

CREATION

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The amazing brain

According to research scientists at Stanford University School of Medicine (<http://goo.gl/Wnp1Wu>), a typical healthy human brain houses some 200 billion nerve cells, which are connected to one another via hundreds of trillions of synapses. Each synapse functions like a microprocessor, and tens of thousands of them can connect a single neuron to other nerve cells. In the cerebral cortex alone there are roughly 125 trillion synapses. This is about how many stars fill 1,500 Milky Way galaxies.

The researchers found that the brain's complexity is beyond anything they had imagined, almost to the point of being beyond belief. Prof. Stephen Smith, one of the authors of the paper describing the study, commented that one synapse, by itself, is more like a microprocessor - with both memory-storage and information-processing elements - than a mere on/off switch. In fact, one synapse may contain in the order of 1,000 molecular-scale switches. Hence a single human brain has more switches than all the Internet connections on Earth. 'The

human brain is truly awesome', says the writer of the article.

A videoclip (<http://goo.gl/l7T8e0>) about the human brain was produced recently for the BBC News website featuring well-known commentator Fergus Walsh. He noted that although the adult brain is so staggeringly complex, it weighs only 1.5 kg. And even though it consumes about 20% of the body's energy, it has an electrical output of only 20 watts.

Walsh then goes on to state baldly, "The brain is a masterpiece of evolution and biology, and yet despite all our scientific knowledge there's still a huge amount we don't know about how the brain works". One would have thought that if there's still so much we don't know then it's somewhat premature to claim so



The astonishing complexity of the brain is far superior to any computer. Image: www.pixabay.com.

confidently that the brain arose through evolution. Surely one should also consider the possibility that it wasn't formed through evolution at all, but was intelligently designed. After all, a masterpiece implies a Master. Fortunately we can use our brains to see through evolutionist dogma.

Killer blow

Go to the savannah of Africa and you may well see a Secretary Bird prowling around on its long legs, searching for its prey. These large birds hunt a wide range of small creatures which they flush out from hiding and capture in their bills. They also hunt snakes, which they kill by stamping upon them. Now a team of scientists has shown just how formidable this stamping is.

An article on the *BBC News* website (<http://goo.gl/Biu1CP>) reported on a paper published recently in the journal *Current Biology* (<http://goo.gl/n73tZo>) in which Dr Steve Portugal, an animal physiologist at Royal Holloway, University of London, and his colleagues describe the force and speed of the Secretary Bird's kick. They found that a single kick delivered an astonishing 195 Newtons of force - about five or six times its own body weight - and so quickly that on average it lasted for just 15 milliseconds (0.015 seconds). By comparison, blinking your eyes takes 150 milliseconds.

So far so good - this is fine science relying on observation and measurement.



A Secretary Bird searching for its prey. Image: E. Charlton, Flickr, <https://goo.gl/18A49T>, under CC Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

But then the article deteriorates as the fanciful evolutionary speculation is wheeled in. The article goes on to quote Dr Portugal as saying, “The bird may have evolved its fancy footwork out of necessity. When your prey is itself a venomous snake, mistakes are costly... They're preying on another predator. You've only got a fraction of a second before the snake will turn round, so you've got to stun it within the first two or three kicks at most.”

Let's think about this for a moment. Evolution is supposed to proceed by very small random changes over millions of years, with survival of the fittest individuals. Once upon a time then, O my Best Beloved, a bird decided to attack a venomous snake. Now, was this change a survival advantage? Hardly! Surely the bird would be more likely to survive if it

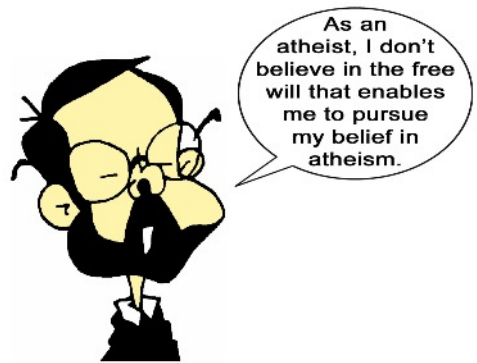
avoided the snake. How could it have attacked the snake successfully unless it had already “evolved” its capabilities for extremely fast and powerful kicks, using legs that could withstand such impacts? But why would this suite of capabilities have “evolved” if it was not already attacking dangerous creatures such as snakes?

