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Is the Black Sea Flood the Flood of Genesis?

by Carl R. Froede, Jr., P.G.

Abstract: Geological evidence obtained through rock cores indicates the presence of freshwater flora and fauna beneath the Black Sea, suggesting that this area was once a smaller freshwater lake. It has recently been proposed by a few uniformitarian geoscientists that prehistoric human communities living adjacent to this body of water were rapidly displaced when the Mediterranean overflowed and filled the Black Sea with saltwater. Some marine geologists believe this event to be the basis of the Biblical Flood story.

However, none of the work being conducted by these researchers has any bearing on the Flood reported in Scripture. I propose that the drowned dwellings in the Black Sea (if they prove to be such) represent post-Flood communities adversely impacted by the rapid rise of sea level associated with the close of the Ice Age. The overflow of the Mediterranean into the Black Sea forced the people, living in the communities adjacent to the small freshwater lake, to migrate to higher ground.

Relatively shallow submerged areas around portions of the Black Sea are proving to be of considerable interest for both marine geologists and archaeologists. Several years ago, submerged in tens of feet of water, freshwater shells were discovered and reported by scientists conducting underwater research around the Black Sea (Ross and Degens, 1974). More recently, discoveries have been made of what appear to be the remains of human habitation in almost one hundred feet of water. Several uniformitarian scientists are now claiming that the flooding of the Black Sea several thousand years ago provided the basis of the Flood myth of Genesis as well as that of many other cultures (McInnis, 1998; Ryan and Pitman, 1998). How does this discovery fit with Scripture, and is this the Flood of Genesis?

Exploration and Discovery of the Glomar Challenger

For many years geologists have wondered about the stratigraphy and composition of the world's continental shelves and ocean basins. The interest in finding valuable mineral resources in these submerged settings pushed for their exploration. The technology necessary to undertake such challenging research initiatives only became available in the middle 1960's. Drilling the ocean floors and continental shelves became a reality with the formation of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES) more commonly known as the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP). This research program operated from 1968 to 1983. Ninety-six drilling projects (i.e., legs) were conducted covering areas within the

...continued on p. 2

The Flood of Noah and the Black Sea

by Gary A. Byers

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....and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat (Gen. 8:4)

According to the Bible, Noah's Ark landed on the mountains (plural) of Ararat. Ararat is a place name, also called Urartu by the Assyrians (while the vowels in the two words are different, the consonants are the same: r-r-t). Urartu was an ancient kingdom of eastern Asia Minor which flourished from the 9th-6th centuries BC.

The precise resting place of the Ark was on one of the mountains in the region of ancient Urartu. While most modern researchers looking for Noah's Ark (affectionately called "Ark-eologists") believe the exact location is on the slopes of the highest peak in the region (called Mount Ararat today), the Bible simply states it was one of the mountains in that region.

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Gulf of Mexico; the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans; and the Mediterranean and Black Seas. (Hsü, 1992).

Two legs of the DSDP (portions of Leg 13 in 1970, and Leg 42A in 1975) drilled the Mediterranean Sea floor and contributed much to understanding the origin and stratigraphy of this submerged area (Hsü, 1983). Probably the biggest theory advanced as a result of the drilling was proposed by Kenneth Hsü when he stated that the Mediterranean had dried up during the Miocene (1983, 1992). I will not pursue his ideas further and suggest that the interested reader consult the references cited for additional information. However, much of the information obtained in the drilling of the Mediterranean later contributed toward similar theories about the origin and history of the Black Sea.

The Black Sea

In 1969 the *Atlantis II* cruised the Black Sea, taking 40 shallow cores from various portions of the floor of the Black Sea. None of these cores reached beyond 250 feet below the sediment-water interface (Ross and Degens, 1974, p. 184). Deeper drilling would have to wait for the DSDP drill ship *Glomar Challenger*.

DSDP drilling in the Black Sea was originally conducted to determine if it had potential as a large oil and gas province (Hsü, 1992). What was found surprised the investigators. It was surmised, through the examination of various rock cores, that the Black Sea was in the recent past a large freshwater lake (Figure 1). This required a disconnection from the Mediterranean, as today saltwater flowing through the Bosphorus Strait makes the Black Sea brackish.

It was proposed that during the last ice age, when global sea level was considerably lower, the Black Sea became a landlocked lake which received freshwater from areas to the north. At that time the Mediterranean did not flow into the Black Sea. This interpretation was based on freshwater fossils (both plant and animal) recovered from rock cores drilled in the Black Sea (Hsü, 1992; Ryan and Pitman, 1998). Interest in the Black Sea waned as the geology of the Mediterranean took

