



Think & Believe

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EXPERIENCING EVOLUTION

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

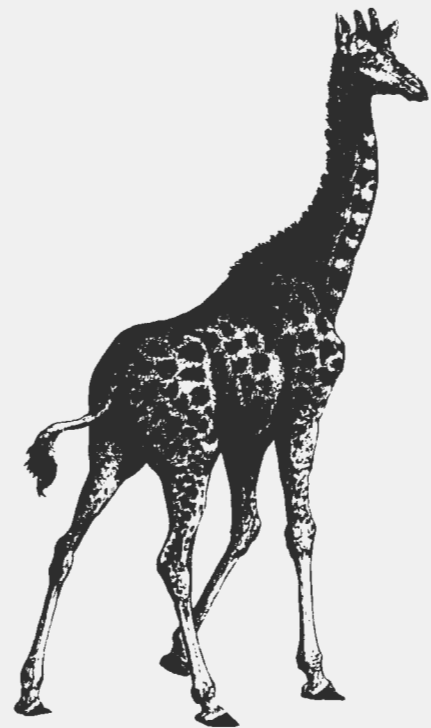
The Denver Museum of Natural History is embarking on a \$6 million dollar project which **Rocky Mountain News** (4/12/92) calls an "evolutionary leap." Visitors will walk through electronically-controlled exhibits, immersed in fog, sounds, smells, and breezes. Project developers hope to depict ancient environments in the journey through 3.5 billion years of evolutionary history in a way that will impact even "numb parents and hyperactive kids." They plan to borrow heavily from "Hollywood, Disney World and other masters of popular entertainment and illusion." As if kids don't get enough evolutionary teaching already from textbooks, movies, museums and the media, now they will actually be able to experience it!

Adjoining each of the major scenes, there will be an alcove displaying fossils. According to museum curator, Richard Stucky, (as quoted in the above article), "We'll give visitors the same evidence that the scientists have [complete with smells, huh?]. People ask us, 'How do you know?' And now we'll say, 'Here's how we figured it out.'" Sounds great, doesn't it, but here's the rub. Curators already know that most museum visitors spend less than 25 seconds in front of any one display. How many are going to take the time to carefully study the fossil evidence, especially when confronted with much more exciting displays.

Even if they do wander into the fossil alcoves, will they know the right questions to ask or will they just assume that the evidence is sufficient and scientists must be really smart to figure it all out. If curators really want to give visitors the "same evidence that the scientists have," all they would see is bits and fragments of bone and rock, not entire evolutionary environments with labels "explaining" them and artistic murals re-constructing them.

Scientists can never really "know" anything about the past. All we can do is make guesses based on evidence which has been **filtered through bias**. The only way we can know anything for sure is to take the word of a reliable eye witness who was there. God claims that He is the Creator and gives us an "eye-witness" report in the Bible. We choose to believe His testimony. How about you?

By the way, if anyone donates \$6 million, we'd love to build a similar center to portray the Biblical view of creation and Earth history. Imagine experiencing Noah's Flood! That would really be exciting!



**Giraffes -- No Accident!
See Spotlight on Science**

NOTES & QUOTES

■ In his book, **The Neck of the Giraffe**, evolutionist Francis Hitching does a remarkable job of destroying all traditional arguments for Darwinian evolution. He states in his introduction that we are at a crossroads of science, "...potentially one of those times in science when, quite suddenly, a long-held idea is overthrown by the weight of contrary evidence and a new one takes its place."

■ He then gives some of this "contrary evidence" which is overthrowing the Darwinian view of nature. He quotes Darwin as asking why we can't find the needed transitional forms, and adds on page 10:

But the curious thing is that there is a consistency about the fossil gaps: *the fossils go missing in all the important places*. When you look for links between major groups of animals, they simply aren't there.

■ Using familiar creationist arguments, Hitching goes on to show that Archaeopteryx is not a true intermediate form, the "horse series" shown in high school texts is inaccurate and misleading, and numerous fossil creatures appear to remain unchanged for millions of years.

■ Moving into molecular biology, Hitching quotes Harvard's Ernst Mayr, a spokesman for traditional Darwinism, as saying that "...all evolution is due to the accumulation of small genetic changes, guided by natural selection." (p. 34) Hitching concludes (p. 36), however:

...that theory, as a general proposition, is effectively dead, despite its persistence as text-book orthodoxy.

