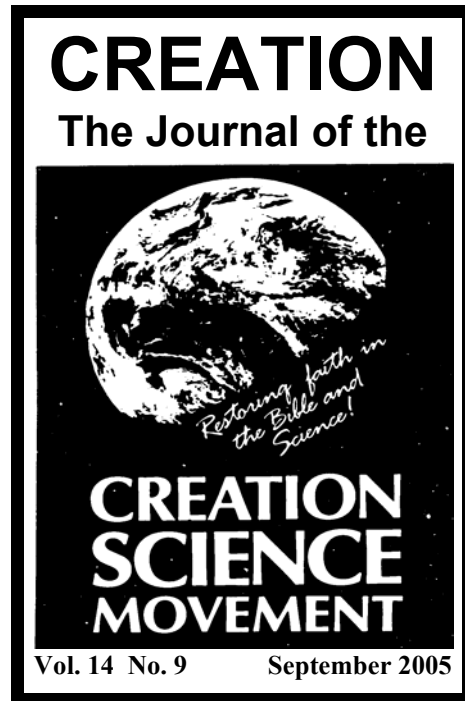


'Battle for Science's Soul'

As the scientific arguments for Creation and against the theory of evolution gain ever greater acceptance with the general public, the high priests of Darwinism become increasingly concerned. The 9th of July issue of *New Scientist* had the cover headline "THE END OF REASON – Creationism's new front in the battle of ideas". Inside an Editorial and five pages raged against creationism and Intelligent Design as an explanation of origins. It devoted a further four pages to what it considers a rapid form of evolution, but which those not blinkered by prejudice see as variation within a kind.

NS reporter Debora Mackenzie cites a number of inroads made by creationists this year. In America 18 pieces of legislation had been introduced in 13 states to facilitate the teaching of ID and arguments against evolutionism in schools. Horror of horrors, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC showed the ID film *The Privileged Planet* [available as DVD from CSM at £15.99 + post – see June journal] on its premises. A publicly funded zoo in Oklahoma has a display on 6-Day Creation, and a Texas science museum cancelled an IMAX film following negative reaction to its evolutionary stance. Other IMAX theatres in the USA have followed this lead. As we reported earlier, bookstores at the Grand Canyon, part of the US National Parks Service, do brisk sales of the young Earth creationist book 'Grand Canyon – a



different view', that explains the famous geological feature in terms of a worldwide flood in the days of Noah.

In the USA, some 45 per cent of people believe that humans were created in their present form within the last 10,000 years. A further 30 to 40 per cent think God guided evolution while just over 10 per cent say God had no part in the process. These figures have changed very little over the past decade, according to these articles.

Although American creationist activities hit the headlines because of their 1st amendment that prevents the teaching of religion in schools, Debora Mackenzie is also concerned about the UK. "Christian fundamentalist Peter Vardy" now has two schools teaching Creation alongside

evolution, in Gateshead and Middlesbrough, and a third opens near Doncaster in September. Some Dutch schools teach creationism, and in Turkey, “there is no longer public opposition to creationism, which is all that is presented in school texts. In another Muslim country, Pakistan, evolution is no longer taught in universities. Fundamental Christianity is also sweeping Africa and Latin America.” They are afraid that this new wave of creationist teaching will undermine science education and science’s place in society.

We find this fear akin to the opposition of the old guard chemists to the false phlogiston theory as it was replaced by the oxidative theory of combustion that we know today. Science must benefit in the long run as false ideas are replaced by the truth.

In a further article entitled “A sceptic’s guide to intelligent design”, the authors say that “By starting from a pre-conceived conclusion and selectively using evidence to back it up, creation science was clearly unscientific”. But isn’t this what all science is about. The evolutionist assumes that Darwinism is true and looks for supporting evidence.

The ID “case centres on the question of how complex structures originated. Living things are full of multi-component structures that only function if all their parts are present. The bacterial flagellum, a spinning whip-like tail, for example, is made up of 40 or more proteins; blood clotting involves the coordinated interaction of 10 different proteins. These systems are examples of what Behe calls ‘irreducible complexity’, meaning that they cannot function properly without all their

components. Such systems, he says, could not evolve by the accumulation of chance mutations, since partial assemblies are useless.” It is good to see our arguments being aired in *New Scientist*. However, they meet this challenge by pointing out that the stomach bacterium *Helicobacter pylorus* has a flagellum with just 33 proteins. But, there is no indication that the 40 protein bacterium evolved from the 33 protein one. The 33 protein structures are also irreducibly complex. The writers do not offer any pathway by which such structures could gradually evolve.

In yet a further article “Survival of the slickest”, the ID lobby are taken to task for not being open about their religious motivation. CSM has always nailed its colours to the mast, feeling that it is illogical to argue for Creation without talking about the Creator. The IDers only use scientific arguments and do not refer to Adam and Eve or Noah’s flood. This is not to deceive other scientists, but to concentrate solely on the science. It is the science that will convince people.

The editorial of this issue of *New Scientist* says of creationist ideas that “Crucially, they cannot be tested in any meaningful way, so they cannot qualify as science”. We would like to know how secular theories of the origin of the Universe, the origin of life, etc. can be tested in any meaningful way. Science cannot go back in time, which leaves only the historical writings. Science deals in repeatable experiments, but these origins cannot be repeated. Evolutionary speculation is philosophy, not science. We are encouraged by this *New Scientist* creationism issue. It shows that we are making headway, and the high priests are worried. People are taking us seriously.