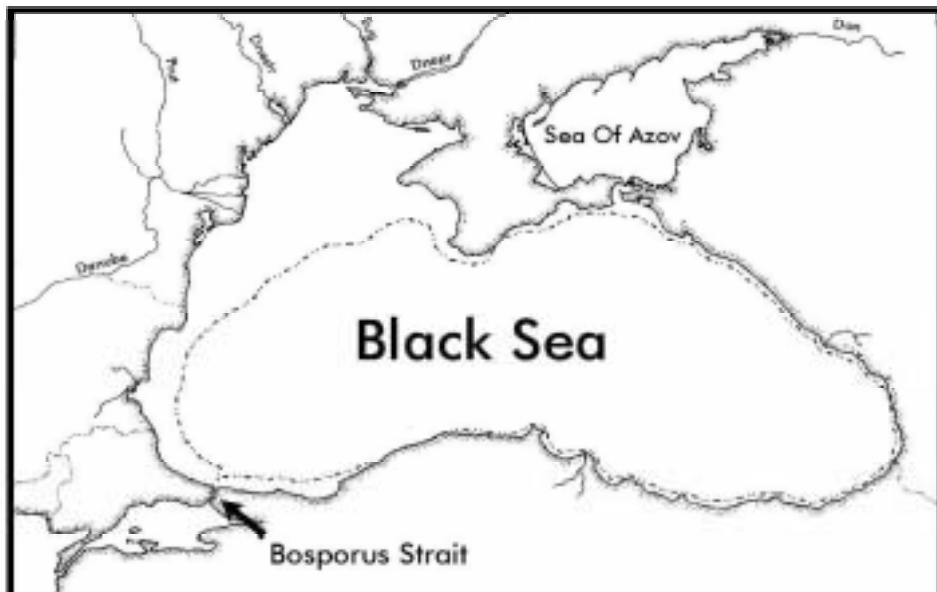


Figure 1. The Black Sea with the former freshwater lake elevation (~350 feet) shown as a dotted line inside of the present sea level. Rivers flowed into the former freshwater lake from the north. The overflow of the Mediterranean Sea through the Bosphorus Strait is believed to have initiated the flood which some uniformitarians believe to be the Flood of Genesis. Modified from Ross and Degens (1974, Figure 1, p. 184).

center stage during this leg of the DSDP.

William “Bill” Ryan was the co-chief scientist on Leg 13, which later set the stage for his further investigating the Black Sea (Ryan and Pitman, 1998, p. 74). The DSDP experience in the Black Sea would later contribute to his own work on its origin and history.

Black Sea Research Begins

Bill Ryan took the information obtained from DSDP Leg 13 and the *Atlantis II* cruise and began his own investigation into the geology of the Black Sea. Over the following years several research cruises and collecting efforts documented both geologic features and freshwater fossils which could only be explained if the Black Sea were formerly much lower, possibly as much as 350 feet below today’s sea level position (Ryan and Pitman, 1998, p. 106). I will not review the details of the Ryan and Pitman theory for the origin and history of the Black Sea; the interested reader can consult their work. Rather, I wish to focus on the many differences between the Scriptural Flood documented in Genesis and the local tranquil flood proposed by Ryan and Pitman.

However, before proceeding further it should be noted that research conducted by Ross and Degens (1974) during the *Atlantis II* cruise documented what they believed

to be a slow transition of the Black Sea from a freshwater lake to its present brackish state, starting approximately 9,000 years ago and terminating 7,000 years ago – based on shallow rock cores. Their work did not indicate that the flooding of the Black Sea by the Mediterranean occurred catastrophically, as has

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been proposed by Ryan and Pitman.

The Genesis Account Versus The Flooding of a Freshwater Lake

The Ryan and Pitman thesis (1998, p. 57) regarding the flooding of the Black Sea as the basis for the Biblical Flood myth can best be summarized using their own words:

... what if the myth story is examined in a different light, one that asks if human history was cleaved into a before and after primarily because the inundation was permanent and not temporary? Might a flood that never subsided have expelled a people from their former homeland and forced them to find a new place to live? Might the boat that the survivors built and filled with seed and animals have been not for the purpose of repopulating the earth but for transporting to safety the items vital to a continued subsistence (domesticated plants, animals, and knowledge of the arts)? And what if in addressing such a hypothesis one does not limit the investigation to Mesopotamia but looks beyond its borders?

The Ryan and Pitman proposal simply states that communities of humans once lived around the freshwater lake that eventually became the Black Sea. The sea level rise of the Mediterranean, approximately 5,600 years ago, breached the Bosphorus Strait and began to fill the freshwater lake with saltwater (Ryan and Pitman, 1998, p. 157). People living adjacent to the lake observed water levels rising in the range of several feet per hour, and they escaped by either floating on the rising water or attempting to outrun it. The eventual result was the filling of the Black Sea and the dispersion of those peoples to areas across Europe, the Middle and the Far East. This, according to their book, is the basis of the Flood myth among the different cultures.

An obvious problem with the Ryan and Pitman concept is that it is completely different from what Genesis records. They believe that the Flood is a mythological story adapted by the many cultures impacted by the event at the time of its oc-

currence. Ryan and Pitman (1998, p. 56) stated:

Belief in the flood as an agent of global change has subsided in the century since Louis Agassiz's momentous discovery of the Ice Age and the conversions of Buckland and Lyell... A modern essay on the Genesis story in Western thought says the "diluvial theory came to be seen as what it was: one of the many imaginative but mistaken ventures that have accompanied the development of earth-science."

Statements such as this throughout their book imply that the Biblical account of the Flood is one of mythology which is equal to all the other trans-cultural accounts of a flood. The Ryan and Pitman version of Noah's Flood is sans everything Scriptural except the water, which they never withdrew from the Black Sea. Anyone who wishes to base his world-view on how scientists interpret Scripture should really appreciate this book.

The Ryan and Pitman account completely discounts everything before the Flood. No discussion is provided regarding the Garden of Eden or the first sin. They simply start at what they view as a flood myth which needs to be addressed because it has its basis in so many different cultures. However, they have made a major oversight and I want to offer them another aspect of the flood legend to add to their own. This way they can explain the flood myths and legends of many different cultures, not only locally/regionally, but globally.

The Flooding of Coastal Environments and the Global Rise in sea level

Ryan and Pitman only appear to address cultures found in association with the Middle East. So, their version of a flood myth would only occur in those cultures which had some direct experience with the event. What about all the other cultures, which had already settled away from this area, and which were not impacted by this event, for example, the native Americans? Why do they have flood legends if they were already in the New World and were not affected by the rise and dispersion of cultures from the Black Sea?

The answer is quite simple, and I offer this up for their use to help them explain why almost every ancient culture of people has some version of a flood legend. Simply stated, they, too, were displaced by a global rise in sea level position associated with the breakdown of the polar ice caps, which occurred just a few thousand years earlier.

Dr. Brian Rucker and I reported on the many evidences of drowned paleo-Indian communities which have been documented along the coast of Florida (Rucker and Froede, 1998). These ancient communities were rapidly displaced when the polar ice caps began to disintegrate, and worldwide sea level rose tens of feet in what was probably a decade at the close of the Ice Age. These cultures also developed flood myths to deal with the local flooding. The only problem with this approach is their account of a boat — one which sounds like the Ark of Genesis. Perhaps they, too, built such a craft to float to the new sea level position? Good thing they knew beforehand to build that boat so that they got the story straight!

