

# CREATION

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## Anti-creationist legislation

A recent article in Nature Online (<http://www.nature.com/news/2007/071010/full/449649c.html>) reported on a vote taken in Strasbourg on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The vote was in favour of its member states promoting evolution as “a fundamental scientific theory” and to “firmly oppose the teaching of creationism as a scientific discipline on an equal footing with the theory of evolution”. According to the article, the Council of Europe declared Creationism to be “...a potential threat to human rights and any attempts to incorporate it into science must be resisted”. However, apparently no hard evidence whatsoever was presented to support this claim.

The Council is an intergovernmental body responsible for, among other things, the European Convention on Human Rights. Fortunately the motion is not binding on the Council's 47 member states, but this attempt to marry human rights with only those beliefs deemed politically suitable - whether or not they are true - is a warning sign for those with any insight into human nature. More fuel for prayer.

## Seeing is believing

Evolutionists are fond of claiming that the eye, if designed, is badly designed and therefore it is actually strong evidence for Evolution and not Creation. But is this really the case? A study reported in May 2007, in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 104 indicates that the eye is even more profoundly well designed than previously realized.

When light enters the eye it must first pass through several layers of cells in the retina called Müller cells. Only after that does it reach the cells that convert the photons into electrical signals. This appears to be “unintelligent design” because these retinal cell layers seemingly obstruct the collection of a clear image; the arrangement is the “wrong way around” to what one might expect.

The Müller cells are, however, long and thin and are arranged parallel to the path of oncoming light. It has now been found that, far from obstructing the light, they act like fibre-optic cables: the light is transmitted straight through the retinal layers. The researchers noted, “Müller cells seem to mediate image transfer through the vertebrate retina with minimal distortion

and low loss. This finding elucidates a fundamental feature of the inverted retina as an optical system and ascribes a new function to glial cells.”

Who, one wonders, arranged this remarkable mediation? It would appear to be Evolutionists who have got things the “wrong way around”. See also the comments on pages 5-6.

## Something to crow about

An article on the BBC News website for 16 August 2007 reported on the amazing abilities of New Caledonian crows to make use of tools in their efforts to find food. These birds can shape twigs and leaves to form hooked probes with which to extract insect grubs from crevices too narrow to reach with their beaks alone.

A University of Auckland scientific study has now shown that the birds are capable of using a succession of two tools in order to obtain food. In experiments, a short tool enabled the birds to gain access to a longer tool, which in turn enabled them to reach their food. The experimenters noted that most of the birds managed this creative piece of reasoning on their first attempt. In subsequent experiments the location of the short and long tools was swapped around, but the birds quickly learned and adapted to this situation also.

The scientific team says that the birds’ ability to learn to use the tools in the correct sequence so quickly means they must be using analogical reasoning abilities, not just trial and error. No other species of crow in

the world is known to display this level of mental ability. Analogical reasoning is otherwise known only in human beings.

Clearly the ability to undertake something as highly developed as analogical reasoning is far more complex than just undertaking the task that the reasoning leads to. So where does this remarkable ability of the New Caledonian crows come from? And if it is of such obvious benefit to the New Caledonian crows, why has it not “evolved” more widely?

Does this mean, then, that we are most closely related to crows, and not to apes at all? Or doesn’t it rather indicate that the abilities of these crows did not evolve, but were given to them by a wise Creator? As reasoning beings, we can come to the reasonable conclusion for ourselves.

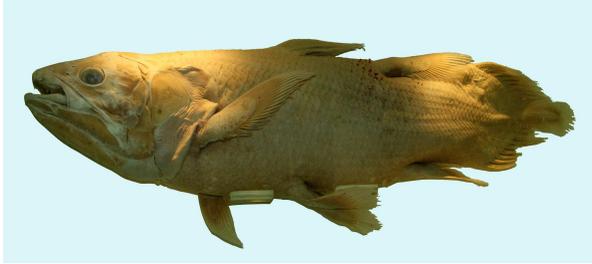


New Caledonian crow as featured on the island’s stamps

## Old and new

Also on the BBC News website, on 01 August 2007, was a report of the discovery of a fin of a fossil coelacanth claimed to be 400 million years old from sediments in northern Wyoming. In the same article the

discovery was reported of a live coelacanth captured by a fisherman off the coast of Manado in Indonesia. The article failed to mention any evolutionary differences between them.



