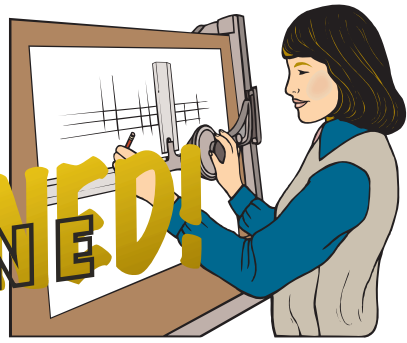


WELL DESIGNED!



The Sloth

SPENDING your life hanging upside down may not seem very attractive, but the sloth doesn't find it a problem, because it has been designed to live that way. In fact, sloths find moving along the ground very difficult, and don't often do it.

You may wonder why sloths don't fall out of the trees when they sleep, but it's because they have curved claws which act as hooks, fixing them securely to the branches. Sloths are so well fitted to their way of life that they even give birth while hanging upside down!

Sloths live in the forests of Central and South America, where they feed on leaves and twigs. They are so slow that they move no faster than 1 km/hour (less than 1 mph), and spend 77% of their time sleeping. Unlike most other animals, their hair is parted on their stomachs, so that rain runs off easily. There are only two species — the two-toed and the three-toed. The three-toed sloth looks as though it has green hair! However, a closer examination reveals that the colour



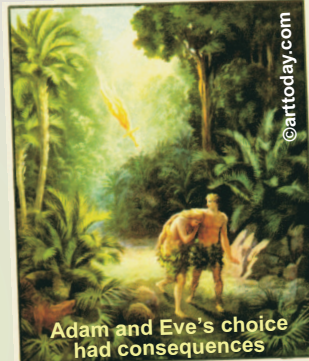
Hanging around – the three-toed sloth

comes from green algae which grow in a pit at the tip of each hair. This gives sloths an excellent camouflage in the leafy branches.

The origin of sloths is a puzzle for evolutionists. There are no fossils of tree sloths, so they have no evolutionary ancestors. Fossils of large, extinct ground sloths have been found. Their skeletons suggest they could only move very slowly along the ground. Modern tree sloths may be related to them, but there is no fossil evidence that those extinct sloths evolved from anything else. This is what we would expect to find according to the creation model of origins, where separate 'kinds' were created by God in the beginning. There would be limited variation within each 'kind', but they would never change into a different kind.

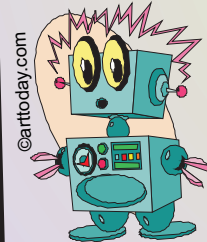
Why did God ALLOW IT?

WHEN there are disasters like the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre, people often ask 'Why did God allow it?' If there is an all-powerful Creator, why do bad things happen? So, how do Christians explain it? The Bible says that when God created the first human beings, He placed them in a perfect environment. God only gave Adam and Eve one rule: they were forbidden to eat the fruit of a certain tree, and warned that if they disobeyed, the consequences would be serious and far-reaching. When they chose to disobey, their relationship with God was broken, and the whole of creation was damaged. The Bible explains: 'The whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.' (Romans 8: 22). Sin became hereditary in the human race.



Adam and Eve's choice had consequences

We may not be terrorists, but we are all sinners because we have failed to reach God's standard. God could have created us as robots, pre-programmed to do His bidding. Instead, He allows us the freedom to choose to either love or reject Him. Whatever choice we make, there are consequences — either for ourselves and for others. God could only stop people doing evil things by taking that freedom away. If you think He ought to, then ask yourself whether you would like God to force you to do something you don't want to do. But God did not abandon the world to evil. His Son Jesus Christ willingly came to earth to deal with the problem of human sin. He died on the cross to pay the penalty we all deserve. When we put our faith in Him, He gives us a love for God that makes us want to live a life that pleases Him. One day, God will act to bring an end to all evil and rebellion against Him. 'He has set a day when he will judge the world with justice.' (Acts 17: 31). Jesus will return as King. At this present time, God is giving everyone the opportunity to turn away from evil. Have you made your choice?



We are not robots

Smile

DAN: Teacher, would you punish me for something I didn't do?
TEACHER: Of course not.
DAN: Good, because I didn't do my homework.

TEACHER: I hope I didn't see you looking at Don's paper.
JOHN: I hope you didn't either.

TEACHER: Carol, give me a sentence starting with "I".
CAROL: I is...
TEACHER: No, Carol. Always say, "I am."
CAROL: All right... "I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."

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ORIGINAL VIEW

No. 38

The ALTERNATIVE teens' paper!

In this issue:
The Twin Towers and Creation
Running down and wearing out!
Natural and artificial selection
The Sloth
Why did God allow it?