What About the Submerged Ruins?

Marine geologist Robert Ballard is exploring the Black Sea in an effort to document the dwellings and structures of folks who were displaced by the rise of the Black Sea thousands of years ago (Reed, 2000). While this effort is not being done to "prove" the Ryan and Pitman hypothesis, it is being advanced by the popular press as proof of the flood myth. I predict that all of the work done by Ballard and others will be used to explain away what Scripture accurately records. The local and tranquil flood of the Black Sea will help certain folks sleep better knowing that "science" can explain away the "myths" of the Bible.

I propose that the structural ruins and tools discovered by Ballard and others in the Black Sea (if they prove to be of human design and origin) reflect post-Flood cultures which moved into the basin seeking food and a fresh water supply. Their eventual dispersion from these areas followed the end of the Ice Age and the concomitant rise in global sea level position. This is in opposition to the Ryan and Pitman belief that these artifacts reflect the

onset of the localized and tranquil flood which inspired its incorporation into Scripture. I believe that the Ryan and Pitman book provides an interesting account of what may have happened to post-Flood communities living adjacent to the freshwater lake when the Mediterranean overflowed and filled the Black Sea.

The submerged ruins and artifacts documented in the Rucker and Froede (1998) article can also be used by individuals uncomfortable with the Genesis account to document the flood and dispersion of paleo-Indian cultures living in the new world. These cultures would have developed a flood myth, only a few thousand years earlier from those cultures displaced with the flooding of the Black Sea basin. Thank goodness the flood myth has been solved by “science” in a way that does not create a conflict. Science and the Bible do not conflict when the Bible totally yields everything to what science dictates.

Synopsis

According to Ryan and Pitman, the flooding of a large freshwater lake (the ancestral Black Sea) by the Mediterranean Sea, approximately 5,600 years ago, permanently displaced the human communities living around it. These various groups of people spread away from the Black Sea region, taking with them a flood story which eventually became the flood myth recorded by many different cultures. A serious problem with this approach occurs where Ryan and Pitman fail to follow Scripture or explain how other cultures, not impacted by this event, came up with their own similar story of the global Flood, including a large boat to save a few individuals and the animals, which is faithfully recorded in Genesis.

The entire concept of the flooding of the Black Sea, as the basis of the Genesis Flood story, provides an excellent example where “science” supersedes the facts of Scripture with the ideas of man. The Ryan and Pitman tale begins with the idea of explaining away the mythological fable of the flood. However, their flood story simply stands on its own merit — with nothing to compare it to the Biblical account. Ryan and Pitman (1999, p. 16) readily admit this in a reply to a letter written in complaint of the scientific basis for the flood story of the Bible; they stated:

It is a stretch to link the catastrophic filling of the Black Sea’s freshwater lake to the deluge myth recorded in Scripture. The circumstances of this special flooding (one without 40 days and nights of rain, and one that never receded) deserve elaboration for readers curious about prehistory.

...the belief that this particular flood or any other is the one directly experienced by Noah is an individual decision. It is not a question that can be answered by scientific method.

In following the Ryan and Pitman hypothesis, Rucker and I could just as easily have proposed that the displacement of paleo-Indian cultures living out on the Florida continental shelf adjacent to the smaller Gulf of Mexico, during the close of the Ice Age, lead to the flood stories recorded in native American legends. This suggestion, like that of Ryan and Pitman, fails to acknowledge the accuracy of Scripture over the ever-changing concepts of mankind.

Conclusion

The discovery of drowned villages in the Black Sea (if additional research proves such) possibly records the rise of sea level following the climax of the Ice Age. Many such post-Flood human communities found themselves displaced from their dwellings with the rapid rise of sea level associated with the close of the Ice Age. The structures that Ballard and others might identify in the Black Sea were not a part of the Genesis Flood; rather, they reflect post-Flood communities living close to a source of food and water.

Marine geologists and oceanographers are just now starting to look for drowned structures associated with displaced people and the rise of sea level. I am sure that many more will be found, especially along coasts impacted by the rapid rise of sea level associated with the close of the Ice Age. Brian Rucker and I have identified several such sites around the Florida coast. Nothing being discovered in the Black Sea defends the Ryan and Pitman flood hypothesis. Rather it shows that the earth was much different from the present during the Ice Age. Sea level rise at the end of the Ice

Age, which was a recent event, did more than raise water levels globally — it displaced various late ice-age communities.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Dr. J. K. Reed for his encouragement to write this article, and to Dr. E. L. Williams for providing a helpful review. Any mistakes are my own. As always, I thank my wife, Susan, who continues to support my research and writing efforts. (Proverbs 3:5-6).

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Naturalism Doesn't Work

by John H. Calvert

Although naturalism might work with purely observable phenomena, it does not work with origins science and evolutionary biology, which are essentially historical sciences. The historicity of evolutionary biology is explained by Ernst Mayr in his article in the July 2000 issue of *Scientific American*. Mayr is touted by *Scientific American* as “one of the towering figures in the history of evolutionary biology.” Mayr explains it this way:

..Darwin introduced historicity into science. Evolutionary biology, in contrast with physics and chemistry, is a historical science — the evolutionist attempts to explain events and processes that have already taken place. Laws and experiments are inappropriate techniques for the explication of such events and processes. Instead one constructs a historical narrative, consisting of a tentative reconstruction of the particular scenario that led to the events one is trying to explain.

The new book by Dr. Jonathan Wells, entitled *Icons of Evolution*, shows that this ‘historical narrative,’ that has been and is being presented to our children as the only factually viable theory, is actually based on misrepresentations of the facts. Instead of being driven by the evidence, the “historical narrative” is driven by the Naturalistic world view that all phenomena result only from the laws of chemistry and physics. This is applied materialistic philosophy, dressed up as science to protect it from

criticism by a competing world view — i.e., that life may be a product of design.

