

CREATION

Vol. 19 No. 4 November 2016



Journal of the CREATION SCIENCE MOVEMENT

A Singing Fish

In 1924 a paper was published by Charles Greene describing the 'Californian Singing Fish'. Some hardbitten Californians might have been minded to conclude that the author had been indulging in too much of a beverage that could have made him sing also, but it turned out that Greene was right. This fish, also known as the midshipman fish (*Porichthys* sp.) does indeed sing, or at least, hum. And it does so at night.

In Seattle the sound is particularly well known and may be widespread in some years. An article in 2009 in the Huffington Post (goo.gl/zXtx5p) referred to the sound as the 'Seattle Hum' and noted that it may be so loud as to wake up residents in the middle of the night. The article also referred to an audio recording available on Youtube at goo.gl/xd8KCG.

More recently, an article on the BBC News website (goo.gl/ejdVKr, accessed

25/09/2016) drew attention to the work of two US researchers, Ni Feng and Andrew Bass, who wondered why the fish sing at night. The researchers found that although both sexes of the fish are capable of sound production, the noise is made by "territorial males that build nests and produce the hum to attract females". The researchers discovered that the male fishes' activity is mediated by melatonin, a hormone known to be involved in circadian rhythms in a wide range of other creatures.

Sadly the article then spoils this fine observational science by appealing to the usual Evolutionary dogma. It says that "finding a fish with a behaviour so intrinsically linked to their body clock suggests this brain circuitry evolved in our most primitive, aquatic ancestors".



A midshipman fish from Puget Sound, USA. Image in the public domain.

What nonsense. Surely what it suggests is that melatonin is a designer molecule and therefore there must be a Designer. Hence it is not surprising to find the molecule mediating activities in a wide range of organisms, as they were all created by the same Designer.

Silence and vision

In past issues of this journal we have touched upon the incredible complexity of the brain and how new discoveries demonstrate yet further aspects of its astonishing sophistication. The idea that it could have evolved just by accident is utterly laughable.

A recent article on Lifehack (goo.gl/Ilyjwg, accessed 25/09/2016) drew attention to yet another new discovery and its implications for the health of the brain: the importance of silence.

According to the article, a 2013 study on mice published in the journal *Brain, Structure and Function* (see goo.gl/yM9kaq) discovered that when mice were exposed to two hours of silence per day they developed new cells in the hippocampus. The latter is the region of the brain associated with memory, emotion and learning. Furthermore, these cells appeared to become new functioning neurons.

Conversely, the article reported that a study had found that children exposed



Image: M. Zacharzewski, RGB Stock.

to noise developed a stress response which caused them to ignore the noise. These children not only ignored harmful stimuli but also the stimuli they should have been paying attention to, such as speech. The article quoted Gary W. Evans, a professor of human ecology at Cornell University: “This study is among the strongest, probably the most definitive, proof that noise – even at levels that do not produce any hearing damage – causes stress and is harmful to humans”.

No wonder, then, that the Bible talks so much about the importance of meditation (that is, true biblical meditation and not the occult kind that relies on ‘centring prayers’ and ‘emptying one's mind’). The prophet Habakkuk got it exactly right when he wrote, “The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him” (Hab. 2: 20).

But how does the brain process the abundance of sensory impressions that it does receive? Earlier this year the BBC News website reported on the work of scientists at Glasgow University's school of psychology (goo.gl/v048Rv). Working with visual rather than aural stimuli, the researchers monitored the perceptions of test subjects looking at the extraordinary painting by Salvador Dali entitled 'Slave Market with the Disappearing Bust of Voltaire'. The painting was chosen because of its deliberate visual ambiguity: some people see a bust of Voltaire in the picture, whereas others see two Dutch merchants.

The researchers found that, as expected, the right side of the brain handled the left side of the image and vice versa. But then they discovered that "after around 100 milliseconds of processing post-stimulus, the brain processes very specific features such as the left eye, the right eye, the corner of the nose, the corner of the mouth". Subsequent to this, at about 200 milliseconds, they also "found that the brain transfers features across its two hemispheres in order to construct a full representation of the stimulus".

