Vol. 18 No. 8 May 2015



Journal of the CREATION SCIENCE MOVEMENT

Leaning Dinosaur

The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy must be one of the most instantly recognizable tourist attractions in the world. Ouite apart from that famous lean, however, is something that is not nearly so well known but possibly of even greater significance. On each side of the main door to the tower is a set of three carvings. Two of these represent a bull and a bear. They are detailed, accurately depicted and easily identifiable, even though they are now somewhat eroded. There is no reason to believe that the sculptor was carving anything other than representations of animals he was familiar with in everyday life. The third carving, positioned between the bull and bear, is sculpted with equally careful attention to detail. Logically the sculptor must have been familiar with it too. It is a dinosaur

I am of course using the word dinosaur in the popular sense of the word, but this is not what it would have been called by the sculptor and his contemporaries. They would have known it as a wyvern. A wyvern had a characteristic long twisting tail, a single pair of limbs, a pair of wings and was covered in scales. And that is exactly how this sculptor depicted it, as can be seen from the images below. But is this depiction exceptional? Not at all! There are many depictions and descriptions of wyverns and other creatures known from past centuries. Clearly people living in those times were well familiar with them and considered them to be part of the normal world around them. CSM has published a pamphlet (no. 396, More Historical Dinosaurs) giving more information on just a small selection of the huge amount of evidence available.



One of two wyverns on the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The other faces the opposite way and has a slightly different posture. Image: CSM.

Evolutionists of course refuse to believe the evidence in front of their eyes, claiming that dinosaurs died out millions of years before human beings arrived on the scene. But these timescales are based on assumptions that enormous are unverifiable and highly questionable (see CSM pamphlet no. 392, Evolution Full of Holes). It would seem that evolutionists stick with their theories (at all costs!) merely because these assumed timescales support their predisposition to an atheistic philosophy. As the old saving goes, "I've made up my mind; don't confuse me with facts!"

However, the discoveries in recent years of fossils of dinosaurs still containing soft tissues, heme, and other body components demonstrate convincingly that these fossils must be very much younger than the evolutionary timescales usually attributed to them, as otherwise these fragile parts would long ago have disintegrated and been lost.

The logical conclusion: we live in a young world, far too young for evolutionary theories to be true. Our world must therefore have been designed by an amazing Designer.

When no evolution is evolution

In what must surely be one of the most extraordinary examples of mental gymnastics ever performed by evolutionists, an international team of scientists has reported that a lack of evolution in bacteria for more than two billion years is evidence of... evolution. An article in *Science Daily* (http://goo.gl/M6G7zN, accessed 04 February 2015) reported on a research paper by lead author Prof. J. William Schopf of the University of California – Los Angeles and his colleagues.

The research team had been studying sulphur bacteria from coastal rocks in Western Australia that are supposedly 1.8 billion years old and comparing them with bacteria in rocks from the same region that are supposedly 2.3 billion years old. They found that the bacteria were indistinguishable from modern sulphur bacteria that live in mud off the coast of Chile.

From these data, you or I might come to the straightforward conclusion that an absence of evolution for this supposedly immensely long period is good evidence that the theory of evolution is wrong. Not so, according to this group of scientists. In what looks like a determined attempt to shore up the theory of evolution at all costs, Prof. Schopf is quoted as saying, "It seems astounding that life has not evolved for more than two billion years - nearly half the history of Earth... Given that evolution is a fact, this lack of evolution needs to be explained... The rule of biology is not to evolve unless the physical or biological environment changes, which is consistent with Darwin The environment in which these microorganisms live has remained essentially unchanged for three billion years...These microorganisms are welladapted to their simple, very stable physical and biological environment."

In other words, when something evolves, that's evidence of evolution, and when something doesn't evolve, that's also evidence of evolution - according to this research team. One is reminded of the old expression about someone trying to have their cake and eat it. These scientists appear to be in need of a refresher course in recognising when something is a fact and when it is not: when it is merely the product of a dogmatic philosophy.

Cataclysmic canyon

Scientists such as Prof. Schopf (see previous article) seem to think that some areas in this world have remained unchanged for billions of years. One wonders quite what they are basing this supposition upon, seeing that they haven't been observing it for the duration, and given that there is so much evidence that the earth's history has been cataclysmic.