One reason naturalism should not drive a historical science is that historical sciences are necessarily susceptible to subjective accounts. This is because the focus is on past events which can not be tested by direct observation as in the case of physics and chemistry. When the account is driven by the philosophy of Naturalism rather than by the evidence, the “history” necessarily conforms itself to the philosophy and thereby loses all objectivity and credibility.

What if our newspaper reporters were directed by their editors to write accounts of past events using the philosophical assumption that all democratic viewpoints are not valid? We have seen the results of this kind of censorship on open and objective reporting in all dictatorial regimes, such as the Third Reich in Germany, and in communist Russia under Stalin. I can remember when we had Radio Free Europe radio stations beaming all the news to Russians because their government censored any views that were inconsistent with the communist manifesto.

The precise same thing is happening in our country with regard to the issue of what causes life and its diversity. That is essentially a historical question. If the history is driven by a Naturalistic agenda that censors one of the two competing hypotheses, we will be engaging in the same sort of propaganda that characterized Nazi Germany and communist Russia.

I highly recommend the book I mentioned earlier, *Icons of Evolution*. Dr.

Wells is a brilliant scientist who also is a good writer. He has had numerous other scientists review his work for accuracy and content. Although the book’s focus is on specific examples of misleading teachings, it also introduces the reader to the depths of the problems that evolutionary biologists have in explaining their version of the “historical narrative” of the origins of life and its diversity.

Many of us are being told that, as “lay persons,” we must rely only on scientists for guidance on how to respond to this controversy. That is precisely what we should **not** do. Although input from scientists holding both naturalistic and logical viewpoints is important, it is also essential that we consider the viewpoints of others when dealing with how to show children the evidence that bears on the historical question of what causes life and its diversity. Since the question involves logical, legal, philosophical, and cultural issues, we need more than scientists to help us decide how to develop trustworthy, unbiased, and objective “historical narrative[s] of the cause of life and its diversity.”

John Calvert, who has practiced law since 1968, is a member of the American Bar Association, Missouri Bar Association, and American Trial Lawyers Association, and has been admitted to practice in federal and state courts. Mr. Calvert is a founder and a Managing Director of Intelligent Design Network, Inc., a non-profit organization that is focused on the education of the public about intelligent design.

Letters

Answering Evolutionists

I love your *Creation Matters* and *CRS Quarterly*. Keep up the good work.

I have a comment for David Bump, who authored the article ‘Answering Evolutionists in Print Media.’ I believe there is one myth that we as creationists must help people overcome, and I believe David added to that myth in his article. That myth is that the creation/evolution

debate began with Charles Darwin. In his article, David says “the debate has been going on for well over a hundred years.” We need to let people know that this has been going on since the fall of Adam and Eve (not since the rise of Darwin).

This may be a minor point, but suggesting that the debate began at Darwin leads people to believe that we are a more enlightened people now than back before Darwin. Therefore,

people who wrote the Bible didn't know what they were talking about, some people conclude. However, if we convince people that this theory is ‘nothing new under the sun,’ it makes Darwin not look so scholarly. Just a constructive observation. The rest of the article was excellent for supplying answers to hard evolution comebacks. Thanks.

Paul VandenLangenberg
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The Black Sea

With solid evidence of the Ark not forthcoming, an interesting development comes from the Black Sea, about 500 miles to the east of modern Mount Ararat. Here, in 1999, just weeks after discovering the world's oldest deep-sea shipwrecks in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, maritime explorer Bob Ballard directed another underwater search sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Famous for his previous discoveries of the Titanic, Bismark and Yorktown ships, he serves as a National Geographic Society explorer-in-residence and operates the Institute for Exploration.

Ballard's efforts followed several years of land and underwater archaeology in the Sinop region of the Black Sea. A 1998 underwater expedition identified a series of what appeared to be man-made structures. But it wasn't until September, 2000, that clear evidence of human structures and artifacts were found, photographed, and plotted by Ballard's team.

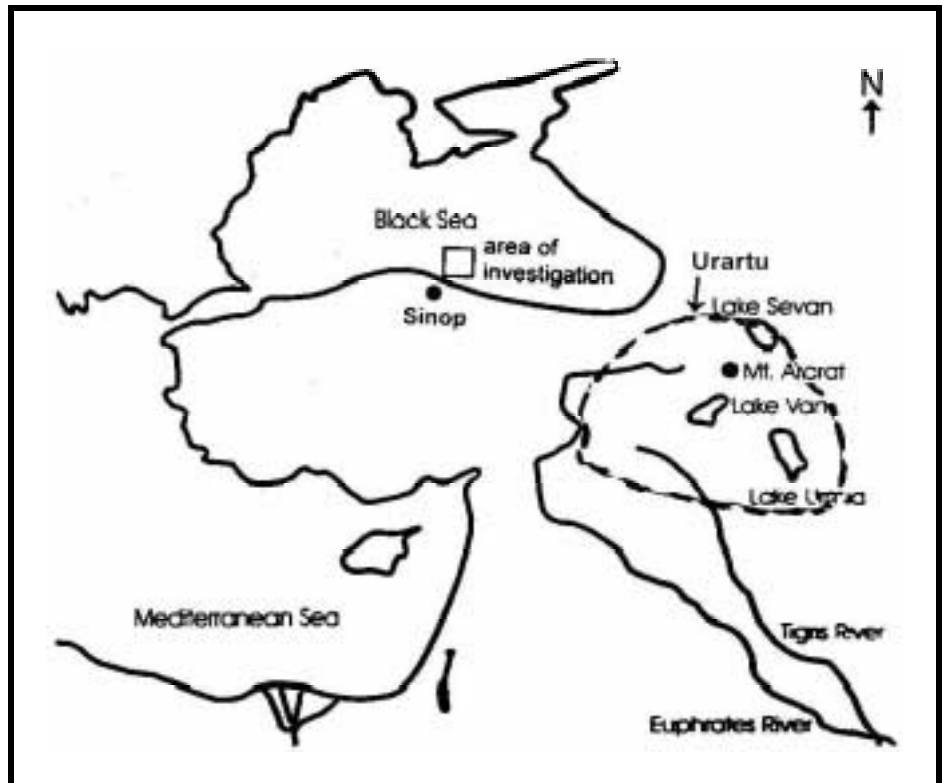
An ancient shoreline

Apparently, the Black Sea was once much smaller and people once inhabited the ancient shoreline, now 12 miles inside the present shoreline. Here, Ballard's team investigated an ancient wooden structure about 300 feet below the sea's present surface.