Once again we see Evolutionism invoking a Just So story in its desperate attempts to avoid facing up to the reality of the myriad examples of intelligent design in living organisms - and by implication their Designer.

Free will

If atheism is true, then why do so many atheists behave as if they believe in free will? Atheism believes in pure materialism. This necessitates determinism, which eliminates free will, and hence moral obligations and responsibility. However, no society can live reasonably in a manner consistent with no free will, no moral obligations, no moral responsibilities, no rewards for good behaviour, no punishments for bad behaviour, no laws, and no justice system.

The extraordinary thing is that atheists seem to be able to live quite happily in societies that are based upon Christian values of respect and liberty rather than upon atheistic beliefs. In such societies they are even able to exercise their free will in pursuing their beliefs in atheism. Thereby, with supreme irony, shooting themselves in the foot.



Microbe sight

A recent article on NBC News (<http://goo.gl/thxZDd>, accessed 12 February 2016), reported on the astonishing discovery that bacteria have a form of sight. Prof. Conrad Mullineaux, of the University of Freiburg in Germany and Queen Mary University of London, and an international team of colleagues studied a species of cyanobacteria that forms a green slime on rocks in and near water. In a moment of serendipity the researchers realized that, as each bacterium is spherical, in effect it forms its own lens. "Our observation that bacteria are optical objects is pretty obvious with hindsight, but we never thought of it until we saw it," Mullineaux said. "And no one else noticed it before either, despite the fact that scientists have been looking at bacteria under microscopes for the last 340 years."

Compared with the capabilities of the human eye, the image obtained by the bacterium is far inferior, as it is blurry. Nevertheless, it is sufficient to indicate rough shapes and areas of light and dark.

Prof. Mullineaux and his colleagues used laser light to test the sensitivity of the bacterium and found that it is able to discriminate, finding just the right amount of light to sustain life without burning itself. "Whenever one edge of a cell encountered the edge of the laser spot, the cell changed direction to move away from the laser illumination", he said.

This has some interesting implications. Clearly the bacterium not only has the ability to perceive light, but also a mechanism to interpret what it sees and respond accordingly. This means that it must have a set of values by which it judges the input it receives, and a set of actions to initiate as appropriate. But who supplied the set of values? As the bacterium has no brain, how does it "know" what to do? Someone far wiser than the bacterium must have implanted these values within it. The bacterium is an example of intelligent design.

Cell walls

An interesting recent article touched upon the destructive forces that operate at microscopic level. Water molecules move at very high speed under Brownian motion, and together with osmotic and capillary forces will destroy a weakened membrane in seconds - as seen in the way penicillin inserts itself into bacterial walls, rendering them unable to withstand these destructive forces. The author shows that this puts paid to any idea of a 'primitive' cellular life-form ancestral to the cells we see today with all their structural reinforcements. Any

such cell would have been torn apart by this so-called 'heat death', as surely as a hail of cannonballs would reduce a plywood castle to matchsticks.

(Comment by CSM member C.S., UK.)

NASA bans Jesus

An article by the *Christian Institute* (<http://goo.gl/VRj4SM>, accessed 14 February 2016) reported that NASA has been accused of 'blatant discrimination' after it allegedly banned a group of Christian employees from mentioning Jesus in internal communications. According to reports, NASA told the Johnson Space Center Praise and Worship Club that the name Jesus could not appear in an announcement for the daily newsletter – which is sent to all employees. Management claimed that the announcement was inappropriate because it could be construed that NASA was endorsing a religious belief.

In May last year the group sought to advertise a praise and worship event with the theme "Jesus is our life" but were prevented from doing so. They turned to Liberty Institute, an organisation which seeks to defend religious freedom, for legal representation. A senior counsel for Liberty Institute stressed that it is illegal for the US Government to censor the name of Jesus from communications written by employees.

"Preventing a religious club's announcement just because it contains the name of Jesus is blatant religious



The good Earth: designed by God, depicted by NASA. Image: Flickr, <https://goo.gl/gAhlyG>, under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 2.0 Generic licence.

discrimination. We call on NASA to end their censorship and apologize”, he said.

What a sad turnaround is NASA’s stance compared to the time of the Apollo 8 mission to the moon, when astronauts William Anders, Jim Lovell and Frank Borman read from the Book of Genesis in a live television broadcast beamed on 24th December 1968. Borman then added, "And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you - all of you on the good Earth."

