



Think & Believe

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The Battle Rages

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

We recently received another letter from Isaac Asimov, a well known and very vocal anti-creationist. In this letter which is an effort to raise funds to help stop the creationists, he laments:

“Science education is in trouble.”

On this point we would agree — but for totally different reasons than he states. The kind of “science education” he is referring to here is evolutionary indoctrination which never offers the alternative of creation. This sort of evolutionary brainwashing *should be in trouble and eliminated*. Children need to see that there is an alternative viewpoint. In addition to evidence that seems to support evolution, the flaws of the evolutionary myth need to be pointed out and the mass of positive evidence supporting creation presented. Students should be encouraged to grapple with the evidence and arrive at their own conclusions.

Asimov bemoans the fact that:

“The trend to reduce the coverage of evolution in public school textbooks has worsened. California’s demand [led by anti-creationists] for better[?] textbooks [with only evolution as fact] gained wide publicity but almost no real change. And now, with fundamentalists launching successful lawsuits in Tennessee and Alabama, publishers have an even greater incentive to reduce evolutionary coverage further or eliminate it altogether.

“More and more people are exposed to creationist, anti-evolutionist ideas. Just read the letters to the editor section of your newspaper or tune in to radio talk shows, and you’ll see what I mean.”

Praise the Lord! Creationists are beginning to make an impact! We see it in the number of invitations we receive to speak in churches, youth groups and public schools — many are becoming open to hear the message. But, don’t be deceived! Regardless of how Asimov views the “state” of textbooks, there is still wide coverage of evolution presented as fact with no alternative and the great majority of schools still teach evolution as the only option.

Yes, we are making an impact, but we have a long way to go. The opposition is intensifying and we must do the same. Asimov and others desire to raise funds to have creationists silenced forever. Will you stand with us? Take time to become informed yourself and share your findings with others. Pray for us and help any way you can. Students deserve to hear both sides of the story.



A stamp commemorating the greatest scientific discovery of 1977 — a plesiosaur. (See *Spotlight on Science*.)

NOTES & QUOTES

■ As we saw on the previous page, Isaac Asimov doesn't want the public to even question the "fact of evolution." In taking this stance, he is going against all good science. According to the former director of the Commonwealth Institute for Biological Control in Ottawa, Canada:

- This situation, where scientific men rally to the defense of a doctrine they are unable to define scientifically, much less demonstrate with scientific rigor, attempting to maintain its credit with the public by suppression of criticism and the elimination of difficulties, is abnormal and undesirable in science. (W. R. Thompson, Introduction to *Origin of Species*, 1956)

■ Even casual reading of today's anti-creationist writings shows that there are many evolutionists practicing this very sort of abnormal and undesirable science. Asimov wants absolutely no funds given to any organization that leans toward a creationist viewpoint and no time in school for alternative views to evolution:

- I don't want to see tax funding for schools, museums, and research divided between science and "scientific" creationism; I don't want teachers adding creationism to their science classes (Asimov, Letter, December 1986)

■ Challenging evolutionary science has much the same flavor as challenging a strongly held faith. Most hold tenaciously to it even though they see the flaws:

- The concept of organic evolution is very highly prized by biologists, for many of whom it is an object of genuinely religious devotion, because they regard it as a supreme integrative principle. This is probably the reason why the severe methodological criticism employed in other departments of biology has not been brought to bear against evolutionary speculation. (Thompson, *Science and Common Sense*, 1965, p.229)
- No one can think of ways in which to test [evolution]. Ideas either without basis or based on a few laboratory experiments carried out in extremely simplified systems have obtained currency far beyond their validity. They have become part of an evolutionary dogma accepted by most of us as part of our training. (Birch & Eldrich, *Nature*, Vol. 214, 1967, p.352)

■ One of the most well known evolutionists, Julian Huxley, surmised the probability of natural selection leading to higher forms to be one chance in a number so large that it would occupy all of 1500 pages of print. After that statement he then let the reader grasp the amazing depth of his anti-God religious zeal:

- No one would bet on anything so improbable happening . . . and yet it happened. (Huxley, *Evolution in Action*, 1953)

■ The main reason that many accept evolution is simply that they refuse to consider creation or a Creator:

- It became an accepted doctrine that life never rises except from life. So far as the actual evidence goes, this is still the only possible conclusion. But since it is a conclusion that seems to lead back to some supernatural creative act, it is a conclusion that scientific men find very difficult to accept. (J.W.N. Sullivan, *The Limitations of Science*, as quoted in Norman Geisler, *The Evolutionist's Faith*, 1982 radio program "Quest for Truth")
- . . . the theory of evolution itself, a theory universally accepted, not because it can be proven by logically coherent evidence to be true, but because the only alternative, special creation, is clearly incredible. (D.M.S. Watson, *Nature*, 1929, p.233)

■ In light of the above why would any one dare make the following claims?

- Today there is not such thing as the theory of evolution, it is the fact of evolution. (Ernst Mayr, *Omni*, Feb. 1983)
- Evolution is not only a fact; it is the central unifying principle of all biology. (Douglas Futuyma, *Evolutionary Biology*, 1979)

■ It appears obvious that the only reason that someone would so blatantly make these assertions is because they are motivated by their own religious convictions. This type of dogmatism should not be permitted in the public school classroom, but it usually is and in most subjects, not just biology.

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SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Are Plesiosaurs Extinct?

In April, 1977, a discovery was made by Japanese fishermen off the coast of New Zealand which should have stunned the entire world with its scientific implications. It was, however, largely ignored by the western world! Why?! The find did not agree with commonly held evolutionary bias.

