



# Think & Believe

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## Human Dignity

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

"No single, essential difference separates human beings from other animals..." Thus begins the feature article of **Time** (March 14, 1994), "How Man Began." With "new" discoveries and new theories coming out all the time, we are constantly told we are just the result of a lucky roll of the evolutionary dice.

What impact does this evolutionary philosophy have on individuals and society today? If kids hear often enough that they are just animals, how long will it be before they begin to act like animals? If they think they are just accidental combinations of molecules, where will they find meaning and purpose in life? How will they respect the dignity and value of others?

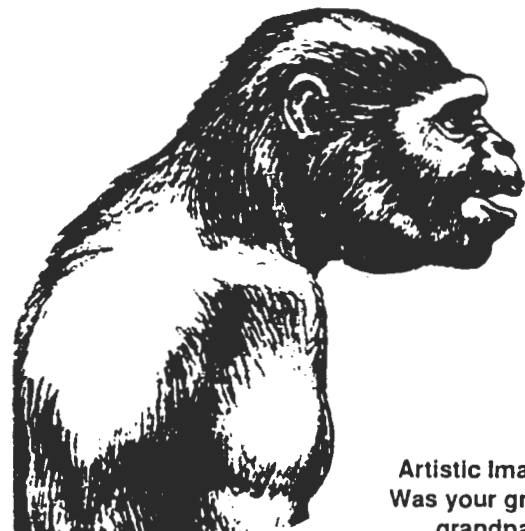
This "struggle for survival" philosophy leaves little room for individual worth. Individuals are dispensable for the good of the group. There is no compassion or concern for the old, young, weak, or handicapped. Thus, evolutionary thinking must logically result in abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, racism, war and genocide, as witnessed in Hitler's Germany.

Evolutionary philosophy also leads naturally to despair. It provides no meaning in origin, no purpose in life, and no hope for the future. We are just specks, floating randomly in the ocean of time with no absolutes except the evolutionary "ethic" of survival of the fittest. We may enjoy thinking we are free to set our own destiny and create our own rules, but evolutionary philosophy itself provides no foundation. Without an absolute reference, how can we define "good" and "bad?" The only good is that which propels nature relentlessly onward and the only bad is that which impedes its progress.

Are we being a bit harsh in our statements? After all, we all know evolutionists who are kind, caring, and

compassionate, but these qualities don't naturally follow from the philosophy of evolution -- they are holdovers from the Judeo-Christian ethic which has undergirded our society for decades. Though some may now claim that evolution is based on cooperation, not competition, the very process of evolution involves elimination and replacement of the weaker.

In contrast, the Bible gives meaning and purpose in life and a hope for the future. We are not just animals, but a special creation of a loving God. He knows and cares for each of us. His Word establishes the basis of order and justice in society and provides meaning to life, (even to suffering). His death and resurrection bring hope for the future. As the Psalmist said, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet. ... O LORD Our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" (Ps 8:4-6, 9)



Artistic Imagination!  
Was your great-great  
grandpa an ape?

# NOTES & QUOTES

■ The cover story of **Time** magazine, March 14, 1994, "How Man Began," contains some fascinating insights into the "science" of human evolution:

Yet despite more than a century of digging, the fossil record remains maddeningly sparse. With so few clues, even a single bone that doesn't fit into the picture can upset everything. Virtually every major discovery has put deep cracks in the conventional wisdom and forced scientists to concoct new theories, amid furious debate. (p. 82)

If even portions of these claims prove to be true, they will force a major rewrite of the book of human evolution. They will herald fundamental changes in the story of how we came to be who we are. (p. 82)  
[Ed: Funny thing -- God has never had to re-write Genesis. Maybe **He** got it right in the first place!]

