

ARCHAEORAPTOR FLIGHT ABORTED

We've all seen the news. With great fanfare, a complete dinosaur-bird transitional form has been revealed. Consisting of a birdlike body and dinosaurlike tail, it has now been asserted that finally, we have found the fossil of a missing link and proof that dinosaurs evolved into birds.

The main media splash came in October of 1999 with a gripping article following in the November issue of *National Geographic*. It involved a fossil smuggled out of China, sold to a private collector, presented at technical meetings, and accepted with little question. There were a few scholars who voiced concern, but their comments were trampled in the rush to accept this new "proof" of evolution.

But then, in mid-January 2000 came the news that the fossil was most likely a fraud, having been artfully pieced together from fossils of a true bird and a true dinosaur. For outsiders, the finger-pointing and backtracking has been both humorous and traumatic, as is well documented in the attached, "must-read," Impact article by Dr. Steve Austin.

What lesson can be learned from this episode? And what should our response be when faced with similar claims? What was ICR's initial response?

When first confronted with sensational media claims (with scanty actual data), the ICR scientists recommend a "wait and see" attitude. Often, extraordinary public claims are retracted within a year or so, as careful investigation en-

sues. (Remember the meteorite from Mars with tiny fossils? Science disproved that within months, after evolution was successfully promoted in the media.) Don't fall prey to claims that are "too good to be true." They probably aren't and time will tell.

Here's the point. Dinosaurs didn't evolve into birds, and once all the facts are known, it will be clear. Sometimes we just have to wait.



Please forgive this humorous clipart illustration of a dino-bird. After days of negotiation, National Geographic refused to allow ICR to print their standard pictures of the actual fossil and their sculpture of a reconstruction of Archaeopteryx, even though the photos have been distributed widely and have appeared in scores of publications. The clipart (as well as National Geographic's original sculpture which can be seen along with the compromised fossil slab at www.nationalgeographic.com/events/99/feather/index.html) has no basis in fact. The fact is the fossil is a fraud. No dino-bird ever existed. ❄️

The RATE project began its planned five years of research on Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth in January by allocating most of the donated funds received so far to high-priority (but expensive) research. In addition, RATE made final plans to publish a Status Report and Research Plan in the summer of 2000.

Designated contributions totaling \$145,000 were received by ICR for the RATE project during 1999. The lion's share of the donations (\$50,000) were allocated to the helium diffusion project, a study to determine the rate at which helium diffuses throughout biotite, a type of mineral which is frequently found in Earth's granites.

When radioactive isotopes like uranium decay, they not only produce solid daughter elements like lead, but also helium gas. If uranium has been decaying for billions of years as the old-earth, evolutionary model indicates, then a predictable amount of helium should remain in rocks. The rest would diffuse from the crust and into the atmosphere. However, measurements reported in the literature show large quantities of helium still trapped in the mineral grains in granite and a deficit in the atmosphere.

Calculations have been made on the diffusion rate of helium in biotite by Dr. Russell Humphreys based on the measured diffusion rate of argon in biotite. He estimates that the diffusion rate for helium should be about 100,000 times faster than for argon because of its smaller size. Therefore, the residence time of helium in rocks would be minimal. However, if the decay of uranium has occurred for only a short time, and perhaps at an accelerated rate as the Biblical timeframe might indicate, one might expect large quanti-

ties of helium to still remain in the rocks. These diffusion calculations seem to agree better with the young-earth predictions of helium in rocks than old-earth predictions. The helium diffusion experiment is designed to measure the actual rate of helium diffusion in biotite to make these predictions more certain. It could deliver a mortal blow to old-earth ideas.

Another \$60,000 was allocated for several additional research projects including theoretical and experimental studies on accelerated decay processes. \$20,000 of the donated funds were allocated to the cost of publishing the Status Report and Research Plan in the summer of 2000. The report is on schedule and should be released in September.