Book review

Dawkins' God - Genes, Memes, and the Meaning of Life. Alister McGrath, Blackwell Publishing 2005, 202pp, pb. £9.99, available from CSM.

Alister McGrath is Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford University, a theologian with a doctorate in molecular biophysics, and a Christian. The fact that he is not a young-earth creationist, rather a theistic evolutionist, gives his criticism of Dawkins' views on religion more impact. So readers should not look for comment on Dawkins' anti-creationist propaganda, but for a well-reasoned response to his atheistic ideas as featured in *The Selfish Gene*, *The Blind Watchmaker*, *River out of Eden*, *Climbing Mount Improbable*, *Unweaving the Rainbow* and *A Devil's Chaplain*.

Dawkins sees the phenotypes (organisms such as plants or animals) as vehicles for the replicators (the genes), rather than the genes simply providing the instructions for the plants or animals. Evolution is regarded as occurring by means of the non-random selection of random mutations of the information in the genes. He illustrates this by showing how rapidly a series of 28 keyboard characters can be made to non-randomly select the phrase 'methinks it is like a weasel' from a pre-programmed computer. As McGrath points out, evolution, unlike a pre-programmed computer, is not supposed to be prescient. By making the genes the motive force rather than the phenotype, Dawkins dispenses with morality - genes have no moral sense. Dawkins says that evolution is a fact that disposes of the notion of God. But the scientific method is incapable of adjudicating the God hypothesis, either one way or the other. Further, a God who uses

secondary causes like natural selection (as with variation within a kind) is not thereby redundant. McGrath points out that there are many like himself who are both Christians and evolutionists. (CSM would say that theistic evolutionists are unbiblical in their theology and have allowed themselves to be deluded in their science.)

Dawkins attacks William Paley's natural theology as 'gloriously and utterly wrong'. McGrath agrees that seeing design as the handiwork of God is not fool-proof. He is very critical of this watchmaker approach, which your reviewer finds strange. Passages of Scripture such as Psalm 19:1 (The heavens declare...) and Romans 1:20 (the invisible things of Him...) take that very line of argument, while the Intelligent Design movement has also taken this up to good effect with Behe's 'irreducible complexity' thesis. Dawkins, in his *Blind Watchmaker* and *Climbing Mount Improbable* says that precise design and contrivance are the result of a series of tiny chance changes over vast periods of time. McGrath, as a theistic neo-Darwinist does not challenge this perspective.

Dawkins, like Darwin before him, finds the idea of a deity who creates parasites repugnant. The problem of pain is a stumbling block. The idea of eternal damnation of those who reject God's grace is unacceptable. This is all the result of neglecting scriptural history of a 'very good' Creation followed by the Fall in Eden.

Faith, according to Dawkins, means blind trust, 'in the absence of evidence, even in the teeth of evidence'. He goes on to describe faith 'as a kind of mental illness'. Yet other writers like Richard Swinburne

use probability theory to assess the belief that Jesus Christ is God incarnate. As McGrath says, Dawkins, not Swinburne, is meant to be the scientist. Faith is evidence based. Is atheism itself a faith, he asks? Dawkins' atheism is grounded in Darwinism and McGrath argues that Darwinism is neither atheistic, agnostic nor theistic. CSM argues that Darwinism is plain wrong - unscientific. It is the only alternative to Creation by God, and so opens the door to agnosticism and atheism. Dawkins rightly points out that a Creator would be immensely complex and therefore an entity of very low probability. But this is not a valid argument that a Creator does not exist.

Scientific theories have a habit of becoming redundant, superseded by fresh paradigms. Dawkins recognises this with regard to Darwinism, which may have to be considerably modified or even abandoned in the future. What then, asks McGrath, becomes of the worldview built upon Darwinism?

Where Dawkins' writings deal with religion rather than science, strong rhetoric comes to the fore. 'Here anecdote displaces evidence, and alternatives are generally rubbish. The tone of these writings is aggressive and dismissive, and shows little, if any, attempt to take alternatives seriously.' He considers religion the greatest evil. But as McGrath points out: 'One of the greatest ironies of the twentieth century is that many of the most deplorable acts of murder, intolerance, and repression were carried out by those who thought that religion was murderous, intolerant and repressive...' Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot and other mass murderers were not Christians.

One of McGrath's five chapters is spent considering cultural Darwinism, the curious 'science' of Memetics. Dawkins coined the term meme to describe what he considered a cultural replicator analogous to the biological replicator, the gene. Like Herbert Spencer in the 19th century and E O Wilson in the 20th, Dawkins wants to apply evolution theory to human behaviour. He speaks of a meme for religion to explain why the majority of people believe in a First Cause, when he knows there is no God. But all of his remarks apply equally to a meme for atheism, if such memes exist. Dawkins idea that belief in God is a virus of the mind would also apply to atheism. The meme idea is redundant since the normal means of information transfer are sufficient to explain the spread of culture. There is no direct evidence for the existence of memes, nor has anyone any idea where they might reside and operate. By contrast we know the chemistry of genes and their location on chromosomes in the nuclei of cells. We know how genes pass on their information. Not so with Dawkins' memes. If memes really existed, they would deny the reality of reflective thought.

