



Greetings from John Mackay and the Creation Research team world wide and welcome to EVIDENCE NEWS with EDITORIAL COMMENT No 4, 12th April AD2006

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1. DR EMIL SILVESTRU, (AIG) will team with Creation Research beginning Saturday 15th April in Timisoara, Romania, for the Annual Creation Week Conference, with Romulus Campan, rep. Creation Research Europe. The following week will involve recording a series of TV programs regarding Creation, the Gospel, Science, and Education. TV director Tudor Petan will use this event as the preparation for John Mackay's coming in June.

2. WANTED BY BRITISH MEDIA – John Mackay - Those who have seen our latest UK Update <http://www.amen.org.uk/cr/update/> will know that whilst John is here in April, May and June, the Creation Research team will be in a state secondary school near Blackpool. Last week our UK office was contacted by a reporter from the Blackpool Citizen, a free newspaper, mainly trying to find out the name of the school. Randall Hardy stated he was not prepared to release the name of the school because he did not want them to be inundated with inquiries from journalists who have political axes to grind. However, in an exchange of several emails he gave the reporter some good material which was carried in their lead article last Thursday. You can read it at:

www.blackpoolcitizen.co.uk/display.var.726000.0.debate_about_creation.php

On Thursday Randall was telephoned by the Home Affairs Editor of the Observer newspaper and asked why he thought the teaching of creation in schools was such a prominent news item at the moment. After outlining the underlying issues of the campaign against the government's policies and emphasising how the chief motivators in it are not simply scientists but secularists and atheists, he asked the reporter how he had heard of John's visit. His reply was that he had been sent an email by the National Secular Society. Randall could not resist asking him if he agreed that this supported the very point he had been making! The Observer article is at:

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,1750031,00.html>

Since then we have received several enquiries from other national media organisations. These include BBC Radio 4 Today programme, Sky News, Times Educational Supplement and Teachers TV (a digital channel) plus BBC HARDtalk and LBC Radio. We need your support on every level so that we can make the most of these opportunities. Whilst the enemy of the Gospel may be stirring up opposition to our ministry, our desire is to turn every open door into an occasion to honour Jesus Christ, the Creator of all things. Remember to pray for the local organisers of meetings who may also be contacted by the media. Watch for new developments and see UK CURRICULUM at

end. To help in the UK send donations to Creation Research P.O. Box 1 Ashton under Lyne Lancs. OL6 9WW (Donations in UK payable to Creation Research Trust are tax deductible - a Gift Aid Declaration is required - available from <http://www.amen.org.uk/cr/trust/giftaid.pdf>)

3. ENCOURAGING MAIL

USA Associate Professor TN Tech Uni, Craig Henderson writes: "My family and I appreciate your Evidence News e-mails. They are very well written and persuasive."

USA SCIENCE TEACHER WRITES "Thanks for your most recent update. I eagerly await this newsletter each month. I teach science, and have been able to help hundreds of students over the last few years get a better grasp of the realities of science. Thanks again," Joel Black

4. MUTATION TURNS FRIEND TO FOE, as described in ScienceNOW 29 Mar 2006. Many plants and fungi share a symbiotic relationship that enhances the life of both, but some fungi are very destructive of plants. A group of scientists led by Barry Scott, a plant ecologist at Massey University in Palmerston North New Zealand studied a fungus named Epichloe that lives in ryegrass plants. As the ryegrass leaves grow the fungus sends out strands called hyphae which live between the cells in the leaves. When the leaves stop growing the hyphae stop growing and the fungus helps the plant acquire more nutrients so it can grow more vigorously and survive dry spells. If the fungus continues to grow after the leaves stop growing it stunts the growth of the plant and will eventually kill it. Scott's team made 220 mutant Epichloe fungi and found one that had hyphae that grew unchecked. The mutation in this fungus had knocked out a gene whose function was to produce molecules called free radicals. In the normal grass-fungus relationship the plant stimulated the fungus to produce free radicals when the leaves stopped growing. The free radicals inhibit the growth of the hyphae, thus keeping the plant and fungus growth even. Without them the mutant fungus kept on growing and damaged the plant. Free radicals are normally considered to be dangerous to living cells, but this case shows they can be put to good use if kept under control. Christopher Schardi, a plant physiologist at University of Kentucky commented that there are probably many genes involved in keeping plants and fungi in a right relationship and this study gives some suggestions for further research in plant-fungi associations.

ED. COM. Many fungi have been found to enhance plant growth and it seems that just about all plants have a symbiotic relationship with fungi. It was only after the fungus had a gene damaged, i.e. lost some useful information, that it started harming the plant, because it was unable to respond to the growth limiting signals from the plant. CREATION RESEARCH PREDICTS that gene studies of other disease causing fungi will reveal that the disease process is due to mutation in the genes regulating growth, just like this case, and fungal diseases will provide good evidence that the world has gone from created perfection to degeneration, just as the Bible describes. (Ref. pathogenesis, mycology, parasitism)

5. AIG (ANSWERS IN GENESIS-USA) met John Mackay as he shared during staff devotions and inspected progress on the Creation museum during a Mon 27–Wed 29 April visit to Cincinnati. Pray for Ken Ham, and staff as they have come under increased attack in this last while. Museum is on schedule to open in 1 year.