Ironically, in January 2015, on its Flickr gallery of images, NASA commemorated Martin Luther King by quoting his words against the backdrop of a NASA image of part of the Earth (<https://goo.gl/5BQV4S>). The quote reads, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that". As Christians seek to live their lives rooted in the light and love of God, one can only wonder why, just 13 months later, NASA would discourage them so.

Not so old Pluto

An article on the BBC News website (<http://goo.gl/7iQJuM>, accessed 18 February 2016) comments on the five biggest discoveries resulting from the approach of NASA's *New Horizons* probe to Pluto and its nearest moon, Charon, in 2015.

Amongst these was the discovery that some parts of Charon are strangely free of impact craters. "This suggests that Charon was formed much more recently than was previously thought" the article says.

The biggest surprise was that Pluto shows signs of still being geologically active. Some unseen process or processes are renewing the surface of the dwarf planet. The article comments, "The heat might be coming from a hidden ocean or radioactive elements beneath Pluto's surface. This would be a real turn-up for the books as, until now, astronomers thought Pluto was too old to have retained enough heat energy to have these processes occurring."

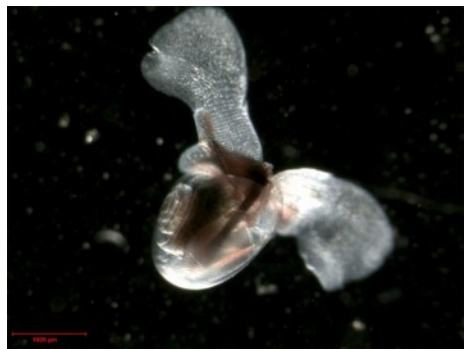
This is more evidence that the solar system may not be anything like as old as evolutionists fondly imagine.

Flying snail

Limacina helicina is a marine snail only 3mm long that is also called the Sea Butterfly. An article on the BBC News website (<http://goo.gl/7276jx>, accessed 19 February 2016) shows this remarkable creature "flying" through the water using a pair of appendages resembling wings. The appendages are in the position where a snail's "foot" would normally be.

Dr David Murphy, a mechanical engineer at Johns Hopkins University, filmed the snail in action and found that it utilised some of the same vortex-making tricks that help keep insects in the air.

The article notes that he considers the snail to be "a remarkable example of convergent evolution", i.e., having evolved the same traits as creatures in



Limacina helicina, the Sea Butterfly, uses its two appendages like wings to "fly" through the water. Image: R. Hopcroft, in the public domain.

completely independent lineages. But surely another, and arguably more rational, explanation is that these diverse creatures had the same Designer.

Superhuman?

One of the saddest aspects of the deceitful philosophy of Evolutionism is that not only does it ensnare the physical sciences, it is spreading like cancer into other areas of human understanding as well. For example, on the website <http://yoursuperhumanpotential.com/>, which CSM emphatically does not support, we read:

"We are now entering the single biggest evolutionary leap since our ancestors learned how to harness fire and separated from the animal kingdom. A small percentage of the human population, around 5%, is now undergoing a "quantum leap" to this emerging tier of evolution. These rare individuals, from every corner of the globe, are now blazing a new evolutionary trail for all of us, and breaking through to new levels of consciousness and capabilities, beyond anything that human beings have ever experienced before. Perhaps the most remarkable thing that the research has revealed about this evolutionary phenomenon is that you can actually accelerate your development to this new level through a simple combination of practices and exercises."

This is reminiscent of Satan's original temptation to Eve, "you will be like God" (Gen. 3: 5), which led not at all to greater

consciousness and capabilities but to the disaster and misery of the Fall.

Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist**

by *Dr David Rosevear*

2 January p.7 – Icy moon lander

“The US government has told NASA to visit Europa in 2022. The latest budget set aside is \$175 million for a planned fly-by of Jupiter’s glacier moon, but it added a twist: NASA is required to land on the moon, not just fly past. Europa is a promising target in the search for extra-terrestrial life, thanks to its liquid water ocean.”

This will be a dangerous and expensive way to find out that it requires more than water to produce life. It requires information from a living parent and ultimately from the living God.

2 January p.14 – New human species may rewrite history

All anthropologists like to declare that their discovery will rewrite history! Funding and careers are at stake.

“We may have lived alongside an archaic human species just 10,500 years ago in China. Controversial bone discoveries suggest we even interbred and cannibalised these mystery hominins.”