The ship's crew had recovered the remains of a 32 foot long, 4000 pound creature which had probably died no more than a month earlier. (See picture below.) A zoologist on board took careful measurements, samples, and pictures before returning the rotting carcass to the sea. (Evidently they didn't want to contaminate their large cargo of fish.)

What was it? Based upon the photos and the report of the zoologist, it appears to be a plesiosaur, or sea dwelling reptile. The find made such an impression on the Japanese, that it was commemorated as the scientific discovery of the year on a postage stamp (see front page). They had no cause to doubt the authenticity of the find. The western world, however, took a more skeptical view.

- "It's baloney," said Dr. Bobby Schaeffer, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. "Every ten years or so, something is found, usually in the Pacific, and people think it is a dinosaur. And it always turns out to be a basking shark, or an adolescent whale. When sharks find a dead whale, they have a merry old time and the half-eaten corpse looks like a dinosaur skeleton." (Koster, *Oceans*, Nov./Dec. 1977 p.59)
- A Scottish zoologist, Dr. Alan Fraser-Brunner . . . said the body was "at once recognizable to a zoologist as that of a dead sea lion . . . that the estimate of length and weight must be an exaggeration, and that . . . [the photograph] is clear enough to show that the animal was mammalian — nothing about it resembles a plesiosaur, which was a reptile." (Ibid.)

With amazing authority, this discovery was dismissed by people like these who didn't get within a thousand miles of the creature. However, these "authoritative" and "scientific" conclusions totally ignored the eye witness reports, the careful measurements taken by a qualified zoologist on board the ship, and the studies of other Japanese scientists:

1. Measurements of the head and vertebrae, plus the lack of any dorsal fin ruled out its having been a shark.
2. Samples of the fins were analyzed by ion exchange chromatography to determine the amino acid structure of the protein for comparison with living creatures. The results ruled out the possibility of the creature having been a mammal such as the whale or sea lion.

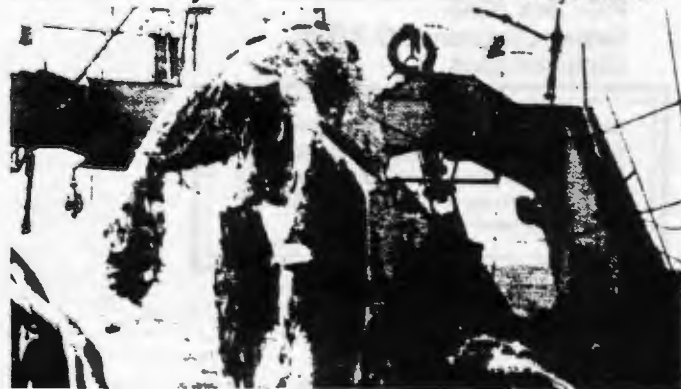
Why did scientists of the western world basically ignore the discovery? Is it because so many are committed scientifically and philosophically to the evolutionary assumption that these types of creatures became extinct 60-70 million years ago? If so, they should not be found today. Therefore, they ruled it out as a possibility, and surmised that it must have been a sea mammal or a type of shark even though this conclusion was contrary to solid scientific data.

This find in itself does not falsify evolution; it merely gives us more grounds than we already have to doubt the reliability of the time-honored geologic column. It seems that the evolutionary armor is wearing so thin, that great pains must be expended to protect the sacred scientific presuppositions.

Koster concludes in his article:

- In the end, everybody's individual preconceptions won out. Those who were prepared to believe in living plesiosaurs were convinced or nearly so, while those who refused to believe found nothing to change their minds. For the open-minded skeptics, or for those who were just plain curious, the New Zealand monster remains one of the most tantalizing enigmas of the sea.

Now who says scientists are all so objective?



*The Japanese Discovery:
Could this be a plesiosaur?*

 **Upcoming Events** 

- Jan. 14- California speaking & research trip
- Feb. 3 Contact Crest Community Church
(619) 442-3736
- Feb. 5 First Meeting of Creation/Evolution
Class for College Credit to run
Thursday nights for much of spring.
Contact us for more information.
- Feb. 8 Grace Community Church, Fruita, CO
Contact Church Office 858-3954
4 hour Mini-seminar
- Feb. 15 First Assembly, Montrose, CO
Contact Church Office 249-3954
- Feb. 15-17 Youth With a Mission, Cimmaron, CO
15 hours instruction to a Discipleship
Training School
- Feb. 21,22 First Baptist Church, Craig, CO
Contact 824-3638 or 824-5926
Full Weekend Seminar
- Feb. 28, Pray & Ski Youth Retreat
- Mar. 1 Steamboat Springs, CO
Baptist Youth from 3 states
Contact us for more information
- Mar. 13,14 Rangely, CO
Contact Terri Thompson 675-2504
Mini-Seminar and Field Trip to
Dinosaur National Monument
- Mar. 15 First Baptist Church, Vernal, UT
Contact Church Office 789-1347
4 hour Mini-seminar

 **A Note From Mary Jo** 

I took 3 graduate classes in education this fall through Western State College. The Philosophy of Education class was quite thought-provoking. It was interesting to compare the various philosophies and try to understand how they relate to a Christian view of education. The perspective I gained has been quite helpful in understanding the trends in education today. Many of these trends are diametrically opposed to Christian principles.

These classes have really underscored in my mind the importance of Christians being involved in all facets of education. We are called to be "salt" and "light" in a dark world. Christian teachers, students and parents *can* make a difference. I urge you to become involved. Your schools need you!

 **Don't Forget!** 

Registration for the Camp Redcloud Creation Family Camp (Aug. 23-29) needs to be in by March 1 for discount rate! Contact us if you need more information.

**Alpha Omega
Institute**

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Would you like additional information about any one of the condensed articles or on another subject that we haven't even touched upon as yet? Write to us and we will gladly send you some.

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