■ Later, he quotes famous Pierre Paul Grassé saying that "No matter how numerous they may be, mutations do not produce any kind of evolution." (p. 146)

■ Again paralleling creationist arguments, he points out that examples of micro-evolution (minor adaptive changes due to already existing diversity in the genetic pool) are not sufficient to prove macro-evolution (major changes from one species into another). Using the familiar peppered moths which changed color to match the soot-blackened trees of the early industrial era, he says:

The peppered moths, after all, stayed from beginning to end *Biston betularia*. Now that smoke-control policies are operating and the air is becoming cleaner, the original silvered variety of moth is on the increase again. Nothing ... has changed except the ratio. (p. 38)

The main function of the genetic system, quite clearly, is one of renewal, of maintenance of the *status quo*, of

establishing limits to change. Living cells duplicate themselves with near-total fidelity. The degree of error is so tiny that *no manmade machine can approach it*. (p. 43, final italics ours)

■ Hitching also shows the creation of life from non-life by unguided natural chemical processes is scientifically impossible. First citing the "chicken or the egg" problem posed by the necessity of both DNA and proteins having evolved simultaneously, he asks:

How, when no life existed, did substances come into being which, today are absolutely essential to living systems, yet which can only be formed by those systems? (p. 49)

■ Hitching quotes several authorities on mathematical probability, and concludes that the odds against this occurrence are on the order of one chance in 10^{450} (1 followed by 450 zeros). He adds:

Since scientists generally rule out of consideration any event that has less than one chance in 10^{50} of occurring, it is hardly surprising that many have come to believe that new biochemical laws will be needed to solve the problem. *However, we know the event did occur, and we even know roughly when*. (p. 50)

■ This amazing flight into illogic is not unique to this one chapter of his book. In the very first chapter, in contradiction to the odds just cited, Hitching states:

...the probability that evolution has occurred approaches certainty in scientific terms. (p. 4)

■ Hitching is an unusual author in that he provides us with the philosophical basis for why he cannot accept the obvious conclusions of his own reasoning. Mirroring his own thoughts, he quotes L.T. More, of the University of Cincinnati, from his book The Dogma of Evolution:

Our faith in the doctrine of evolution depends upon our reluctance to accept the antagonistic doctrine of special creation. (p. 90)

■ In other words, Hitching and other evolutionary scientists simply cannot (or will not) accept that the world was divinely created by God who holds them accountable for their actions. No amount of scientific fact can force them to reach that conclusion, no matter how logical it is. We can only pray that God will convict their hearts.

(The above notes on Hitching's book were submitted by Alpha Omega board member, Dave Roper. Thanks, Dave!)

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Giraffes -- Not By Accidents!

Evolutionists for quite some time have proposed theories on giraffe evolution. Even before Darwin's time, Lamarck taught that shorter ancestors of giraffes had stretched their necks to reach high branches. Somehow this stretched characteristic was passed on to succeeding generations until giraffes reached their present height. This idea is laughed at today, yet it held sway for many years. Even though Darwin accepted a form of this idea, later evolutionists rejected it and proposed that the changes occurred by slow and gradual mutations (accidents) and natural selection. Now many evolutionists are rejecting gradualism in favor of punctuated equilibrium, periods of massive mutations (accidents) and rapid evolutionary change with long periods of stability between.

As creationists, we find problems with all of the evolutionary explanations for giraffes. The characteristics exhibited by giraffes are too complex and closely interrelated to allow for any kind of evolution. Instead, these magnificent animals demonstrate the creative ingenuity of our great Creator.

Adult male giraffes can grow to be 18 feet tall. While the long neck is probably the most famous feature, the giraffe's long legs also contribute much to its height. The long neck and legs do present some interesting physiological problems, though.

In order to get blood to the brain when standing erect, the giraffe needs an extremely strong heart, which it has; however, when it lowers its head to graze or drink, the rush of blood to the head would cause brain hemorrhage if the giraffe did not have a specially designed system to compensate for this problem. Fortunately for giraffes, they have a complex package of traits which, functioning together, control the flow of blood to the brain.

A series of special pressure sensors along the arteries of the neck detect the rise in pressure as the giraffe lowers its head and activate other control systems. The thick-walled arteries contract to control blood flow as needed, while special valves in the veins prevent backflow to the brain. Also, some of the arteries actually by-pass the brain, while others disperse blood through the marvelous rete mirabile, a web of small arteries at the base of the brain.

All these specialized features, and many more, not only make it possible for the giraffe to get a drink without "blowing its brains," but also proclaim the Wisdom of God.

"Holy Grail of Cosmology?"--CAUTION!!

News reports across this country have boldly declared that NASA's satellite has found the proof of the Big Bang Theory. This theory teaches that all matter in the universe arose from a single highly concentrated speck of matter smaller than the tip of a pin which exploded billions of years ago and later formed galaxies, stars and planets including our own. The theory is plagued with problems and evidence has mounted against it.

One major problem has been the extreme evenness in background radiation. It was hoped that NASA's \$400 million Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) would detect a substantial unevenness in this radiation. Sure enough, although substantially less than hoped for, some minute variations were discerned and the press moved into action. Some reports actually called the new findings "The Holy Grail of Cosmology." Even some Christian publications have thrown caution to the wind and jumped on the band-wagon.

