



Un-Gay study very revealing, while Wombats get us up a tree and Big Bird hits the Says-a-me St news, with NASA's Mercurial reporting all make for another great read from Creation Research; John Mackay is in Spain, Randall Hardy recovers from 8 weeks on the road and most charities record a 20% drop in income as we do also, so yes we need you to give to Creation Research Worldwide [click](#) as you enjoy Evidence News 31/12 with EDitorial COMment from the Team worldwide.

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1. GET YOUR COPY of our new Time's Up Darwin DVD and ask about prices for bulk give aways, 100, 500, 1000 or more. Great to share truth at Christmas!

2. NEW QUESTIONS: SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA – “How come people with this, evolved resistance to malaria if man was made by God?” [Answer](#) by Diane Eager.
BLACK PUDDING – “What should a Christian attitude be toward eating blood products?” [Answer](#) by John Mackay.

3. DID YOU MISS CHRISTMAS? – WHEN WAS [JESUS BORN?](#)

4. IT'S AN UN-GAY LIFE for children growing up with homosexual parents, according to the New Family Structures Study published in *Social Science Research* vol. 41, pp752–770, July 2012 and an article on slate.com 11 June 2012. Mark Regnerus of Department of Sociology and Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin has conducted a large survey of young adults (age 18-39) who have grown up in a household where one parent was in a same sex relationship. Regnerus looked at 40 different indicators of social and personal wellbeing, e.g. being employed or on welfare, experiencing sexual molestation, having suicidal thoughts, and compared these to young adults raised by both biological parents in an intact marriage. The homosexual community has proclaimed that such children experience no difference in personal development and social outcomes from children growing up in traditional families, but rather than finding “no difference”, Regnerus found significant differences in 25 of the 40 outcomes. For example: 69 percent of those with lesbian mothers were on welfare as children, compared to only 17 percent from traditional families. Furthermore, 38 percent of the adult children of lesbian mothers were on welfare when the survey was conducted, compared with only 10 percent of those with married parents. Only two percent of those with married parents were ever touched sexually by an adult, while 23 percent of those with a lesbian mother had that happen to them. In a summary on slate.com Regnerus summed up his results: “On 25 of 40 different outcomes evaluated, the children of women who’ve had same-sex relationships fare quite differently than those in stable, biologically-intact mom-and-pop families, displaying numbers more comparable to those from heterosexual stepfamilies and single parents. Even after including controls for age, race, gender, and things like being bullied as a youth, or the gay-friendliness of the state in which they live, such respondents were more apt to report being unemployed, less healthy, more depressed, more likely to have cheated on a spouse or partner, smoke more pot, had trouble with the law, report more male and female sex partners, more sexual victimization, and were more likely to reflect negatively on their childhood family life, among other things”. He went on to say: “One notable theme among the adult children of same-sex parents, however, is household instability, and plenty of it. The children of fathers who have had same-sex relationships fare a bit better, but they seldom reported living with their father for very long, and never with his partner for more than three years”. Regnerus concluded that the data shows that a household of two biological parents in a stable marriage is “the safest place for a kid”.

Links: [New Family Structures Study](#), [Regnerus' Summary](#)

ED. COM. It is no surprise the best outcomes are from growing up with both biological parents in a stable marriage, since a pair of faithful partners, one male and one female married for life, is the Creator’s original design, first set down in Genesis 1-4, and affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19. Whether families know the Creator God or not, His design provably works better for individuals, families and society than any man-made alternative. And you are right – we cannot support legislation enabling gay couples to adopt children. (Ref: males, females, families, marriage, relationships)

DVD The Creation of Love and Marriage – available from Creation Research [Webshop](#).

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5. WOMBATS LIVED IN TREES claim scientists, as reported in ABC News in Science 22 November 2012 and PLoS ONE 21 November 2012, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0048213. Australian scientists have found fossils of an extinct marsupial animal they have named *Nimbadon lavarackorum* in a middle Miocene cave deposit in Riversleigh, in north western Queensland, Australia. It was a wombat-like creature and belonged to a group of animals named Diprotodonts. Living wombats live in burrows in the ground, but Karen Black of the University of New South Wales and her colleagues who studied the bones of *Nimbadon* claim the fossil creature lived in trees, like koalas. Black commented: “It's quite exciting really. It was always believed diprotodontids roamed in mobs on the ground but looking at the

skeleton of *Nimbadon*, we've actually found it was climbing trees and most probably lived in trees". The animals had long forelimbs that were "strikingly similar to koalas" with long fingers and toes, semi-opposable thumbs and toes with long claws, and very mobile shoulder, elbow and wrist joints. It also had a bulbous snout, indicating it had a good sense of smell and the researchers suggest it ate fruit as well as leaves. They also suggest it died out as Australia dried out, and the lush rainforests that once covered Australia receded due to climate change. Because *Nimbadon's* limb proportions are similar to that of today's sloths and orang-utans the researchers suggest it spent a lot of time hanging from trees. According to Karen Black "The animal has the shortest hindlegs of any known marsupial. This also indicates that this guy wasn't only hugging trees like koalas but was also hanging from trees". The researchers estimate it would have weighed around 70kg (154 lb) and Karen Black admitted "It was quite unusual to find such a big animal up in the tree tops". She also commented that would be "wonderful" to bump into *Nimbadon* while out walking in the forest.