6. NOAH'S ARK REBUILT BY DUTCHMAN according to a report in BBC News Online, 28 Mar 2006. Johan Huibers from Schagen, 45km (30 miles) north of Amsterdam in The Netherlands is building a one fifth size scale model made from American cedar and Norwegian pine. He plans to stock it with farm animals such as "horses, lambs, chickens and rabbits – mostly baby animals to save space." The project is estimated to cost almost a million euros (£0.7 million, \$US1.2 million) and Huibers hopes he will recoup his investment by charging people to tour the exhibit. He also hopes it will renew some interest in Christianity in the Netherlands. Huibers commented, "This will speak very much to children because it will give them something tangible to see that Noah's Ark really existed." In their article the BBC report that, "According to Genesis, Noah took seven pairs of most domesticated animals, and one breeding pair of all other creatures" and "Noah's wife, three sons and three daughters-in-law lived together on the boat for almost a year while the world was flooded."

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4853890.stm>

ED. COM. Huibers may have to use baby animals to save space because his model is smaller than the real ark, but it does remind us that taking young animals would have been appropriate for Noah as well. Young animals are smaller than adults and would have a longer reproductive life after the flood. Many sceptics claim that Noah could not have fitted dinosaurs on the Ark because they are too big. However, young reptiles are very small in comparison to their adult size. The largest dinosaur egg so far found is smaller than the largest bird egg, indicating that dinosaurs started out life small enough not to be any bother for Noah. The most difficult animals would be the larger mammals because they are relatively large when they are born. It is interesting to see that the BBC almost got their Biblical facts right. Most people believe the flood only lasted forty days, whereas the Bible says it lasted for a year and ten days. (Ref. exhibitions, media)
<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,18650432-13762,00.html>

7. THE SEARCH FOR THE ORIGIN OF LIFE THIS FIVE PART SERIES (on 2 DVDs) for grade 12 students was filmed in the public high school classrooms with approval of education authorities. A Creation Research breakthrough. For more information go to
<http://www.creationresearch.net/products/Product-of-the-month.htm>

8. FEATHERLESS DINOSAUR SURPRISES SCIENTISTS, according to a report in Nature, Vol. 440, p329, 16 Mar 2006. Palaeontologists have found an exquisitely preserved small dinosaur in Upper Jurassic limestone dated as 151 million years old. The creature is about 75 cm long and has been named "Juravenator starki" after the Jura mountains of Bavaria in Germany, where it was found, and after the Stark family who own the quarry site. The tail region of the dinosaur has well preserved detailed imprints of the animal's skin and the scientists who studied it were surprised that it had typical reptilian scales, not the filamentous proto-feathers found on some other dinosaurs of similar type and evolutionary age. The Nature editor's summary of the research article comments: "The new find is as well preserved as Archaeopteryx but, surprisingly, it shows absolutely no sign of feathery integument, suggesting that the evolution history of feathers in dinosaurs is a more complex tale than was thought." They also found some impressions of soft tissue fibres which they described: "The remaining soft tissue is represented by a series of fibres central to the haemal arches of the 10th to 14th caudals and parallel to the axis of the tail. These fibres probably represent tendons of the hypaxial musculature and ligaments of the tail, as interpreted for similar soft parts associated with the skeleton of Scipionyx, although they could also correspond to bundles of subcutaneous collagen fibres."

ED. COM. We are not at all surprised this dinosaur showed no sign of having feathers. In fact no dinosaur has been found that has real feathers. Some have been found with filaments associated with their skin impression. The comment about collagen fibres reminds us of bird expert Alan Feduccia statement about the fibrous imprints associated with some dinosaur fossils. Feduccia said: "Collagen is a scleroprotein, the chief structural protein of the connective tissue layer of skin. Naturally, because of its low solubility in water and its organization as tough, inelastic fiber networks, we would expect it to be preserved occasionally from flayed skin during the fossilization process." (See Dinosaur Feather or Fibres? Evidence News, 2 Nov 2005.) What he means is that collagen is a tough stringy substance and would be preserved longer than the other tissue components that normally hold collagen fibres tightly together in the skin. Therefore, in partially decomposed skin the collagen fibres would splay out so they looked like filaments projecting out from the skin but they were never feathers. We suspect that the fossil described above was preserved too rapidly for its skin to partially decompose and allow the collagen fibres to splay out. The new dinosaur's name also reminds us that names like Jurassic do not have anything to do with millions of years. It was the name applied to all rocks that looked similar to the rocks in the Jura mountains, i.e. the name was meant to be a shorthand description of where the rocks were originally studied, not how old they were. (Ref. fossilisation, preservation)

9. A SCEPTIC'S TESTIMONY reported in New Scientist 4 Feb 2006, p54. Physics professor Bob Park writes an Internet column named "What's New" where he criticises such topics as "cold fusion, intelligent design and alien abduction" and gives advice on how to tell real science from

pseudoscience. In an interview for New Scientist he was asked, "When did you become a sceptic?" His reply was: "It was when I was about 12. I was going to a youth group within the Methodist church, which had hired a pastor to work with the teenagers. I had a couple of problems with biblical accounts, including Genesis, that clearly could not be taken as literal truth. I chatted to the pastor and explained my concerns. Instead of debating with me, he said: 'You can go to hell as quickly for doubting as you can for stealing.' That violated everything I felt."