In February the BBC News website (http://goo.gl/DChgir) reported on the discovery of yet another past cataclysmic event, in Iceland. According to a group of geologists at the University of Edinburgh, UK and the Deutsches GeoForschungsZentrum, Germany, the Jokulsargljufur canyon was carved out in just a few days. This canyon is 28km long, up to 100m deep and includes Europe's most powerful waterfall, Dettifoss.

Based on studies of cosmogenic isotopes in the rock walls of the canyon, the geologists believe that the canyon was formed in three very rapid flooding events that occurred two, five and nine thousand years ago, separated by long periods of relative calm. Needless to say, the use of cosmogenic isotopes to establish a timeline involves a number of assumptions, leading to timescales that cannot be confirmed and



The furious Dettifoss waterfall, just one small part of the enormous Jokulsargljufur canyon. Image: R. McLassus, Wikimedia Commons, under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 licence.

with which creationists would not agree. Nevertheless, the basic story remains the same – the canyon was formed rapidly, during catastrophic conditions.

This and many other examples of rapid erosion and/or sedimentation that we have reported upon in past issues of this Journal add yet more credence to the biblical account of the worst catastrophe that has occurred thus far in the history of this planet – the worldwide Flood of Noah. It should be a sobering thought therefore that the Bible warns us of an even worse cataclysm yet to come - see 2 Peter 3: 7-10 for details.

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

3 January 2015 p.38 – Easy rider

"The incredible flying skills of the albatross can teach us how to harness energy from the atmosphere."

This huge bird travels the southern oceans for years at a time without making landfall, at high speeds against strong winds, without so much as flapping its wings. What is its secret?

The 'Rayleigh cycle', a theory peddled by Lord Rayleigh in 1883, is based upon the fact that friction slows the winds close to the waves compared with its velocity 10 metres up. This creates a vertical gradient of wind speeds. "As the albatross flies into the wind just above the sea surface, it can use this gradient to gain altitude like a kite, riding the increasingly faster winds as it rises. Then it turns away from the wind and descends, gaining speed by diving. Finally, when the bird reaches its starting altitude it turns back into the wind in its original direction, only moving significantly faster." By using its aerodynamic wings to roll as it rises into the stronger winds, it can magnify the acceleration tenfold.

Now GPS tracking devices have been fitted to several birds. These have enabled researchers to confirm this Rayleigh cycle explanation. It is possible that these findings could be used to make drones that could achieve much higher speeds than birds because of stronger wings and air frames. There is even talk of using such engineless flying machines in towns, taking advantage of up draughts and wind patterns around high buildings. There is no end of possible applications.



Wandering albatross. Image: JJ Harrison, Wikimedia Commons, under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 licence.

Of course, the albatross has the edge over drones when it comes to collision avoidance. The drones must be designed. The albatross is much more complex than any man-made drone, so it, too, required a Designer.

17 January p.7 – Real-life Nessie

"Move over Nessie. A fossil of a prehistoric marine reptile that lived 170 million years ago has been found on the Isle of Skye. *Dearcmhara shawcrossi* was a 4.3-metre-long ichthyosaur that would have lived in shallow seas feeding on fish and squid." This is a typical example of mixing fact and un-falsifiable speculation. Fact: a fossil ichthyosaur has been found and measured; speculation: it lived in shallow seas millions of years ago.

It has been demonstrated both in the II field and in the laboratory that sediments are laid down rapidly under high energy conditions. This monster was most probably buried and petrified during the worldwide III flood some 4.3 millennia ago.

17 January p.14 – Chimps brains miss out on the groovy feature built into ours

French researchers have noted that the human brain has a 4.5-

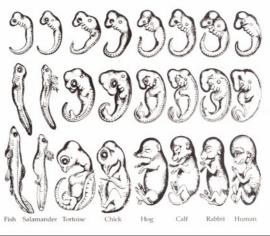
centimetre-long groove running deeper along the right side than the left. Chimp brains lack this asymmetry.

Our brains are three times the size of chimps, and our Broca's area that is involved in speech is also larger. We are unique in body, mind and spirit, being created in the image of God. They don't mention our big toes.

17 January p.41 - Drawn-out lies

This is a review of the book *Haeckel's Embryos: Images, evolution and fraud* by Nick Hopwood (\$45)

- "It's embarrassing but true: some of the most influential drawings in the history of biology are wrong, exaggerated to fit a thesis.
- "As we discover in *Haeckel's Embryos*, German biologist Ernst Haeckel included illustrations of the embryological stages of vertebrates in a series of books published between 1868 and 1908. Fudging the data, he placed the drawings into a comparative grid, highlighting similarities between species



A copy drawn by G. J. Romanes, 1892, of Haeckel's embryo drawings. Image: Wikimedia Commons, in the public domain.

and blurring differences. The results are highly inaccurate.