So now we have at least some basic understanding of the brain's algorithmic processes. But much more is still a mystery. For example, having acquired a complete synthesis representing the sensory input, how does the brain come to a decision about

it? How does it resolve visual ambiguity? We still don't know. All we can do is marvel at the wisdom of the Person who designed us. Romans 11: 33-34 sums it up admirably.

Water, but no life

Strange behaviour on Europa, one of the moons of Jupiter, is noted in an article on the BBC News website (goo.gl/MrBJDT). First reported in 2013, follow-up observations by the Hubble telescope have confirmed that Europa periodically throws up jets of water into space. It is suggested that the jets reach several hundred kilometres in height before then falling back on to Europa.

Water is essential for life. Hence the article confidently asserts that because of its abundant subsurface water, Europa is "one of the most likely places to find microbial life beyond Earth" and that "flying through the jets with an instrumented spacecraft would be an effective way to test the possibility".

But let's call a brake on this groundless optimism with a healthy dose of reality. Europa has all that water, granted. But thus far, is there any evidence for life of any kind on this moon? No. None whatsoever. Therefore Europa is further evidence supporting the view that the Earth is a planet uniquely designed for life, by an amazing Designer.

Cuttings & Comments

from **New Scientist**

by Dr David Rosevear

2 July p.15 – Tiny dinosaurs flew like birds

“Around 99 million years ago, this tiny dinosaur had a sticky encounter. Today, the feathered wings look almost exactly as they did when it became stuck in resin.

“The wings are so well preserved it’s possible to tell that these dinosaurs were Enantiornithes – a cousin group of today’s birds.

“As fossils like these come to light, we are beginning to understand the origin of flight as a gradual process, with gliding birds giving rise to crude powered flight, followed by skilled powered flight.” [A flight of fancy!]

The article is illustrated by a picture of one of the two pieces, showing what looks for all the world like a 3.5 cm long bird trapped in amber. It is interesting to read what *National Geographical* put online about this unique find, purchased in a Chinese market:

Headed “Rare Dinosaur-Era Bird Wings Found Trapped in Amber”, it continues: “Skin, muscle, claws and feather shafts are visible in both samples, along with the remains of rows of primary asymmetrical flight feathers, secondary feathers and covert feathers. All are similar in arrangement and micro-structure to modern birds.

“Two tiny wings entombed in amber reveal that plumage (the layering, patterning, coloring, and arrangement of feathers) seen in birds today already existed in at least some of their predecessors nearly a hundred million years ago.”

The dating is assumed from the Cretaceous layers in which the resin was mined.

If it looks just like a bird, why say that it’s a dinosaur?

16 July p.8 – Solving the mystery of sleep

“Support is growing for a theory that sleep evolved so that connections between neurons in the brain can be whittled down overnight, making room for fresh memories to form the next day.”

If we evolved sleep it must have been a very rapid process, for the first man fell into a deep sleep on his first day. Haven’t these philosophers ever been deprived of sleep for more than a day? Lab rats deprived of sleep die within a month.

16 July p.16 – Will AI’s bubble pop?

“The hype around artificial intelligence is building – but we don’t yet know if it will fulfil its potential.”

We speak of machine learning, deep learning, neural networks, cognitive computing. “Cognitive means thinking. Your machine is not thinking, says Roger Schank at Northwestern University in Illinois. When people say AI, they don’t mean

AI. What they mean is a lot of brute force computation. ...neural networks are not neurons... Can we just call it cool things we do with computers.”

Sadly, the first fatality has occurred with a driverless car.

16 July p.36 – Instant Expert, Evolution

Part one of a new series.

“Not so long ago, all species were thought to have been created by god. Then along came evolution.

“Evolution is the most revolutionary concept in the history of science.

“The work of Charles Darwin is irrefutable, that humans are just another animal occupying a small branch on a vast tree of life. No divine spark is needed to explain our existence and traits.”