In the beginning...

CHANCE OR GOD?

THE LAWS OF SCIENCE TELL US THAT THE UNIVERSE HAD A BEGINNING

Scientists who reject belief in a Creator don't like the idea that the universe had a beginning, because they then have to consider the question: 'How did it begin, and what was there before the beginning?'

Some have suggested that the universe has always existed, but the Second Law of Thermodynamics rules this out. Others have suggested that the universe created itself — which is absurd. How could something that wasn't there create anything?! This idea also contradicts the First Law of Thermodynamics which states that the total amount of matter and energy in the universe is constant. To get something from nothing requires a Creator! (see Hebrews 11: 3 in the Bible)

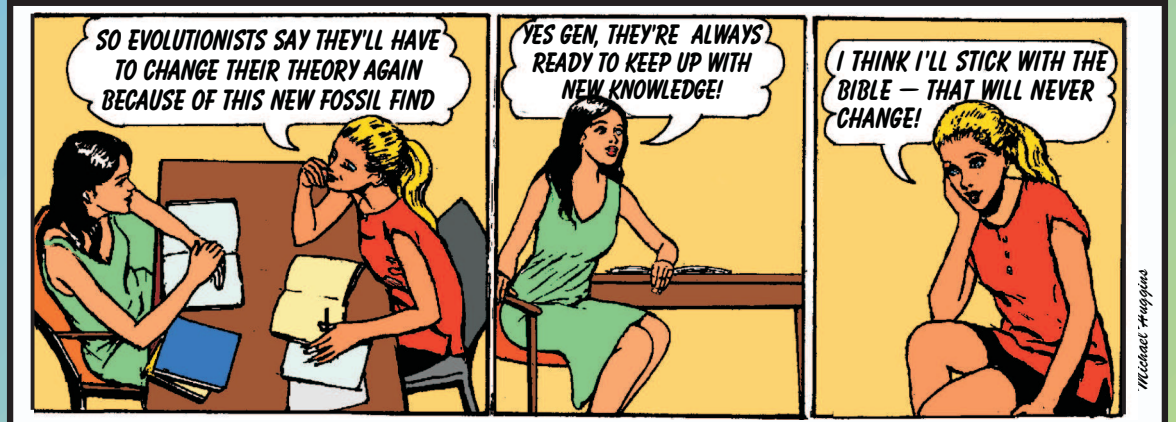


NASA photo

What do the Twin Towers have to do with the origin of the universe?

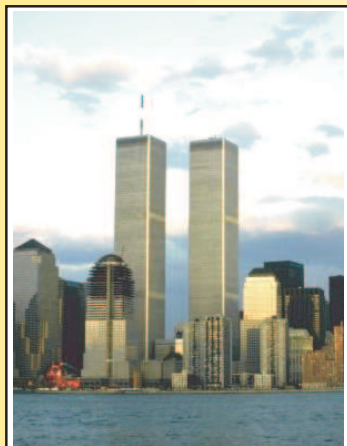


Find out inside!



Michael Higgins

The Twin Towers and Creation



The Twin Towers: not built by chance

BEFORE September 11th 2001 the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York soared 420 meters (1360 feet) above the Manhattan skyline. Within a couple of hours those 110-storey towers had been reduced to a heap of smouldering rubble after terrorists crashed two planes into the towers, and thousands of people died.

But what do the Twin Towers have to do with creation? Firstly, the towers weren't built by chance. If you exploded a bomb in a builder's

We all know that explosions never produce order and design, so why do so many people believe that our orderly universe came from a 'big bang'?

yard among piles of steel girders, bricks and bags of cement, you wouldn't get a building of any kind! Those elegant towers were planned by intelligent minds long before building began. Then, hundreds of workers spent 6 years erecting the towers on a 20 meter (65 foot) deep foundation.

Secondly, the September 11th disaster, caused by human wickedness, proves what we already know — explosions produce the *opposite* of order and design! So why do so many people believe that our wonderful, orderly universe came from a 'big bang'? Is it because they don't want to believe in a Creator?

Why did God allow it? (see back page)



Twisted girders and rubble after September 11th.

Photos above and below by James Tourtellotte



Aerial view of the ruined towers

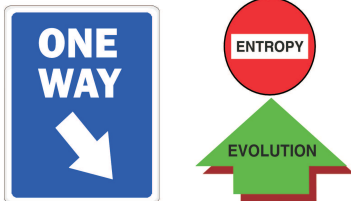
IT'S DOWNHILL ALL THE WAY!

