

**Review: Laurie R. Godfrey (editor), *Scientists Confront Creationism*,
W. W. Norton & Company, NY, 1984**

Pages: 324

Confronting...and Failing

A collection of fifteen top evolutionists put forward their best arguments to explain the origin of life and universal common ascent idea. Of course they frame the question with themselves as “true” scientists, and “science” as methodological naturalism. They assert any scientist who believes in creation and supernaturalism is anti-science.

Major topics are predictable: radiometric dating and geologic deep time, molecular genetics, homology, and legal trials like Scopes and Arkansas.

Their hypocrisy and historical ignorance shines throughout:

-Whereas scientists use “species” which is “scientific”, creationists use “kind” which is meaningless [p. xiii].

There is no universal definition of species (the “species problem”), and some even use the word “kind”! In reality *neither* is objective, only creationists are honest enough to admit this.

-Teaching creationism is a violation of the principle of separation of church and state [p. xiv].

The U.S. constitution forbids the State from establishing a mandatory religion (specifically one Christian denomination). It says nothing of forbidding religion within the State, which is a modern ‘woke’ interpretation by a secular/atheist SCOTUS.

Another strategy used is framing, in which “fact” is equivocated with “belief” and “interpretation”, e.g., atheist Richard Lewontin claims the universe is over 11 billion years old as “fact”, and there were no mammals or birds 200 million years ago [p. xxiii]. These are of course untestable

beliefs, although he is correct in the latter case as there was no “200 million years ago”!

On evolutionist ‘standards’, author John Cole references sex pervert Alfred Kinsey as quality science [p. 22], and Communist John Dewey as virtuous [p. 29]!

One thing they all get right is that world views of evolution and creation are totally irreconcilable.

Having read this “confrontation”, any Christian will walk away stronger in their position that evolution is a bankrupt philosophy, and that its best defenders have fallen flat on their faces.

Preface (pp. xi-xxi)

Arkansas law required: “balanced treatment for creation science” and was declared unconstitutional on 5 January, 1982.

Introduction (p. xxiii-xxvi)

The world views of evolution and creation are totally irreconcilable.

I) The Word of God (Alice Kehoe) (pp. 1-12)

Henry Morris speculated Satan was the originator of the idea of evolution, revealed to Nimrod.

Herbert Spencer coined “survival of the fittest”.

Science [alone] has no epistemological base, yet, scientific knowledge is said to rest upon a multitude of tested observations.

Providentissimus Deus and *Divino Afflante Spiritu* encyclicals both promote evolutionism.

II) Scopes and Beyond Antievolutionism and American Culture (John Cole) (pp. 13-32)

“Organisms either evolved or they did not.”

Herbert Spencer was the father of Social Darwinism (“Spencerism”), which Marx adopted.

If man was made in God’s image, was God an animal?

John D. Rockefeller, 1900: “The growth of a large business is merely survival of the fittest ... [forcing small companies out of business] is not an evil tendency in business. It is merely the working-out of a law of nature and a law of God.” [p. 20]

Chapter author John Cole references sex pervert Alfred Kinsey [p. 22], and Communist John Dewey [p. 31].

Cultural relativism is the single most anthropological precept.

Absolutes are not assumed in modern science [except that evolution is true!].

III) The Ages of the Earth and the Universe (George O. Abell) (pp. 33-47)

Some creationists believe the earth was so made with an “appearance” of great age.

Scientists **take for granted** their models describe reality [including that there even *is* a “reality”]. This is a religious position.

The author errs stating dendrochronology shows one tree ring equals one year, and his conclusion that a continuous chronology back to at least 8,000 years is therefore incorrect.

Laser satellite experiments show North America and Europe are separating at 2cm per annum, but it is by assumption the evolution holds it has always been so.

The earth’s magnetic field reverses every 500,000 years.

Dating magnetic field reversals relies on extrapolation; that sea floor lava spreading rates are constant.

W.F. Libby founded radiocarbon dating in 1947.

^{13}C is a stable isotope [contra Dawkins!].