Amazingly well-preserved with its wooden beams showing clear evidence of having been worked with tools, the building measured 13 by 39 feet. In addition to the structure, architectural remnants of wattle and daub construction, stone tools, and even pieces of ceramic have been reported.

Ballard attributed the building's preservation to the lack of oxygen at that depth of the Black Sea. Not only did the limited oxygen preserve the wood, it also kept the structure safe from a variety of marine creatures that would normally destroy it.

In his study of the ancient coastline, Ballard identified both saltwater and freshwater shells. From the evidence, he suggested a great catastrophe occurred in the area about 7,000 years ago, when the



The ancient kingdom of Ararat (Urartu) with the highest peak in the region, called Mount Ararat today, located at the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Undersea explorer Bob Ballard found a wooden structure along the ancient shoreline of the Black Sea, 300 feet below its surface and 12 miles inside its present southern shoreline.

Black Sea suddenly and dramatically changed from a much smaller freshwater lake to a substantially larger saltwater sea. This is when the ancient shoreline was inundated and the building buried.

An ancient flood

Ballard's discovery complemented the research of William Ryan and Walter Pitman, in their book, *Noah's Flood* (1999). Working along the Black Sea's northern coastline, they proposed a massive glacial melting in 5500 BC (7,500 years ago), raising the level of the world's oceans by hundreds of feet. According to Ryan and Pitman, this massive flood was the basis for the Biblical story of Noah's Flood.

While the Associates for Biblical Research believes there is scientific evidence for Noah's Flood, we do not believe Ballard, Ryan and Pitman have found it. Clearly Ballard has discovered dramatic evidence of a massive ancient flood, but none of the three scientists believe it was a worldwide flood. We agree. The Biblical Flood was of such proportions that it completely changed the surface of the earth and created the geological table beneath the Black Sea. This flood occurred after

Noah's Flood.

Ballard's finds are very interesting and offer a unique glimpse of an ancient civilization. Further research will be necessary to date the structure and identify the people who lived there. Ballard's flood was impressive, but Noah's was greater!

Gary A. Byers has graduate degrees in Christian Education and Biblical Archaeology. He serves as the Executive Director of the Associates for Biblical Research and Administrative Director of the Ai Expedition at Khirbet el-Maqatir in Israel.

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Speaking of Science

New “Creationist” Books

The RATE book is out! *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth*, edited by Larry Vardiman, Andrew A. Snelling, and Eugene F. Chaffin was published last month and is now available. Including the glossary and appendices, it is over 600 pages of material authored by Vardiman, Don DeYoung, John R. Baumgardner, Steven A. Austin, Snelling, Chaffin, and D. Russell Humphreys, with a prologue by John D. Morris. Co-published last year by CRS and ICR, it not only contains material on radioisotopes, but it also explores geochemical processes in the mantle and crust, and it discusses radiohalos as well.

Another new book, published in October, and it is already into its second printing. Though it doesn't deal directly with creation science, it is, it blasts the presentation of evolution in textbooks, the press, museums, etc. It is Jonathan Wells' *Icons of Evolution*, which points out that the favorite 'evidences' used to support evolution in textbooks and to the public are false, and have been known to be false for many years. The basis for Wells' conclusions lies, not in religious or anti-evolution material, but in the standard peer-reviewed journals themselves. The undeniable implication regarding these evidences is that they are the result of conscious deceit by evolutionist popularizers and textbook writers.

Slightly earlier in the year, another fascinating book was published: Phillip Johnson's *The Wedge of Truth*. The first chapters detail the progress and aims of the Intelligent Design (ID) movement. The last chapters, however, do what has possibly not been done before in ID writings. Johnson progresses logically, step-by-step, from the concept of intelligent design, to the identity of the God of the Bible as the only possible Designer. This, then, should be of great interest to creationists.

— contributed by Helen “Penny” Fryman

Editor's note: All three books are available from CRS Books.

Fossils of a Feather

There's been a lot the past year about the “dino-to-bird” theory in evolution. John Ostrom of Yale, and Jack Hor-

ner of Montana State, have made this theory famous. One of the scientists in *Jurassic Park* was patterned after Horner, using his theory in the story.

National Geographic has had several features on this topic. In the 7/98 issue they showed three fossils that evolutionists use as proof, but they had to admit that, according to their dating methods, birds had already been around for millions of years before these fossils are said to have lived. The 11/99 issue revealed a new fossil that supposedly proved that “birds are dinosaurs, just as sure as humans are mammals.” However, in the 10/00 issue it was admitted that somebody had glued the tail from a dinosaur fossil onto a bird fossil. The supposed new discovery was a fake.

US News & World Report (7/3/00, p. 47) showed a fossil, dated at “75 million years” before birds, which had feathers and was said to have lived before most dinosaurs. Alan Brush of the University of Connecticut believes the dino-bird theory, but says of this fossil, “It looks like a feather, but so does a fern.” (*Science News*, 6/24/00, p. 405). Dr. Horner objects, “I don't care if feathers went all the way back to turtles, it doesn't mean dinosaurs couldn't have feathers, too.” (By the way, recent DNA research has forced evolutionists to give up on turtles being the “oldest” reptiles. Of all reptiles, their DNA is most like the crocodile, which supposedly evolved much later.)