The final chapter deals with the tension between science and religion. Alister McGrath sees the idea that the Almighty created each form of life separately as an 18th century aberration, lingering on in some quarters today. He says that warfare between science and the church flared up in the second half of the 19th century, but today there is a growing rapprochement. Dawkins is being left behind in his insistence that only science holds the truth and that religion is evil. Maybe McGrath is equally mistaken in embracing the pseudo-science of Darwinism.

The book has much value in exposing the errors in Dawkins' logic, even though it ignores the main problem centred on creation and evolution theory. There are over 20 pages of notes, 12 pages of bibliography and an index. In view of the prominence of Richard Dawkins' atheistic outbursts in print and elsewhere, this reviewer finds *Dawkins' God; Genes, Memes and the Meaning of Life* a useful antidote to be read with discernment.

David Rosevear

Theistic Evolution

Here at CSM we are very aware of the danger of this compromise position. The 'God used evolution' brigade ignores all the scientific difficulties over evolution, but they nevertheless want to regard themselves as Christian. Yet Christians are those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Bible proclaims as the Creator. He said He is Lord of the Sabbath; that is, the one who rested after the 6 days. When asked about divorce in Matthew 19:4 and Mark 10:6, we read that He quoted from both Genesis 1 and 2. He also spoke of a literal flood in the days of Noah. All of the New Testament writers take Genesis, with Adam and Eve, Creation and the Fall, Cain and Abel, Enoch and Noah, as literally true. Are these theistic evolutionists better placed to understand these things than Christ Himself? Full-blown evolutionists, unlike theistic ones, see no need of a Creator.

The May/June issue of IDEA, the organ of the Evangelical Alliance, published an article from a theistic evolutionist standpoint. Following representations from creationists they commissioned CSM Vice-President Professor Andy McIntosh to write on young-earth Creation for their July/August number.

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

23 April p.32 Whatever happened to machines that think?

In 1950 Alan Turing of enigma code fame proposed the Turing Test to decide whether a computer is exhibiting intelligent behaviour - you hold a conversation generated by the machine and are unable to say it is not a person who is talking with you. With computing power increasing at an ever greater rate, a \$100,000 prize has been offered for the first creator of software that can achieve this goal. **"While some conversations (with so-called chatbots) have promising starts, all descend into the type of gibberish that only artificial intelligence can produce...The problem with chatbots is a symptom of a deeper malaise in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). For years researchers have been promising to deliver technology that will make computers we can chat to like friends, robots that function like autonomous servants, and one day, for better or worse, even produce conscious machines. Yet we appear to be as far away as ever from any of these goals."**

Although computers can vastly outperform humans in doing complex calculations once the data and software are given, they cannot be made conscious and self-aware. They cannot **"develop qualities such as compassion and wisdom which are uniquely human, the result of our emotional upbringing and experience... Where could the secret to intelligence lie? According to Mitchell, the human brain is the place to look. He has been using functional magnetic resonance to see which parts of the brain become**

active when a person thinks about a specific object... The clue that Mitchell thinks is significant is that the same part of the brain seems to be responsible for both reasoning and perception.”

Humans, with their conscious personalities and intelligence, are created in the image of God. And like their Creator, they too can create. Making powerful computers is one thing, but creating conscious personalities is quite another. *Rossum's Universal Robots* was a fictional play; the idea that man could be like God, creating people out of robots.

The \$100,000 is safe.

23 April p.42 Encore!

Four decades ago, Linus Pauling suggested that it **“ought to be possible to take the DNA sequences of a given gene from several species of living organisms and work backwards to deduce the sequence of their common ancestor. By creating the ancestral gene and giving it the molecular machinery it needs to make its protein, the resurrection would be complete.”**

Today we have data banks of genes and the ability to synthesize sequences cheaply. So will we be able to put evolution into reverse gear and make dinosaurs **“using well-established evolutionary genealogies?”** Don't hold your breath.

30 April p.19 Ripples cause cosmic doubts

“Ripples in the faint afterglow of the big bang do not seem to be scattered as randomly as expected. This casts doubt on the theory of inflation, a cornerstone of modern cosmology. According to the theory, space expanded violently a split second after the big bang.”

The inflation idea is one of a number of fudge factors necessary to make the big bang scenario of the beginning of the Universe fit observation. If no inflation, dark matter, dark energy etc., then no big bang and they will have to look for another explanation of how it all started.

‘Professing themselves wise...’

30 April p.46 Brains wide shut?

“The books-on-consciousness mills are running full tilt. Just about anyone who is conscious seems motivated to write on the subject, and most authors profess themselves emboldened to call their own contribution a theory of consciousness. Because the output is accelerating, it may be innocently assumed that something new has been discovered. Alas, the truth is quite the opposite: very little has been discovered. All this furious activity is reminiscent of the flood of speculative theories of life in the early decades of the 20th century. And for much the same reason: science is moving forward on the problem, but has not yet nailed down the answers - and no one really knows what the answers will look like.”

Consciousness and personality are in the mind. The brain is the organ that the mind employs, but personality is not simply a matter of computing power. We are not like the beasts. We are made in the image of God.