George states that ^{14}C 's short half life of 5,730 years means none should be leftover from the formation of earth. [This is a test which falsifies evolutionary long ages due to ^{14}C being found in diamonds and coal seams.)

George implicitly admits to superiority of the historical record stating that ^{14}C dating can be calibrated via the wooden coffin of King Tutankhamen.

Radiocounters can detect ^{14}C , with the mass inferred from radiation intensity.

Stellar evolution compares predictions with starlight observation.

The Doppler effect is wavelength displacement of a light's source.

Extrapolating backwards, it is argued at some point all matter in the universe was packed into an extremely hot dense point.

Initial universe expansion would be far shifted ('stretched') to longer radio waves, which Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson discovered in 1965.

IV) Ghosts From the Nineteenth Century: Creationist Arguments for a Young Earth (Stephen G. Brush) (pp. 48-84)

Apparent star brightness decreases with the square of distance from the observer, and is proportional to *intrinsic* brightness (i.e., distance from a "standard" distance, e.g. 61 Cygni). If a 'standard' star can be found in some cluster, then distance can be inferred.

Radioactive decay 'constants' was thought to depend on cosmic rays, however, in 1928, I. R. Maxwell tested polonium 1,150 ft in a New Jersey mine and found no activity reduction.

In 1972, physicist G. T. Emery tested whether pressure, temperature, or chemistry could affect radioactivity and found changes only up to 4%.

In 1976, Robert Gentry and six others claimed to find large radiohalo formations in crystalline monazite.

While some rocks are suitable for K-Ar dating, xenoliths like 1801 Hawaiian lava are not. (Ultrabasic rocks are unsuitable for the K-Ar method.)

^{218}Po has a three-minute half life, meaning any halos of it imply extremely fast creation.

Elasser's dynamo theory of the earth's magnetic field assumes some energy source to keep the fluid moving.

V) Probability and the Origin of Life (Russell F. Doolittle) (pp. 85-97)

Cytochrome c amino acid sequence is about a hundred parts long.

Evolutionists can assemble twelve nucleotides in a string, but they need to supply metal ion catalysts.

The admitted puzzle for evolution is how a polynucleotide sequence is transferred into a corresponding polypeptide.

“Once a few oligonucleotides had formed in some warm little primeval pond, self-assembly properties would come into play.” [p. 90]

The problem with all watery scenarios is both the purine nucleobases and amino groups of the amino acids are broken down by water, so it is the worst place for an OOL scenario.

Bootstrapping is invoking to build up nucleic acid chain length, “Promethean sticks that were rubbed together to produce the spark of life”. [p. 92]

‘Natural selection’ is even invoked as a force to select various amino acids, but it can't operate at the genetic level since it cannot see it.

Russell compares the improbability of random polynucleotide assembly to being dealt a perfect hand of bridge; it can happen! Despite the improbability of this being less than say a thirteen-nucleotide chain forming randomly ($10^{-13 \cdot \log_{10} 4}$), he assumes polypeptide chains of catalysts **twenty to thirty** amino acids in length already existed. The probability of a twenty length chain forming given homochirality is at least $\sim 10^{32}$, or 17 orders of magnitude *less likely* than a perfect bridge hand.

He then claims that since protein sequences share similar amino acid patterns they must have come from a common archetype, but this spurious assumption ignores the claim they are similar because they are from a common designer and said sequences are necessary for common function.

VI) Thermodynamics and Evolution (John W. Patterson) (pp. 98-116)

Living systems can proceed to lower-entropy configurations by feeding off downhill fluxes in nature.

“Inventory exchanges” are said to occur between systems in the universe.

In order to maintain a highly ordered internal condition, living organisms must rid themselves of all entropy produced when drawing in energy.

The ram pump is a classic example of an energy system literally going ‘uphill’, although efficiency is only about 50%, and *information* for the design of the system is unaccounted for – they not not occur naturally. The pump is an example of using *gradients* (e.g., temperature, pressure, composition) to reduce entropy in closed systems.