Preserved coelacanth on display in the Natural History Museum, London

Coelacanths were thought to have been extinct for many millions of years until one was caught off the coast of South Africa in 1938. Since then more than 300 have been found off the Comoro Islands and eastern Africa and just a single example from Indonesia, in 1998.

Dr Peter Forey, a coelacanth expert at the Natural History Museum, London, is reported as saying, “The fact that the two populations are separated by this enormous gap of thousands of miles begs the question of how long ago and why they separated...Estimates from the genetic fingerprinting carried out on the fish caught in 1998 suggest that they separated about four to five million years ago, however if you look at the geology of the oceans, it suggests that they should have separated about 30 million years ago”.

This is a very revealing comment. Not only does it tacitly admit that two different methods for estimating evolutionary age

give such very different results that the reliability of one or both of them is questionable, but also that scientists are left puzzled by the present-day distribution of the two discrete coelacanth populations.

However, if one disregards the evolutionary propaganda then a much clearer picture presents itself: that of two relict populations of a once more predominant group which was greatly affected and greatly reduced by the catastrophic circumstances of the Flood and the changes it wrought.

## Dinosaur creche

The Times Online website for 20 September 2007 reported on the discovery of a dinosaur “creche”. Fossils of six young *Psittacosaurus*, all thought to be less than three years old, were found side by side entombed in volcanic debris near Yixiang, Liaoning Province, China.

Quite apart from the interesting information that this yields about dinosaur social behaviour, the discovery is noteworthy because it clearly demonstrates that these creatures died in a sudden catastrophe. By definition, sudden catastrophes do not take millions of years to occur, so the rock layers in which these dinosaurs were found must have accumulated very rapidly.

This is further evidence that uniformitarian assumptions of slow and gradual evolution over many millions of years are, even at best, somewhat naive. The evidence of the rocks supports the Creationist view that the Earth is only a few thousand years old.

# Neanderthal hair colour

The BBC News website for 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007 reported on a scientific study at the University of Barcelona that has been examining samples of DNA taken from the bones of two Neanderthals. The bones were found at Monte Lessini in Italy and at El Sidron cave in northern Spain.

The study has found part of a gene called MC1R. In present-day humans this gene influences hair colour: a variant of the gene causes red hair. The researchers found a variant of MC1R in the Neanderthal samples that is not known in present-day humans but which they say also causes red hair colour. Dr Carles Lalueza-Fox, an assistant professor at the university, is quoted as saying, “In Neanderthals, there was probably the whole range of hair colour we see today in modern European populations, from dark to blond right through to red”.

The article goes on to say that DNA is notoriously difficult to obtain from “very old” specimens such as these. Dr Lalueza-Fox is reported as saying, “This was a bit like finding a needle in a genomic haystack. I couldn't believe we found it the first time. I asked my friends to repeat the results. Eventually the variant was found in two separate Neanderthals in three different labs”.

In present-day humans the variant of MC1R that causes red hair colour also causes a pale skin. A paler skin enables an individual to manufacture vitamin D more easily through the action of sunlight. This is an obvious advantage in areas of the world that experience less sunshine, such as northern

Europe, which is well known for its blonde and red-headed people.

In experiments to test the effect of the Neanderthal gene variant on hair and skin colour, the researchers inserted it into a human cell called a melanocyte. Such cells produce melanin, a dark pigment that gives skin, hair and eyes their colour. The researchers report that the Neanderthal form of MC1R had the same effect on the melanocyte as present-day human variants of the gene which produce red hair.

The same article also reports on a separate study by Dr Lalueza-Fox and his colleagues in which the DNA sequence for a gene called FoxP2 was extracted from



Reconstruction of a Neanderthal child by the Anthropological Institute, University of Zürich. Photograph (from Wikipedia, in the public domain) courtesy of Christoph P.E. Zollikofer.