7 May p.40 Going for gold

Preparing these notes in the south of France in a heat wave, your commenter found this piece pertinent. It talks about the development of artificial tanning agents in face of the growing threat from skin cancers. It shows the irreducible complexity of the skin's own protection process that could not have evolved a little at a time.

“The natural tanning process results from our skin’s love-hate relationship with sunlight. We need a certain level of UV radiation to allow keratinocytes, the main type of skin cells, to manufacture vitamin D, essential for healthy bones. But too much UV causes DNA mutations, which can lead to skin cancer. To balance these conflicting requirements, evolution has come up with a natural sunscreen called melanin. This is a light-absorbing pigment that is manufactured from the amino acid tyrosine in cells called melanocytes, in response to a substance called melanocyte-stimulating hormone, or MSH. The cells release melanin from their long ‘tentacles’, and it disperses into surrounding keratinocytes...

“Perhaps surprisingly, it was only recently that scientists discovered how melanocytes detect that you have been in the sun. When UV rays damage the DNA in skin cells, repair enzymes excise short snippets of damaged DNA. In 1994 a team led by Barbara Gilchrest, a dermatologist at Boston University, showed that these DNA snippets seem to make melanocytes more responsive to MSH, so they release more melanin. Her studies also suggested that the snippets trigger an array of protective systems against sun damage. ‘Every time we look we find more protective pathways,’ says Gilchrest.” (Why would evolution bother to ‘come up with’ more than one mechanism?)

So sunlight damaged DNA is repaired, releasing DNA snippets that cause melanocyte skin cells to become more responsive to MSH, increasing melanin production from Tyrosine by the further enzyme tyrosinase. Skin cells and enzymes are extremely complex, so evolution by

chance doesn’t stand a chance. Unless all the parts of this mechanism of skin protection are in place, nothing works. Skin is not simply a well-fitting bag to keep our bodies up together. Moreover, as well as different kinds of skin cell, there are different layers (hypodermis, dermis, and epidermis), nerve sites for touch sensitivity, hair follicles and sebaceous glands to regulate cooling.

Which reminds me, it’s time to go for a swim and then a lie-down in the shade.

7 May p.76 Feedback

“...some slightly unfortunate phrasing from the BBC’s online health news: ‘Parliament must debate whether terminally ill patients should be given the right to die as early as possible after the election, peers said.’”

14 May p.4 Creationism fight

“Evolution is once more under attack in Kansas schools from what pro-science groups have branded a creationist ‘show trial’...

“The US prohibits teaching certain religions in state schools, but supporters of intelligent design claim it is science. Even so, a witness in Topeka admitted that the Judeo-Christian God is the intelligent designer. And lawyer John Calvert for the witnesses charged that science is itself ‘endorsing an ideology’ - atheism...Pedro Irigonegaray, a lawyer for scientists at the hearings, says, ‘We should not allow the minority to hijack education and send it back to the 16th century.’

“In 1999 the Kansas board of education adopted standards for schools that called for children to be taught alternatives to evolution. These were reversed in 2001 after a new board was elected.”

There are no laws in the UK to prevent creation being taught alongside evolution in science, but textbooks, the media and school teachers generally do not avail themselves of this way of stimulating pupils' critical faculties.

14 May p.18 Multi-eyed jellyfish casts new light on Darwin's puzzle

"Box jellyfish, or cocoons, are bizarre, highly poisonous predators. 'These are fantastic creatures with 24 eyes, four parallel brains and 60 [excretory orifices]', says Dan Nilsson, a vision expert from the University of Lund in Sweden.

"The eyes occur in clusters on the four sides of the cube body. Sixteen are simply pits of light-sensitive pigment, but one pair in each cluster is surprisingly complex, with sophisticated lens, retina, iris and cornea, all in an eye only 0.1 millimetres across.

"The lens structure is unusual because the refractive index - the extent to which it bends light - is graded from one side to the other. Because the image is focused way behind the retina, it appears blurry. So cocoon eyes are good for spotting large, stationary objects, while filtering out unnecessary detail such as plankton drifting with the current. From here it would be an easy step to evolve an image forming eye."

This argument assumes that the complex eyes as well as the light-sensitive pits evolved by chance. It then uses the fact that images are deliberately slightly out-of-focus (with complex refracting lenses) to argue that a spot-on-focused eye could evolve from this by simply changing the focal length of the lens. One marvels that evolutionists can excrete such nonsense.

14 May p.30 No place like home

This is a beautifully illustrated article about our Milky Way galaxy. We are told that our Solar System is some 26,000 light years from the galactic centre. This is near enough for heavy elements to form but not too close to avoid violent supernova explosions. **"...the habitable middle ground may be surprisingly narrow."**

Of course, it could be said that being in the right place enabled us to evolve. Or just maybe an intelligent Designer put us in the most appropriate piece of galactic real estate.

14 May p.40 Life on Hadean Earth 4.5000,000,000,000 [sic] years ago

"So it seems that, far from being a 'magma ocean' with no atmosphere, the Earth 4.4 billion years ago was solid, cool and wet. And if there was liquid water then there had to be a thick atmosphere: otherwise the water would have boiled off...The idea of a mild, wet early Earth is suddenly on firm ground...we now know that, close to the dawn of its creation, the planet was ready for life."