The 12/8/00 issue of *Science* describes another new fossil bird which has tail feathers that look like very long scales. Some think that this proves feathers evolved from scales. “We just don't know,” says Robert Reisz of University of Toronto. Richard Prum of University of Kansas says it's “too high up on the evolutionary tree to tell us much of anything about the origins of feathers.”

Why do evolutionists hope so much that birds came from dinosaurs? Because they had to come from somewhere, and dinosaurs are the best that they can do. Why do they believe that humans came from fish? Because they had to come from somewhere, and evolutionists tell me they do not believe in miracles, like God creating birds on the fifth day as described in

Genesis. They say they don't believe in miracles. Well, what do you call fish that can turn into people? Keep an eye on folks who say they don't believe in miracles, while the things they do believe sound pretty far-fetched. What they believe takes a large amount of faith. The lack of scientific proof leaves them no other choice.

— contributed by Glenn Jackson

Flood of Evidence

Astronomers now believe that Mars once had a flood that covered most of the planet. Many who believe in the Mars flood, however, say that it is a fairy tale to believe that the same kind of thing could have happened here on Earth 4000 years ago, even though most ancient cultures have legends of such a flood. The whole planet Mars is now a desert. Earth is now three-fourths covered with water, up to 8 miles deep. Think about that.

The 6/30/00 issue of *Science* says that some gullies on Mars look as though they formed only months ago. They look fresh, because there's been no water to mess them up since the big flood. Mars has only half the gravity of Earth, so any water there would dry up, turn into clouds, and basically float away into space. Our gravity is why Earth's water is still here. Asteroids that hit Mars make craters, but there are no craters in the Mars gullies. It looks like there have been no asteroid impacts since the floodwaters dried up.

There are drainage canyons on Mars. One is bigger than our Grand Canyon. Some of the rock layers from the Mars flood are two miles thick (*US News & World Report*, 12/18/00) and were formed around the same time as the asteroid storm (*Science*, 12/8/00). This all fits together pretty well for the Flood theory. Of course evolutionists believe that the asteroid storm was about 3.9 billion years ago, and the Mars flood was more than 3.5 billion years ago. Maybe it was really only 4000 years ago.

— contributed by Glenn Jackson

Fishy Business

Linda Ivany of Syracuse University has been studying fish fossils, to tell what the temperature of the earth was when they

were alive. She used oxygen isotope ratios in their bones, which is thought to be a good sign of the ancient temperature. In the 10/9/00 issue of *Nature*, she describes a time when many fish species all around the world suddenly became extinct. Could the Flood of Noah could have caused that?

Ivany says that the summer temperatures were not very different before and after that time. It was the winter temperatures that were four degrees (Celsius) cooler. That could mean that there was an ice age. The creation model says that there was an ice age right after the Flood of Noah, which may have lasted several centuries. True science is confirming a literal interpretation of Genesis, more and more all the time.

— contributed by Glenn Jackson

Far Fewer Genes

The recent announcement of the publication of the first draft of the human genome contained at least one surprise. At an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 genes, the count is much fewer than the 100,000-plus genes which were once predicted by some researchers — “surprisingly low,” according to the leaders of the landmark studies. To be fair, the number is fairly close to more recent estimates predicted by extrapolation from sequence analysis of the first two chromosomes in 1999.

For comparison, it was noted that there are some 25,000 genes in the small mustard plant, *Arabidopsis thaliana*; 19,000 in the roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans*; and 13,600 in the fruitfly *Drosophila melanogaster*. With the gene counts so close, some are asking why humans are much more complex than these simpler organisms.

With 20/20 hindsight, scientists are now emphasizing that the number of genes is just the starting point for creating complexity. According to a 10-Feb-01 Associated Press story, the differences in complexity may be related to:

- human genes are more likely to give rise to multiple proteins rather than just one.
- human proteins are more versatile.
- for humans, there are differences in the timing of when genes are turned on and off, and in what tissues they are active.

As indicated above, this newly published genome is considered a draft - the sequence data are about 92% complete. Also, the function(s) of each of the genes has yet to be determined. Now there is talk of taking on the

human proteome project: the identification of the functions and expression patterns of the proteins encoded by the genes.

— contributed by Glen Wolfrom

Heartless Finding?

Last spring, scientists reported their discovery of a fossilized dinosaur heart (1). CT (computerized tomography) scanning of the fossil was said to have revealed that it was a four-chambered heart - evidence suggesting that dinosaurs were warm-blooded. Now, however, some other researchers are suggesting that the structure is not a fossilized heart at all, but is rather an ironstone concretion (2, 3).

Rowe, the skeptic in this situation, is reported to be an expert in CT scanning of fossils. One of his criticisms seems to be that if it is a heart, it ought to look like one. He says it bears no resemblance to a crocodilian heart. Neither are there the usual features of a normal heart, such as atria, coronary arteries, cardiac veins, pulmonary vessels, or vena cavae. Furthermore, he claims that such concretions are common in formations similar to the one in which these dinosaur remains were found, and that they are often found in association with dinosaur bones. He also suggests that soft tissue preservation is not known in this sedimentary environment.

One of the authors of the original report, D.A. Russell, provides a reply, defending their original view. He maintains that it is actually a sandstone concretion, and that such concretions often form around organic residues (in this case, the dinosaur's heart). He cites examples of soft tissue preservation from the very same formation where the dinosaur was found. And finally, Russell argues that the dinosaur heart doesn't have to resemble that of a crocodile, nor do relatively thin-walled structures have to be preserved.

Apparently, Russell and his colleagues are continuing their investigations. This surely won't be the last word on the subject.

- (1) Fisher, P.E., et al. 2000. *Science* 288:503.
- (2) Rowe, T., et al. 2001. *Science* 291:783a (Technical Comments, *Science* Online, www.sciencemag.org). See also Stokstad, E. 2001. *Science* 291:811.