The RATE group is grateful to all who have donated to this project. Almost 1/3 of the necessary funds for the five-year project were received before the research phase started. Your wonderful response to this project validates the RATE group's belief that the time may have come to completely solve this important problem. If you wish to know more about RATE or desire to donate toward the remaining 2/3 of the projected cost, just write and ask for "Research Proposals for RATE." Old-earth claims based on radioisotope dating have long been used to lead people away from truth. It's time to remove this weapon from their arsenal. ☠



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This month on "Science, Scripture, & Salvation":

Weekend of	Title/Topic
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Mar 4	"Dinosaurs and the Bible" Dinosaurs intrigue us at any age. Images of huge, reptilelike creatures roaming the earth fill our imaginations. But what do dinosaurs mean for Christians? Do they fit with the Bible or were they the result of evolution? Join us!
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Mar 11	"Evolution and New Age" The New Age movement is the fastest growing religion in America. Its influence is felt in entertainment, the media, schools, and even our churches. But what exactly is the New Age movement? And is there a connection to evolution? Tune in!
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Mar 18	"The Lilies of the Field" Springtime is a time of renewal, rebirth, and new life. Plants and trees that appeared to be lifeless spring back with new leaves, buds, and flowers. Could this be the result of an evolutionary process or a magnificent plan of a Designer? Listen and learn!
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Mar 25	"The Miracle of Aging" None of us like the fact that we are getting older. Yet, we all know that we will each grow older and eventually die. Strangely, modern science doesn't fully understand why we age. But the Bible has the answer! Tune in as we offer a Biblical perspective. 🌸
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CHRISTIANITY'S 2000 YEARS

An important meeting in Moscow will acknowledge the effects of Christianity on the world, particularly as it applies in Eastern block countries. Jointly sponsored by the ministry of Education and the Kindness Foundation of Russia, scholars from around the world will gather to document how Christian thinking and practice has benefitted mankind. ICR's travelling "ambassador" Dr. Duane Gish will present a paper on scientific creationism and its effects on science and society.

The meeting, scheduled for March 22–25, is entitled the International Educational Conference: Christianity and Education. Dr. Gish asks readers of *Acts & Facts* to pray for God's blessing on the meeting, that the door for the Gospel in Russia will remain open, and for lasting fruit from this effort. 🌸

SPECIAL EVENT IN MAY

The Creation Research Society is offering a special "workshop" on Debating Creation/Evolution, Atlanta, Georgia, Thursday, May 18, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. featuring Dr. Duane T. Gish (with 300 creation/evolution debates to his credit). Registration fee \$30 before April 30.

This could be a truly significant meeting, yielding trained "soldiers" for the creation/evolution battle. Dr. Gish will discuss debate tactics and philosophy, as well as the most important arguments and answers. Each participant will be reminded that coupling gracious posture with good evidence carries the day.

For registration forms and further information, contact Dr. David Kaufmann, 3745 NW 7th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32607 (phone 352-378-9112; email, kaufmannnd@hotmail.com). On Friday evening there will be a public lecture, "Teaching Creation at Novosibirsk State University in Siberia." 🌸



Most everyone who has had high school biology is familiar with the infamous evolutionary “tree of life” in their biology text. There are many variations, but such a chart essentially shows a graphic molecules-to-man progression with dozens of branches spanning alleged “millions of years” of earth history.

The February 2000 edition of *Scientific American* has an article with the revealing title, “Uprooting the Tree of Life” by W.F. Doolittle. He states that:

About ten years ago scientists finally worked out the basic outline of how modern life-forms evolved. Now parts of their tidy scheme are unraveling.

To everyone’s surprise, discoveries made in the past few years have begun to cast serious doubt on some aspects of the tree, especially on the depiction of the relationships near the root.

Either Dr. Doolittle is unaware of the many thousands of creationists and evolutionists who are *not* surprised, or he prefers to ignore them. Regardless, such a discovery is not surprising, considering that science (what is really known to be true, mainly through observation) has always been at odds with macroevolution. Consider a recent review of the book, *Horizontal Gene Transfer* by Syvanen & Kado (1998):

Some of the remaining chapters—particularly in the part of the book that discusses macroevolutionary trends (chapters 31–34)—are very speculative. (C.F. Delwiche, in *BioScience*, January 2000, p. 86.)