'From hydrogen to humans' — that what evolutionists believe about the origin of the universe and everything in it. But this leaves them with a big problem: one of the basic laws of science is the *Second Law of Thermodynamics*, which states that entropy (disorder) increases with the passing of time. Everything in the universe is going downhill — and we all know it. Hot things get cold, water runs downhill, machines wear out, our bodies grow old, and our hair goes grey. And so on. We can see all of this happening, and know it's a fact. Yet we are asked to believe that an explosion (of nothing) produced hydrogen gas, which slowly evolved into stars and galaxies, planets, chemicals, life — and us!

FROM NOTHING TO EVERYTHING!

Stars and galaxies are more complex than gas, and living beings more complex than chemicals, so the evolutionary explanation is totally unreal. Just how do you get from nothing to everything, if everything is running out of energy, and there is

no way to replenish it? And how could life evolve from a single-celled organism into complex, multi-cellular organisms like ourselves, when the *Second Law* predicts a down-hill process? Whether we think about the origin of the cosmos or the origin of life, evolution just doesn't add up. One final point: the universe can't be infinitely old, or it would be totally dead by now.



Evolution is against the law!

WHO WOUND IT UP?



The universe is running down, like a clock. Left to itself it would eventually run down completely and end in what scientists call a "heat death". All activity would stop: absolutely nothing would happen anymore. This is all because of the *Second Law of Thermodynamics*, a 'running-down' principle that is universal. It's a big problem for those who believe it all began with a 'big bang'. It also poses the question: who wound the universe up?

A CLOSER LOOK at Evolution

Natural and Artificial Selection

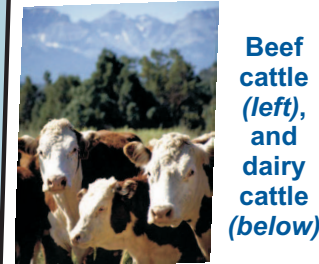
MANY people think that evolution and natural selection are the same thing, but they are not. Natural selection is a fact, and we can see it in action, but we cannot see evolution. Natural selection always works for the good of the species, enabling it to survive in a changing environment, or against competition from other species. It enables the finches on the Galapagos Islands to adapt themselves to changes caused by drought, but they remain finches.¹

Charles Darwin bred domestic pigeons, and was amazed at the many different variation that could be obtained by selecting certain traits. Darwin also knew how farm animals had been improved by *artificial* selection. He reasoned that if human breeders could get such big changes in a short time, natural selection could, over a much longer period, produce new species and even different kinds of animals.

Darwin was wrong for three reasons. Firstly, in artificial selection, changes are for the benefit of the breeders. It doesn't benefit a cow to produce lots of extra milk, since in nature she only needed enough for her calf. Natural selection only works for the good of the *species*. Secondly, there is a limit to the amount of variation possible, whether by artificial or natural selection. It would not be possible to breed a cow that produced 1000 gallons of milk a day. Thirdly, natural selection can only select what is already there; it cannot add *new* genetic information. Bears could not evolve into whales, or reptiles into birds, because they would need new organs and structures, and the genetic information to produce them would not be available for selection.

Natural selection is a fact, but not evolution from one kind to another. The limited variation we observe fits the Biblical account of the creation of 'kinds'.
1. See Original View No. 37

ARTIFICIAL SELECTION



Beef cattle (left), and dairy cattle (below)



Through artificial selection some cattle have been bred to produce high milk yields, while others have been bred for beef production. But they are still cattle.

BEARS AND NATURAL SELECTION



Brown bear



Polar bear

Brown bears, live among trees and grass, and their colour helps them blend with their surroundings. Polar bears, which spend a good part of the year in snow and ice, have a white coat which blends with the wintry landscape. In both cases natural selection would have preserved the bears whose colours best matched their surroundings. But this was not evolution; they are still bears — and always will be! Natural selection could never turn bears into whales, as Charles Darwin suggested.

A super-computer to copy nature?



Every day, the cells in our bodies have to fold thousands of proteins in a special way to keep us alive. If the proteins are not folded correctly fatal diseases can result. Scientists are trying to build a computer that will mimic what our cells do, but are finding it to be a real challenge. A researcher at IBM said, 'It is absolutely amazing — the complexity of the problem and the simplicity with which the body does it every day'. These scientists have realised that they will need to build a 'super-computer' if they are ever to duplicate what our cells do so easily. It will need to run 500 times faster than the fastest super-computer built so far, and 40 times faster than the combined power of the 40 quickest super-computers in the world today. Even when this super-computer is built it is expected to take a year to model what our cells do every day.

If and when this project is finalised, no doubt the scientists who designed it will claim credit for its design. So who designed the cells in our own bodies, which fold proteins so quickly and easily? Evolutionists say it all happened by chance, without intelligence. Who are they kidding?

—From a report in 'Acts and Facts' 31: 6 (Institute for Creation Research)