"Haeckel wanted to convince his readers that all vertebrates share a common ancestor, and that, as he put it, 'ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny' – our embryonic development repeats our evolutionary past. This aphorism was soon disproved, but the use of Haeckel's drawings persisted, particularly in education. There were waves of criticism from the 1870s when the drawings were published, up to 1997 as Haeckel's 'fraud' was rediscovered and exploited by creationists."

The review cites a textbook using these fraudulent pictures as recently as 1985.

Of course embryos show superficial similarities. Each starts with a fertilised egg. In the case of the human embryo, the developing parts of the jaw area look like creases that Haeckel interpreted as 'gill slits' that reflected our proposed fishy ancestry. They have nothing to do with respiration. Because the head and spine grow more slowly, they appear larger and longer in the embryo than in the new-born child. This 'tail' was seen as showing our ape-like forebears, though the larger head didn't fit the thesis. Our coccyx is a necessary anchor for muscles involved in defecation.

Darwin thought this pseudo-science offered strong support for his theory of evolution. One's hopes and expectations tend to dull the critical faculties.

24 January p.28 – Don't let Earth's tapestry unravel

Professor E O Wilson of Harvard University studies insects but his recent book is entitled *The Meaning of Human Existence*. He claims to be an agnostic and says in this interview that **"What's dragging us down is religious faith"**. He claims that we will never know whether or not there is a god – so give up.

He says that we know that humans evolved in Africa, but we don't have any idea where we are going.

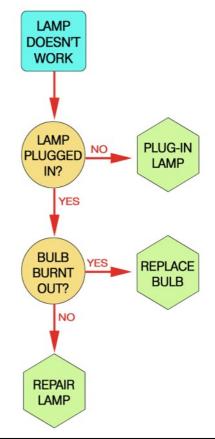
Wilson laments the loss of the world's biodiversity and points out that since all life forms are interdependent, humans must also suffer from these extinctions.

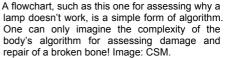
"The beautiful equilibrium of the living world is a result of all the species, plants, animals and microorganisms around us. As it is eroded away, the living world is almost certainly going to reach a tipping point where its equilibrium is going to decay and unravel. And when that happens, the whole thing collapses – and we collapse with it."

Of course, if stability is only achievable when most of the living things exist in equilibrium, it is hard to see how life got off the ground in the first place without collapsing. This is another reason to believe that the whole scenario was created in a short period of time – like six days. Far from dragging us down, faith in a Creator is what gives meaning to human existence (as well as everything else).

7 February pp.5 with 30 – Loving the algorithms (editorial) with No one in control

"What is an algorithm? Ask a coder or a mathematician and they will tell you it is basically a recipe – a step by step list of instructions... Algorithms are everywhere" from deciding what results





you see in an internet search to the price of your airplane tickets, to the instructions to a driverless car. They are so complex that when things go wrong they are difficult to fix.

- "Automated processes are no longer simply tools at our disposal: they often make the decisions themselves.
- "There's nothing inherently mysterious about them: an algorithm is simply a set of instructions for getting something done. The trouble is that algorithms get nested inside or bolted on to others, interacting in ever more complex ways. It can be hard to predict how algorithms will behave with real world data once released into the wild."

It struck me reading this that most biological processes are controlled by algorithms. We don't have to tell our immune system when to go into action when disease strikes. We don't have to remind ourselves to continue breathing when we get lost in an interesting book. After a good meal (or even a bad one) we don't need to issue instructions to our digestive system.

It is not questioned for a moment that manmade algorithms are carefully designed by intelligent minds. So why should these even more complex biological automatic processes come about by chance mutations in an imagined macro-evolutionary progress from protozoa to people?

The fool has said in his heart 'There is no god' Ps. 53:1.

7 February p.17 – Lunar lava may have preserved the origins of life on Earth

"If life or its organic precursors were delivered to Earth on asteroids or comets, they should also have hit the moon – which is geologically quiet and so more likely to preserve them. But when life was emerging on Earth, the moon was covered in flows of lava."

