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A Giant Hoax

On 3rd December 2014, *World News Daily Report* (<http://goo.gl/eXknJ7>) published an article alleging a huge cover-up: that thousands of skeletons of giant humans had been destroyed deliberately by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA, and that the SI had admitted to this only after being forced to do so by the US Supreme Court.

Needless to say this prompted a furore in the media that continued through to the following year. Even as late as August 2015 follow-up articles were being published, including a very detailed and seemingly convincing one by the *Event Chronicle* (<http://goo.gl/ZiSzT0>).

But these articles are hoaxes. An examination of the details shows several telltale indicators. For example, the articles referred to James Churward and Hans Guttenberg, respectively a spokesman and the director of the *American Institute of Alternative Archaeology*, but neither of these persons nor the organization seems to



An image from the *Event Chronicle* website supposedly of a giant human femur. Image reproduced under fair usage provisions.

exist. Likewise, an official record of the US Supreme Court's ruling on the case does not appear to exist. One of the articles refers to several "whistleblowers" in the SI, but conspicuously fails to mention any information about them. Although it could be argued that this was done in order to safeguard them from punitive retaliation by the perpetrators of the "cover-up", in the event of a genuine

ruling by the Supreme Court it would hardly have mattered, as it would have been too late to make any difference. So the absence of their details remains suspicious.

A number of websites have published rebuttals of the hoax. For example, *Bad Satire Today* (<http://goo.gl/YZLH2W>) and the well known *Snopes* (<http://goo.gl/19K9tH>) have each devoted a webpage to it. The latter also points out that "World News Daily Report's disclaimer page explicitly states: World News Daily Report is a news and political satire web publication, which may or may not use real names, often in semi-real or mostly fictitious ways."

As with any deception, a little truth mixed with the fiction makes it all the more convincing and the hoax more difficult to spot. It is interesting therefore to note that the article by the *Event Chronicle* does include several accurate references to **genuine** discoveries of giant human remains. These are included in the *Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian* (1890-1891), published in 1894 under director J. W. Powell. (This publication is freely available on the Web as a downloadable PDF.)

The report includes the results of many detailed archaeological investigations into burial mounds in the USA. Amongst them were (page 362) the discovery of a skeleton in Roane

County, Tennessee, that measured 7ft 3in and was estimated in life to have stood seven and a half feet tall; and (page 113) in East Duque (Dunleith), Illinois, an individual 7-8 feet tall buried near a group of skeletons of all sizes (some were infants). These facts are not disputed.

And they are not the only facts. The Bible of course refers to giants in considerable numbers in the land of Canaan. The Israelites felt as insignificant as grasshoppers compared to them (Num. 13: 28-33). Even the length of the bed of the giant Og in Bashan is mentioned. It was more than nine cubits long and four cubits wide (c. thirteen feet long and six feet wide) (Deut. 3: 11) and was made of iron, no



David versus Goliath, as depicted by O. Schindler (1869-1927). Image in the public domain.

doubt because of the considerable weight of its occupant. Many years later David defeated the giant Goliath, whose height was four cubits and a span (c. 7 feet), or six cubits and a span (c. 9.5 feet) according to the variant Masoretic text (1 Sam. 17: 4).

Other ancient manuscripts also mention giants, and not just in the Middle East. In his monograph *The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis*, historian Dr Bill Cooper notes that "From an obscure passage out of Berossus' *Babylonaica* (ca 280 BC), translated by a 2nd-century BC diplomat named Eupolemus, we further read: 'The city of Babylon owes its foundation to... the giants, and they built the tower which is noticed in history. But the tower being overthrown by the interposition of God, the giants were scattered over all the earth.'"

Little wonder, then, that when Brutus and Corineus came to Albion (as England was then called) after the destruction of Troy, they encountered giants already there¹.

Even in mediaeval times London had a tradition of two giants, later named Gog and Magog. Carved representations of these resided in the Guildhall until they were destroyed in World War II; they have since been replaced by reproductions.