VII) Molecular Evidence for Evolution (Thomas H. Jukes) (pp. 117-138)

Point mutations are said to occur at 1-2% per 5 million years, a rate used to construct molecular ‘clocks’ and trace them back to to the beginning of life under flawed evolutionary beliefs.

Haemoglobin can easily be crystallised from animal blood making int one of the first proteins studied.

During blood clotting, fibrinogen is converted to fibrin.

Evolutionists believe chloroplasts came from cyanobacteria

Fermi paradox notwithstanding, Thomas believes life is highly likely to exist in other parts of the universe, however, he fails to understand that evolution can't explain life here, so neither could it anywhere else.

VIII) Darwin's Untimely Burial – Again (Stephen J. Gould) (pp. 139-146)

Orthogenesis theory says certain evolutionary trends once begun can't stop, e.g. antler growth causing the beast to get stuck in trees, which will cause extinction.

Criterion of 'fitness' can't be separated from survival rendering it meaningless, however, natural selection requires exactly this to not be tautological.

IX) The Geological and Paleontological Arguments of Creationism (David M. Raup) (pp. 147-162)

Catastrophe evidence is found in fossil ephemerals: footprints; ripples; rain drops; and mud cracks.

The so-called "geologic column" in textbooks is really a composite from small segments scattered about the globe.

Paradoxically, contemporary geologists actually accept catastrophism, and have identified thousands of events. However, school books almost exclusively still teach uniformitarianism.

Geologists hold that because oil companies use index fossils in searching for mineral deposits, therefore they are a reliable dating method. But this assumes ordering is a product of evolution, not the Noachic deluge.

David incisively asks: "how does the evolutionist explain the lack of intermediates?" Sometimes recourse is made to Eldredge and Gould's punctuated equilibrium model from 1972.

As historical sciences, geology and palaeontology rely on statistical inference, not experimental evidence.

David concludes with stating creation or evolution are not mutually exclusive, that there are other “biological models” outside evolution, but he fails to name them. Life is either intelligently designed, or not, so that any alternative model is evolutionary to a greater or lesser degree.

X) Systematics, Comparative Biology, and the Case Against Creationism (Joel Cracraft) (pp. 163-191)

Sympatric species live in the same area.

Reproductive isolation is not necessarily related to phenotype differences.

Joel complain the unit of the creation model, “kind” cannot be defined, so creation is therefore unscientific, however, he is blind to the fact that neither is “species” a scientific concept, it itself is an evolving idea. [p. 169]

Evolutionists claim cladograms are scientific hypotheses and can be “tested”.

Willin Hennig (1966) classed similarities as nonhomologous (“convergent”) and homologous, however, these are really just evolutionary *interpretations*.

The Creation model is said to make two predictions:

- 1) Similarities cannot be shared to produce a hierarchical pattern of groups within groups.
- 2) Similarities between “created kinds” will exhibit strong correspondence to biological function.

Joel lies stating: “the component taxa of major groups do not all appear at once,” in contradiction to their Cambrian explosion event. [p. 181]

Since there are admittedly many ways to classify creatures, claims of objective “testability” are hollow.

XI) Creationism and Gaps in the Fossil Record (Laurie R. Godfrey) **(pp. 191-218)**

Laurie claims: “soft tissue is only preserved under unusual circumstances.”
[p.195]

“Sudden appearance ... in no way disconfirms evolution.” [!]

Flowering plants appearing in the Cretaceous bewildered Darwin, who called it an “abominable mystery” in a letter to Hooker in 1879.

The common ancestor of shark and whale is said to be a primitive fish, although the standard dogma for the latter is it came from *Pakicetus*, a small dog-like creature!

Karyotype is the structure of chromosomes, which is often ignored by evolutionists in favour of allele gene pool changes.

XII) Fossils, Stratigraphy, and Evolution: Consideration of a Creationist Argument (Steven D. Schafersman) **(pp. 219-244)**

There is the so-called Law of Initial Horizontality and Law of Superposition.

The “Law of Biotic Succession” says fossils always occur in the same sequence, regardless of geographic location.