This staggering turn-about in ideas of what the early Earth was like comes from studying zircon minerals from what is regarded as the Earth's basement rocks. If they knocked a few noughts off the supposed age (not to mention the extra four accidentally put in the heading) they would arrive at the Genesis 1 history!

21 May p.34 The golden age of dinosaurs

Here is a 16 page article, mainly about the recently discovered numerous and varied small dinosaurs and other fossils from the Yixian formation in China. Much is made of fibres on the bodies of many small dinosaurs. These seem to them to verify the claim that they were the ancestors of birds.

“Mei Long, the ‘soundly sleeping dragon’, is small enough to hold in your two hands. Its head is tucked under its forelimb, like a sleeping bird with its head under its wing.” Or maybe like a sleeping cat, with its head tucked underneath its paw. Mei Long has a long tail wrapped around its body. The 3D skeleton is in a layer of fine volcanic ash. Such layers are interspersed with sedimentary rock layers where fossils are squashed into 2 dimensions, but show fine detail of soft parts such as fibres that are optimistically called proto-feathers. The alternating layers are well over a kilometre thick. There is great diversity in the fossils: 20 sorts of birds, 20 new dinosaur types (so far), flowering plants, mammals (some with fur, including a badger-sized mammal with the remains of small dinosaurs in its stomach). Surely the best explanation of these beds is of rapidly deposited layers during intense volcanic activity and flowing water, with plants, reptiles, mammals and birds rapidly buried and fossilized. Sounds a bit like a global Flood!

The article spends some space wondering whether dino-birds learned to fly by running and flapping forelimbs or gliding out of the trees. **“One of their best arguments was that it wasn’t obvious how ‘ground up’ flight could have evolved, as runners would not benefit from the series of slight increases in arm and feather size needed to evolve wings.”** However, the famous annual experiments in human flight off of Bognor Pier suggest that gliding wouldn’t have been successful either.

“Sinosauropteryx had simple filaments; protarchaeopteryx had feathers very similar to those of a modern bird. But then a tiny dinosaur called microraptor threw a spanner in the works.”

Microraptor appeared to be a half way stage, a bit like Piltdown Man with its ape jaw and man’s skull. Microraptor’s **“front half was clearly bird-like, but the back half bore the unmistakable long stiff tail of a dromaeosaur - the fast-running ground dwellers from which birds supposedly evolved.”** Embarrassingly for bird evolution, that is exactly what it was. Some inscrutable Chinese farmer had added value to the fossils by cementing two types together. National Geographic had egg on its face, both bird and dinosaur egg.

But the *New Scientist* article persists: **“It is now clear that birds evolved from dinosaurs.”** The article shows a chart alleging dinosaur-to-bird evolutionary relationships beginning with stegosaurus that would have had great difficulty getting off the ground either by running or gliding, then a few dinosaurs with filament-like covering, then the feathered archaeopteryx and finishing with modern birds. Such a chart proves nothing about ancestry.

So was archaeopteryx a dinosaur or a bird? The Natural History Museum in London has the only specimen whose skull has not been completely flattened. After 6 hours in a CT scanner in Texas, a 3D representation of the inside of the skull was made. **“What these scans revealed was that, beneath the skull, archaeopteryx had much in common with a modern bird... ‘It definitely had a flight-ready brain.’ One revelation was the size and shape of the delicate semicircular canals in the inner ear, which are crucial for balance. They were highly arced like those of modern birds, a trait associated with an acrobatic or aerobic lifestyle. As for the brain itself, archaeopteryx had massive bird-like visual centres jutting out from either side of the brain, and the apparatus for a superb sense of hearing. But perhaps the**

most notable feature was a hefty cerebellum - the brain's 'autopilot', where sensory information is coordinated and integrated. Its relative size was far larger than even the birdiest dinosaurs, which include velociraptor. That is the real neural advance, says Rowe. 'Integration is ultimately what it is all about - how you put senses together and make decisions.'

So archaeopteryx was a fully developed bird, not a missing link. The fact that its skeleton was similar to that of compsognathus, a small dinosaur, is due to both birds and dinosaurs standing on two legs, having forelimbs and laying eggs. Dinosaur lungs have not been preserved, but birds and reptiles today have very different lungs, as well as metabolic rates.

So despite frauds, wishful thinking, and CT scans, the evolution of dinosaurs to birds has proved to be a flight of fancy.

11 June p.3 Not black and white

"Few topics are as contentious as race. The idea and its history, from eugenics onward, are tainted, and whenever it knocks up against science problems quickly surface. So expect fierce debate in coming weeks as the US Food and Drug Administration considers whether to license a heart drug, BiDil, for black people only.

"It was European naturalists in Victorian times who popularized the notion of race. But trouble set in as soon as the concept was subjected to systematic study, and all attempts to unambiguously assign individuals to one race or another according to their physical characteristics have failed. Attempts to use genetics initially fared no better. Looking at single genes,

researchers found more variety within racial groups than between them."

Francis Galton, using his uncle Charles Darwin's theory, invented the pseudo-science of eugenics. This offered 'scientific' justification for the racist ideas of Hitler and others in Europe and the USA. The science of genetics underlines the fact that we are all children of Eve. Distinguishing features are the result of variation within a kind, with different created alleles acted upon by natural selection.