Neanderthals. Present-day people have several changes in this gene that are absent in chimpanzees. The researchers found that Neanderthals shared these key differences in FoxP2 with present-day humans.

So there we have it. The researchers have given good evidence that Neanderthals probably had a range of hair colour and skin colour just like you and me, and also have the same changes in the gene FoxP2 as you and me. How could this be? Unless of course they were people essentially... just like you and me.

## Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist**

by *Dr David Rosevear*

### **4 August p.50 Book Review. The fight for America's soul**

The book *The battle over the meaning of everything* is a personal comment on the Dover School trial about the teaching of Intelligent Design in school. It is written by Gordy Slack who concedes 'an inclination, a proclivity, a prejudice' towards a world devoid of intention. He writes, in a chapter entitled 'Liars for Christ', that the school board members were shown to be dishonest **"Their best scientist (Michael Behe) was swallowed up by his own fog of detail, and the ID movement at large was shown to be downright deceitful... Slack draws the distinction between methodological materialism and philosophical materialism. The former is an absolute necessity of science – to exclude the possibility of supernatural forces."**

But surely the origin of everything had to have been supernatural; it couldn't have

been natural. And as for Noah's flood, if one excludes the possibility of the Creator intervening to judge His world, one can at least admit that the sediments and fossils, erosion and volcanism on a massive scale were catastrophically rapid.

**"Though clearly not the theist his father, a creationist, is, Slack concedes a moment of his own spiritual vulnerability when he admits having prayed as if he believed in God when his son lay in a hospital bed."**

### **11 August p.36 Evolution's greatest mistakes**

If the assumed evolution process is blind, one can expect poor design. A perfect Creator doesn't make bloomers, so bad design must rule out Intelligent Design. Of course, in a fallen world the second law of thermodynamics ensures that things deteriorate over time.

So what are these bad designs? Well, for a start, birds cope with low oxygen levels at great heights much better than humans because of the one-way flow of air through their lungs. **"Bird lungs are far superior to ours and, the more they are studied, the longer the list of their advantages becomes. We mammals might have been even more successful had we inherited or evolved similar lungs."**

But humans don't travel at speed against the wind, and even on horseback we manage to breathe with our diaphragm system. Insects do well with breathing through their skin, and an avian ventilation system would hardly suit them. It's horses for courses.

According to this list of bad designs, **"ageing evolved to get rid of old animals and to make room for the next generation."** There is dental as well as scriptural evidence that early men lived much longer and remained with their natural force unabated. The first Adam was not made with built-in obsolescence. Sentence of death was passed

after he had sinned. Rom. 5:12 says that sin came by one man, and death by sin. To live forever away from God in a cursed world would be torture. The second Adam, Christ, was the only other man ever born without a built-in bondage of corruption. He had power to lay down His life and to take it again. He deliberately died to take the penalty for our sin. Now we really can have eternal life in Him.

Another flawed design, according to this *NS* article, is the structure of the retina of the mammalian eye. **“The most famous flaw is found in vertebrate eyes. Their light-sensing structures, the retina, is wired back to front, with the light-sensitive cells behind the nerves and blood vessels that support it. Not only does light have to pass through this layer first, obscuring the image, but the nerves and blood vessels have to dive through the retina, creating a blind spot in each eye.”**

The writer is in error here. The choroid blood vessels are at the back of the retina in close contact with the pigment cells. This enables the blood supply not only to cool the pigment cells as they interact with the light, but also to repair the photo-pigment-containing discs by removing toxins and supplying nutrients. There are light pathways around the nerve fibres, and the brain puts the image together to give a perfect picture. (The brains of flies reconstruct the visible world offered by their compound eyes.)

Having proclaimed how inefficient the enzyme RuBisCo is in fixing CO<sub>2</sub> during photosynthesis, the article unblushingly quotes a Cambridge plant scientist: **“Arguably, RuBisCo is not inefficient, it’s as good as it could get”.**

Just maybe it was designed.