The current debate is over the time when *Homo erectus* supposedly emigrated from Africa and how and when *Homo sapiens* (modern man) evolved. Evolutionists admit there are still many "unanswered questions":

Answering such questions requires convincing evidence -- which is hard to come by in the contentious world of paleoanthropology. (p. 82)

But these methods [of dating rocks] are far from foolproof. (p. 82)

While many unanswered questions remain about when and where modern humans first appeared, their ancestors almost surely emerged from Africa's lush forests nearly 4 million years ago. (p. 83)

How can they be so sure of the "fact" of human evolution, when the fossil record is "maddeningly sparse" and dating methods are "far from foolproof?"

The theory was neat and tidy -- as long as everyone overlooked the holes. (p. 85)

This, after all, is the arena of human evolution, where no theory dies without a fight and no bit of new evidence is ever interpreted the same way by opposing camps. (p. 87)

The only certainty in this data-poor, imagination-rich, endlessly fascinating field is that there are plenty of surprises left to come. (p. 87)

The biggest surprise for some of these guys will be when they find out that God did it just like He said in Genesis.

■ In contrast to the usual fare, Marvin Lubenow's book, **Bones of Contention** (1992), provides a breath of fresh air. After twenty-five years of personal research in this field, he begins his book with these words:

The human fossil record is strongly supportive of the concept of Special Creation. On the other hand, the fossil evidence is so contrary to human evolution as to effectively falsify the idea that humans evolved. (p. 7)

Lubenow's detailed charts show that fossils of true humans have been found in layers contemporaneous with their supposed ancestors. Through clear logic and careful research, he exposes many of the myths surrounding evolutionary research.

The myth in the mind of the public is that the human fossil material is readily available and is thoroughly studied by all who teach and write on the subject. The truth is that paleoanthropology is in the awkward position of being a science that is at least one step removed from the very material upon which it claims to base its findings. (p. 17)

What is not generally known is that this sequence [of human "ancestors"], impressive as it seems, is a very artificial and arbitrary arrangement because (1) some fossils are selectively excluded if they do not fit well into the evolutionary scheme; (2) some human fossils are arbitrarily downgraded to make them appear to be evolutionary ancestors when they are in fact true humans; and (3) some nonhuman fossils are upgraded to make them appear to be human ancestors. (p. 21)

How many hominid fossils have actually been discovered? No one knows for sure, since there is no "central clearinghouse" of the data, but Lubenow claims the actual number of hominid fossil individuals is large:

When a worker in this field speaks of the scarcity of the human fossils, he is actually saying, "Although there is an abundance of hominid fossils, the bulk of them are either too modern to help me or they do not fit well into the evolutionary scheme. Since we all know that humans evolved, what is so perplexing is the difficulty we are having in finding the fossils that would clearly demonstrate that fact." (p. 32)

Lubenow's book is extensively documented. Henry Morris calls it the "most complete and accurate critique of the fossils of the so-called 'ape-men'." We highly recommend it for anyone who wants to "dig deeper." (Available from us, \$12.95 + \$1.50 S/H. CO res add 3% tax.)

# SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

## Was Your Great-Great Grandpa An Ape?

Textbooks, museums, and popular magazines are adorned with detailed pictures illustrating how humans evolved from more primitive ancestors. It all looks so good and so scientific that students and adults alike are convinced that it is true. However, beneath the surface of the glossy prints and behind the scenes in the museum, the evidence is not so convincing. Consider the following material relevant to the cover story in *Time* magazine, March 14, 1994. While admitting that there are many unknowns in the details of human evolution, there is **no hint that the whole theory may be wrong**. As usual, evolution is assumed to be a "fact" with only details in question. Actually, the whole theory is flawed.

The article includes a diagram depicting a typical ape-to-man line-up showing *Australopithecus afarensis*, *Australopithecus africanus*, *Paranthropus boisei*, *Paranthropus robustus*, *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, *Homo neanderthalensis*, and finally *Homo sapiens*. It looks so "official," but there are all sorts of holes in it.

