



Think & Believe

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Creation Institute Under Attack

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

America is historically a land of religious freedom, yet this religious freedom is being rapidly eroded on many fronts. This is especially true in the area of education, all the way from pre-school day-care to graduate school.

At this writing, the graduate program at the Institute for Creation Research is under attack. Although it has operated under "approval" status by California's State Department of Education since 1981, and has continually been improved and upgraded, a recent review team recommended that it be denied permission to continue to grant degrees. Please understand that this is not a question of accreditation. It is a matter of being able to operate at all!

The evaluation team in the fall of 1988 originally voted 3-2 in ICR's favor, but then in an unprecedented move was reconvened and the decision reversed. The point of contention was ICR's creationist stand. The State then called for all creation teaching to be eliminated from ICR's science courses. ICR attempted to find an acceptable solution by isolating the creation teaching from the other course content. The recent visit by the evaluation team was to have merely verified that this had been done.

Instead, the latest team, dominated by well-known evolutionists from major state universities, dissected the whole graduate program since its beginnings, picking out and overstating all the problems they could find. They carefully stayed away from the sensitive creation issue, probably realizing that denial of approval to a private Christian institution on that basis would never hold up. They made no mention of ICR's positive points and offered no recommendations for improvement, instead opting to issue a "death penalty."

Of course, all of this is done to "protect students." Protect them from what? From the teaching they have freely chosen? No one is forcing them to attend ICR. They come, often at great personal sacrifice, because they are seeking the truth — a credible alternative to the evolutionary indoctrination of public institutions.

ICR was founded to re-establish a creation base in science. As Americans, our constitution guarantees us freedom of speech and freedom of religion. How, then can the State deny a Christian institution the right to educate students in a manner consistent with sincerely held beliefs? Our religious freedoms are under attack! Christians, wake up and take a stand. If the State wins in this case, you can be sure it won't stop there.

The Land of the Free
just lost a little freedom!



NOTES & QUOTES

■ If fossils are supposedly the “best proof of evolution,” why then are so many evolutionists saying the things they’re saying?

- . . . intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic change, and this is perhaps the most obvious and serious question which can be urged against the theory [of evolution]. (Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*, 1859, Chp. 11.)
- Well, we are now about 120 years after Darwin, and knowledge of the fossil record has been greatly expanded . . . ironically, we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time. By this I mean that some of the classic cases of Darwinian change in the fossil record, such as the evolution of the horse in North America, have had to be discarded or modified as a result of more detailed information. (Dr. David Raup, Curator, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, in “Conflicts Between Darwin and Paleontology,” *Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin*, Vol 50 (1), 1979, p. 25.)
- Despite that bright promise that paleontology provides a means of “seeing” evolution, it has presented some nasty difficulties for evolutionists, the most notorious of which is the presence of “gaps” in the fossil record. Evolution requires intermediate forms between species and paleontology does not provide them. . . . (David Kitts, *Evolution*, Vol. 28, Sept. 1974, p. 467.)

■ Although not a creationist, Michael Denton, in his book *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* (1985), also recognizes that evolution requires transitions in the fossil record, but he too acknowledges their absence:

- Without intermeidates or transitional forms to bridge the enormous gaps which separate existing species and groups of organisms, the concept of evolution could never be taken seriously as a scientific hypothesis. (p. 158.)
- The intermediates have remained as elusive as ever and their absence remains, a century later [after Darwin’s time], one of the most striking characteristics of the fossil record. (p. 162.)
- There is no doubt that as it stands today the fossil record provides a tremendous challenge to the notion of organic evolution,

because to close the very considerable gaps which at present separate the known groups would necessarily have required great numbers of transitional forms. (p. 172.)

■ And the list goes on. More and more paleontologists are acknowledging the lack of fossil intermediates, and recognizing the challenge this represents to evolution as it is usually taught.

