything in six days, to give us a pattern of work and rest.

Where something can't be made by 'natural' processes, Creation is the only choice.

29 October p.9 – Theory tweak solves five physics problems at once

Five of the biggest fundamental problems in physics have been tackled by scientists at the University of Paris-Saclay in France. They are an explanation of dark matter, neutrino oscillations, baryogenesis (the origin of sub-atomic units leading to the formation of atoms and the whole of matter), inflation and the strong CP problem. Actually, all these problems only arise from the big bang theory, and disappear when we accept Creation.

“For example, we don't understand dark matter, the mysterious substance that makes up 84 per cent

of the universe's mass. Nor why there is more matter than antimatter. Nor why the universe grew so rapidly in its youth during a period known as inflation. The list continues.”

“Presumably we need some new particles ... Some models, like supersymmetry, add hundreds of particles – none of which have been spotted at colliders like the LHC.”

The new theory, dubbed SMASH adds six new and undiscovered particles. They hope to be able to test the theory within the next 10 years or so.

Don't hold your breath!

29 October p.14 – Brains become desensitised to lying

“Little white lies have a tendency to snowball. The more we lie, the more our brains seem to become desensitised to deception.”

A team at university College London ran an experiment with volunteers that encouraged them to lie.

“Brain scans showed that the first lie was associated with a burst of activity in the amygdalae, areas involved in emotional responses. But this activity lessened as the lies progressed. ‘This highlights the danger of engaging in small acts of dishonesty’, says [team leader Tali] Sharot.

Sir Walter Scott could have saved them the bother of setting up this experiment. He knew what a tangled web we weave when first we practise to deceive.

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be

hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.’ Heb. 3:13

5 November p.9 – Swift stays on the wing for 10 months

“Common swifts spend an astonishing 10 months a year without ever landing – a world record for sustained flight, beating the alpine swift, which flies non-stop for up to six months.

“In Europe, common swifts land for 2 months to breed, spending the nights in nests. Then they head to Africa – where no roosting sites have ever been found – before returning to Europe 10 months later... A Swedish team have confirmed this by fitting data loggers on seven swifts.”

Of course, this means that the birds sleep on the wing. Possibly, one half of their brain remains conscious, and hopefully, one eye open.

It has been found that **“dolphins and killer whales go for about four months without sleep after birth, with their mothers not having any sleep”**.



Common swift. Image: pau.artigas, Flickr, via Wikimedia, goo.gl/K9emcq, under CCA-SA 2.0 licence.

Apart from these, the only One we know of who neither slumbers nor sleeps is He who keeps Israel!

12 November p.15 – Bats smash bird flight speed record.

Swifts have another claim to fame (see above): The common swift, *Apus apus*, is the fastest bird on record, clocking up 111 km/h in level flight. (That’s 69 mph for the brexiteers among us.) That, one assumes, is while they are awake! However, Brazilian free-tailed bats have achieved speeds of more than 140 km/h (88 mph) in level flight, faster than any bird.

“The bats are well-adapted to their aerial lifestyle. Long, narrow wings, with pointed tips help them fly fast and horizontally, and long toe hairs may help judge speed and turbulence.”

Or perhaps they were designed that way, along with their clever trick of navigating using echo-location.

19 November p.10 – Our food could soon come from methane

The comment on this article on the *NS* cover reads; **Protein from methane can feed the world**, giving the impression that biomolecules can be synthesised from the naturally occurring chemical CH₄. The reality was more mundane. Anaerobic bacteria get their energy from methane.

“Calysta is using a bacterium called Methylococcus capsulatus. The bacteria are grown in vats, fed methane, and are then dried and turned into pellets.” These could be



The Himalayas. A number of marine fossils are known from the region, notably a fossil of an extinct whale called *Himalayacetus* which was found in a layer of sediments clearly associated with marine animals rather than freshwater species. Image: lutz6078, www.pixabay.com.

‘light years’. Heat carrying photons, travelling at the present speed of light, could not reach these parts to share out the heat. Conventional physics assumes that this speed is a constant, c .

The fudge factor invented to solve this problem is inflation. Perhaps, a minute part of a second after the supposed explosion of everything, the universe inflated very rapidly for a short time. This might make for a uniform temperature

used as food at fish farms, or even as pet food and possibly made for human consumption. I can’t see that catching on.