Mark Stephton of Imperial College London placed organic material into artificial moon

dust and found that heating to 700°C actually sandwiched the compounds and preserved them.

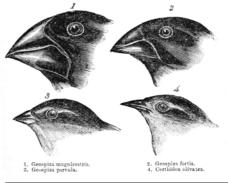
- "Evidence of prebiotic evolution on asteroids and comets or the emergence of life on Earth and Mars could all be preserved," says Stephton."
- We observe that life only comes from life. The genetic information requires a living intelligence, as does the complexity of even the 'simplest' life form.

Of our Lord Jesus Christ it was written: 'Without Him was nothing made. In Him was life.' John 1:3.

Again, the fool has said ... Ps. 14:1.

14 February p.7 – Recount those finches "We may need to rethink Darwin's finches. Differences in beak shape led biologists to classify them into some 15 species, but the first full genome analysis suggests some of the birds evolved the same beak shape independently. In fact, there may be 18 species in total."

In fact, they are all of a kind, and can interbreed just as humans with different



Differences in beak shapes in four species of Darwin's finches as depicted by J. Gould, 1845. Image in the public domain.

shaped noses can. It has been shown that beak size adjusts to the size of seeds available as food that in turn depends on weather conditions that season. Darwin's finches have nothing to do with macroevolution - only variation within a kind.

14 February p.28 – The world in a cell

Bacteria and archaea are single celled organisms known as prokaryotes. These cells have no nucleus enclosing their genomes. Eukaryotic cells, on the other hand, have a double-walled nucleus multi-celled holding the DNA. All organisms such as fungi, plants and animals are eukaryotes. This article by cousins David and Buzz Baum conjectures eukaryotes how evolved on from prokarvotes. "Almost everybody agrees that the complex eukarvotic cell evolved from a simple ancestor. The question is how." That is because it is even more unbelievable that a complicated cell could arrive ready-made. (Incidentally, 48% of Britons polled said they did not agree with Darwinism, so not 'almost everybody'.)

The standard story goes that the outer wall of a prokaryote became folded inwards, forming compartments. These wrinkly bits morphed into the eukaryote's endoplasmic reticulum while another bit engulfed the DNA making a nucleus. Then, o my best belovéd, a bacterium found its way in and became the cell's mitochondrion **"in a process akin to swallowing, called phagocytosis."** That's hard to swallow, despite the scientific name.

Now the Baums propose that the prokaryotic cell extruded blebs of outer membrane through its cell wall and that these fused to make the peripheral parts of the eukaryotic cell. Unfortunately, no one will ever know whether either or neither of these theories represents reality, or if both cell types were created separately to fit their purpose. We still have prokaryotes so this latter idea fits best.

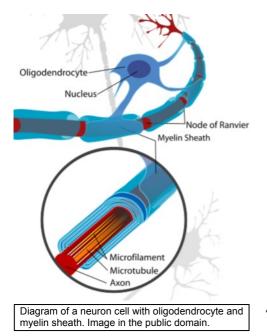
The cousins developed their idea. "We started exchanging drawings made in snatched moments, on napkins and loose sheets of paper, on buses, planes and trains." Surprising they weren't arrested for this graffiti!

21 February p.30 – Meet your other brain

This cover story tells us a little more about the intricacies of our brains. Neurons in the brain have axons sprouting out towards each other. These meet at small gaps called synapses where chemicals called neurotransmitters can travel across to pass on the signal to another neuron. A white fatty material called myelin has been discovered in 2009, wrapped around the axon rather like the plastic coating insulating electric wires. However, myelin keeps the information signal tightly confined within the axon, allowing a speedy trip. It turns out that this myelin is crucial to learning, development and behaviour. "A small amount is made as we develop in the womb, but after birth it takes off, and we see surges as infants learn to crawl, walk and talk." The rate of myelination then drops off but continues in the prefrontal cortex (an area important for planning) into middle age. After that the myelin covering deteriorates and the signals get fuzzier, especially if the brain is not stimulated. Use it or lose it

The more a neural path is used, the greater the number of neurotransmitter receptors formed. Thus the brain adapts to learning or experience. Learning a new language or skill increases the amount of myelin around the axons.