Other problems seen by the author are the appendix which he claims has no known function (wrong!) and the windpipe next to the gullet that allows one to choke. The latter is

necessitated by the unique ability of humans to use language. Apes don’t choke on their bananas because they are not designed to articulate words.

So it seems that all these apparent design faults are either ignorance on the part of the author, blinded by his desire to show the absence of a designer, or the fault of a fallen world where change and decay are the order of the day.

### **18 August p.10 Light seems to defy its own speed limit**

**“It’s a speed record that is supposed to be impossible to break. Yet two physicists are now claiming they have propelled photons faster than the speed of light. This would be in direct violation of a key tenet of Einstein’s special theory of relativity that states that nothing, under any circumstance, can exceed the speed of light.”**

Creationist physicist Barry Setterfield has plotted historical data for the measured speed of light and shown an exponential decay curve. If the light from distant stars has slowed down over time, then the universe is much smaller and younger than estimates based on a constant speed of light (see CSM pamphlet 262).

### **18 August p.15 Deep-space dust spirals into ‘life’**

**“Could life in deep space be made from mere inorganic particles of dust? According to a computer simulation, electrically charged dust can organise itself into spiral structures that behave in many ways like living organisms; reproducing and passing on information to one another.”**

Of course, a computer simulation of deep space dust is not quite the same as a double helix of nucleotides. Nor did they mention where the information came from. Did it have meaning and purpose?

**25 August p.14 Did a warm, wet comet kick-start life on Earth?**

**“If you buy a lottery ticket this week, what are the odds that you’ll win the jackpot then get struck by lightning as you pop open the champagne? Vanishingly small, but still much higher than the odds that life on Earth first evolved on our planet, according to an ardent proponent of the notion that life came from space.**

**“Chandra Wickramasinghe from Cardiff University, UK, has long argued the case for cometary panspermia, the idea that comets are infected with primitive life forms and delivered life to Earth. He says that the case has been bolstered by NASA’s Deep Impact probe, which blasted comet Tempel 1 with a projectile in July 2005. Observations made by the Spitzer Space Telescope hinted that clay particles spewed out from the interior...**

**“However, comet expert Michael Mumma from NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, says the existence of clays in comets is controversial because there is no clay in the samples of comet Wild 2 brought back by NASA’s Stardust craft in January 2006.”**

So leading expert C. Wickramasinghe admits that a naturalistic origin of life is virtually impossible here on Earth, and clutches at straws with hints of clay which comets experts say is controversial. Actually, man was indeed made here on Earth using clay (see Gen. 2:7), but history is not recognised by science.

**25 August p.21 A is for addle-brained**

Atheist Lawrence Krauss here takes a swipe at Richard Dawkins for not sticking to rational argument. Krauss writes:

**“This is not the first time Dawkins has tried to raise the profile of atheists. Recall that he, along with the philosopher Daniel Dennett, has previously urged atheists to relabel themselves as ‘brights’ in order to remove**

what many see as the stigma associated with the ‘atheist’ label.

**“Perhaps to make up for a religious symbol, the Dawkins website is selling T-shirts emblazoned with a large scarlet A, presumably for ‘atheist’. At the same time he has written a cogent plea for what he calls an ‘Out’ campaign, urging atheists to band together and come out and organise atheist events and organisations, speak out against religious nonsense, and vote out representatives who discriminate against atheists. To help motivate these actions, he argues that atheists are ‘more numerous than religious Jews, yet they wield a tiny fraction of the political power...**

**“Dawkins has a great record of using sound intellectual arguments to try to convince the faithful to abandon their faith and persuade non-believers to be open about their scepticism. But before embarking on this new effort to appeal to people’s emotions, he might have been well advised to consult a public relations firm. The scarlet A is strongly reminiscent of the A for ‘adulterer’ in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s classic novel *The Scarlet Letter*. I don’t know who thought that this, combined with the phrase ‘coming out’ with its gay connotations, and references to a ‘Jewish lobby’, would win hearts and minds in middle America, but I can’t imagine that it will...**

**“If one nevertheless decides to forgo an intellectual assault in favour of an emotional one, it would be wise to mount the campaign in a way that will, at the very least, not alienate the very communities one is trying to rally to the cause.”**

All rather amusing, but we mustn’t get too smug when high-profile atheists fall out in public, since Australian creationists have done the same thing to one another on their websites.