11 June p.4 Creationism gaffe

This paragraph reports how the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC agreed to sponsor and screen in their auditorium the Intelligent Design film 'The Privileged Planet' before an invited audience. Following complaints from the evolutionist lobby, the Smithsonian admitted its blunder. It had to allow the showing to go ahead as contracted, but refused the \$16,000 fee and withdrew its sponsorship.

[This DVD is available from CSM.]

11 June p.4 Bellamy bows out

David Bellamy has admitted that his figures on glaciers (reported here in June) were incorrect.

11 June p.4 Lab confessions

"To seek the truth about life, the universe and everything – the lofty goals of science. But it seems scientists cut corners just as much as the rest of us. Questionnaires returned by 3247 researchers in the US National Institute of Health reveal that bad behaviour is rife. A third confessed to at least one of the top ten 'sins' listed."

The ‘sins’ in these anonymous responses included fraud, falsification or plagiarism, changing the design, methodology or results of a study to suit a sponsor, suppressing data and inadequate record keeping. There is a strong temptation to selectively report results to fit in with your own expectations or those of your funding authority. It is this attitude that prevents results supporting Creation seeing the light of day in science publications.

11 June p.9 No need to guess the sex of she-rex

“Now a structure called medullary bone, which is otherwise found only inside the leg bones of female birds, has been identified inside the femur of a 68-million-year-old *T. Rex* fossil named B-rex. In birds, medullary bone is densely mineralised and rich in blood vessels. It acts as a store of calcium that can be quickly mobilised when it is needed to form eggshell.”

“The *T. rex* medullary bone is similar to that in today’s emus and ostriches, which are close to the evolutionary roots of modern birds. The similarity bolsters the idea that birds evolved from theropod dinosaurs...”

This is an unwarranted conclusion. Dinosaurs and emus both lay eggs with calcium-rich shells, so both need a source that can be rapidly accessed, and that will not deprive the creatures’ bones of calcium, causing osteoporosis.

11 June p.18 Ice-cold eruption

“The Cassini spacecraft has found a giant methane-spewing volcano on Saturn’s moon Titan.”

So methane is provided by volcanoes, and not necessarily by bacteria as had been suggested. Life did not evolve on Titan.

18 June p.21 Junk DNA keeps a vole devoted

“One piece of so-called ‘junk’ DNA appears to have a surprising role. In voles at least, a particular stretch of non-coding DNA seems to control a male’s fidelity.”

“Junk DNA makes up at least 95% of the human genome. Young says that microsatellites [repetitive DNA sequences that do not code for protein] in the regulatory regions of genes can create diversity in behavioural traits between individuals. ‘They can be a mechanism for rapid evolution and adaptation,’ he says.” The term ‘junk’ DNA is reminiscent of ‘vestigial organs’ of an earlier generation of evolutionists. Both are misnomers. The organs do have uses, and so does the so-called junk. The terms reflect the view that organs and DNA evolved by chance, rather than being designed. Variation in DNA is responsible for adaptation. Rapid evolution is the secularist’s name for adaptation (see 9 July below).

18 June p.41 The little troublemaker

“The remains unearthed recently at the Liang Bua cave on the Indonesian island of Flores broadly resembled early hominins [formerly called hominids – Ed] ...despite having a chimp-sized brain, they were found with stone tools of a kind that until now have only ever been found in association with modern humans.”

At first the team of archaeologists thought the 105 cm (3foot 6inch) find was a child, but the worn wisdom teeth told a different story. The pelvis was that of a female. Although the bones were not fossilised, they were dated at 18,000 years old. The brain volume was only 400 cc. – a third of today’s average. The associated stone tools

were sophisticated, like stone-age man's. Legends from the area speak of little people who were massacred 300 years ago. One worker said: **“What she really represents is how little we know about human evolution.”**

Andrew Sibley wrote on our website (www.csm.org.uk/News archive that 'Newspapers in Australia have covered an exciting story that a whole community of little people have been found on the Island of Flores, only 1km from the cave at Liang Bua where researchers recently found remains of the tiny, and inappropriately named 'Hobbit' individual. This living community of 77 families was found in the village of Rampapasa by a team led by Professor Teuku Jacob between the 18th and 24th April 2005. This find will severely embarrass the evolutionary community who accepted evidence for a new species of human without question.'

So the un-fossilised bones are most likely a recent burial of a pygmy human whose relations are still living in the same area. A month after their discovery *New Scientist* is still reporting speculation about hominins!

18 June p.51 Review of Why Birds Sing, David Rothenberg, Basic Books, 2005

“Yes, we know it is about mating and territory, but why do they sing? The thing that bothers Rothenberg is that birdsong is more beautiful than it needs to be. Or to put it more objectively, more elaborate than it needs to be. Or, crucially for Rothenberg, far more musical than it needs to be. It's almost as if they are enjoying themselves.

“Have you ever watched jackdaws on a windy day? Instead of clinging to a perch and waiting for the whirling weather to pass, they get out and ride a Ferris wheel of air with scarcely a flap, just a subtle

shaping and reshaping of the wing. There is no survival advantage conveyed by this behaviour: no food, no territory, no mate to win, no rival to be vanquished. It seems they ride the wind for the same reason that humans go surfing. Horses gallop about a field because it's a nice day. A seagull glides the eddies and updraughts along a cliff edge for no apparent reason other than the love of flight. And a bird sings – well, it sounds an awful lot as if the pure love of singing has something to do with it. As Rothenberg remarks, art and science converge here in mutual confusion: neither capable of finding the last word on the matter.”