The article talks of the biblical 6,000 years of Earth’s history. **“Gradually such beliefs were modified by Christian thinkers based on new information about Earth, gleaned from the growth of mining and the development of geology.**

Replacing belief in a worldwide flood allowed for faith in ‘deep time’. Discovering fossilised dinosaurs that died out long ago went against the traditional (but not biblical) belief that God would not allow any of his created species to perish. We are told about Darwin’s five-year voyage on HMS Beagle. **“And as charming as it sounds, there is no truth to the story that Darwin noticed that the beaks of the finches were adapted to different**

diets and that this provoked his evolutionary theorising... Gradually he gave up his belief in Christianity. ‘It is not supported by evidence’, he concluded.”

Darwin’s ‘evidence’ ranged from embryology (Haeckel’s fraudulent diagrams), through (non-existent) vestigial organs to geographical distribution. The monk, Gregor Mendel, published his research on the ‘factors’ (we would now say genes) of legumes in an obscure publication in 1860, so evolutionists did not take on board genetics until the 1930s.

“Today evolution has many critics outside the scientific community, especially in the US, where a significant percentage of the population are creationists. What is forgotten is that the scientific debate over evolution was over by the 1870s and has never again been a matter of serious debate.”

One has to admire their blinkers.

30 July p.9 – Dark matter no-show spells trouble for WIMPs

“The hunt lasted nearly two years, but there was not even a sniff of the quarry. One of the world’s leading dark matter detectors has failed to find any candidate particles, suggesting that the dominant model of the stuff may be on its last legs.

“But on 21 July, the LUX team told the Identification of Dark Matter conference in Sheffield, UK, that its final 20-month run had failed to make a single detection.”

“Perhaps the dark matter is not WIMPs.”

They had hoped to establish that their proposed dark matter consisted of Weakly Interacting Massive Particles, by looking for flashes in a tank of liquid helium. They already have plans to build a detector that will be 70 times more sensitive. Of course, 70 times nought is still nought.

Could the big bang theory be wrong?

30 July p.10 – Neanderthal brains mirrored ours – perhaps

Studies used software to generate 3D casts of the brain cases of six adult and nine Neanderthal children, and compared them with patterns of brain development in modern people. They found that although there were subtle differences in the shapes of brains, the development of Neanderthals was **“rather like ours... If their brains grew like ours, perhaps they weren’t all that cognitively different to us either.”**

Neanderthals were humans who lived in northern climes during the ice age. Having a smaller accumulation of brain mutations back then, they were brighter than people today.

30 July p.28 Scrapheap challenge

The article discusses the recent discovery that the human genome consists of only about 20,000 genes coding for proteins, and that this is only some two per cent of the complete genome. While noting that the remainder contains switches for controlling the expression of the genes,

it continues to call by its former name, ‘junk DNA’. Rather than recognising the epigenome as a coded system designed by a Genius, it opines that it holds the answer to the mechanism of evolution.

“There’s an enormous amount of work still to be done before we really understand how our genome gave rise to unique human characteristics, but the idea that the process starts and ends with genes has never looked more misguided. Clearly when it comes to turning trillions of cells into a walking, talking human, it’s not the 20,000-strong protein set alone that’s going to get you there. The answer, it seems, is buried in the trash.”

6 August p.14 – End of the genetic line for the poor English bulldog

“Among other problems, English bulldogs have difficulty breathing, moving and mating. These traits are a result of how we have selectively bred the dogs to promote characteristics like their shortened muzzle and stature. Decades of heavy inbreeding have also caused autoimmune diseases and allergies.”

DNA analysis of more than 100 English bulldogs uncovered alarmingly low genetic diversity. Work has now begun to cross-breed with the similar American-bred *Olde English Bulldogge* to inject some diversity back into the gene pool.

In an artificially constrained breeding population, some genes are lost, and health suffers. Likewise, in a small

population in the wild, natural selection has less diversity to work with, and species can go extinct. There is no process whereby new genes not present in the original genome can be synthesised. Natural selection is not a mechanism for evolution. Darwin was plain wrong.

