

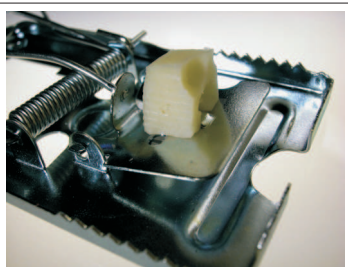
# WELL DESIGNED!



## The Venus Flytrap

The Venus Flytrap is one of a number of Carnivorous plants. The leaves, which have sensitive bristles on their edge, are hinged. Insects, attracted by the scent, enter the plant, and the toothed leaves snap shut in a tenth of a second, trapping the insect, which is then digested.

Scientists have used high-speed video cameras to discover how the Venus Flytrap works. They have found that the plant actually moves water to release stored elastic energy to make the jaws close. The trap is activated when the plant detects a biochemical signal from an insect. Scientists have likened the leaves to a tennis ball cut in half and turned inside out, but



Mousetraps don't evolve. They are designed



The Venus Flytrap

which flip back to their normal shape when an insect enters, preventing it from escaping.

Some scientists hope they may be able to copy this plant's mechanism to control the flow of liquids or gases in hydraulic sensors or drug-delivery pumps.

If scientists are able to copy the mechanism of the Venus Flytrap, it will involve using their intelligence. So why do so many of them believe that the plant itself somehow evolved without intelligence? Traps made by humans didn't evolve by chance. Charles Darwin described this plant as "one of the most wonderful in the world." His theory of gradual evolution certainly can't explain its origin. This plant, with its clever mechanism, has "design" stamped all over it! It must be the work of God, the great Designer.

### Smile

A man went to the doctor and said, "I think I'm a pig." "How long have you felt like that?" asked the doctor. He replied, "About three weeeek weeeek weeeeks!"

An elephant visited a psychiatrist. He charged the elephant £550. £50 for the consultation and £500 for a new couch.

What is life all about? Visit [www.the-real-thing.org.uk](http://www.the-real-thing.org.uk)

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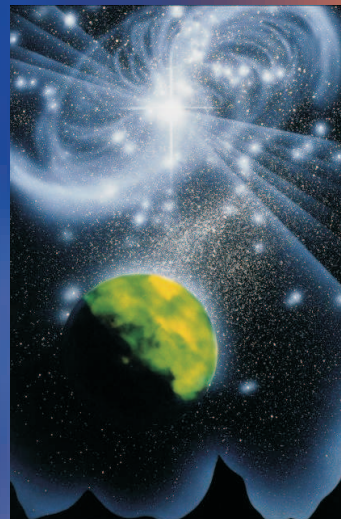
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# ORIGINAL VIEW

No. 46

## HAS THE 'BIG BANG' BURST?

Scientists say there's no evidence it ever happened!

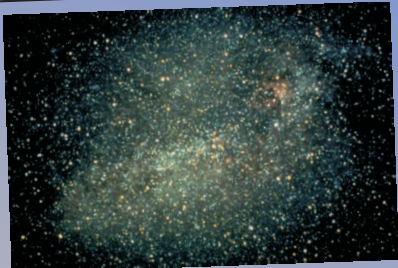


First of all there was nothing, then it exploded! That's the big bang theory. All the galaxies and stars, the earth and all it's life, came from an explosion of — nothing! Now that takes some believing...

Surely everyone "knows" the universe began with a Big Bang — haven't scientists proved it? Not at all! In fact, a growing number of scientists are admitting that the theory is in trouble. A group of 34 scientists from 10 countries even wrote an article in 'New Scientist' magazine (May 2004) claiming that there is no observable evidence to support the theory. And they complained that people who disagree with it aren't able to get any money for research into alternative theories. So the Big Bang remains the official explanation for the origin of the universe not because the evidence supports it, but because other views aren't allowed to be heard. Not very scientific!

## SAND AND STARS

The late Carl Sagan, an astronomer, and famous for his Cosmos TV series, said, "The total number of stars in the universe is greater than all the grains of sand on all the beaches of the planet Earth." If you visit a sandy beach, just try to imagine how many grains of sand there are, then think of all the beaches in the world. The mind boggles! Yet some astronomers are now saying there may be ten times as many stars in the universe as there are grains of sand on the world's seashores.