So could we have evolved from the black widow spider long ago and far away?

Another expert thinks that the differences in the bone, a femur, are a result of natural variation within a population, not a new species.

The article is illustrated with an almost complete human skull found a few hundred kilometres north in 1979.

9 January p.10 – Guinea pigs tweak genes to beat heat

Wild guinea pigs have been found to adjust to rising temperatures in laboratory experiments, by switching off specific genes. In some instances, these changes in the switches (by the addition of methyl groups to the genes) have been passed on to their offspring. At least 10 genes are involved.

This mechanism is discussed in CSM Pamphlet 395.

“These epigenetic responses may help organisms cope, but they won’t make them adapt, says team member Jörns Fickel, because they don’t affect the DNA sequence. Instead they might buy a species time to evolve permanent adaptations to warmer climate.”

How much better is this switch design feature than to evolve new genetic information (which in any case would be impossible since information only comes from an intelligent mind, not by chance mutations). Now if the climate were to



Epigenetic changes that enhance a guinea pig’s chances of survival represent sophisticated built-in design, not evolution in action. Image: Hayvan uzmani, Wikimedia, <https://goo.gl/2lei14>, under CC Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International licence.

cool down again, the switches can simply go into reverse.

16 January p.7 – Mysterious tools

“Stone tools discovered in Sulawesi in Indonesia date back at least 118,000 years – long before modern humans reached the area – and it’s not clear yet who made them.”

The date, of course, is based on baseless assumptions about a gradual laying down of sediments. Early children of Adam (Genesis 4) worked in metal, but in the dispersion away from Babel after the flood, when ores had to be discovered anew, men worked with whatever materials came to hand. The Stone Age quickly gave way to the bronze and iron ages as technology was re-invented and ores found. The human genome has not evolved since the Creation of Adam and Eve as perfect people.

16 January p.8 – Time itself goes back to the future

A problem vexing physicists and philosophers is why it is that time’s arrow points in just one direction. Of course, that is our experience here on Earth, but might there be another universe where our future was far behind them, and where cause followed effect?

Or maybe the concept of a multiverse is only a philosopher’s dream.

With the passing of time, we find that entropy increases. Order tends towards disorder, information becomes corrupted and energy becomes less available to do work.

This is because when the Lord God looked upon everything that He had just created and made, He found it very good

(Genesis 1:31). After that the only way was downhill.

If everything began with an explosion, which must have been destructive of orderliness, and order has decreased ever since (in accordance with the Second Law of Thermodynamics) why did the universe have such low entropy (high degree of order) at the beginning? The conundrum doesn’t exist if God made all things very good at the start.

And if instead of a big bang you postulate an eternal universe, that 2nd Law would insist that today there would be no order left.

16 January p.21 – Climate change checker marks sceptics down

A campaign is to be launched next month to recruit more climate scientists to comment on the credibility of a publication’s climate coverage, to help guide readers. **“Getting Google to take these annotations into account when ranking research results would let initiatives like Climate Feedback make more impact, he says. Google is testing a model that assesses the trustworthiness of web content.”**

So self-selecting ‘experts’ will work to eclipse ‘climate change deniers’ and stifle opposition by those who see that the Earth is recovering from a global flood and ice age only a few thousand years ago.

A similar situation already exists over Creation and evolution. ‘Experts’ control what gets published in science journals, and dissenters lose tenure at their universities.

16 January p.38 – Life signs

How can we detect the presence of aliens on distant planets?

A fresh round of searches for Intelligent Extra Terrestrials (SETI) is about to commence with powerful new tools and more funding.

“The Milky Way is probably home to at least a billion habitable Earth-like planets and the universe teems with some 200 billion galaxies. Given all this, the odds that we are its only self-aware entities seem infinitesimally small.”

However, life does not simply depend on there being a suitable home planet for it. It requires, primarily, the creation of a code and the means of translating the code into living things. On Earth we have DNA and all the RNAs and proteins to produce plant and animal life. The code and genetic information cannot arise by chance. Any potential build-up of complex chemicals would be prevented by the inexorable march of corruption with time (Entropy Law). The living God must create life.

“Considering that extraterrestrial societies might be millions of years old, our radio search may be laughably passé.”