6 August p.14 – Orangutan proves he can talk the talk

Durham researches have been training Rocky their orangutan to mimic the pitch and tone of human sounds and make vowel-like calls. These are very different from ape calls in the wild, and are claimed to emulate human speech.

“The feat brings us closer to understanding how speech developed from the calls of ancestral great apes.”

This seems a waste of effort, because the orangutan has no idea what any calls signify, but is just waiting for its next meal. It’s all been done before more safely with budgies, and it’s unlikely they’ll train Rocky to say ‘who’s a pretty boy, then?’



Just because an orangutan can mimic sounds doesn't mean that it understands the words or the concepts that they represent. Image: ShekuSheriff, www.pixabay.com, CC0.

6 August p.32 – When human rights become wrongs

“What is a human? ... Today, there are three influential and competing definitions. The first is the Christian theological view that humans are made in the image of God. The second is a more philosophical position that defines humans as possessing certain capacities, such as self-consciousness and rationality. Finally, there is the biological view, where humans are defined - and differentiated from animals - by their DNA.

How we define humans affects how we treat them. If not made in God’s image, they are not sacred, so things like torture become acceptable. The biological view can lead us to think of humans as another animal, and it becomes acceptable to buy a kidney from poor people.

The Nazis had a false notion based on pseudoscientific racism, contributing to the Holocaust. The eugenics movement focused on a list of valued human capacities, preventing the breeding of those who didn’t come up to the mark.

The author, John H. Evans of San Diego, California, asked folk questions to see how their attitudes reflected their view of what it meant to be human:

“That said, these findings suggest a real problem for those who subscribe to both the biological view of humanity and to human rights. The most influential person in that position today is Richard Dawkins. He is an advocate of the view that

humans are DNA-based machines. He is also an honorary vice president of the British Humanist Association, which promotes human rights and recognises ‘the dignity of individuals’.”

Many see some tension between these two positions; humans as DNA machines and human rights. The author concludes:

“The answer, I think, is for influential people like Dawkins to try to sever the link the public apparently makes between definitions and treatment. The way to do this is to promote the idea that however a human is defined, humans are sacred.”

However, humans cannot be sacred if they are evolved from ‘lower animals’. That would be illogical. Yet human rights are predicated on the idea that we are sacred. A common fudge is to say that God used a process akin to Darwinian evolution. Two difficulties with such a position are, firstly God (who cannot lie) tells us in His Word how He made us; and secondly, evolution is contrary to scientific laws and cannot occur.

13 August p.13 –

Why some sunflowers track the sun and others don’t.

“The heads of young sunflower plants follow the sun during the day, then reverse

course at night so they’re ready to face the dawn.”

Researchers tethered some young plants to prevent rotation, and moved some in pots to face the wrong way. The leaves of these were 10 per cent smaller, so tracking the sun is more efficient. The twisting is effected by a daily build-up of auxin on the side of the stem away from the sun.

Sunflowers in bloom stop moving and face east towards the rising sun. The scientists rotated some blooms to face west, and counted the bees visiting both orientations. **“You can see the bees going crazy over the east-facing flowers and mostly ignoring the west-facing flowers.”**

This is because the former warm up in the morning sun.

What a cunning design! Chance doesn’t explain the auxin mechanism.

13 August p.18 – That sinking feeling

Here is a vitriolic rant about a life-size ‘Noah’s Ark’ theme park in Kentucky, opened last month. It invites schools to visit to educate and entertain the



Noah's Ark replicas, such as this one at Dordrecht, are incredibly popular despite the outraged trumpeting of atheists. Image: Ceinturion, Wikipedia, goo.gl/jTbd2B, under CCA-SA 3.0 Unported licence.

children. **“Educators and parents should know that a trip wouldn’t educate or entertain. It would misinform and browbeat.**

“It is hard-core creationist extravaganza replete with pseudoscience – no place for field trips.”

The writer is policy director of an anti-creationist organisation. He seems to think that evolution theory is scientifically proved and that Genesis is not history.