It is no great surprise therefore that the giants are also recalled in the New

World. There are many folk memories of Indian tribes, such as the Pawnee of Nebraska who recount that, "The first people upon the earth were giants, very big and strong. They did not believe in the creator Ti-ra-wa. They thought nothing could overcome them. They grew increasingly worse. At last Ti-ra-wa grew angry and raised the water to the level of the land so that the ground became soft. The giants sank into the mud and drowned. Their bones can still be found today" (see <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/flood-myths.html#Pawnee>). This is an obvious reference to the same event that is described in the Biblical book of Genesis as the Flood of Noah.

Hence, although one should be very careful of hoaxes, one should not throw out the baby with the bathwater. There is abundant evidence from around the world that at one time giants existed and populated the earth.

Sadly, the hoax by the *World News Daily Report* is eclipsed by one that is far worse, one that deceives very many people. This is the Theory of Evolution, a dogmatic naturalistic philosophy that masquerades as science but goes against well known scientific laws such as the Second Law of Thermodynamics. CSM stands for *facts*, the facts of science. When stripped of the intellectual straitjacket of secularist nonsense, it is clear that there is no controversy between scientific facts and the Bible, only between atheistic theories and the Bible.

With the start of another year we urge our readers to judge evolutionist mantras with wisdom and discernment. Deception is a dangerous thing.

Note

1. See *After the Flood* by Dr W. Cooper, quoting Geoffrey of Monmouth, pp. 72-3. Cooper notes that Geoffrey's Gogmagog appears to be a corruption of the name Gawr Madoc, the giant or great warrior Madoc. He further notes, "Of these 'giants', we read, '...though their stature is exaggerated, yet it will be remembered that the stature of the ancient Britons was thought gigantic by the Romans.' Pope. p. 164."

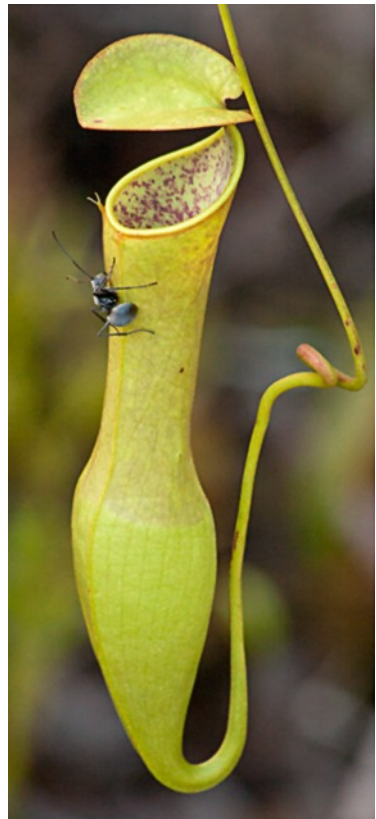
“Wanting” to catch ants

Here's a classic example of tendentiousness in evolutionary explanations - also known as Just So stories. In this particular case it is claimed that a plant "wanted" to develop something, even though plants have no brains, there is no evidence that they can desire something, and certainly not that they can plan towards an end-goal through evolutionary processes.

Although most plants obtain their nutrients through the soil, a number subsidise this by catching and digesting insects and other small creatures. Until now, two kinds of strategy have been known: "active" carnivorous plants, such as flytraps, and motionless "passive" insect eaters, such as pitcher

plants. Now a third strategy has been discovered: the pitcher plant *Nepenthes gracilis* utilises the power of falling raindrops to fling ants to their doom.

In October 2015 an article on the BBC News website (<http://goo.gl/5CRqKD>) reported on the work of a research team at the University of Bristol. The team found that the impact of falling



Nepenthes gracilis pitcher and lid. Image from: Bauer, U., B. Di Giusto, J. Skepper, T.U. Grafe & W. Federle, 2012, With a flick of the lid: a novel trapping mechanism in *Nepenthes gracilis* pitcher plants. PLoS ONE 7(6): e38951. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0038951, under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Generic licence.

raindrops on the lid of the pitcher plant set off very fast vibrations in the lid. Foraging ants were shaken into the pitcher trap below, where they drowned and were consumed by digestive juices.