19 November p.64 – Feedback

Feedback questions the accuracy of supermarket chain Waitrose’s description of their Himalayan pink ‘sea salt’, since it is mined such a long way inland at a high elevation, far from any sea.

They are willingly ignorant of history that tells us that ‘the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.’

26 November p.8 – Gravity chased light after the big bang

“A varying speed of light solves big problems.”

The measured temperature of the universe, the cosmic microwave background (CMB) is uniform, even for parts separated by many billions of

while the universe was relatively small. However, there is no evidence to support inflation theory. **“But we don’t know why inflation started or stopped.”**

Now Canadian workers suggest that in the early universe, light and gravity propagated at different speeds. Fast moving photons would allow the universe to reach equilibrium temperature much more quickly. More data from the CMB-mapping Planck satellite might confirm or refute this idea.

There is experimental evidence that the speed of light was much, much faster when the Creator first stretched out the heavens. We reported on this in CSM pamphlets 262 and 256. An ultra-rapid speed of light, decreasing exponentially with time, would condense time from billions of light years to only thousands of years since Creation. The idea of a decreasing speed of light was not well received at

the time, but more recently the Institute for Creation Research in Texas has come to the same conclusion. The original research was done by the Australian independent creationist Barry Setterfield, and publicised by CSM's Malcolm Bowden.

26 November p.9 – Oceans of water in deep Earth go 1000km down

“Earth’s mantle may contain many oceans’ worth of water – with the deepest 1000 kilometres down. If it wasn’t down there we should all be submerged.

“The water is much deeper than any seen before, at a third of the way to the edge of Earth’s core. Its presence was indicated by a diamond spat out 90 million years ago by a volcano near the São Luiz river in Juina, Brazil.”

The diamond has a sealed inclusion with minerals. Infrared spectroscopy showed the presence of hydroxyl groups (OH), indicative of water. Could this be where the Flood waters returned?

“His team has previously found evidence of massive amounts of water some 600 kilometres down, mixed in with rock.

“... it is possible that Earth had water from day one in the very dust and rocks that first formed it.” Yes, Day one.

26 November p.12 – Ants grow plant cities and farm tropical fruits

A Fijian ant has been found to grow and harvest fruit on the branches of various trees.

“First, the ants insert seeds from the fruit plant in cracks in the tree bark. Workers then patrol the planting sites and fertilise seedlings with faeces.

“As the plants grow, they form large, round hollow structures at their base called domatia that serve as nests for the ants. When the fruit appears, the ants eat the flesh and collect the seeds for future crops.

“The plants are completely dependent on the ants to cultivate and fertilise their seeds. And the ants cannot survive without the food and shelter provided by the plants.”

Could this symbiotic system have evolved, retaining interdependence at each step in the imagined process?

“Ants are a lot smarter than we think they are.”

Or maybe these insects were created with instincts built in by a smart Creator.

3 December p.15 – Sleep makes bad memories stick

“Don’t go to bed angry. Now there’s evidence for this proverb: it’s harder to suppress bad memories if you sleep on them.”

In a study of 73 students, they were asked to memorise mugshots associated with unpleasant images. They were asked to think about half the images but to suppress thoughts of the other half. The next day (after sleeping on it) the experiment was repeated with more nasty images, and again they

were asked to think over half of them while suppressing thoughts of the rest. Finally they were questioned on the mugshots to see if they could recall the associated horrid pics. The participants struggled to remember those images they saw on the second day, but not those from the first day that they had slept on. Sleep had consolidated the memories.

It had previously been found that sleep deprivation helped to suppress bad memories and prevent conditions like post-traumatic-stress disorder.

I read somewhere: 'Be angry and sin not - do not let the sun go down upon your wrath.' Good to see the scientists catching up with this wisdom!

3 December p.29 – Seeing reason

A quote: **“Studies by Dan Kahan of Yale University have shown that, in contrast to liberals, among conservatives it is the most scientifically literate who are least likely to accept [the idea of man-made] climate change. ‘Polarisation over climate change isn’t due to a lack of capacity to understand the issues,’ says Kahan. ‘Those who are most proficient at making sense of scientific information are the most polarised.’”**

10 December p.10 – Tweak dark matter to explain galaxies

“Dark matter might talk to itself. The mysterious substance that outweighs all visible matter in the cosmos might be best explained if it’s able to

interact with itself via an invisible force.”