Be careful! Too often the initial reports make the headlines but later retractions don't even hit the obituary page. We wish to urge extreme caution since:

1. The difference is minuscule and a lot less than hoped for. The measured "difference" is no more than one hundred-thousandth of a degree! This is beyond the limits of the equipment since its background noise is more than the observed difference. A COBE team member, Al Kogut even admits, "You can't point to any one point in the data and say that's signal and that's noise." (**Science**, 5/1/92). Physicist, Dr. Russell Humphreys, commented by phone, "The researchers are happy to have found a small Band-Aid to put on the developing cracks in their theory. ... This whole thing has an aura of clutching and grasping at straws."

2. The findings have not been checked. The COBE team leader, George Smoot, although believing he is right, admits, "There is always the chance it is wrong. ... I know I'm going out on a limb."

3. Even if the incredibly small variations are real, perhaps there are other explanations. Too often people view the **Bible** through the lens of science rather than viewing science through the lens of scripture. Psalm 148 speaks of the waters above the heavens. Realizing there is something that is being seen out there and using this clue, Dr. Humphreys says, "My best guess is we are seeing red-shifted thermal radiation from the waters above the heavens." I wonder if NASA would spend \$400 million to confirm that hypothesis?

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- May 14,15: Grand Junction, CO.** Museum Tour. "Ranger Talk." and Field Trip. 303-245-5906.
- May 17,18: Crested Butte, CO.** Oh Be Joyful Church. Contact Beth Fitzpatrick. 303-349-0349.
- May 22-25: Colorado River Wet and Wild Adventure.** Call Christian Wilderness Encounters. 1-800-848-CAMP.
- May 27: Cedaredge, CO.** Camp Cedaredge Youth Camp. Contact Pearo Ackles. 303-824-3484 or 824-7234.
- June 5-6: Denver, CO,** Christian Home Educators Conference. Holiday Inn Convention Complex. Contact 303-777-1022.
- June 8,9: Manitou Springs, CO,** Summit Ministries Youth Leadership Training. Call 719-685-9103.
- June 10-12: Walsh, CO,** Contact Barb Burson, 719-324-5815.
- June 14: Thornton, CO,** Village Baptist, Contact 303-452-3169.
- July 17-19: Los Angeles, CA,** Teen Track, State Convention, California Home Educators. Contact 714-537-5121.
- July 29-Aug 1: St. Paul, MN,** Twin Cities Creation Conference, Northwestern College. Many creation speakers and broad spectrum of subjects from general to highly technical. Call 612-869-0949 for reservations and details.
- Aug 9-14: Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure**
A full creation seminar for the whole family plus time to explore western Colorado's famous dinosaur country, Colorado National Monument, and beautiful Grand Mesa. Contact us: 303-245-5906.
- Aug 16-21: Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure**
An action-packed week of mountain activities plus a full creation seminar in Colorado's beautiful San Juan Mountains near Lake City, CO. Contact us: 303-245-5906.
- Aug 24-28: ICR Summer Institute/Summit Ministries**
In-depth week of creation teaching with Dr. Duane Gish, Dr. Richard Bliss, and the Nuttings in historic Manitou Springs, CO. Contact Summit Ministries, 719-685-9103.
- Aug 31-Sept 4: YWAM Discipleship Training School,** High Park Ranch, Cimarron, CO. Contact 303-249-7004.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

Alpha Omega Institute

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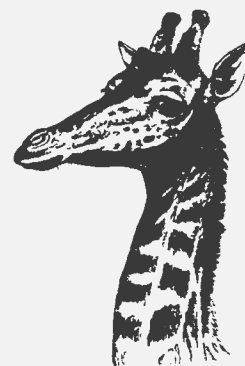
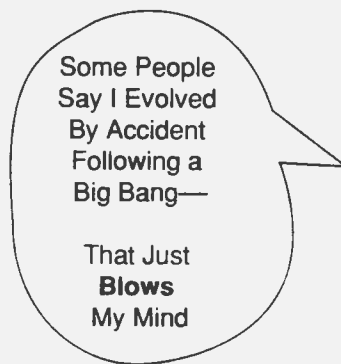
In This Issue:

- An Evolutionary Leap at the Denver Museum
- Those Gangly Giraffes
- Big Bang "Proven"?
- LAST CALL FOR CREATION FAMILY CAMPS!

BUILDING PURCHASE UPDATE

The building we were attempting to purchase via a backup contract has been sold to another party. We are somewhat confused as to why events occurred as they did, but anxious to see what the Lord has in store for us! Please pray with us regarding God's direction in locating the property of His choosing. We deeply desire His perfect timing and provision.

In the meantime, we are setting aside donations specifically ear-marked to the building fund so that we will be able to obtain a facility debt-free when one becomes available. Contributions toward this purpose are still appreciated. We will be contacting those of you who have contributed specifically toward this facility to see if you wish to have your contribution refunded or applied to the building fund. Thanks so much for your help and prayers. Keep praying! God is in control.



Think and Believe is published bi-monthly by Alpha Omega Institute, P.O. Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Alpha Omega Institute is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donations are tax deductible.

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