Using high-speed cameras and laser vibration measurements, the team recorded extremely fast movement in the lid of the pitcher plant after it was hit by a raindrop. Dr Ulrike Bauer commented that "It wobbles like a stiff spring... You have a raindrop hitting the surface and that causes it to move down, fast. Then because of this spring property, it moves to a certain point and springs back... You get an oscillation, very similar to when you put a ruler on the edge of your desk and flick the end down with your finger."

The news article reported that the movement is unique in the plant kingdom, partly because of its speed, which easily outstrips the insect-trapping manoeuvres of other carnivorous plants, and partly because of the way it exploits an external energy source.

When the team studied another species of pitcher plant, which catches ants using only the slippery rim of the pitcher, they found that the lid was much more bendy. This meant that vibrations from falling raindrops were concentrated right at its tip, much like the motion of a springboard. This is not very effective if a pitcher plant is to shake ants into its digestive trap.

Dr Bauer is reported to have said, "The pitcher wants to maximise the area where insects fall from that surface". Ding! There it is - the Just So story. How can the plant "want" to do this? And even if it could want it, how would it know how to set about doing it?

The article comments that the stiff lid on the leaves of *N. gracilis* is perfectly adapted, because it spreads out the movement and hence the danger for its prey. If this springy form of lid is so much more advantageous (in evolutionary terms) than the bendy lid, then why haven't more species of pitcher plants "wanted" it? Surely what we are seeing here is an example of intelligent design.

Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist** by *Dr David Rosevear*

24 October '15 p.42 – **Delusions of Design**

Here is a review of the book *The Evolution of Everything* by Matt Ridley (£25).

Ridley was tutored at Eton and Oxford, is a *Times* journalist, best-selling science author and conservative peer in the House of Lords.

Graham Lawton, the reviewer, writes:

“For most of history, humans were instinctive creationists. Faced with the intricate perfection of an eye or a wing, they jumped to the conclusion



If the appearance of design in a bird's wing is just an illusion, then so might be the appearance of logical thought in a human brain - in which case the evolutionists' arguments just fall apart. Catch 22. Image: homecare119, www.pixabay.com.

that it was designed by an intelligent creator, aka God.

“Then along came Darwin and proved the obvious wrong. The appearance of design is an illusion: biological order arises by slow, undirected trial-and error coupled with natural selection, aka evolution.

“Evolution now reigns supreme as the explanation of biological complexity. But according to veteran science writer Matt Ridley in his new book *The Evolution of Everything*, most people remain instinctive creationists.”

The book is criticised here for applying evolution theory to culture, technology and everything when these things are clearly designed. **“His argument quickly – and predictably ... - degenerates into a manifesto for unfettered free markets and right-**

wing libertarianism.” (Ridley was chairman of Northern Rock when the bank went bust.)

The flaw in both Darwin’s and Ridley’s argument is that the second law of thermodynamics dictates that change leads to decay. Even if there were billions of years of trial and error, time would only ensure error. Until everything works (as with design) nothing works.

“Ridley’s is a fundamentalist world view that brooks no dissent; everything can be twisted or elided [omitted] to support the argument. This seems lost on him...”

31 October p.13 – Self-sacrificing immune cells spew DNA net

Here is more evidence that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

“As well as carrying the instructions for how to build you, it turns out DNA makes a handy weapon. As a last-ditch defence against invading microbes, immune cells spew out sticky nets of their DNA.

“DNA is so packed that when you uncoil it you get a huge net... It’s like one of those cans of exploding snakes, only a thousand times more dramatic.

“Normally, immune cells called neutrophils kill microbes by gobbling them up or releasing toxic chemicals. But recently it was found that when all else fails, they disgorge nets of DNA studded with antimicrobial compounds, destroying themselves in the process. The nets can span small blood vessels, ensnaring and killing bacteria...

Neutrophils also use this tactic against fungal infections of the lungs.”