*P. boisei* and *P. robustus* are erroneously included in the line-up. First, they are now usually classified as *Australopithecus*. Second, even their own time chart shows them to be "dead ends" --not human ancestors. Also, by studying the time chart given beneath the "line-up," one could notice that the species listed are separate and distinct -- some even overlapping in time. Transitions are represented by dotted lines -- not evidence.

Furthermore, the article contains all sorts of misinformation. It states (p. 83), "Lucy [the *A. afarensis* discovered by Donald Johanson in Ethiopia in 1974] walked fully upright. How did the researchers know? The knee joint..." Remember the details surrounding the discovery of the knee joint? (See **Think and Believe** (Vol.8 No.1) It was found almost 2 miles away from the rest of the skeleton and almost 200 feet lower in the strata. Would **you** associate the two?

*Time* cites footprints found in Tanzania by Mary Leakey as further evidence for Lucy walking upright. However, the tracks are remarkably similar to human footprints; the only reason they are not attributed to humans is they are too old! According to Lubenow (**Bones of Contention**, 1992, p.175), this is "a classic case of interpreting facts according to a preconceived philosophical bias."

The "final clue that Lucy was the missing link" was a skull pieced together from "fossil fragments, like a prehistoric jigsaw puzzle." (*Time*, p. 83) The article is apparently referring to a **composite based on cranial and facial fragments from several individuals**. There was much debate about this "skull" since no *A. afarensis* skulls had been found until recently. *Science* (April 1, 1994) reports on the first *A. afarensis* skull found in an article entitled, "'Lucy,' Crucial Early Human Ancestor,

Finally Gets a Head." The 3/4 complete skull was assembled from more than 200 fragments found in a sandy gully about 2 miles away from Lucy. Question: how much bias entered into the reconstruction of this puzzle?

Lucy and her kin are considered to be in the line of humans because of their age and because they may have walked upright, but, as Lubenow suggests (pp. 166-168), none of this really matters anyway, because remains of modern humans have been found in layers as "old" as *Australopithecus*. He believes they are simply extinct primates, and not in the human lineage at all.

The next link in the chain is supposedly *Homo habilis*. Lubenow says that *H. habilis* has always been a problem for four reasons: "(1) the reversal problem, going from gracile *habilis* to robust *erectus* and then back to gracile *sapiens*; (2) the juvenile nature of some of the postcranial material upon which the bipedality and the tool-making ability of the taxon had been largely based; (3) the disparity of cranial volumes ... and (4) the fact that the postcranial material had not been found in direct association with the cranial material." (Lubenow, p. 164). With new material now available, it seems clear that *H. habilis* is not a legitimate grouping, but actually a conglomerate of two or more separate groups. According to Lubenow, "*Homo habilis* is dead." (p. 166) Besides that, *Homo erectus*, the next category, overlaps the entire time range of *H. habilis*, and thus *habilis* could not possibly be the ancestor of *erectus*. (p. 127)

There are many problems with *Homo erectus* too. Lubenow cites evidence that *Homo erectus* and *Homo sapiens* were living at the same time. He also quotes several evolutionists who question whether the two are different enough to be classed as different species at all.

Even though *Time* lists Neanderthal as a separate species, most evolutionists would disagree. Many believe that Neanderthal is the same as *H. erectus*, while others claim he is within the range of *H. sapiens*. In any case, Lubenow shows that modern *Homo sapiens*, Neanderthal, and *Homo erectus* all lived as contemporaries over extended periods of time. This negates ancestry.

Lubenow concludes that even according to evolutionary dating techniques, fossils recognized as truly human can be found in layers contemporaneous with all their supposed ancestors. While we both disagree with these dates, this fact alone discredits the theory of human evolution.

Evolutionists are no closer today to finding the "missing links" than in Darwin's time, and yet the popular media continues to portray human evolution as if it were a proven fact. Instead, the fossil evidence shows just what creationists would expect: variation within the human kind, but no transitions from anything else to humans.

## EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

("J" indicates Johnsons, "N" Nuttings, "B" both)

- May 15: Parachute, CO:** Grace Bible Church (B)  
Contact Church, 303-285-9862.
- May 18-19: Jackson, WY:** First Baptist Church, Seminar (B)  
Contact Church, 307-733-3706.
- May 20-21: Jackson, WY:** State Homeschool Conference (B)  
Contact Steve and Cindy Munger, 307-733-2834.
- June 12,13: Montrose, CO:** Montrose Christian/Seminar (N)  
Contact Barbara Keller, 303-249-5432.
- June 13-17: Montrose, CO:** Montrose Christian VBS (J)  
Contact Barbara Keller, 303-249-5432.
- June 15-18: Denver, CO:** CHEC Homeschool Conf/Teen Track (N)  
Contact CHEC office, 303-777-1022.
- June 19: Denver, CO:** Faith Presbyterian Church SS (N)  
Contact Rivendell Ministry, 303-364-0109.
- June 24-25: Columbus, OH:** Homeschool Conf/Teen Track (N)  
Contact Christian Home Educators of Ohio, 800-274-2436.
- June 27-Jul 1: Mt. Shasta, CA:** VBS (J)  
Contact Velma Nile, 916-926-4846.
- July 3-8: Colbran, CO:** Twin Peaks Family Adventure (B)  
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- July 11-15: Rifle, CO:** Tee Pee Bible Camp (J)  
Contact Dave, 303-876-2108.
- July 18-22: Idaho Springs, CA:** First Baptist VBS (J)  
Contact Ken VanBrunt, 303-567-2028.
- July 18-23: Pittsburgh, PA:** International Creation Conf (N)  
Contact ICC, 412-341-4908.
- Aug 2-4: Huntington, IN:** Family Camp (N)  
Contact Steve Gallat, 219-258-4726.
- Aug 10,11: Grand Mesa, CO:** Grand Mesa Baptist Camp (J)  
Contact Earl Hittle, 303-487-3065.
- Aug 14-19: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Family Adventure (B)
- Aug 28-26: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Family Adventure (B)  
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Aug 28-Sep 2: Cimarron, CO:** YWAM DTS (N)  
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Sep 2-5: Bailey, CO:** Id-Ra-Ha-Je Family Camp (B)  
Contact us, 303-245-5906.

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## Alpha Omega Institute

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### In This Issue:

- Was Your Great-Great Grandpa An Ape?
- New Detailed Book Falsifies Human Evolution
- Family Camps/Conference Schedule

## CREATION VACATIONS!

If you missed the Snow Mountain Family Adventure you missed a **wonderful** time of fun, fellowship and learning! Many participants learned to ski for the first time, while the "pros" enjoyed **fantastic** conditions with fresh powder daily at Winter Park. Other fun activities included roller skating, swimming, horseback riding, and sliding. Add all this to the morning and evening creation seminar, the exciting children's program, praise and worship time, and informal fellowship and you have a packed and meaningful week. Like we said, if you missed it, you really missed it! The 1995 Snow Mountain Family Adventure has been scheduled for April 2-7. Don't miss it! Watch for further information in **Think and Believe** or send \$200 to reserve your spot. Meanwhile, there's still time to sign up for one of our great summer Creation Vacations. **Register today!**

**July 3-8 Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure**  
**Aug. 14-19 Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure I**  
**Aug. 21-26 Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure II**  
**Sept. 2-5 Id-Ra-Ha-Je Labor Day Family Camp**

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Praise God** for many miles of safe travel on snowy roads. **Pray** for continued health and safety.
- Praise Him** for the good interest. **Pray** for continued open doors and open hearts and minds.
- Praise Him** for those He has brought to Himself through this ministry. **Pray** for their spiritual growth.
- Pray** for God's leading in scheduling and direction.
- Pray** for God's provision for us and the new children's ministry with the Johnson Family Creation Puppeteers. Provision for health, wisdom, stamina, and finances for daily living as well as for implementing some new programs and resources we wish to make available nationwide.

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