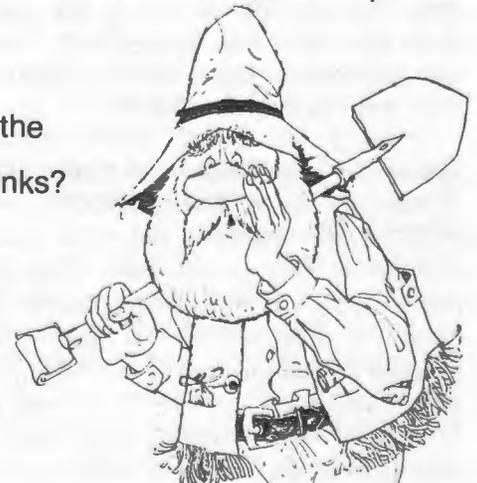
- If you ask, “What is the evidence for continuity?” you would have to say, “There isn’t any in the fossils of animals and man. The connection between them is in the mind.” (Dr. Colin Patterson, Interview in *Darwin’s Enigma* by Luther D. Sunderland, 1984, p. 90.)
- All paleontologists know that the fossil record contains precious little in the way of intermediate forms; transitions between major groups are characteristically abrupt. (Stephen J. Gould, “The Return of the Hopeful Monsters,” *Natural History*, Vol. 86, June-July 1977, p. 24.)

■ In order to salvage evolution, Stephen J. Gould and others are jumping on the idea of “punctuated equilibrium,” the idea that major changes came about rapidly, leaving no transitions in the fossil record. (See *Think and Believe*, Nov./Dec. 1985.) This is a convenient way to sidestep the problem, but doesn’t really solve anything. As Ridley says:

- The gradual change of fossil species has never been part of the evidence for evolution. . . . In any case, no *real* evolutionist, whether *gradualist* or *punctuationist*, uses the fossil record in favor of the theory of evolution as opposed to special creation. (*New Scientist*, 90:830, 1981.)

■ If this is the case, why are so many students being led to believe that the fossils “prove” evolution?

Who hid the missing links?



Fossils— The Best “Proof” of Evolution?

Throughout our nation’s school system, the fossil record is acclaimed as the “best proof of evolution.” Interestingly enough, Darwin said the fossil evidence was the most serious objection to his theory — and the problem is even worse today. In fact, one well-known evolutionist has recently admitted that the fossils have now become the biggest embarrassment to evolution. We contend that the fossils provide very substantial support for the creationist position.

What would a Biblical creationist expect to find in the fossil record anyway? We would expect to find millions of dead things preserved in rock layers laid down by the Flood. These fossils would represent distinct types without gradual transitions between types, since, according to the Bible, life forms were created fully formed and functional. Fossil distribution would be related to prevailing conditions upon burial. Three different burial patterns might be expected: (1) whole ecological zones buried together all at once; (2) vast numbers of particular organisms sorted by water currents and buried together (hydrodynamic sorting); and (3) mixtures of various types of animals and plants swept up and carried along by currents and later buried together in vast “fossil graveyards.”

The fossil record reveals exactly these things. We do find millions of dead things as a grim reminder of God’s past judgment through the Flood, and these fossils represent fully developed forms of plants and animals, many of which are still found living today. The long sought-after **transitional forms have never been found** — The missing links are indeed still missing. In addition, although animals of the same type are frequently grouped together, many fossils have been found “out of place” (at least according to evolutionary scenarios): e.g. a gold chain, an iron vessel, and various other human artifacts in pre-dinosaur rocks. (See Creation Research Society Quarterly, March, 1982, for a list of several hundred “out of place” fossils.)

Why aren’t school children taught the facts? If the fossil record supposedly provides the “best proof of evolution,” what does that say about the **rest** of the evidence? Actually, the fossils fit well with the Biblical record of Creation and the Flood. They are again evidence of the accuracy of the Scriptures.

Barking Up The Wrong Trees?

“All life has evolved from a single cell which in turn merely happened to form by accident from non-living chemicals! All other life has branched out from this cell forming the tree of life as we know it today.” This has been the statement of faith for many years by the evolutionary establishment. Research findings of Dr. Christian Schwabe, an evolutionary professor of biochemistry, suggest that many generations of evolutionists may have been barking up the wrong tree. Perhaps there was a whole “forest” instead! As the *Catalyst* (publication of the Medical University of South Carolina at Charleston, Oct. 13, 1983, p. 7) states it, the research findings “suggest a drastic reexamination of evolutionary theory.”