It is suggested that there is both cold and hot dark matter and that the two may exchange energy. But not only Alice finds this curiouser and curiouser: **“It’s what the philosophers of science call an auxiliary hypothesis on top of an auxiliary hypothesis,’ he says. ‘It’s already ad hoc and we’re adding more.’”**

The big bang theory might have been dumped long since, were it not that the only alternative is Genesis 1:1.

10 December p.26 – What you are

This 10 page feature explores the mass of contradictions that make up the human condition. It seems you are a mind reader who doesn’t know your own mind; a maths genius who doesn’t understand risk; biased and prejudiced, yet a member of the most supremely cooperative species on the planet. On page 29 you learn that you are a believer. **“Among the scientists who study the cognitive foundations of religious belief, there is a widespread consensus that atheism is only skin deep. Scratch the surface of a non-believer and you’ll find a writhing nest of superstition and quasi-religion.**

“That’s because evolution has endowed us with cognitive tendencies that, while useful for survival, also make us very receptive to religious concepts...

“With all this supernatural equipment filling our heads, atheism and scientific materialism are hard

work. Overriding inbuilt thought patterns requires deliberate and constant effort, plus a learned reference guide to what is factually correct and what is right and wrong. Just like a dieter tempted by a doughnut, willpower often fails us.”

Then again, perhaps you are by nature a believer because the Creator made you in His own image. He has made everything beautiful in his time; also He has put eternity in their heart.

17/24 December p.12 – Feathered dinosaur tail found in amber

“A piece of feathered dinosaur tail was trapped in amber and preserved for almost 100 million years. Individual feather fronds can be identified as well as signs of its original colour and traces of blood.”

“The tail belonged to a small juvenile cousin of *T. rex* that lived in Asia. The 3.6 centimetre [1½ inch] lump of amber was discovered in a market in Myitkyina, Myanmar, last year ...”

The feathers were not flight feathers, and the tiny creature may have been a young bird. Blood degrades well within the time scale suggested. Moreover these Chinese markets are well-known as sources of fake fossils. There is no evidence that any dinosaur ever had feathers, according to bird expert Alan Fedduccio.

From the Postbox

“Honestly, had we not discovered CSM and been enabled by their work to place

our feet on the solid ground of Genesis-as-fact, I believe that sooner or later our faith would have crumbled and we would never have been able to pass it on to our children with the conviction that has enabled them, thus far, not to crumble.” *J.*

“We received your latest journal yesterday, and have of course devoured it from cover to cover already! Always content of great interest, as usual, but one leaflet particularly struck us with its potential use as an evangelistic tool; we refer to pamphlet 404, written by Kenneth Allen. Well done, friend!”
R&RB.

Stubborn secularists

“We need to understand that the old establishment media outlets self-consciously perpetuate a secular vision of life which sees the world in terms of two groups of people: those who support a secular vision of life and who are thereby rational and liberal, and those who resist a secular vision of life and who are therefore by definition irrational and repressive. So the various establishment media and journalistic outlets are largely incapable of understanding and interacting with non-secular conceptions of life.”

S. Turley, 11 November 2016, goo.gl/ehQdsf.

They just don't know

A quote kindly provided by CSM member *L.T.*:

“It may be difficult to believe, but there was a common theme to this seeming cacophony of scientific expertise and discovery. The theme was, 'We just don't know'. No one knows how life began – or even how to define 'life', if you want to get all philosophical about it – but it's a question of such paramount interest and importance that key players in many avenues of scientific research are willing to devote their time and resources to answering it. Underneath it all, it was refreshing to hear a bunch of really smart folks say 'we don't know'. It was humbling and put things in a grandiose perspective. No one knows how we all got to be here, but the researchers in the Origins of Life initiative and beyond are trying to find out.”

(Conclusion of a report on a one-day symposium held at Harvard's Science Center to discuss recent progress on origin of life research, goo.gl/z0XEFX.)

CSM on the web

The Creation Science Movement has recently upgraded its website www.csm.org.uk. It has also created extra sites. Clicking on 'Shop' on this site will take one to www.genesisexpo.org.uk, our main Internet shop for creationist books, pamphlets, CDs and DVDs. Another new site, www.creationpoint.org.uk is a work in progress and will catch those who haven't yet heard of us. Dr Cooper's books, published by us, now have their own website www.billcooper.org.uk which will be the first port of call for people looking for the *Authenticity* series and other books by him. It will link to the CSM sites.

We are grateful to consultant Mr Alan Reed and new CSM recruit Mr Leon Davey for their expertise in creating these outlets.

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