I must have missed something.

Since more than half of Americans believe in Creation, his warning may go unheeded.

13 August p.26 – Generous by nature

The article gives instances among peoples around the world of unstinting generosity towards neighbours in need, without looking for a return.

“In biological and evolutionary terms, it makes no sense to give and get nothing in return. Altruism is rare in other animals, yet humans can be inexplicably kind.”

A team ran a simulation under three scenarios: one with no giving, one in which potential donors would only give if the asker had paid back previous gifts, and one with unconditional generosity. Results just published show that households survived much longer, on average, with the third scenario, supporting the idea that even habitual donors benefit in the long run from keeping their neighbours going.

I read somewhere that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

13 August p.43 – Shiver our timbers
Henry VIII’s flagship, the Mary Rose, is on display in the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, just a stone’s throw from CSM’s Genesis Expo.

“The 16th-century warship is alive in a way it hasn’t been since it sank in 1545, battling the French.

“On view again after a six-month hiatus, the Mary Rose is now lit with CGI vignettes. Move along glass-panelled viewing platforms parallel to the remaining half of the ship and sound effects change to match the videos. Thousands of preserved [by been buried for centuries in the silt of the Solent] objects from Henry VIII’s favourite warship also give us an unrivalled look at Tudor life.”

Why not bring the family to see this remarkable time-capsule, and then visit the Expo (which is free).

20 August p.26 – Life, Spontaneously
“Life may have started not once but many times right here on Earth.”

This article ponders optimistically on the possibility of life arising without divine design. *NS* biomedical news editor Penny Sarchet tells us that many of the building blocks of living organisms can be made by simple chemical reactions that, under the right conditions, might take place automatically.

Over 60 years ago, some amino acids, the units of proteins, were made by subjecting simple molecules to heat and electric discharges in the laboratory. Recently an amino acid,

glycine, was found on comet 67P by the Rosetta probe.

Also recently, the bases A & G in RNA were made in the lab. from naturally occurring simple chemicals (both these were reported in this Creation journal for August – NS 4 June & 21 May). Orgel once showed that if these bases could form naturally, they should spontaneously assemble into RNA chains on the surface of clay. By mixing repeating strands of RNA in water with extra floating free RNA letters, these would arrange themselves to form new molecules of RNA.

As yet unpublished work claims that the co-enzyme NAD is easy to make. It should be pointed out that the 1953 experiments only produced glycine and alanine, the 2 simplest amino acids of the 20 found in proteins. Of these two, only alanine can form stereo-isomers, but in the lab. a racemic mix of left- and right-handed forms were made. These are useless for making proteins, since proteins rely on their shape for their activity.

Further, RNA, although it can carry information, lacks the ability to self-replicate found in DNA. Moreover, the information must be imposed on it by an intelligent mind. Information by chance is statistically impossible.

Even if all the components of a living cell could occur naturally, they would need to be assembled together in a precise manner. Nothing works until everything works together. Even billions of years would not accomplish that feat. Complex systems decompose over time, in accordance with the

entropy law. That penny does not seem to have dropped with our biomedical news editor.

27 August p.39 – Darwin and DNA – Evolution Part 2

“Although Gregor Mendel and Charles Darwin were alive at the same time, they never met and Darwin wasn’t aware of Mendel’s work. With hindsight, the union of the two men’s work seems like a marriage made in heaven (or hell, if you’re a creationist). In fact, for many years, it wasn’t obvious that Mendel’s studies of heredity had any relevance to Darwin’s theory of evolution by natural selection.”

The Augustinian monk, Mendel, pollinated pea plants by hand and meticulously recorded the colours of the flowers in succeeding generations. He concluded rightly that features such as colour were passed on by factors (now called genes) so that offspring inherited a particular trait from one or other of the ‘parents’, but the feature was not a blend of those of the parent plants. Mendel, like Augustine, was a biblical creationist. He was studying the mechanism of inheritance, and never suggested that factors could improve with time, leading to evolution.