"A lack of myelin is implicated in conditions such as autism, in mental



illnesses such as schizophrenia, and in spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries." "Myelin is formed by oligodendrocytes, octopus-shaped cells with long arms that wrap thin layers of fat 50 to 100 times around the axon, preventing electrical signals from slipping out, and expediting the conversation between brain regions." Small packets of messenger chemicals called exosomes, relayed through the blood, are taken up by the oligodendrocytes to help to control myelin production. Could blood transfusions from younger people help to boost our struggling brains, as was found with mice? Might this be a treatment for multiple sclerosis, in which myelin is attacked by the immune system? Physical and mental activity helps ward off Alzheimer's, by stimulating the production of myelin. Research is still in its early stages. All these interacting, complex components seem to me to hint at a Designer.

21 February p.34 – Turned to stone

Here is a selection of fossils, seven of the most amazing ever discovered. Also amazing are the ideas put forward to explain how they died and were buried. A high energy worldwide flood a few thousand years ago is not considered.

The fossilized remains of two fighting dinosaurs are pictured. A half-metre tall *Velociraptor* has attacked an herbivorous *Protoceratops* several times its own weight, sinking its claw into its victim's neck. The *Protoceratops* fought back, throwing the predator on its back and locking its jaws on to the carnivore's arm.

It is suggested that at this point heavy rains destabilised a sand dune that then flowed over the duelling pair, burying them. The *Velociraptor's* neck exhibits the typical 'death throes' S curve. The *Protoceratops* fossil is missing most of its limbs and tail, so perhaps scavengers managed to dig them up without loosening each's grip upon the other. Or perhaps the plant eater bled to death trapping the *Velociraptor* under it, and then a sand storm engulfed them both.

The fossil pair captures a moment in time. In the middle of a fight they were entombed by water-borne sediment from a global judgment. When the Lord Jesus returns, two will be working in a field – one will be taken to be with Him but the other left. Matthew 24 tells us that as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Be ready!

Another fossil freeze-framing an instant in time was found in Mongolia's Gobi desert in 1994. A dinosaur (minus its skull) was sitting on a nest of eggs. "It was sitting in exactly the same position birds adopt when incubating their eggs... She was probably buried alive when a sand dune collapsed after heavy rains." Yet another moment was captured in present day India when a snake was gorging on a freshly hatched baby dinosaur – "a landslip buried the nest, snake and all."

In Germany, a pair of mating turtles was suddenly petrified. **"As they sank down into the depths of a lake in their postcoital bliss, they reached toxic waters and perished."** If that is the true scenario, is it not surprising that 51 other turtles have been excavated in the same area, including 12 pairs? At least nine of these pairs were caught in the act of mating.

It is more likely that the flood swept them all together and buried them in sediment.

And there's more. In 2011 a fossil ichthyosaur was found giving birth in what is now China. "She was carrying at least three offspring. One was found under the mother's body. The third was still inside her, waiting to be born. And the second was halfway out of the birth canal, making this fossil unique." The article simple notes that, for this mother, something went terribly wrong!

Another fossil reveals that a flying pterosaur caught a small herring "in a lagoon" in Germany, and was then grabbed by a large fish that apparently leapt out of the water. All three sank, again into toxic water, where "they remained beautifully preserved, until they were dug up 150 million years later."

Just so, o my best belovéd.

Finally, we have the Paluxy trackways in Glen Rose Texas: "The massive sauropod fled along the shore, closely pursued by a huge predator similar to *T.rex*. The trail of footprints they left behind has survived for over 100 million years."

Clearly the tracks were quickly buried to preserve them, so again we have a catastrophic event.



Fossils of dinosaur footprints such as these, from a site in the USA (not Paluxy), must have been buried quickly to have survived at all. Image: CSM.

The *NS* article does not mention the humanlike tracks also found at the Paluxy River site. Professor Wilder-Smith, a former President of our Movement, showed photographs of them in one of his books, but evolutionists claim that the great antiquity rules out humans. Maybe the dating of sediments is faulty.

So, mating, incubating, being born, eating, fishing, fleeing the enemy, fighting, marrying and being given in marriage, all are caught napping. 'Be ye also ready, for in such a time as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.'

28 February p.19 – Dragonfly eyes see the world in ultra-multicolour

Humans have three different light sensitive proteins (opsins) in our eyes, and see the world in combinations of red, blue and green. Other creatures have di-, tri- and tetra-chromatic vision.