When a planet passes in front of its star, our instruments can analyse the gases in its atmosphere for clues of life, something hardly conceivable when SETI was started in the 1950s. We might find chlorofluoro-carbons such as we once used in refrigerators. Even if replaced by better refrigerants, these molecules last a very long time in an atmosphere.

If the aliens have built large cities, our best telescopes might just detect their

lights in the night sky. Tokyo can be seen after dark all the way to the edge of our solar system. **“Our attempts might also be thwarted by humongous blooms of bioluminescent exo-algae, which could mimic gleaming cityscapes.”**

All of these excuses for not finding signs of life prepare us for SETI’s failure. You see, if we are alone in the universe it suggests that God really did form the Earth to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18).

23 January p.34 – Infect and direct

In a Bradford water tower a strange new form of life was uncovered in 1992. It seemed to be a virus, but was much larger than any known virus. It was confirmed as one in 2003, and since then several others have been found around the world. This was dubbed a ‘mimivirus’, and whereas HIV is some 100 nanometres across and possesses 9 genes of its own to enable it simply to reproduce, the mimivirus is four times the diameter and has about 1,020 genes.

“If you want to understand evolution and the origins of life, viruses have to be taken into account” one molecular biologist opined.

Viruses can only operate within a host cell; they are not themselves alive. They have no ribosomes, the factories that make protein. They do not divide their cells to reproduce like bacteria. Viruses inject their genes and hijack the host’s molecular machinery to reproduce themselves. The mimivirus staffs its factory with the host cell’s own ribosomes, which make proteins and mitochondria for power provision. For these giant viruses, most of their genes are not known anywhere else.

All this has led to a lot of speculation, for example: **“Large DNA viruses probably played an important role in the emergence of eukaryotes by bringing many new genes...It is possible that the ancestors of modern eukaryotic cells learned how to manipulate membranes and make a nucleus from viruses.”**

Yet their genes are instructions on a large precisely ordered sequence of nucleotides composed of stereospecific deoxyribo-nucleic acid along with phosphate and four different bases. It is statistically impossible that this structure could arise by chance, and the coded information and decoding mechanism must require an intelligence to create them.

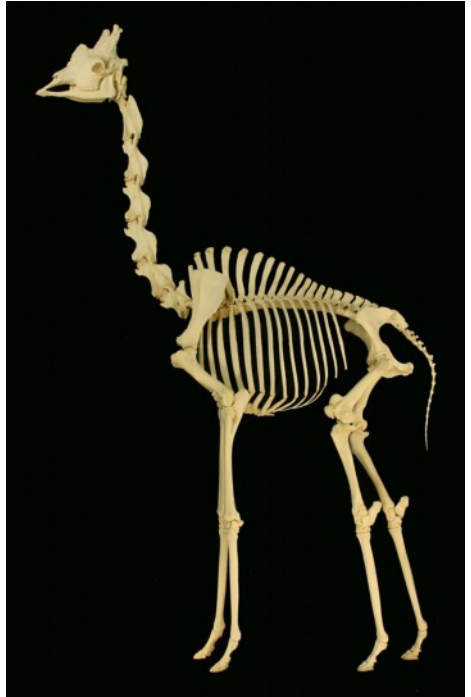
“What comes next is anyone’s guess,” said an expert.
Absolutely!

6 February p.7 – Giraffe neck cheat

“Mystery solved. All mammals, from mice to giraffes, have the same number of neck vertebrae: seven. But now we know that giraffes have evolved a cheat – they have co-opted the first of their thoracic vertebrae to act as an eighth neck bone, helping to explain how the giraffe got its long neck.”

There is, of course, no evidence that the giraffe was ever without this design feature.

But does this mean that the evolutionary Just So story, that the giraffe gradually lengthened its neck by stretching up to the top branches for food, has been abandoned?



Skeleton of a giraffe, showing the vertebrae of the neck. More information on the many amazing design features of the giraffe is given in *Creation* vol. 16 no. 5 pp. 1-3 (Sep. 2009) and vol. 18 no. 5 pp.1-2 (Aug. 2014). Image: Sklmsta, in the public domain.

6 February p.16 – Map of Jupiter’s path shows Babylonians’ advanced maths

Evolutionists are always surprised to find that the ancients were advanced in metal technology and music (Genesis 4). They imagine that early man progressed from a grunting ape-man to *Homo sapiens sapiens* over more than a million years.