'All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee.' Ps 145:10

2 July p.30 End of the beginning

“What if the big bang never happened?”

The article points to various evidences that are the smoking guns of this scenario; then asks: **“Or are they?”** It goes on to report on the first ever Crisis in Cosmology conference in Portugal. **“There they argued that cosmologists' most cherished theory of the universe fails to explain certain crucial observations... The basic big bang model fails to predict what we observe in the universe in three major ways. The temperature of today's universe, the expansion of the cosmos, and even the presence of galaxies, have all had cosmologists scrambling for fixes. Every time the basic big bang model has failed to predict what we see, the solution has been to bolt on something new – inflation, dark matter and dark energy.”**

The tinkering, the dissidents say, has reached an unacceptable level. **“This isn't science,” says Eric Lerner... ‘Big bang predictions are consistently wrong and**

are being fixed after the event.’...Take the most distant galaxies ever spotted, for example. According to the accepted view, when we observe ultra-distant galaxies we should see them in their youth, full of stars not long spawned from gas clouds. This is because light from these faraway galaxies has taken billions of years to reach us, and so the galaxies must appear as they were shortly after the big bang. But there is a problem. ‘We don’t see young galaxies,’ says Lerner. ‘We see old ones.’...‘They are pretty much the same range of stars as present-day galaxies.’

Lerner wonders if the red shift is not due to an expanding universe, but he has some other explanation, intrinsic to light.

“Without an expanding universe, there would be no need to invoke dark energy to account for the apparent acceleration of that expansion.”

The conference members noted that if there was no big bang, there is no need to postulate a vast amount of invisible dark matter to enable galaxies to clump together and to prevent them being flung apart as clusters of galaxies rotate rapidly.

Of course, one still has to account for the universe starting from nothing, something that contradicts the First Law of Thermodynamics that says you can’t get something for nothing. Only the biblical creationist has a satisfactory explanation – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

9 July p.28 In the blink of an eye

This piece talks about what it calls rapid evolution, and how human interference can even help it along. But all the examples cited are of variation within a kind – nothing to do with molecules-to-man macro-evolution.

“Charles Darwin himself pointed out the observable changes wrought by pigeon fanciers and dog breeders. A century later biologist showed that peppered moths in England’s industrial heartland had evolved darker colours to camouflage themselves against soot-blackened trees. And by the end of the 20th century everyone knew that bacteria, insects and weeds were able to evolve resistance to antibiotics and pesticides within a few years.”

Of course, a small proportion of those bacteria and weeds already had the immunity, usually through mutated genes, so when the antibiotic or pesticide killed off the ones without the natural immunity, the immune ones reproduced to fill the niche. In the absence of antibiotic or pesticide, the mutants are less fit than the normal types, so this is not progressive evolution.

“...among one species of [Galapagos] finch, individuals with small beaks do best in wet years, when small-seeded plants thrive, while their larger-beaked nestmates have the edge in drier years, when larger-seeded plants predominate. As a result, beak size see-saws back and forth rapidly.”

The article notes that elephants with small tusks and bighorn sheep with smaller horns flourish in the presence of trophy hunters. Cod populations produce smaller fish as a result of commercial fishing with nets that allow the smaller fish to get away. These population shifts have nothing to do with evolution.

16 July p.5 Creationist reverse

This brief item reports that following widespread protests, the state-run zoo in Tulsa, Oklahoma (see front page) has reversed its decision to install a display on the biblical account of Creation.

16 July p.16 Soundbites

“Evolution in the sense of common ancestry might be true, but evolution in the neo-Darwinian sense – an unguided, unplanned process of random variation and natural selection – is not’. Christoph Schönborn, cardinal archbishop of Vienna and close associate of Pope Benedict XVI, attempts to clarify the late Pope John Paul II’s 1996 statement which said evolution was ‘more than just a hypothesis’ (*The New York Times*, 7 July)”

23 July p.5 Pope questioned

“Three prominent US scientists have asked the new pope, Benedict XVI, to clarify the Roman Catholic church’s views on evolution, and to reject a piece in *The New York Times* last week by Austrian cardinal Christoph Schöborn, a close associate of Benedict, which said that the church does not accept ‘neo-Darwinian dogma’... prominent Catholic evolutionists Francisco Ayala ... and Kenneth Miller ... have asked Benedict not ‘to build a new divide, long ago eradicated, between the scientific method and religious belief.’”

Evolutionists’ claims that belief in a literal Genesis 1 is a 20th century novelty shows their ignorance of historical writings. Similarly, claims that the divide between creation and evolution is a thing of the past ignores the fact that the majority of the world’s population are creationists.

23 July p.20 Letters

Readers’ response to the *NS* 9th July issue criticising creationism and intelligent design was four letters, all lampooning creation and bordering on the blasphemous. However, **30th July p.18 Letters** are more balanced, with 3 pro- and 3 anti- creationist

letters. David Vardy of Emmanuel Schools Foundation pointed out that their College follows the national curriculum in teaching evolution theory in science classes. The biblical view is taught in religious education lessons. **“The national curriculum for science also states specifically that students should understand that scientific data can be interpreted in different ways and produce different theories.”**

30th July p.42 Book review of *The Evolution-Creation Struggle* by Michael Ruse, Harvard University Press, 2005

Ruse and the reviewer argue that both myth and scientific truth have their place!