“No one imagined, though, that the characteristics Mendel studied in peas, such as flower colour, were of any general significance, and the work was largely ignored for decades.”

“Darwin suggested that the offspring develops from a mix of the parents’

gemmules [his word for factors] and thus exhibits a blend of their characters.”

It was pointed out that blending would result in the useful characteristics of one parent becoming diluted as it mated with individuals that do not have these traits. Over the generations these more useful traits would gradually be swamped out.

In the early 20th century Mendel’s work was translated into English, and the term ‘genes’ coined from the Greek *genesis*, meaning origin. Evolutionists co-opted ‘Mendelism’, now called genetics, into Darwin’s theory of natural selection, calling it the modern synthesis. Work from 1910 onwards, on deliberately mutating fruit flies, led to the creation of maps showing the position of genes on chromosomes.

It was noted that harmful mutations tended to be eliminated by natural selection. **“However, more work was needed to demonstrate how selection acted on genes to create positive evolutionary change.”** This is a work in progress. Genes are complex structures expressing information via a code. Changes lose the information.

Darwin viewed evolution as a very slow process. He thought that the neck vertebrae of giraffes were gradually elongated to allow them to reach high leaves! Yet the kind of small changes we observe are fast and reversible. These are due to various genes, called alleles that do the same job but produce a different colour, shape of beak or whatever. This phenomenon could be driven by a change in the environment,

especially in small isolated groups of creatures.

“Some of the early pioneers of evolutionary theory were enthusiastic proponents of eugenics: the idea of enhancing the human population by eliminating ‘unfit’ genes... The dark reality of eugenics became clear in the early 20th century when several US states legislated to sterilise the ‘feeble-minded’, and the Nazis took the idea to its ultimate, horrific extreme.”

“In 1951 images of DNA are captured for the first time by Rosalind Franklin. Two years later, James Watson and Francis Crick determine the double helix structure of DNA”

In the early 21st century, the 98 per cent of DNA thought to be junk leftovers from evolution was found to code for chemical tags that attach to genes to switch them on and off. Clearly the DNA molecule was the creation of a Genius beyond genius, though there are still those who think in terms of selfish genes.

“Subsequent debates over the evolution of social behaviour and the emergence of altruism have taken place against the backdrop of an increasing tension between Darwinian evolution and religion – exactly what the founders of the synthesis hoped to avoid.”

3 September p.7 – First contact?

“The search for ET is on in earnest. News leaked this weekend of a spike in radio signals coming from a sun-

like star that could fit the profile for an intelligent extraterrestrial source. SETI astronomers are swinging their radio dishes towards the star in the hope of confirming the beacon, but have so far drawn a blank...

“The researchers speculate that such a bright signal could be produced by a radio beacon built by an intelligent civilisation able to harness all the star’s energy. To follow up, the SETI Institute used the Allen Telescope in northern California to track the star, but saw nothing.

“But although it’s fun to speculate, it is far more likely that the signal is earthly interference. Radio telescopes have been known to pick up rogue signals, from toilets flushing to mobile phones. Just last year, astronomers at the Parkes Observatory in Australia traced a mysterious radio signal to two on-site microwave ovens.”

The search is important to secularists, since if intelligent life evolved on Earth, it surely can also be found among the vast number of planets throughout space. According to Genesis, the Earth was made three days before other stars, planets and comets that were made to give light to the Earth. Moreover, the Creator came to Earth as Jesus of Nazareth to pay the wages of our sin by His blood on a cross. God so loved the world.

3 September p.28 – Let’s get metaphysical

Scientists want to give naturalistic answers to some of the deepest philosophical questions:

“How do I know I exist? You may know beyond a doubt that you exist, but your ‘I’ still could be an illusion.

“What is consciousness?

“Why is there something rather than nothing? After all, if we accept that we exist to ask the question, then we’ve proved something exists.