Creationists know from the Bible that the first couple were made on Day 6 of Creation week. Being in the image of God, they were ‘very good’ (i.e. perfect). Over the thousands of years since, accidental mutations to the DNA have caused a partial loss of mental and

physical abilities. This article helps to confirm our view.

“Ancient Babylonians were maths whizzes. A mysterious trapezoid described on cuneiform tablets could be a map of Jupiter’s path across the sky – and shows that Babylonians beat Europeans to the ideas that led to integral calculus by at least 1500 years. Four cuneiform tablets at London’s British Museum refer to a trapezoid shape while discussing Jupiter.

The name Jupiter is thought to have been derived from Japheth, the son of Noah, from whom many nations descended (see *After the Flood* by Bill Cooper).

The tablets from around 100 or 200 BC had been excavated in the 19th century and transported to the British Museum.”

Mathieu Ossendrijver of Humboldt University in Berlin believes the calculation and trapezoid descriptions are recipes for the same process: predicting Jupiter’s place in the sky. **“He thinks the slanted top of the trapezoid is like a graph of Jupiter’s speed across the sky in the days after it first appears above the horizon. By calculating the area inside the trapezoid, Babylonian astronomers could find where the planet would be – exploiting the same link between velocity and displacement taught in calculus classes.”**

European scholars also worked this out, but only in the 14th century AD.

“It’s quite modern, and highly unexpected,” Ossendrijver says.”

6 February p.26 – The eloquent ape

This 8 page article bears out the idea that language is confined to humans. The *FOXP2* gene essential to speech, is identical in *H. Sapiens* and Neanderthal man but different in chimpanzees. This gene gives us the necessary fine-tuned control of our facial muscles. Moreover, our hyoid bone descends after a child is weaned so that it can articulate without choking on its rusk. It does seem that language is unique to humanity.

We spend years teaching our children to speak (though my Victorian grandmother was always telling me that children should be seen and not heard). It is supposed here that we evolved complex brain circuits and machinery in order to speak. Speech is necessary for us to interact with others for information sharing, trade and a thousand cultural aspects that also distinguish us from apes. By contrast social insects communicate by means of genetic programs suited to their less complex lifestyles.

“More broadly, we can say with some confidence that the first words probably fitted into just a few categories. The first ones may have been simple names, like those used by some of our primate relatives. Vervet monkeys give distinct alarm calls for leopards, martial eagles and pythons, and young vervets must learn these.” Creationist can say with some confidence that these vervets don’t progress from these noises as they grow.

13 February p.6 – Ripples of anticipation

Following the abortive announcement of the discovery of the long-sought-for gravitational waves predicted by Einstein,

this week saw another claim, this time by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave observatory (LIGO). They used detectors 3000 kilometres apart. The passing wave, travels at the speed of light. The minute time lapse of 10 milliseconds between receiving the signal at these detectors can be used to give an idea of in which direction the source lies.

“The source was said to be the merger of two black holes, each about 30 times the mass of the sun.”

Another possible explanation is that the source was the merger of two masses of charged ions and electrons, known as plasmoids. The black-hole merger would be expected to give a much larger accompanying X-ray signal that was also received. What is interpreted as ‘black holes’ often are seen to be spewing out material from their poles, an observation that doesn’t fit the theory (see the February 2016 entry in:

www.setterfield.org/Astronomy/Black_Holes.HTML.)

The data are real, but the explanation is dodgy. Maybe the big bang never happened.

13 February p.8 – Grab a bag of stem cells

An Australian company, Mesoblast, have developed ‘Temcell’, the world’s first fully approved, mass produced stem cell product. **“Bags of Temcell are packed with 72 million living human cells, and will be launched in Japan later this month as a treatment for people whose organ transplants have turned against them.”**

These are not embryonic stem cells, but come from the bone marrow of healthy donors and can be multiplied to produce

billions of standardised cells. They lack surface features marking them out as foreign, and so are not attacked by the recipient’s immune system.

“Mesoblast has similar products in advanced clinical trials for treating more common conditions, including chronic heart failure, lower back pain and rheumatoid arthritis.”

This launch is seen as just the tip of the iceberg in propelling stem cell therapy into the mainstream pharmaceutical industry. In a few decades, stem cell therapy could be as normal as prescribing conventional drugs.