This remarkable system of defence is hardly the result of survival-of-the-fittest evolution, since the immune cells destroy themselves.



Appropriately positioned spines on an appropriately shaped body looks like a design feature. By contrast, the evolutionary explanation sounds rather fishy... Image: Romain L., www.freeimages.com.

31 October p.16 – Neighbouring planet could be an illusion

“Alpha Centauri Bb may be an exoplanet. This long-sought world was announced in 2012 as the first Earth-mass planet in the nearest star system to our own, but statistical analysis has now revealed it to be an apparition.”

It had been initially thought that there was a 3.24 day periodic wobble in the light from Alpha Centauri B, a star 4.3 light years away. Researchers attributed this to the gravity of a planet pulling on the star. Now it seems that the signal could have been introduced by the way measurements were made. Thorough testing would have saved the star-gazers disappointment, rather than rushing to publish something they hoped might be a source of extra-terrestrial life.

14 November p.7 – Not just a fish finger

“Fish have evolved body shapes that are harder for predators to get their jaws around.”

A survey of 347 fish families found that those with vertical spines tend to have deeper bodies, while those with horizontal spines tend to have wider bodies.

Of course, there is no indication that any of these creatures have changed their shapes over time. Evolution is assumed to have occurred, and this design feature is then used to confirm it. Much of what passes as scientific discussion in these pages are improbable explanations to avoid Creation. For example, on p.18 we read **“World Creation is only a game. Planetary billiards might have built exoplanets known as hot Jupiters.”** Small planets orbiting close to their stars may have crashed and coalesced rather than bouncing apart. On the same page we read: **“Could the lack of essential trace elements in the world’s oceans be the cause of most of Earth’s mass extinctions.”** The observation that fossils were formed when creatures were suddenly buried world-wide while still alive fits much better with the idea of a world-wide flood.

21 November p.7

Tantalising water

This week we select three items about water:

“Our planet is hiding huge amounts of groundwater inside its crust, enough to submerge the surface by 52 metres. But it seems we can only tap into a tiny proportion of the water. Just 1.5 per cent is accessible.”

There was a time when enough water was available to cover every high hill by 15 cubits upwards (about 7 metres), but that was before the post-flood orogeny – mountain building (Psalm 104:8).

21 November p.10 – Wild beavers are making a splash

Although beavers were hunted almost to extinction 500 years ago in Britain, they have now made a come-back in Scotland and Devon.

“New evidence suggests that beaver dams help prevent flooding, cleanse water and boost fish populations and wetland ecosystems. The dams regulate water flow during both heavy rains and droughts.”

Beaver dams filter out pollutants washed off farms, including nitrates and phosphates from excess fertiliser use. These latter, instead, fertilise waterside mosses and plants that, in turn, attract insects, frogs and then large birds. Trout in beaver dammed



Eurasian beaver, *Castor fiber*. Image: Perhols, Wikipedia, <https://goo.gl/Bh8151>, under CCA Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

rivers were bigger and more numerous than in rivers without beavers.

Beavers are part of that ‘very good’ Creation of Genesis 1.

21 November p.16 - Earth’s water older than planet itself

Water trapped in alleged 4.5 billion-year-old volcanic basalt rocks in the Canadian Arctic contain less heavy hydrogen (deuterium) than today’s water.

“Instead, the water must have originated in the dust cloud from which our solar system originally condensed. If so, this raises the likelihood that water – one of the key prerequisites for life as we know it – is native to other planets.”

This Glasgow University team have made three assumptions here: the dating of the volcanic basalt rocks, the origin of our solar system from a cloud of dust, and the main prerequisite for

the creation of life, namely a living Creator.

5 December p.7 – UK carbon cutback

“The country has set itself the goal, enshrined in law, of cutting emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, but had already strayed by the start of the year. Since then, it has halted numerous green initiatives, including slashing funding for onshore wind and solar, the cheapest form of renewable energy. Now the chancellor, George Osborne, has scrapped a £1 billion plan to build a demonstration carbon capture and storage plant. Without CCS, the government would have to start shutting down fossil fuel power stations and heavy industries in the 2030s to have a chance of meeting targets.”