1 September p.32 Is God good?

**“It seems we are born with a sense of right and wrong, and no amount of religious indoctrination will change our most basic moral instincts...We do not need religion, but without it morality might never have evolved.”**

An extremely religious man once complained ‘The good that I would not, that I do. O wretched man that I am.’ He needed, not religion, but Christ’s Holy Spirit to be able to say ‘Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.’

The article goes on to link religious belief with moral behaviour, making folk less likely to turn to crime, be more caring, just and compassionate, generous and happier. It helps people quit smoking, drugs, alcohol and sexual promiscuity. How lucky that religion evolved!

8 September p.12 Bye-bye big bang, adios inflation

Here cosmologist Cristiano Germani recognises the drawbacks of standard big bang theory and so invents ‘slingshot’ theory. **“We don’t have any fundamental physical explanation for how or why it occurred’, he says, ‘yet cosmologists today accept it as though it is a religion’.** Germani’s alternative is based on string theory with 10 dimensional space. The article says that this model is unstable. Germani says, **“In the slingshot scenario we could have an ever-existing universe.”**

As one model is perceived to be unsatisfactory, yet another is dreamt up. They try anything, however weird, to avoid the truth that in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

8 September p.18 Don’t let our rare livestock go extinct

**“On average, one livestock breed is being lost to the world every month, as farmers switch to a handful of super-breeds like egg-laying White Leghorn chickens and the Holstein-Friesian dairy cow – now found in 128 countries. Farmers are giving up drought-resistant and insect-tolerant traditional breeds for the promise of more milk, eggs or meat from imported breeds.”**

Specialised cattle may give more meat, but their genomes carry fewer genes, so less information. With a change in climate, they may not cope with new conditions. When the Creator made the wild kinds, he put man in charge to breed plants and animals for particular conditions. The article argues that we need the equivalent of seed banks to preserve diversity in all creatures, using semen and eggs.

15 September pp 3&5 Not quite the end of the world with Prozac down, suicide up

**“One day, 5 billion years hence, our world will come to an end. By then, astrophysicists tell us, the sun will have exhausted the supply of hydrogen in its core and expanded to become a red giant, engulfing Earth. Our planet will simply evaporate away.”**

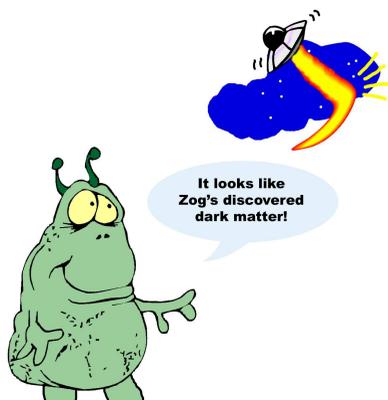
Health fears over the use of anti-depressants have led to a drop in their use. **“But while prescriptions fell, youth suicides increased over the next two years by 49 per cent in the Netherlands and 14 per cent in the US.”**

Schools teach only a relentless diet of evolutionary theorising, so that young people are having no hope and without God in the world. They should be being taught to be looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Soon!

## 29 September p.12 Dimmer outlook for dark matter

“Though we can’t see it, dark matter is supposed to make up 22 per cent of the universe. Now it turns out it might not exist at all.” A rival idea, MOND – modified Newtonian dynamics, might explain matters better. But to the uninitiated, MOND is as weird as dark matter. And for the initiated: **“No one knows what physics may underpin such a transition.”**

With the indispensable props of big bang theory being knocked from under it one by one, eventually there will have to be a replacement, however improbable that may be. But you can be sure it will not be back to Genesis 1.



## 29 September p.14 Hobbit hand waves away doubters

The small creature from Indonesia, *Homo floresiensis*, has now been shown to have a particular wrist bone just like a chimpanzee, but different from a human. It has a tiny brain, and its foot bones, upper arms and shoulder differ from humans.