Link: [ABC](#)

ED. COM. Anyone driving on Australian roads who has run into one of today's ground dwelling wombats has discovered it is like bumping into a block of concrete, and the car usually comes off second best. Perhaps it would not be so "wonderful" to bump into one of its relatives hanging from trees in a forest. But let's distinguish fossil fact from fantasy here. This animal was not found climbing a tree. It was found dead and buried in a cave deposit. However, its bones do indicate this animal would have been capable of climbing trees. The researchers are correct in suggesting climate change would have caused the recession of forests, which in turn contributed to the extinction of such large animals. However such climate change could not have been caused by human industry, but was part of the general drying of Australia that has occurred since Noah's flood. Humans probably did contribute to the demise of many large animals and forests, but in more direct ways – hunting the animals and burning down the forest. One result has been the loss of many types of creatures and a general diminishing in size of surviving animals. This is the opposite of evolution, but fits well with Biblical history of the world, man as vegetarian, then as farmer, then as hunter, and the environment as first good, then not so good, then devastated by the flood and degenerating towards the present (see Genesis 1-12). (Ref: megafauna, marsupials, ecology)

6. BIG BIRD NOT-A- SAURUS, according to reports in BBC Nature News 23 November 2012, Wired Science 14 November 2012 and *Palaeontology* vol. 55, pp1293–1305, November 2012 DOI: 10.1111/j.1475-4983.2012.01195.x. A team of geological researchers have found fossilised footprints of a three toed creature preserved in mudstone in Chuckanut Formation in Whatcom County, northwest Washington State. The footprints were exposed following a landslide in 2009, and have been dated as 53 million years old, putting them in Lower Eocene era in the evolutionary timetable, i.e. after the dinosaurs died out. However, the researchers wrote: "In rocks of Mesozoic age, tracks of this size and shape would likely be interpreted as having been made by a small dinosaur." The 18 large three-toed footprints found among fossil tracks left by various small mammals and birds have now been identified by George Mustoe of Western Washington University as belonging to an extinct giant bird named *Diatryma*, though no fossils of this bird have been found at this deposit. The nearest fossils of *Diatryma* are in New Mexico and Wyoming, and when reconstructed indicate it stood over two metres (6ft 6in) tall with a large head and enormous deep beak. It has traditionally been portrayed as a ferocious predator, using its robust beak and strong jaws to crack the bones of small mammals. However, researchers claim the new footprints do not fit the image of a ferocious predator, as the prints show a broad flat foot with a heel pad, and broad toes with small triangular claws, which indicate a walker, rather than a runner. These attributes, combined with the lack of long talons, show it was ill equipped for chasing down and grasping prey. Scientists now suggest *Diatryma* was a "gentle herbivore", using its robust jaws and beak to eat leaves and fruit, and crack nuts and seeds. This fits with a previous finding that *Diatryma's* beak

did not have the characteristic hook that raptors (hunting birds) use to hold and tear their prey. Western Washington researchers suggest *Diatryma* was originally classified as a fierce predator because the first fossil was found mixed with bones of small mammals, and because of similarities to South American *Phorusracids* or “terror birds”. They commented: “The common belief that *Diatryma* ... was likewise a carnivore is more a result of guilt by association than actual anatomical evidence”.

Links: [BBC](#), [Wired Science](#)

ED. COM. Did you note the comment “In rocks of Mesozoic age, tracks of this size and shape would likely be interpreted as having been made by a small dinosaur”. Since they have not found fossils of this bird in the Washington State rock layer with the footprints, there is no direct evidence a New Mexico type *Diatryma* made the footprints. So rather than consider the possibility that something that looks like a dinosaur footprint is a dinosaur footprint, they eliminate it on the basis of the evolutionary belief that dinosaurs died out before this rock was laid down. As such, this report is a great example of just how evolutionists use dating assumptions in telling stories about fossils. The original idea that the giant bird *Diatryma* had been a ferocious predator was also an assumption without any direct evidence. It was based on the evolutionary concept of the struggle for life in a fiercely competitive world where the big and strong kill the small and weak. As the bird is extinct no-one has been able to observe its behaviour or see it eat anything. Finding it with bones of small mammals was never evidence it was killing and eating them. It merely shows that mammals and birds have been buried together. The new suggestion that this bird was a gentle herbivore is reasonable on the basis of its beak shape, but its temperament and eating habits are something we cannot observe either. However, it would be consistent with the testimony of the Creator that all birds (and animals) started out as gentle herbivores (Genesis 1:30-31), but after Noah’s flood, God gave man and animals permission to eat meat (Gen 9:1-6). Therefore, birds that already had hooked beaks and sharp claws, and the ability to move faster than others could have become predators. But they did not evolve from birds without these features. As the climate devolved towards the present, and the environment changed, birds (particularly large ones) that were unable find suitable food simply died out. (Ref. diet, ornithology, trace fossils)