“What is the meaning of life? The harsh answer is ‘it has none’. Your life may feel like a big deal to you, but it is actually a random blip of matter and energy in an uncaring and impersonal universe. When it ends, a few people will remember you for a while, but they will die too. Even if you make the history books, your contribution will soon be forgotten. Humans will go extinct; Earth and the sun will be destroyed. Against this appalling reality, how can a human life have any meaning?”

Only what’s done for Christ will last.

(In September, your reviewer clocked up 40 years on the CSM council. He won’t get a medal, but hopes for a ‘Well done!’ from the Boss.)

The section continues: “Recently, psychologists have hit on a novel way to discover whether life has meaning: ask people. When asked to rate how meaningful and purposeful their lives are, most people respond positively and rate their own sense of meaning and purpose as being greater than other people’s. In other words, despite the ultimately futile

nature of human life, it feels pretty meaningful to those living it.

“Where do good and evil come from? Everything that can happen does happen, only in different universes.”

The conclusion: **“Good and evil don’t exist in any real sense,**

“Do we have free will?

“Is time an illusion?

“Can we ever know if God exists?

Belief in a god or several gods is a leap of faith. So is disbelief. The only coherent and rational position is agnosticism...The superficially persuasive argument, later resurrected as intelligent design and its idea of irreducible complexity, turned out to be very refutable indeed. Evolution by natural selection, working over vast lengths of time, is all you need.

Stenger (who died in 2015 and may now be repenting at leisure) went on to spell out that:” according to clinical trials, God doesn’t answer prayers, and unbelievers are no less moral than believers. He concluded that God doesn’t exist.

“According to Scott Aikin, a philosopher of religion at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, Stenger’s conclusion still stands.

‘The evidence points to the fact that God doesn’t exist,’ he says. ‘I’m of the view that absence of evidence is evidence of absence.’”

Christian students going to university will have their faith sorely tested. It is important that they are grounded in biblical truth that has answers to all these questions.

They also need to be schooled in the arguments against evolution theory. Did you notice above that the secularists recognised the conclusion of the entropy theory that things go extinct and left to themselves the Earth and sun would be destroyed? Yet they also claimed that evolution working over vast lengths of time will build up complex things. You can’t have your cake and eat it – ask any philosopher. Moreover, the sentiment that ‘absence of evidence is evidence of absence’ can also be applied to those missing links in the fossil record!

24 September p.42 – Evolution evolves

Evolution, Part 3

“Why is life so diverse? And why are living things so exquisitely suited to their environments? To understand these two striking features of the natural world you need look no further than evolution.”

And yet... **“It is time for the theory of evolution to evolve.”**

Darwin’s **“beautiful idea”** hit the buffers in the 1940s because natural selection could not supply the new genetic information needed for creatures to evolve. Since then, the ‘modern synthesis’ is at the heart of how most folk see evolution happening. **“According to this view, the evolution of the features of an organism - ...it’s phenotype – comes down to random genetic mutation, genetic inheritance and selection of those gene variants that bestow traits best adapted to the environment.”**

One problem with this synthesis is that mutations lose information from the genes. Genetic mutations only decrease fitness and can lead to extinction.

“But discoveries made over the last two decades are starting to reveal cracks in some of its central ideas.”

The things transmitted from parent to offspring include: components of the egg such as mitochondria, hormones and epigenetic markers on the DNA that bind to genes to turn them on and off. Epigenetic markers allow adaptability; that is, variability known as micro-evolution.

Since there is no change in the DNA sequence, this variation is not evolution in the Darwinian sense. It is rapid and usually reversible.

The article concludes: **“A flexible phenotype allows organisms to survive in the short term, and may then initiate evolutionary episodes – with genetic change following later.”**

However, this is faulty logic, since genetic change leads to a loss of information while evolution demands a gain.

God’s Word and how we got it

Can you trust your own version of the Bible which you have been reading for years?