— contributed by Glen Wolfrom

Space "Bubbles"

Jason Dworkin of the SETI Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) is the main author of a paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. (1) If you saw the film or read the book "Contact," you know that SETI spends its time trying to get in touch with civilizations on other planets. Star Trek and Star Wars are great entertainment, but may have given some people the idea that Klingons, Vulcans, and Jedi Knights may be out there.

The truth is that we have no evidence at all for alien life. As I've said before, many evolutionists believe that if we find life on other planets, it will somehow prove that evolution is true. This really would not prove anything one way or the other. No evolutionist has been able to demonstrate the means by which life could have started here on Earth. So watch them, as they try to convince us that life came here from outer space, and then try to explain how life evolved in outer space.

Dworkin's experiment was a joint effort between SETI, NASA, and the University of California. They took chemicals like we think are in the clouds of deep space, froze them in a vacuum, and shined UV light on them. They formed amphiphilic molecules (i.e., "soapy" organic compounds with both polar and non-polar properties), which appear to be similar to those in ancient meteorites, and which, upon exposure to water, self-organize into tiny, microscopic droplets. These vesicles are apparently capable of processing "UV light energy to produce increasingly complex structures" within the droplets.

From this work, they say that such molecules, which may have arrived on the early Earth from outer space, "could have contributed to the origin and early evolution of life." Louis Allamandola of NASA says, "This discovery implies that life could be everywhere in the universe." Under the *Washington Post* photo of the droplets (1/30/01, p. A1) is the caption: "cell-like structures began to form." *Science News* 2/3/01 also carried the story (p. 68). In a press release (2), the authors refer to the structures as being "reminiscent of cells," not cell-like.

These bubbles are no more "cell-like" than the ones in your bathtub. Soap bubbles have membranes too, but they're not alive. In 1862, Louis Pasteur proved that the theory of "spontaneous generation" (that life can come from non-life) was wrong. The truth is that evolution depends on spontaneous generation being true. That might burst somebody's bubble.

- (1) Dworkin, J.P., D.W. Deamer, S.A. Sandford, and L.J. Allamandola. Self-assembling amphiphilic molecules: Synthesis in simulated interstellar/precometary ices. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, Vol. 98, Issue 3, 815-819, January 30, 2001.
- (2) Scientists find clues that the path leading to the origin of life begins in deep space. <http://web99.arc.nasa.gov/~astrochm/vesicle.html>

— contributed by Glenn Jackson

Speaking of Education

Kansas

The Kansas battle has not gone away. In 1999 the State Board of Education, in a 6-4 vote, had the gall to eliminate from state testing standards two areas of evolution which are not scientifically testable and which are highly disputed as well, even among evolutionists. With the autumn elections there is now a new Board of Education. The education standards are being re-considered and the initial drafts contain the presumption that naturalism is the only possible basis for interpretation of scientific data. At the January meeting there were a number of presentations by those opposed to this limitation. Whether or not their objections will matter will be seen when the Board votes in February.

Editor's note: On February 14 the newly-elected State Board of Education voted 7-3 to approve new science standards. The new testing guidelines consider evolution to be a concept which unifies the entire science curriculum.

Pennsylvania

In the meantime, a battle in Pennsylvania has been going on. The proposed educational standards for this state include the following: that biology students should be able to “analyze evidence of fossil records, similarities in body structures, embryological studies and DNA studies that support or do not support the theory of evolution,” and “analyze the impact of new scientific facts on the theory of evolution.” However, because evolution is a sacred cow, it is not allowed to be either *impacted* or *analyzed*. The evolutionist community is rising up in protest, saying that questioning, or even critically examining evolution will result in a collapse of science as we know it, and that perhaps the sky will fall over western civilization.

However, in a letter posted in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Thursday, January 25, 2001, Phil Skell writes: “The science related to origins of life is negligible and totally irrelevant to the education of students in preparation for careers in modern biology, or for understanding the current status of the field.”

South Carolina

The third place where mistakes in science education are being challenged is in South Carolina. Here Patty Pulliam is simply trying to request that science be presented in the most correct form known at any given time. To this end she has pointed out the errors in the texts regarding evidence used for evolution, and is merely asked for warning or caution labels regarding this material. This, also, has been refused thus far at the local level.

As Phil Hartwig, author of an op-ed piece appearing in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, December 24, 2000, pointed out, “With this kind of attitude, it’s no wonder that the origins debate continues to blaze in our public schools. If the “defenders” of science education were more diligent to clean up their own act, perhaps they would have fewer problems with creationists. They would certainly engender more trust.”

— contributed by Helen “Penny” Fryman

Creation Calendar

...continued from back page

June 23

Darwin's Influence on Man: His Science and His Theory
by Dr. Thomas Koufel
South Bay Creation Science Association
7:00 pm, Cornerstone Community Church, Torrance, CA
Contact: Garth Guesman (310)952-0424

July 21

Hear God's Side: Visit to Kansas Univ. Natural History Museum
Family Creation Safari, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)
Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

August 15-17

Discontinuity — Understanding Biology in the Light of Creation
Conference sponsored by Baraminology Study Group, Center for Origins Research and Education (Bryan College), and Cedarville University
To be held at Cedarville University
Contact: Dr. Todd Wood, Box 7731, Bryan College, Dayton, TN 37321
(423)775-7277, info@bryancore.org

August 18

Fossils and Geology of Kansas City
Family Creation Safari, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)
Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

Aug. 31 - Sept. 3

Geologic Formations of Southeast Missouri: Johnson's Shut-ins, Taum Sauk Mountain, Elephant Rocks, Cave
Family Creation Safari
CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)
Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

September 2-8

Western Canyons Bus Tour — Creation Tours led by
Dr. John Meyer, Dir. CRS' Van Andel Creation Research Center
Origin Phoenix, AZ. Paid registration required.
Contact: Dave Endy, Pilgrim Tours, (800)322-0788

October 27

KATY Bike Trail: Bicycle along the beautiful Missouri River Bluffs
Family Creation Safari, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)
Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

November 24

Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge: Migration and other marvels of God
Family Creation Safari, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)
Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

Creation Tour

Date: June 19-22
Price: \$425 / person double occupancy
Origin and Finish: Morgantown, PA

Niagara Falls — Spectacular Canyons

Day 1: Grand Canyon of the East — Letchworth State Park
Day 2: Old Fort Niagara — Niagara / Mohawk Power Station — First view of Niagara Falls
Day 3: Niagara Falls Tour — Butterfly Conservatory — Whirlpool Rapids
Day 4: Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania — Pine Creek Canyon Gorge

For more information, contact:

Dave Endy, Pilgrim Tours
800-322-0788

This four-day tour will be led by Dr. John Meyer, internationally-known research scientist and director of the CRS' Van Andel Creation Research Center.