## 6 October p.36 The truth about black holes

**“What do we really know about black**

**holes? That may sound like an odd question. Aren’t black holes and all their well-known attributes – the singularity, the event horizon, the ability to swallow light and matter – just part of the furniture of astrophysics? Strangely, no. Astronomers know of massive bodies that fit the bill, but for now black holes remain largely theoretical. So much so that some researchers even claim that they don’t exist...**

**“So the final answer to whether our black hole ideas are correct may have to wait until we can send a probe to a nearby candidate and have it transmit data as it makes its final plunge...”**

Scientists rule out a supernatural origin of the universe because they cannot see a Creator, so they have to postulate dark matter and black holes that they also cannot see. Creationists are thought to be believers in fairy tales. Yet so-called rationalists believe that once upon a time, nothing exploded into everything, with order arising from this explosion; that somehow inanimate chemicals assembled themselves together to form an incredibly complex living ‘simple’ cell that could reproduce itself; and that chance processes somehow kept on adding genetic information until *Homo credulousiensis* achieved enough imagination to work it all out.

## 13 October p.14 Supernova blow to dark energy studies

Here we go again!

**“Efforts to discover the nature of the mysterious force known as dark energy have been thrown into disarray by the discovery that supernovae are not as predictable as had been assumed.”**

It had been thought until now that type IA supernovae were all of the same brightness – standard candles. Their apparent bright-

ness as seen from Earth was thought to be a yardstick for how far away they are, and from this they have estimated the rate of expansion of the universe.

**“Now an investigation of supernovae by Andrew Howell of the University of Toronto, Canada, and colleagues has thrown the basis for such measurements into doubt.”**

They no longer know **“what dark energy actually is”**. Perhaps it isn't.

### **13 October pp.40-57 Cheating death**

This 'Opinion Special' looks at various aspects of dying. The problem is the ageing process, it seems, rather than death itself. The evolution of life is more concerned with a healthy body to reproduce its genes than with maintaining health once the genes have been passed on.

**“Advances in diagnostics and medicine are yet again changing our definition of death – and may eventually break down the concept altogether.”** Following brain-death, doctors can still keep the body ticking over with ventilators and the like. Can we upload the content of the human brain onto a computer, and gain immortality? The strides we make in postponing death might spark a new battle of the generations. Might it lead to elective suicide, euthanasia and restricted reproduction? How does it feel to die? Various causes of death are explored here. Macabre!

To take the taste of this away, I recommend you read the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians. O death, where is thy sting?

### **27 October p.14 Gene proves fingers formed from fins**

Swede Per Ahlberg has done it again! He once found an inch long bit of jaw bone in Elgin, Scotland that proved it belonged to

the first sea creature to crawl out on to the land. Here he proves that our ancestor was an Australian lungfish.

**“It brings a new meaning to the term fish fingers. Our fingers and toes really did evolve from the fins of ancient fish, a discovery that finally resolves a debate over where digits first appeared.**

**“All land animals with a backbone, otherwise known as tetrapods, evolved from lobe-finned fish that existed hundreds of millions of years ago.”**

Most lobe-finned fish lack bones that might evolve into digits, and their fins grow in a single stage. But **“tetrapod limbs develop in two stages: the limb bones appear first, then a gene called *Hoxd13* is switched on to grow the digits. Ahlberg's team has found that the fins of Australian lungfish also form in two stages, with the same *Hoxd13* gene controlling the growth of the radials. ‘It is powerful evidence that the radials of *Neoceratodus* [Ozzie lungfish] and the digits of the tetrapod are essentially the same thing.”**

QED or Just-So story?

### **27 October p.24 Not a case of black and white**

**“Last week James Watson, co-recipient of a Nobel prize for the discovery of the structure of DNA, made blatantly racist comments regarding the supposed mental inferiority of black Africans.”**

This article briefly discusses tests used to measure various aspects of intelligence, and how cultures may encourage some skills over others.