20 February p.8 – Surfing gravity’s waves

“There’s going to be a revolution... Gravitational waves will allow us to explore fundamental physics, examine the weirdest objects in the universe and possibly even peer back to the universe’s earliest moments. ‘We can potentially see almost all the way back to the big bang...’”

“Signals from black hole mergers could help us understand the nature of dark energy.”

“Before the signal came in, the very existence of such black hole binaries was contested.”

Black holes, by their very nature are invisible. They, together with dark energy and dark matter are the products of the big bang theory – the current ‘best buy’ among explanations for our existence.

The next step is to look out for gravitational waves caused by the merging of two binary neutron stars.

“For now, physicists already have a mystery to solve: a faint gamma ray

burst that seems to be related to LIGO's signal. No one expected merging black holes to give off gamma rays. 'Everything lines up except the physics'..."

At a press conference later, a LIGO team member exulted: "What we've learned today: LIGO works, black holes exist, black holes collide, new black holes are born, general relativity works. Need I keep going?"

It was reported the following week, *New Scientist* 27 February p.64, that when London Mayor Boris Johnson was asked on Twitter for his views on this LIGO result, he said, "A bit fishy that they detected this billion-year-old collision of two black holes just when they switched it on."

20 February p. 28 – The honest truth "Researchers have never been whiter than white. Here are a couple of revealing numbers. About 2 per cent of scientists admit to at least one act of research misconduct. But as a whole, researchers say that around 14 per cent of colleagues are involved in such behaviour. Someone's not being straight.

"The figures come from a 2009 meta-analysis that also found one-third of scientists confessed to 'questionable research practices' such as cooking data, mining it for a significant result that is then presented as the original target of the study, selective publication or concealing conflicts of interest."

A further study last October said that scientists are becoming less likely to admit to fabrication, falsification or plagiarism.



Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919) published illustrations of alleged embryonic recapitulation of evolutionary history that were later shown to be fraudulent. But wishful thinking dies hard - even up until only a few years ago Haeckel's work was still occasionally being cited as evidence for evolution! Image: G. Romanes' 1892 copy of Haeckel's embryo drawings, in the public domain.

A 1996 study found that teaching research ethics made students more likely, not less, to misbehave.

"Scientists, eh? It's almost like they're human."

27 February p.46 – Let's talk about it

Here is a review of a book, *Why only us: language and evolution*, about the origin of language. Linguist Noam Chomski has teamed up with computer scientist Robert Berwick for a little speculation.

"For early modern humans to have evolved language, the genetic leap that made it possible must have been as simple as possible." Or possibly not! Genetic leaps would destroy the information in the *FOXP2* gene essential for language.

"Their argument goes like this. As our capability for grammar is genetically programmed" [Who was this programming genius, since information doesn't come by chance?] "and as no other species has language, it stands to

reason that language emerged fairly suddenly, in one fell swoop, because of a random mutation... To be convinced by this, the reader has to swallow a number of sub-arguments that are debatable at best.”

If language evolved suddenly, in one discontinuous jump, as the authors aver, how does that differ from creation?

The sceptical reviewer, Vyvyan Evans, claims that the precursors of language do exist in other species, from starlings to chimpanzees, though I have to admit that I’ve never had a conversation with either of them. He goes on to comment, **“If language did evolve as a chance mutation, without precedent, then it first emerged in one individual. And what is the value of language as a communicative tool when there is no one else to talk to?”**

5 March p.8 – Furry aliens on Europe’s hit list

“A blacklist of 37 invasive species to be wiped out or controlled could protect native wildlife.”

One example among many cited is the racoon dog that is being hunted to extinction in Sweden. This creature is firmly established in Germany and other



Wild racoon dogs in Japan. Image: 663highland, Wikimedia, <https://goo.gl/nzTnMt>, under CCSA 3.0 Unported licence.

parts of Europe. Hunters used to keep them under control, but nobody needs more than one fancy hat.

If these animals have evolved over millions of years, one wonders why they have taken so long to cross Europe. Climate permitting, most kinds should have spread everywhere by now.

5 March p.14 – Fish species split before our very eyes

Stickleback fish were introduced into Switzerland’s Lake Constance 150 years ago, **“an evolutionary blink of an eye”**. Now two interbreeding species have formed. One is large with tougher armour and longer spines that lives in this large lake. The other species occupies the streams that flow into the lake. Here this is called **“rapid evolution”**.