However, of 12 dragonfly varieties studied, all had at least 11 and some a whopping 30,

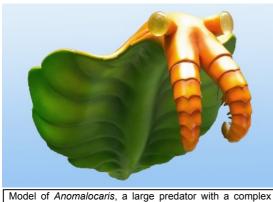
different visual opsins. They can see ultraviolet, and probably recognise polarised light reflected off water.

28 February p.38 – Sparks of life

Due to the assumptions made by geologists in dating rocks, they conclude that only single-celled life forms existed for billions of years before multi-celled organisms suddenly bloomed in the Cambrian sediments thought to be some half a billion years old. "That means that in just a few tens of millions of years - a geological instant - almost every major animal know made its first group we appearance in the fossil record, and the ecology of the planet was transformed forever."

As well as the Burgess Shale in Canada, known for over a century, similar Cambrian beds have since been unearthed at Marble Canyon, also in Canada, and in China's Chengliang beds, suggesting that some Cambrian species had a worldwide distribution.

"Scientists have struggled to explain what sparked this sudden burst of innovation... You go from seemingly nothing to everything in a few million years."



Model of *Anomalocaris*, a large predator with a complex body plan, from the so-called Cambrian period. Image: CSM.

It is surmised that the evolution of photosynthetic plankton allowed oxygen levels in the atmosphere to creep up to a point where complex life could develop. According to the Word of God, everything was created and made in the space of six days. As you might expect from the God who made time, space, matter and energy on Day one, 'He spoke and it was done: He commanded and it stood fast' Psalm 33: 9. During the judgment of a worldwide flood, rocks were eroded down to an igneous base deposited as water-borne and then sediments containing the remains of all life forms. Simple creatures that lived on the sea bed would be deposited at the lowest levels. Mammals with their lower density would be buried at higher sedimentary levels within the same year.

7 March p.17 – Artificial fibre as tough as spider silk

"Spider silk is stronger than steel and tougher than Kevlar, but efforts to spin our own have so far failed to match the real thing."

Spiders and their silk were designed.

Previous attempts to mimic spider silk have focused on two molecules that provide its material properties. Now a research group in Bayreuth, Germany have

realised that they had neglected two smaller molecules that help align the strands. The team spliced spider genes into E. *coli*, which enabled the bacteria to produce all four molecules in aqueous alcohol. They drew out the fibres to make a silk that was not as strong as the spider's silk, but more elastic, so it can absorb as much energy as the real thing.

So this was a cooperation between the One who created the genes and the chemists who adapted the method of spinning the yarn – thinking God's

thoughts after Him. Of course, E. Coli were also the work of our Maker, and He may have had an input to the researchers' skill and ingenuity.

March 14 p.32 Life chances

This is part of 4 articles under Chance, pp.28-41. Evolution cannot plan ahead towards a goal. "We live in a world of chance and opportunity. But how much is truly random – and how much are we in control of our destinies? This special report looks at how, through basic quantum and evolutionary processes, chance shapes us from the bottom up –" For myself, I'm with the Bard – 'There is a destiny that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will.'

This article considers what it calls the 'evolution' of flu viruses. At regular intervals, the structure of the viral surface protein called haemaglutinin changes so that our immune system cannot recognise the virus. There are seven critical sites in the gene coding for this surface protein that are subject to variation. So the changes are non-random and predictable, though which site will mutate, and how, is anyone's guess. A wrong prediction meant that this year's flu vaccine turned out to be largely ineffective. Yet all the time, the virus remains the same virus beneath its cloak. just as a fancy dress party-goer is still the same under the disguise. This is not protozoan-to-person evolution.

"What's more, as important as natural selection is, its powers are limited. The fittest do not always survive; instead the course of evolution is often shaped by accidental events. If it hadn't been for an asteroid strike, for instance, we mammals might still be scurrying about in mortal fear of dinosaurs."

Evolutionists pour scorn on the idea of a worldwide flood, despite historical and geological evidence, yet confidently refer to a hypothetical asteroid strike tens of millions of years ago that somehow destroyed dinosaurs but not mammals, even on the far side of the Earth.

Creation mustn't be mentioned.

Letters

- "We are glad to hear that the Expo has been such a success, particularly after all the trouble you had with the building. We continue to pray for all the work of CSM and feel that your work is a shining light in the midst of the darkness of emptyheadedness and materialism and pseudoscience." *B&MP, Cheshire*
- "Thank you for the great encouragement of your publications in the last year. I was very much struck by how you keep pace with the scientific establishment and shine the light of truth on it." *NH. Wimbourne*

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