**“But there is nothing special about skin colour that serves as a basis for differentiating humans into so-called races. Skin colour correlates only weakly with genetic differentiations. Sarah**

**Tishkoff, a geneticist at the University of Maryland, and [Yale's Kenneth] Kidd have found that the genetic differences among black Africans are often greater than those between blacks and whites. The significance of those labels stems only from the fact that society has found it convenient to label races on the basis of skin colour."**

## **CSM subscription rate increase**

As mentioned in the previous issue of the Journal, it has unfortunately become necessary to raise subscription rates. Prices have been held for seven years, but the rising costs of paper, postage and sundries have risen regularly, along with the minimum wage for helpers. **For 2008 we are raising the rate to £10 UK, £12 overseas (£ Sterling).**

Please arrange with your bank to update your standing order where necessary. And whilst seeing to that, please would you also arrange that the bank gives us your postcode to ensure you are credited with the payment. Some banks or building societies still just give us an account number, leaving us with no idea who is paying their subscription!

A big thankyou to the many of you who send more than the subscription amount. This is especially welcome when we are hoping to extend the Genesis Expo and office and provide a seminar room.

## **Bananas, brains and the BBC**

CSM member Mrs Lillian Daly has kindly supplied copies of letters she sent to the BBC and the responses she received. Here is a quote:

"I will also cite the deceptiveness of the programme 'Walking with Cavemen' 2003 in which the producers attempted to explain how we descended from the ape. It showed a lion devouring a carcass and the 'ape-men' waiting outside for the leftovers. It was stated that it was eating meat that made the 'ape-men's' brains develop. Surely by this reckoning and by now, the lion would be head of Mensa!"

And again, in a further letter: "We also have 50% the same DNA as a banana - are we all half bananas?"

Interestingly, a BBC spokesperson replied that evolution "has been repeatedly tested and is the best explanation for all the known and testable facts about life on Earth".

Mrs Daly's reply asked about testability of a Big Bang, panspermia and ape-men. No reply! She sent the BBC a copy of her letter but again, silence.



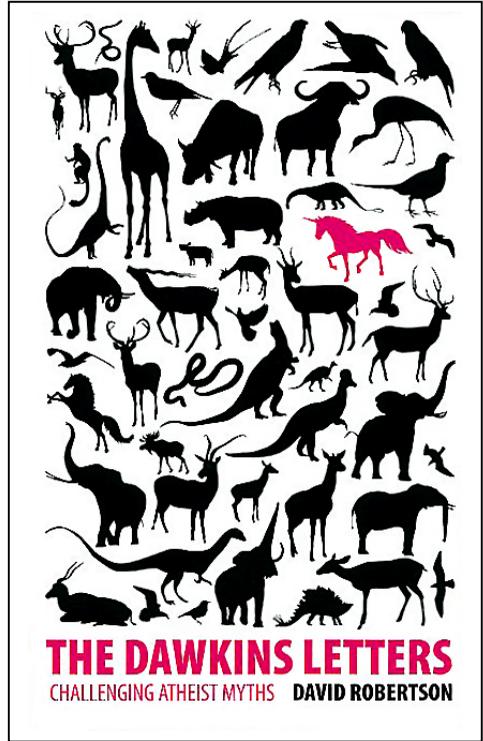
## New Publication

**The Dawkins Letter** by David Robertson, Christian Focus Publications, 2007, pb. 144pp, £4-99 from CSM.

This intelligent, robust response to Dawkins 'The God Delusion' first appeared as an open letter on his church website. It found its way on to Richard Dawkins' website, generating the largest response of any posting before or since. Written with insight and wit. DR

Alan Radcliffe-Smith, B.Sc.

We have temporarily lost a loyal friend with the home-call of Alan Radcliffe-Smith. Alan was Secretary of EPM (now CSM) for a few years from 1975, and authored some of our pamphlets. Alan travelled the world while working as a botanist for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. His meticulous attention to detail in his professional realm was carried over into his writing and balancing of finances for us. When he suffered a heart attack, the work was shouldered for a time by his wife Janet, whose passing we recently reported. We all appreciated Alan and Janet greatly. He leaves a son, David, to whom we offer our condolences. DR



*Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. Articles, letters, notes and other contributions from new writers are warmly welcome.*

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