Of course, it has always been an unscientific stretch (or *very* speculative) to suggest that all living things on this planet, from tulips to tapirs, poppies to people, have, as their common ancestor, “a small cell with no nucleus.”

When asked for evidence of real, vertical evolution (also called macroevolution), evolutionists usually reply merely with well-worn and unsatisfying exceptions. These include the peppered moths, DDT-resistant insects, and the “new species” of finches on the Galapagos Islands. Creation scientists don’t dispute such minor variation (microevolution), of course, *but such examples have nothing to do with real evolution*. Evolutionists counter that over time, small “horizontal” changes lead to “vertical” or large changes. All one has to do, they say, is *extrapolate* from micro to macro.

An article in *Evolution* (Hendry & Kinnison, December 1999) discusses measuring the rate of evolution. They admit that “speculation about what might happen if short-term evolutionary rates were sustained over longer time frames is akin to extrapolating a regression line far beyond the range of the data.” A good example of extrapolation leading to wrong conclusions would be a child’s growth rate. From birth to age 15, for example, junior might grow five feet, then by extrapolation he would be 10 feet tall by age 30! Is it any wonder these two researchers state that, “both extrapolation and interpolation have the potential to mislead.”

While evolutionists continue to puzzle over their tree of life, Christians are forever grateful to the Creator who died on a cruel tree to give us life! ❄️

CREATIONIST EASTER BOOKLET AVAILABLE

Dr. Henry Morris, ICR's founder and former president, has written a new 32-page booklet for the Easter season entitled, *Christ Our Life*. The booklet stresses the relationship between creation and redemption, both being completed works of Christ, with each both supporting and necessitating the other. It then shows how these two finished works of the Lord Jesus Christ produce a victorious "resurrection life" in the Christian believer in this present world and culminate in everlasting life in resurrection bodies in the world to come.

The cost of *Christ Our Life*, which also includes solid evidence for the historical reality of Christ's bodily resurrection, is \$0.50 per copy. For those who may wish to use it as a gift booklet to share with others, it is also available in lots of 100 or more for \$0.30 each, plus any relevant sales tax and shipping charges. It can be ordered direct from ICR (1-800-628-7640). ❀



TRACS RENEWED FOR FIVE YEARS

The ICR Graduate School, and Christian education in general, recently received some good news. The accrediting association through which ICR is accredited, the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), was itself the recipient of continuing recognition as the accrediting body which oversees thoroughly Christian, creationist colleges and universities. TRACS has, over the years, experienced much the same opposition for its stand as has the ICR Graduate School, but its commitment to excellence and high standards has been rewarded.

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) held its annual meeting at the Ritz Carlton Hotel at Pentagon City Mall in Washington D.C., December 6–8, 1999. On hand representing TRACS before the Committee were Russell Fitzgerald, Executive Director; Sam Chand, Accreditation Commission Chairman; and Timothy Eaton, Standards Review Coordinator.

In a unanimous vote, the Secretary's Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity recommended that TRACS be recognized by the US Department of Education for a five-year period, with an interim report due December 2000. The Committee's decision was based on the recommendation of Steve Porcelli, USDE Education Program Specialist. In his Staff Report to the NACIQI, Mr. Porcelli stated the following: "Based on the information and supporting documentation that exists for this agency, Department staff recommends the following: Renew recognition for a period of five years and request an interim report by December 8, 2000." This was an unusual commendation for TRACS and the member schools, and deserves much thankfulness, for it represents a bit of objectivity among a growing intolerance of the Christian perspective in education. ❀



From Florida

First may I say that I am deeply grateful to . . . the ICR organization for delivering the church from bondage to evolutionism. Coming out of a liberal, mainline denomination, I was still suffering the effects of the evolution lie, when somehow I learned of your organization. Your testimonies gave me great joy, so much so that I went on a tremendous buying spree of books and videos with which to satisfy my hunger for the truth. ❀



GRADUATE SCHOOL 2000
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF
SUMMER COURSES

COURSE	NO., CREDITS	NAME	INSTRUCTOR
Suppl. Crs.	501 (0)	Orientation & Seminar (June 8–9; June 29–30; July 20–21)	Cumming