“In theory, these differences could be due to lifestyle rather than evolution – perhaps lake fish survive longer and grow larger.” Lifestyle changes can result in epigenetic adjustments, where some genes are turned off.

Whenever we are told about nascent evolution, it always turns out to be variation built into the creatures’ DNA by the Creator. This is a rapid change, and no new genetic information is involved. Darwinian evolution from one kind to another would involve new information, which cannot arise by chance.

5 March p.18 – Universe could end before the sun dies

Observations indicate that the universe is expanding at an ever increasing rate. The cause is thought to be mysterious stuff called dark energy. If the amount of dark

energy increases, the universe could conceivably rip itself apart. But don't panic, this is unlikely to happen before 2.8 billion years AD. The sun isn't expected to burn out for another 5 billion years from now.

“But pondering our doom could be a worthwhile exercise anyway, Sáez Gómez says.”

II Peter 3:10-11 agrees with Sáez – ‘But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night: in the which the heavens shall pass away with great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness?’

12 March p.7 – Creatorgate

“An almighty row blew up this week over three references to a ‘creator’ in a paper about the evolution of hand coordination. The journal *PLoS One* has retracted the article (doi.org/bc4x). The authors claim it was a mistranslation from the Chinese and are appealing for the paper to reappear with ‘creator’ replaced by ‘nature’.

This action of retracting the piece could only be justified if it was proven that evolution can occur and that there was no evidence for a Creator.

Chance changes in a biological system (mutations) lose genetic information so cannot bring about improvements. Hand coordination is a complex business involving several muscles. Artificial hands require a human designer, so it is reasonable to think that the hand was also designed. Matt. 12:13 describes how the

incarnate Creator restored a man's withered hand.

12 March p.8 – When lakes run dry

This article bemoans the fact that lakes all over the globe are drying out, leaving salt pans. This is put down to increasing use of water for irrigating crops, exacerbated by climate change.

This has been going on since the end of the ice age that followed a global flood. Marco Polo wrote about it on his famous journey to China centuries ago.

Isaiah 41:18 and elsewhere promises a time when this situation will be righted: “I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs”.

12 March p.16 – Dinosaur-era amber reveals gecko and chameleon origins

A new collection of a variety of creatures trapped in amber has been found in Cretaceous sediments. Evolutionists believe that the layers were deposited very, very slowly, and so correspond to past eras. Creationists read that the earth was destroyed by a worldwide flood in the days of Noah, and the sediments were laid down during that year. Large dinosaurs could not have been buried and fossilised in these Cretaceous layers unless it happened very rapidly.

Here, geckos are seen to have their adhesive toe pads just like today's lizards. Chameleons are found to have weak jaws not effective for biting prey, suggesting that they used their projectile tongue to grab insects, just like today's creatures.

No evolution during a supposed period of 100,000 years!

From the Postbag

"I have just finished your wonderful book *Interpreting Origins Science* during our vacation on the far south coast of NSW. It is a powerful apologetic for Biblical Creation and one which I have resonated with for more than 50 years. I look forward to your next volume and pray that the LORD will continue to bless your ministry." *J.D.*

"Thanks - I continue to enjoy your info very much. Good job! Keep holding forth the word of life!" *O.T.*, Georgia, USA

"I am so very thankful that we were able to meet. With your facility presenting creation science, right there among a row of shops on the historic waterfront in Portsmouth, for tourists to drop in, and with you having taken over a former bank building, with the true treasures of England not locked up in the Tower of London, but right there in the Genesis Expo on display for all to see, I couldn't have been more encouraged." *B.E.*, Denver, USA.

Quotes

"Science shifts all the time. What may be true today was not true before and may not be true tomorrow. As we discover we learn more, understand more, change our ideas, come up with new paradigms, and so it's a shifting framework that we constantly strive to improve."

(Dr Robert S. Stewart Jr., Department Chair, Science, Technology and Mathematics, Regent University, Virginia, USA, in an interview on CBN News, <http://goo.gl/sDIXXo>.)

"Certainly, my own research with antibiotics during World War II received no guidance from insights provided by Darwinian evolution. Nor did Alexander Fleming's discovery of bacterial inhibition by penicillin. I recently asked more than 70 eminent researchers if they would have done their work differently if they had thought Darwin's theory was wrong. The responses were all the same: No."

Prof. Philip S. Skell, Pennsylvania State University, *The Scientist*, <http://goo.gl/AvkTND>.

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