And p.26 – Climate conflict zone

Some observers have claimed that man-made climate change caused a 3-year drought in Syria that brought farmers into the cities and fomented trouble leading to mass emigration of refugees. However, one million Iraqi refugees fled from sectarian violence *before* the drought.

So what has this to do with Creation-evolution worldviews? History that secularists deny informs us that there was a worldwide flood some four and a half millennia ago. This brought on an ice age from which the globe is still recovering. We have the word of the Creator that, while the Earth remains,

seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Periods of extreme weather have been recorded throughout history and no amount of extra taxation will change matters.

5 December p.7 – Yorkshire ripper to move to jail

Here is another clash between creationist and secular philosophies. Peter Sutcliffe murdered 13 women. He has been kept in Broadmoor high Security Psychiatric hospital for 31 years. This costs more than £300,000 per patient per year. For intentional murder(s) the biblical treatment is much simpler and cheaper, and arguably more humane.

(This week the new world heavyweight champion caused a frenzy of media protests when he said that once homosexuality, abortion and paedophilia had been legalised in Britain, the devil could be at home. Here is another difference between biblical and secular ethics.)

5 December p.32 – the Life Editor

Just a few years after its invention, CRISPR gene editing has made a major impression on biomedical research. **“It makes it easy to ‘turn off’ genes one at a time, to see what they do... And it can be used to tinker with the genes of plants and animals, to create drought-resistant maize, more muscular police-dogs, and much more.”**

More controversially, it could be used to permanently alter the genomes of

our descendants, in order to eradicate disease-causing mutations or even to enhance children by adding beneficial gene variants that both their parents lack. The former is simply putting right the mistakes caused by the curse. However, ‘designer babies’ is much more questionable. **“But the technology isn’t there just yet. Nor do we know enough about the gene variants involved to start eradicating them.**

“But characteristics such as intelligence seem to be determined by hundreds of different gene variants, with each one having only a tiny effect. This means we are a long way from engineering intelligence into children, even if gene editing were safe enough to attempt it.”

With CRISPR gene editing, DNA can be added to a precise spot, delivered using a harmless virus. While this method has already been used successfully to target genes within the brains of mice, human tests are years away.

12 December p.8 Green light for editing embryos

Here is a report on the International Summit of Human Gene Editing in Washington DC last week.

“The most controversial type of gene editing has got the cautious nod of approval. Far from calling for a ban on the technique to alter human embryos, an international summit has effectively endorsed the idea. While it is too soon to try it out, basic research should be allowed,

alongside a debate on how we should use the technology. This puts us on a path that could see germline gene editing happening in people in some countries just decades from now.”

Gene editing in people (not embryos) is already going ahead. A human trial to treat the blood disease haemophilia B was announced at the summit. The new revolutionary CRISPR method of targeting parts of a gene precisely is fast and cheap, and is now used in thousands of labs to do research and cure genetic shortcomings in humans, animals and plants.

19/26 December p.64 – God vs the multiverse

“Here’s the dilemma: If the universe began with a quantum particle blipping into existence, inflating godlessly into space-time and a whole zoo of materials, then why is it so well suited to life?

“For medieval philosophers, the purported perfection of the universe was the key to proving the existence of God.

“Modern physics has also wrestled with this ‘fine-tuning problem’, and supplies its own answer. If only one universe exists, then it is strange to find it so hospitable to life, when nearly any other value of the gravitational or cosmo-logical constants would have produced nothing at all. But if there is a ‘multiverse’ of many universes, all with different constants, the problem vanishes: we’re here because we

happen to be in one of the universes that works.”