ED. COM. What a tragedy that this pastor was not "ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15) and prepared to defend the Scriptures and help this young man search for real answers. Over many years Creation Research has seen many young people reject Christ because they are convinced that the Bible is wrong about the past, and therefore cannot be trusted to give them a future hope. Then we have seen just as many who when we have shown them there are real answers in both God's Word and in His world, they are prepared to listen to the claims of the Creator Christ on their lives and trust him as Saviour. It shouldn't surprise us – Jesus said "If you don't believe what Moses wrote – how can you believe what I say!" John 5:46-47. (See Testimonies on www.creationresearch.net) (Ref. apologetics, atheism)

10. HAIRY CRAB FOUND, according to reports in BBC News Online, and news@nature and ScienceNOW 8 Mar 2006. A crab that looks like a "cross between a gorilla and a lobster" has been found living near a hydrothermal vent at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean 1,500km (900miles) south of Easter Island. The white crab is 15cm long (6 inches) and has pincers covered with a dense coat of hair-like strands. Scientists are unsure about the function of the hairs. The crab has no eyes so the hairs may help it sense the environment, but they may also enable a symbiotic relationship with bacteria. Scientists studying the crab found many filamentous bacteria living on the hairy pincers and suggest the crab feeds on bacteria. Other scientists suggest the bacteria may detoxify poisonous minerals that come out of the vents. The crab has been named "Kiwa hirsuta" and is so different from other crabs it has been put into a new taxonomic (classification) family of crustaceans.

news@nature article: <http://www.nature.com/news/2006/060313/full/060313-3.html>

ED. COM. Here we see another example of bacteria living in peace with other living things and probably contributing to their well being by providing nutrients and maintaining the right chemical environment. Even though we do not live in such an extreme environment, we do carry a multitude of bacteria that help maintain the right chemical environment on our body surface and in the lining of some body cavities. Bacteria are part of God's good creation, but like many other living things can produce a bad effect when they get into the wrong places or have suffered harmful mutations. The fact that this eyeless crab lives so differently from other crabs, provides no evidence for evolution, but is good evidence that crabs, including the ones which have lost eyes, have reproduced their own kinds, as Genesis states. (Ref. classification, invertebrates, symbiosis)

11. CREATION IN BRITISH SCHOOL CURRICULUM reports BBC News Online, 10 Mar 2006. A new science curriculum called "Gateways to Science" to be introduced to mainstream secondary schools in Britain will encourage students to discuss alternative theories to evolution. The education board that developed the new curriculum insists that creationism is not being taught as a subject in science classrooms, but students "are asked to discuss why the opponents of Darwinism thought the way they did and how scientific controversies can arise from different ways of interpreting empirical evidence." For example, teachers are asked to "explain that the fossil record has been interpreted differently over time (e.g. creationist interpretation)". The BBC article goes on to explain, "The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, which oversees the development of the national curriculum, in effect guiding exam boards, said discussions of 'intelligent design' or 'creationism' could take place in science classes. The National Curriculum Online website says for science at Key Stage 4 (GCSE level): 'Students should be taught how scientific controversies can arise from different ways of interpreting empirical evidence (for example Darwin's theory of evolution).' Classes should also cover 'ways in which scientific work may be affected by the context in which it takes place (for example, social, historical, moral, spiritual), and how these contexts may affect whether or not ideas are accepted.'"

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4793198.stm>

ED. COM. It is good to see that the UK education authorities acknowledge that science does not take place in a social and cultural vacuum, devoid of all human world views and presuppositions. Science is not some freestanding authority, it is a human activity whose results will always be interpreted according to the world view and biases of those who carry it out. The scientific method is an effective way of studying the present world, with its ongoing processes. However, because it depends on repeated observations and experiments it cannot directly investigate the past. Therefore, all theories of the origin and history of life cannot be proven by scientific study of present alone, and it is important for science students to understand this if they are going to understand and interpret results of scientific observations and experiments. (Ref. teaching, philosophy)

12. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: www.creationresearch.net and click DONATIONS.

USA: P.O. Box 281 Hartsville TN 37074 (Donations in USA are tax deductible. Make checks to Creation Education Society)

UK: P.O. Box 1 Ashton under Lyne Lancs. OL6 9WW (Donations in UK payable to Creation Research Trust are tax deductible - a Gift Aid Declaration is required - available from <http://www.amen.org.uk/cr/trust/giftaid.pdf>)

AUSTRALIA: P.O. Box 260 Capalaba Qld 4157

CANADA: P.O. Box 31034, 15 Westney Road North, Ajax, ON L1T 3V2

NEW ZEALAND: P.O. Box 40480 Glenfield, Auckland

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