Module A (June 12–June 30)

Biology	501 (3)	Molecular Biology of Cell	TBD
Biology	510 (3)	Field Studies in Biology	Parker
Physics	502 (3)	Statistical Mechanics	Vardiman
Geology	502 (3)	Advanced Sedimentary Geol.	Austin
Sci. Ed.	501 (3)	Applied Statistics	TBD
Sci. Ed.	504 (3)	Applied Science Ed. Research	Deckard
Suppl. Crs.	502 (3)	Adv.Studies in Creationism	Cumming

Module B (July 3–21)

Biology	507 (3)	Advanced Paleontology	Parker
Biology	504 (3)	Human Anatomy	Franks
Geology	503 (3)	Stratigraphic Analysis	Austin
Physics	504 (3)	Quantum Mechanics	DeYoung
Sci. Ed.	505 (3)	Curriculum Design in Science	Deckard
Sci. Ed.	502 (3)	Advanced Ed. Psycholog	Stark

Module C (July 24–August 11)

Biology	506 (3)	Advanced Ecology	Parker
Biology	505 (3)	Biological Concepts	Cumming
Geology	511 (3)	Igneous Petrology	Snelling
Physics	513 (3)	Paleoclimatology	Vardiman
Sci. Ed.	506 (3)	Curriculum Implementation	Nason
Sci. Ed.	503 (3)	Advanced Methods/Lab	Mandley

Module D (June 12–August 11—evenings or TBD)

Biology	510 (1)	Field Studies in Bio. YS*	Cumming
Geology	506 (1)	Field Studies in Geol. YS*	Austin
Suppl. Crs.	502 (3)	Adv.Studies in Creationism (by directed study)	Cumming

*Yellowstone Tour in Fall 2000



**Books
in Review**

The Modern Creation Trilogy by Henry M. Morris and John D. Morris (Master Books), 1996.

Here is a wonderful trilogy of books in a boxed set that bears our unconditional recommendation. Get it, read it, and use it via the accompanying CD-ROM.

Biblical Evangelist

That Their Words May Be Used Against Them by Henry M. Morris (Master Books), 1997.

This massive work is something whose time has surely come. The subtitle tells it all: “Quotes from Evolutionists Useful for Creationists.”

We urge you to get this book for future reference—and your own reading enjoyment!

Biblical Evangelist

STEWARDSHIP & TRUST SERVICES

HAVING BEEN FAITHFUL IN LITTLE

Following is the reprint of a letter we received in 1995. It conveys such an important message, I feel it worthy to be presented to you again.

Dear Mr. Manning,

We would like to convey our deepest appreciation for the help you have been to us. We struggled for years with our attempts to give to God's work, being only sporadic in doing so. Many years ago, we received some excellent and wonderfully practical advice when you stated in an issue of *Acts & Facts* that regular giving can be accomplished by starting small.

That was our problem; we would try by starting off too large, only to fail because we couldn't afford to keep it up. Our attempts were few and far between because of our ignorance. The guilt and frustration didn't help either.

But the Lord didn't abandon us, He used that article.

We took your advice and started by giving [ICR] \$5 a month. That may seem like a laughable amount [we don't think so] but, praise God, we were able to give every month for the first time in our lives. It didn't take long for the little \$5 to snowball into an avalanche that changed our attitudes, feelings, plans, and everything.

God not only used the \$5 for His work in ministry, but also used it to change us! I can't explain it other than to state that the longer we gave, the desire to give increased. If that wasn't enough, He also provided more for us to give ! What an amazing and awesome Savior we have! How could we not love Him more?

Well, to wrap up this long explanation, I'll finish by letting you know that it was because of your advice that our giving has continued to grow. Best of all, it's not just a matter of giving money, we feel we've actually been learning to give more of ourselves to God.

Your fellow servants,

We praise our gracious Lord right along with these dear friends! The mighty Creator, Himself our Savior, has promised to draw us close and conform us into His image as we make ourselves available to His mighty hand!

Isn't He wonderful!?!

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