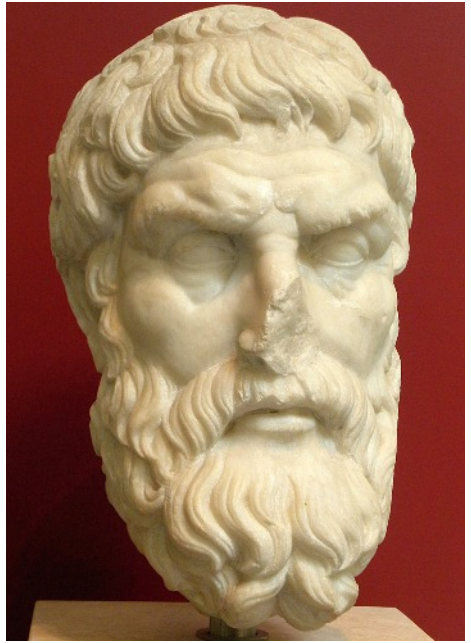
The multiverse is not really a modern idea. Some Greek philosophers like Epicurus were ‘atomists’ who believed in infinite worlds, 2,500 years ago. There might be many worlds, formed by random collisions in infinite space, no god required. For their rival ‘Stoics’, there was nothing beyond our cosmos that might form other worlds. The cosmos was periodically destroyed by fire, only to be born again – many universes through time rather than space.

“If the atomists were effectively non-theists, then the Stoics were effectively pantheists: the world itself was what they meant by ‘god’.

“Both traditions lost out to a very different conception of God: an unchanging intelligence just like us, but without our frailties, an all-powerful Father, presiding over a singular cosmos. How did this happen?”

Apparently, both Plato and Aristotle believed in a single universe. The writer here, theologian Mary-Jane Rubenstein, doesn’t mention Paul’s preaching to the Epicureans and Stoics in Athens. He spoke of the God who made the world and all things therein, who gives to all life and breath. He will judge the world by Jesus whom He raised from the dead (Acts 17).

Rubenstein tells us that Augustine refuted the cyclical worlds of the Stoics from Scripture. **“‘Christ died once for all for our sins’ (Romans 6:9). This happened once, notes Augustine: so**



Roman 1st century AD copy of a 3rd century BC portrait of Epicurus. Image: I. Scott, Flickr, <https://goo.gl/4qi7jO> under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic licence.

this must mean there are no other worlds before or after ours...Pre-modern cosmology effectively leads to the opposite of its modern counterpart: ‘If you don’t want a multiverse, you’d better have God.’”

The ideas of Cusa and Bruno are then discussed, and the suggestion they made that to resolve the issue we should think of God as being the whole Creation. That didn’t please the Inquisition. It is an unscriptural philosophy, as well as implying that space/time/matter/energy possesses a mind and will of its own.

From the Postbag

"I re-read the CSM *Pollination* pamphlet (a resurrected older one, but up-to-date as ever), and it continues to inspire me to put (...) in the place of a deleted 'evolved', 'due to evolution', 'evolutionary', etc, word in yet another document of research cut/pastes. Nothing like a CSM leaflet to go with a cup of coffee, and they are so mentally and spiritually nutritious that you do not even need cake. I have treasure troves of them in our kitchen bookshelf, in the living room, in Keith's room, in our bedroom, and read one whenever possible, as does Bill likewise (though he is more of a tea man). Since being obliged to do so much intensive research for Keith's illness, I have become just dimly aware of the fact that each of those leaflets represents the concentrated nuggets from many decades of research both inside and outside the lab, in addition to the same poring through Scripture, and feel very, very humbled."

Katharine

[Editor's note: names have been changed to preserve privacy.]

Pollination is pamphlet no. 211, by the late Alan Radcliffe-Smith.]

Quote

"It has been a surprise to learn how thoroughly cells protect themselves against precisely the kinds of accidental genetic change that, according to conventional theory, are the sources of evolutionary variability. By virtue of their proofreading and repair systems, living cells are not passive victims of the random forces of chemistry and physics. They devote large resources to suppressing random genetic variation and have the capacity to set the level of background localized mutability by adjusting the activity of their repair systems."

James A. Shapiro

<http://new.bostonreview.net/BR22.1/s Shapiro.html>

(Quote kindly provided by CSM member *LT*, who also commented, 'this is only a surprise to those who are wedded to the evolutionary paradigm; it comes as no surprise to believers in special creation'.)

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