Morris’ three facts were:

- 1) Rocks are assigned geologic ages through fossils;
- 2) Fossils are arranged based on evolution;
- 3) Fossil order provides evidence for evolution.

The ultimate key to geologic dating is claimed to actually be repeated fossil succession.

Steven concludes with a philosophical diatribe that “nature has revealed” he came from an apelike creature, and struggles to know the “truth” in a universe of meaningless and hope, in which there is “grandeur”! [p. 243]

XIII) Humans in Time and Space (C. Loring Brace) (pp. 245-282)

Brace claims “mutually incompatible statements concerning Genesis”, yet provides none. [p. 245]

The evolutionist classes humans, apes, monkeys, tarsiers, lemurs, and lorises as the order of Primates.

Aegyptopithecus is a “dental ape”.

Dryopithecus fontani was discovered France 1856.

Most human evolution evidence came from jaws and teeth.

Ramapithecus is from Siwalik hills in the northern Indian subcontinent.

An *Australopithecene* skull from Sterkfontein was found in the Transvaal, South Africa. Brain size was the same as a large modern ape, canines don't extend beyond the occlusal level of the other teeth, and the spinal cord entered the skull at the bottom, not towards the back.

Dozens of *Australopithecus afarensis* (“Lucy”) specimens have been since the 1970s and are housed in Adis Ababa, Ethiopia.

A dental gap is a *diastema*.

A. africanus is said to be older than *A. afarensis*.

Australopithecus boisei was discovered by Mary and Louis Leakey in the Olduvai Gorge in 1959. It had smaller front teeth and is thought to have eaten seeds, nuts, and roots in the East African savannah.

Homo erectus is claimed to be contemporary with the late robust *Australopithecines*.

In 1972, Koobi Fora region east of Lake Turkana, Kenya, Richard Leakey and co. found a *Homo* skull of 750 cc and facial fragments (“ER 1470”), which he claimed was 3 Ma. However, this would contradict the “standard narrative”, so evolutionists had it ‘redated’ to 1.6 Ma based on volcanic tuff. Problem solved!

Louis Leakey called stone tool finds “Oldowan” due to their location in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, in the 1930s. Evolutionists think the Olduvai Gorge strata are 2 Ma.

Brace simply asserts that: “changes in cranio-facial anatomy that occur as *Australopithecus* becomes *Homo* can be comfortably accounted for in the forces of natural selection”. [p. 261-262]

A change for *H. erectus* to *H. sapiens* requires a braincase increase from 1,000 to 1,500cc.

Brace makes another philosophical claim, that: “Macroevolution is nothing but microevolution over longer time spans.” [p. 271] Which means macroevolution *can be reduced to microevolution*.

Mesolithic people are called “hunter-gatherers”.

Higher aldosterone helps the body retain salt despite sweating.

XIV) The Evolution of Bible-Science (Robert J. Schadewald) (pp. 283-299)

James Hutton planted the seeds of the geological revolution in 1785.

Robert claims the following are problems for Noah’s Flood:

1. Source of Flood waters.
2. Fossil layering in strata.
3. Large number of fossils.
4. Land structures are now found deep in rock strata.

These are evidence of an uneducated critic:

1. The oceans could cover a spherical earth 2.5km deep.
2. Hydrologic sorting, habitat location and creature locomotion are invoked to explain the fossil record.
3. This is a huge problem for evolutionists as, based on uniformitarianism, fossilisation is a *rare* event. A global flood can explain the fossils by supplying the force and speed.

4. Large sea floor slab intrusions are found in the mantle, which are expected from tectonic catastrophism during the flood.

Henry Morris suggests that Satan revealed evolution to Nimrod at the Tower of Babel.

XV) Is it Really Fair to Give Creationism Equal Time? (Frederick Edwords) (pp. 300-316)

Frederick calls both Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons Christians.

In the *King Follet Discourse* of 7 April, 1844, Joseph Smith claimed that matter is eternal and God did not create, rather, He simply rearranged the matter!