“But the biblical creation myths were never intended as definitive dogma either. The first chapter of Genesis, which was almost certainly written by a priestly author (often referred to as ‘P’) who had been deported to Babylon after the destruction of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC, became the most famous creation account, but it was not the only one. The biblical editors placed it right next to another story that contradicts P’s in several important respects... Much of the heat could be taken out of the evolution versus creation struggle if it were admitted that to read the first chapter of Genesis as though it were an exact account of the origins of life is not only bad science; it is also bad religion.”

Rubbishing the beginning of God’s Word using the discredited ‘higher criticism’ ideas may defuse the struggle, but does not leave one with the truth. The Lord Jesus Christ and all the New Testament writers attribute the Pentateuch to Moses, and speak of a historical Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Enoch, Noah and the Flood.

Biblical Inerrancy

The items from *New Scientist* on the previous page epitomize the tactics used by the evolutionary establishment in order to side-line Creation. The correspondents (July 23rd) tell the general public that creation science is anti-science, and that its adherents are foolish bigots. Where an influential office like the papacy seems to sound an uncertain note, the scientists claim that it would be divisive to espouse creationism. Addressing Christians in general, evolutionists say that the Bible and evolution theory can readily be reconciled. However, concord is not achieved by adjusting neo-Darwinism but by re-interpreting Scripture. Genesis is said to date from the Babylonian captivity, Daniel's prophecies to have been written much later, and the Gospels are second-hand accounts penned in the 2nd century.

This low view of God's Word is at variance with what the Lord Jesus Christ said, and with what the Bible says of itself.

Jesus said that till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. He said that "My word shall not pass away". He told unbelievers "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God", and enjoined them to search the Scriptures to find eternal life and learn of Him.

Both Old and New Testaments warn against adding to or taking away from the words of this book. It claims to be true from the beginning and to be forever settled in heaven.

So the Creation Science Movement not only argues for scientific facts supporting Creation and refuting evolution theory, but we also contend for the Word of Truth. The current pamphlet, number 357, is 'The Early Writing of the Gospel', by Dr Bill

Cooper, a member of Council of CSM. The pamphlet quotes from the 6th century writer Gildas who claims that the written Gospel arrived in Britain in the last years of Tiberius Caesar (died 47AD). Bill also refers to *The Jesus Papyrus* by Dr Carsten Thiede, published in 1996, showing that the Magdalen Papyrus, fragments of Matthew's Gospel found in Egypt, is a copy dating from the 40s, less than a decade after the Resurrection. The pamphlet draws on several ancient sources to outline the history of those members of the British King Carodoc's family who are mentioned by the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 4:21.

Particularly poignant is Paul's enigmatic salutation to their mother and his, in Romans 16:13. This is a remarkable insight by Dr Cooper that I have not found explained anywhere else. You are going to really enjoy this scholarly piece.

Quotable Quote

"Evolutionists have 'Physics Envy'. They tell the public that the science behind evolution is the same science that sent people to the moon and cures diseases. It's not.

"The science behind evolution is not empirical, but forensic. Because evolution took place in history, its scientific investigations are after the fact – no testing, no observations, no repeatability, no falsification, nothing at all like Physics ... I think this is what the public discerns – that evolution is just a bunch of just-so stories disguised as legitimate science."

John Chaikowski, 'Geology v. Physics', *Geotimes*, vol. 50, April 2005, p.165.

(*Geotimes* is a secular, peer-reviewed journal.)

CSM Meetings

A series of meetings has been arranged by the Northampton Creation Group to be addressed, DV, by Dr David Rosevear, the CSM Chairman.

Friday September 16th, 7.30pm, URC Church, Kettering: 'The First 7 Days'.

Saturday September 17th, 8.30am breakfast meeting, URC Church, Daventry, 'Dinosaurs and Fossils'.

Saturday September 17th, 7.30pm, The Abbey Centre, Overslade Close, East Hunsbury, Northampton, 'Origin of the Universe'.

Contact for all three meetings:

Dr Farid Abou-Rahme on 01604 766476.

The Anatomy of Evolution

by Frank Cousins

Frank Cousins was a member of the Council of the Evolution Protest Movement until 1966. (EPM changed its name to the Creation Science Movement in 1980.) Frank was the author of the book Fossil Man, as well as numerous CSM pamphlets. Sadly, he died before his final book could be published. Happily, it is now available on www.biblevoice.org, the website of a Christian broadcasting organisation.

In the beginning...

This new 20 page booklet is published by Young Life. It includes pieces on why Creation matters, human joints, Designer DNA, famous frauds and much else. It is available for £1-00 + P&P from YL. Order from Spring Cottage, Spring Road, Leeds LS6 1AD or www.younglife.org.uk.

Another Quote...

"What most people accept today as fundamental scientific knowledge is barely distinguishable from what organised religion became some centuries ago. The most damaging aspect of science today is widely promulgated theories that are contradicted by observation and experiment. In both cases, a story is mandated by authority and then defended by educational, economic and socio-political agencies." Halton Arp, a scientist with the Max Planck Institute in Germany, in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, vol. 14, no. 3, p. 447.

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