A large body of old manuscripts - more than 5,000 - called the Textus Receptus, was the basis of all the English versions

from the time of the Reformation until the 19th century. Let us refresh our memory of what the Lord has stated in Scripture. The Bible claims that “no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” II Peter 1: 20-21, NKJV. As copies of the Scriptures wore out with use, they were re-copied meticulously by Jewish scribes, and later by the Masoretes. They knew that “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it.” Deut. 4: 2. A similar injunction is given in Proverbs 30: 5-6 and at the end of Revelation. The same care was exercised by the Septuagint translators of the Old Testament into Greek and by those such as William Tyndale and others who first translated the Bible into English. They also knew that the Lord Jesus Christ had stressed the importance of even “jots and tittles” Matthew 5: 18. As a result we have a large body of manuscripts dating back to the fifth century that all substantially agree with one another, the Textus Receptus or Received Text that is the basis of the King James Version.

In the 19th century, two further versions were brought to light by the Jesuits, the Codex Vaticanus and the Codex Sinaiticus. It was claimed that these were older and hence more reliable than the Textus Receptus. They differ from each other and from the TR in thousands of instances, and both omit the evidence for the Resurrection

at the end of Mark's gospel, undermining the whole basis of Christianity! Nevertheless, many of today's English revised versions make use of these 'older' codices for their translations, by means of Westcott and Hort's Greek New Testament of 1882.

In 2010 the Codex Sinaiticus became available for the first time for examination by the general public, with the publication of Hendrickson's facsimile. It is also now available online through the British library at <http://www.codexsinaiticus.org/en/>.

Over the past few years, CSM, with its belief in the divine inspiration of Scripture, has published a series of books by Dr Bill Cooper on the authenticity of various Biblical books. Now Bill has written *The Forging of Codex Sinaiticus – an illustrated consideration of the anomalies and the many indicators of 19th century forgery contained in the manuscript*. It reads as a whodunit and carefully explains the many factors that give the game away. First published on Kindle, this important book has already outsold

even Bill's best-selling *After the Flood*. Now we offer it as a paperback. Bill has also just completed *The Authenticity of the New Testament Fragments of Qumran*, showing that these excerpts from the NT, sealed in a cave in AD 68, are based upon the TR.

We ask again, can you trust your own version of the Bible?

The view from space

"I believe in God, I believe in Him as creator and redeemer, through Jesus Christ. So when I look out the window and I see this, all of the elements of what you would imagine you would see with a creative work by an infinite God, you see the design, you see the beauty, you see the purpose, you see all of those elements, you see order in all of the details, and so that's what I see when I look out the window."

Jeffrey Williams, NASA astronaut, commenting on the view from the International Space Station, goo.gl/Ooz8cL.



A view from space of our unique planet. Image: NASA, in the public domain.

Success in the Olympic Velodrome

The 10-strong cycling team at Rio 2016 came home with a record 11 medals. While the University of Bristol rightly says that the athletes' training was the main reason for the great achievement, some credit must go to the team of engineers who designed their racing bikes (see the UB article at goo.gl/aHuSmj for further details). The team was led by Professor of Engineering Design Stuart Burgess, a leading British creationist. CSM carries four of his books and two DVDs.

From the Postbag

"Dear 'Creation', I just felt I had to tell you how brilliant your latest 'Vol. 19 no. 3' was. It really was one of the best. Pamphlet 367 by Dr Hayes was also very good."
AT, Suffolk, UK

"Thank you for recommending Bill Cooper's book on *Codex Sinaiticus* when we were chatting at the New Milton event on Saturday. I started reading it in the car park and finished it the same evening. I can see why you have read it three times perhaps, given the complexity of the plot! I don't see how Bill's conclusions can be disputed and am staggered at the scale and blatant nature of the deception involved. What I am trying to do now is think through the implications for Bible translation and scholarship. Hopefully, the word will spread and the truth will be more widely exposed in time for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation next year. Wouldn't the story make a great movie!?"

N.

Note

Items on sale at our *Genesis Expo* shop can be purchased online via our website at

www.genesisexpo.org.uk

Creation Science Movement

PO Box 888, Portsmouth PO6 2YD, UK

Founded 1932, Registered Charity 801745

info@csm.org.uk; tel. 02392 293988

www.facebook.com/Creation-Science-Movement-160127110749224/