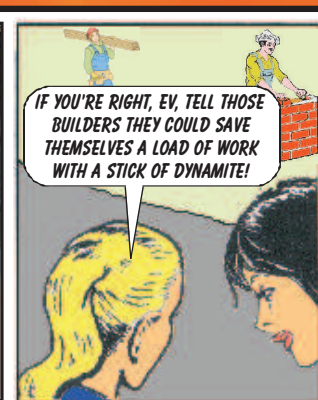


Before telescopes were invented people believed there were only about 3000 stars. Yet 2,600 years ago Jeremiah wrote that the stars, like the grains of sand, could not be counted: "...as countless as the stars of the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore." (Jeremiah 33: 22). No-one alive then could have known this fact, so this is evidence of the divine inspiration of the Bible, which also tells us that God "determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name." (Psalm 147: 4).

The "big bang" theory has many problems, and may well soon be ditched. The view that the universe was created by God is accepted by a growing number of scientists. The Bible tells us that the God who created the galaxies also created us, and that He actually loves us. How can we be sure? "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (The Bible, 1 John 4: 9). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has made a way for us to be forgiven, be reconciled to Himself, and enjoy His presence for ever. If you can just grasp the fact that you are not the insignificant result of a "big bang", but that the God who counts the stars values you, your whole life can take on a new meaning. Think about it!



## GEN & EV



Michael Higgins 2004



# A BIG FAITH IN NOTHING!



## ONCE UPON A TIME.....

"The story of the Universe starts about 14 thousand million years ago with the Big Bang. This was a huge explosion that brought the Universe into existence. Before the Big Bang, there were no laws of physics, no time and certainly no particles. At the very beginning, there was an immense amount of energy in the form of radiation. The fundamental particles were born out of this energy." —www.schoolscience.co.uk



If there was 'nothing' before the Big Bang, what caused it? There were no people around when the universe began, so this means that scientists can put forward any idea they choose. Here are a few of the more wacky quotes from scientists about what caused this supposed explosion: "A quantum fluctuation in a vacuum", "a microscopic speck of excited vacuum", "a sudden, abrupt flash of lawlessness that allowed something to come out of nothing."

**"DON'T LET THEM KID YOU!"**

In an article in *New Scientist* (Sept. 14th 1996, p. 49), David Darling wrote: 'Don't let the cosmologists try to kid you on this one. They have not got a clue either.... "In the beginning," they will say, there was nothing—no time, space, matter, or energy. Then there was a quantum fluctuation from which—whoa! Stop right there. You see what I mean? First there is nothing, then there is something—and before you know it, they have pulled a hundred billion galaxies out of their quantum hats.'

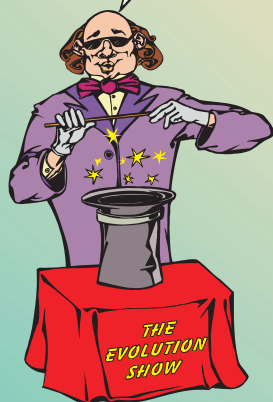
**Isn't it much easier, and more logical, to believe that an all-powerful Creator, who is outside of time and space, created the universe out of nothing? The Bible puts it this way: "By faith we believe that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." (Hebrews 11: 3)**



## TIM'S 'MAGIC WAND'

Have you ever seen a magician produce a rabbit from an "empty" hat? You may have found it amazing, even though you know that rabbits don't really appear from nowhere. People who believe in the Big Bang seem to think that *time*

**NOW,  
FOR MY NEXT TRICK  
I'M GOING TO TURN GAS  
INTO PEOPLE!**



can perform magic. That stars, galaxies, planets, plants, animals and people all came from hydrogengas. And where is that gas supposed to have come from? Nothing — according to two scientists, who wrote, "The big bang was the abrupt creation of the Universe from literally nothing: no space, no time, no matter. This is a quite extraordinary conclusion to arrive at — a picture of the entire physical Universe simply popping into existence from nothing!"

Maybe it's easier to believe that rabbits appear from empty hats.....?

1. P. Davies & J. Gribbin, *The Matter Myth*, Simon & Schuster/Touchstone, 1992, p. 122.

## IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!

The theory that our complex universe of stars, galaxies, and planets, and earth with its many forms of life, came from matter produced by an explosion is actually unscientific, because it is contrary to a very basic law of science — *The Second Law of Thermodynamics*. This is how the late Dr Isaac Asimov (who was an atheist) described it: "The universe is getting more and more disorderly! Viewed that way we can see the Second Law all about us. We have to work hard to straighten a room, but left to itself it becomes a mess again very quickly and easily.... In fact all we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself — and that is what the Second Law is all about." Dr Asimov went on, "In the great game of the universe we not only cannot win, we cannot even break even."

In spite of these comments, Dr Asimov, like all secular scientists, believed that our universe came from a Big Bang — order from disorder — even though the Second Law clearly says it couldn't!

1. *Smithsonian Institution Journal* (June 1970) pp. 6 & 8).