7. NASA SPIN MERCURIAL as weeks of PR lead up to an “earth shattering announcement” finally hit the science press with the claim water ice found on planet Mercury, according to reports Nature News 29 November 2012 and BBC News 30 November 2012. Scientists analysing data from NASA’s Messenger spacecraft, which is orbiting Mercury, claim to have found water ice in the craters close to Mercury’s north pole. In spite of its closeness to the sun, some of the craters near the north pole are in permanent shadow and never see the sun because the planet’s axis is almost vertical to the plane of its orbit, and the planets poles do not get tilted towards the sun like those on earth. This means the temperature at the bottom of shadowed craters remain more than cold enough for any water to remain ice. The scientists claim several different kinds of evidence show there is water ice in these craters. The spacecraft has fired infra-red laser pulses at the planet and revealed bright regions inside nine darkened craters near the north pole, and these bright regions line up perfectly with ultra-cold spots found on thermal model of the planet. Finally, the spacecraft’s neutron spectrometer has detected a decrease in the flow of neutrons coming from these spots. Neutrons are generated when cosmic rays hit the planet, but hydrogen absorbs neutrons and water is a combination hydrogen and oxygen. David Lawrence, a planetary scientist at the Johns Hopkins University explained: “Not only is water the best explanation, we do not see any other explanation that can tie all the data together”. The researchers also found areas of dark material around the ice, which they interpret as deposits of hydrocarbons forming an insulating layer about 10cm thick over the ice. Having found evidence for ice, the next question is where did it come from? The researchers suggest it was deposited when comets collided with Mercury. Sean Solomon, Messenger’s principal investigator explained: “The guess is that both the water and the dark material, which we think is organic-rich material, were delivered by the same objects impacting Mercury: some

mixture of comets and the kinds of asteroids that are rich in organic and volatile material like water ice". David Paige, a planetary scientist at the University of California, Los Angeles, one of the researchers, also suggests water and hydrocarbons were delivered when comets collided with Mercury, and the comet chemicals migrated by repeatedly vaporizing and precipitating to the poles, where they get stuck in the extremely cold polar craters. There is also the question of how long it has been there. According to Nature News, repeated "Small impacts should have buried the surface if the ice were a billion years old, and the Messenger researchers believe it might be much younger than that, perhaps 50 million years old". Paige commented: "The ice deposits we are looking at are not ancient". According to the BBC, "The findings may help explain how these ingredients first arrived on Earth".

Links: [BBC](#), [Nature News](#)

ED. COM. We are not surprised that few of the secular press picked up much on the story as it is a PR let down big time – people wanted Aliens or at least life chemicals and not just more boring unliving water. We agree partly with Nature News and Paige – ice on Mercury is not ancient and hasn't been there for billions of years, but we would argue that even 50 million years is more than enough time for any ice or hydrocarbons to vaporise and disappear from the planet's below zero cold crater bases. Ice does evaporate! Watch your untended ice trays in the freezer for this. The most important part of this report is Sean Solomon's comment: "The surprise that we received on making the first chemical measurements of Mercury was that none of the theories for how Mercury was assembled are correct. So we're having to rewrite the books on how Mercury was assembled, and by implication how all the inner planets were assembled. The ice at the poles is only a recent chapter in that history but it's one that might be very informative". We would also suggest to Solomon that if he wants to re-write the book about Mercury's origin he should start by consulting a book by the author of the planets – an already written eyewitness account on the origin of the planets – the book of Genesis. Here we are told the stars and planets (the word "planet" means moving star) were created by God to serve mankind for signs, times and seasons, only thousands, and not millions, of years ago. This is a direct contradiction to the theory that the solar system formed from a swirling mass of hot gas billions of years ago. However, if the planetary scientists started with Genesis we predict their findings of volatiles on cold planetary spots such as youthful Mercury would make far more sense. After all such volatiles shouldn't exist after billions or even millions of years. (Ref. astronomy, planets, chemistry)

8. FROM THE ARCHIVES: Each week we publish links to previous items related to this issue's topics: [Megafauna and Trees](#), [Giant Bird](#), [Children Need Fathers](#), [How Young is Mercury?](#) Remember also, all our news items and quotes are archived as individual items in the Fact File on our Evidence website [here](#). Make the most of this useful resource.

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