If traditional evolutionary teaching is correct, then studies of different chemicals in animals should indicate logical branching patterns between what evolutionists would expect are “close kin”. Schwabe reported, however, that his studies of the hormones relaxin and insulin give no support to this concept. He found that pig and rat relaxin were as different from each other as shark relaxin was from either pig or rat. Insulin studies show the dogfish shark is closer to the pig than to a carp!

Dr. Schwabe’s research indicates that, if life evolved, it had to have had many independent beginnings, not just one. This is called “polyphyletic” origins. He suggests that, instead of a single cell having accidentally formed, there was an “avalanche of cells” that crossed over to life.

This notion in itself is absurd considering the complexity of the “simple cell” and the impossibility of generating even one protein by accident. (See *Think and Believe*, May/June 1985 and Jan./Feb. 1989.) It is hard enough to evolve life **once**, let alone many independent times!

Again we see a real grasping at straws to salvage evolutionary theory. Actually these research findings are very consistent with what creationists have been saying all along. Life was created fully formed in distinct types. Variation has taken place within the limits of these kinds, but no “cross-over” from one kind to another has occurred.

Theories of evolution involving polyphyletic origins are getting awfully close to creation. Why not Think . . . and Believe in the Creator as the source of these separate kinds instead of believing in chance natural processes?

Creation Family Camps

If you missed this year's family camps, you missed a great time of fun, fellowship and learning. There's just something special about spending a week in the mountains learning about God's creation, playing and relaxing in the great outdoors, and enjoying fellowship with other believers.

Family camps are valuable times for building family memories, but they're more than that. Creation family camps provide an extra special setting for digging into the evidences for creation and getting excited about the relevance of creation in understanding many of the influences facing Christians in modern society. Participants come away with a sense of urgency to "do something." Many continue their studies when they get home and help to spread the message by teaching Sunday School classes, arranging for presentations in their churches or schools, and sharing books with anybody who will listen.

Start planning now to attend a Creation Family Camp next summer. Next year's dates have been set with Camp Redcloud for August 19-24, 1990. Other dates at an additional camp will be announced as soon as possible. If you know of a camp that would like to sponsor a Creation Family Camp, contact us. Camps and creation go together!

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 1-3: First Baptist, Golden, CO
Contact Ron Bridges, (303) 279-4605.
- Oct. 5-6: ACSI Convention, Denver, CO
Contact (213) 694-4791.
- Oct. 8-9 Silverthorne, CO
(Tentative) Contact Patti Clark,
(303) 468-5381.
- Oct. 15: Seminar, Sonlight Foursquare, Glenwood Springs, CO
Contact Bernie Masimer,
(303) 945-9657.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Video

For some time now many people have been encouraging us to make a videotape of our seminar. We've had two big snags — time and money. While doing a week-long seminar this summer, one of the participants became very excited about the material. One night she asked us, "What would it take to put this seminar on video?" Dave responded, "Somewhere between five and six thousand dollars." She said, "That's a drop in the bucket to God," to which Dave answered, "Right, but that bucket hasn't dripped on me yet." She said, "I'm going to pray about that." And she did — immediately!

The next night, a young man asked the same question, "How much would it take to make a video?" When Dave told him, he replied that he had some money from which he had never taken a tithe. The tithe would amount to somewhere around \$5600. You can imagine Dave's excitement when he said he would like to make that available for the project. It looks like one major snag has been removed. PTL!

The other snag has been time. To do a quality, effective job will require many, many hours of preparation before we can even begin taping. At this time our fall speaking schedule is relatively light (quite a switch from last year's schedule). We'd like to take advantage of this time to work on the video. Pray with us for God's wisdom, direction and provision as we embark upon this project. It's exciting, but a bit overwhelming. We believe this video, if done well, could multiply our efforts tremendously, so we'd really appreciate your prayers.

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