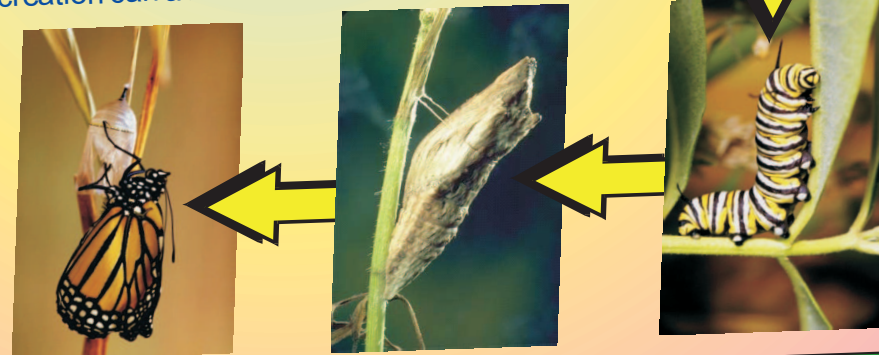
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# A CLOSER LOOK at Evolution The Butterfly's Life-cycle

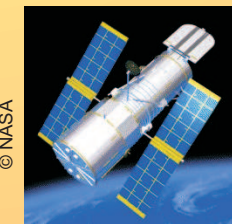
**T**HERE are many things which evolution can't explain. One of these is the life cycle of the butterfly. It begins when the butterfly lays her eggs, usually on the leaf of a plant. The eggs hatch and caterpillars emerge, which feed on the plants. Some time later — the time depends on the species — each caterpillar spins a cocoon around itself, and hangs itself up by a thread. This is called the *chrysalis* stage. Inside the chrysalis the caterpillar's body completely dissolves and turns into a gooey "soup", with no trace of any of the caterpillar's limbs or organs. After a time the chrysalis splits open, and a beautiful butterfly emerges. After allowing its wings to dry, and fluid to fill the tubes in the wings to strengthen them, the insect is ready to fly away — and begin the cycle all over again.

All the genetic information to enable this process to work is in those tiny eggs, and information always comes from an intelligent source. The butterfly's life-cycle had to work perfectly from the start, so it could not have evolved gradually. Only creation can account for this miracle.

To follow the life cycle of the butterfly, start at the top right and follow the arrows. When the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis the whole cycle begins again.

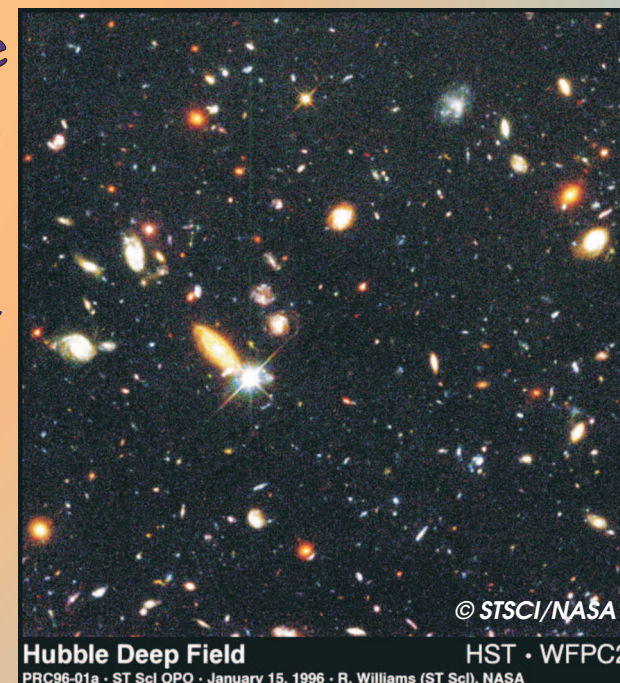


## An Amazing Photo - and a Puzzle



Take a look at the photo on the right. Now hold out your arm, and imagine holding a grain of sand between your finger and thumb against the night sky. The photo represents the area covered by that grain of sand! It was taken by the Hubble Space Telescope (left) and reveals thousands of galaxies in that small area of space. Astronomers now believe there are at least 80 billion galaxies in the universe, each containing an average of 100,000 million stars or more (see "Sand and stars" on back page).

How galaxies form is said to be "one of the most important unsolved problems in physics." Cosmologists can't just look up at the sky and watch one form. And they are puzzled to find that wherever they point their powerful telescopes they only find mature galaxies, never partly-formed ones. Maybe that's because galaxies did not "evolve" from matter produced by a "big bang", but were created much as they appear.



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