The tour of glacial history and wondrous scenery will provide an understanding of natural history within a Biblical perspective and creationist framework.

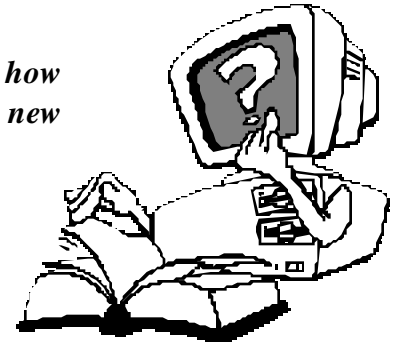
This tour will be distinctively Christian, with daily Bible studies, Christian fellowship and encouragement.

What Are Creationists Thinking about ...?

As new scientific discoveries make the headlines, have you ever wondered how your fellow creationists are reacting? Have you ever thought of a "crazy" new idea about origins and wanted to bounce it off another creationist?

Now you can keep in contact daily with creationists from all around the world. The Creation Research Society sponsors **CRSnet**, an online community of CRS members who have e-mail access to the Internet. Not only do participants discuss the latest scientific findings related to origins, but they also receive news about the CRS — its research, publications, and activities — and other creation-related news.

For more information, send an e-mail message to Glen Wolfrom at contact@creationresearch.org.
Participation is limited to CRS members in good standing.



Position Available

DIRECTOR, VAN ANDEL CREATION RESEARCH CENTER

The Creation Research Society (CRS) represents 600 member scientists who evaluate science in a Biblical framework. For nearly forty years it has published a scholarly journal that challenges evolutionary theory.

Nominations and inquiries are invited for the position of Director of the Van Andel Creation Research Center.

The Center, operated by CRS, is located in rural northcentral Arizona. The nearly-new facilities are modestly equipped, debt-free, and can provide research space for five full-time scientists.

Dedication to full inspiration of Scripture and to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is essential. Applicants should be committed to a young-earth creationist position and to a worldwide, catastrophic Noa-

hic flood. Strong skills in interpersonal relations, writing and public speaking are required. Experience in both scientific research and business management is ideal, but significant expertise in one of these areas is essential. The director will develop the research staff, manage business for the Center, and be involved in raising funds for the Center's support.

The position requires a self-starter who can work with limited direct supervision. Considerable travel is required. The position offers exciting possibilities to be an international leader in the creationist movement.

For more information, contact Dr. John R. Meyer at 520-636-1153, or e-mail crsvarc@primenet.com.



Creation Research Society
presents



How to Debate Evolutionists

Learn from Dr. Duane Gish, veteran of over 300 debates with evolutionists.

This workshop proved to be so popular last year that we are bringing it back this year in two convenient locations:

Livingston, New Jersey

(just 15 miles from New York City)

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday May 18, 2001

Phoenix, Arizona

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday June 1, 2001

Attendance at each is limited to the first 40 registrants. Attendees must be either member of the CRS, or affiliated with some other creationist organization.

The registration fee is \$30 **if received at least two weeks in advance** of the session you wish to attend. Registration during the final two weeks will be \$40.

For more information, contact Dr. David Kaufmann by mail at the address below or:

phone (352)378-9112

email kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

Complete this form, sending it with the proper payment to:

Dr. David A. Kaufmann, 3745 NW 7th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32607-2421

I wish to attend the workshop at Livingston, NJ Phoenix, AZ

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Home phone number _____

Email address _____

Creation Calendar

Note: Items in "Creation Calendar" are for information only; the listing of an event does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Creation Research Society.

March 18-24

Origins — the Ultimate Question by Dr. John Meyer

March 18: First Baptist Church (all services), Wilson, KS

Contact: Pastor Ferrell (913)-658-2499

March 20: Beverly Community Church, Beverly, KS

Contact: Pastor Harrey (785)436-2273

March 21: Bible Baptist Church, Russell, KS

Contact: Pastor Lane (785)483-4807

March 25: Shawnee Hills Baptist Church (all services), Jackson, MO

Contact: Pastor Cheney (573)243-1078

March 24

Granite, Animals in Mud, and Dinosaurs

by Mark Armitage, Azusa Pacific University

South Bay Creation Science Association

7:00 pm, Cornerstone Community Church, Torrance, CA

Contact: Garth Guessman (310)952-0424

March 24

Kansas City Fossil Hunt

Family Creation Safari, 12:30 - 5:00 pm

CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)

Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

April 20, 21

Creation / Evolution Debates sponsored by Skilton House Ministries

with Drs. Jack Cuzzo, Alan Mann, Joseph Mastropaolo, and Richard Weisenberg

Van Til Hall, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia

Contact: Paul Humber (215)438-9419 or (215)646-1774, shm@comanda.com

April 20-22

Ha Ha Tonka Weekend Safari

Family Creation Safari

"More of interesting geology and botany in less space than anywhere else"

CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)

Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

April 24-25

First-ever creationist *Build Your Own Fossil Museum Seminar*

by Joe Taylor, legendary fossil hunter. Paid registration required.

Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum, P.O. Box 550, Crosbyton, TX 79322

Contact: Joe Taylor, (806)675-7777 mtblanco1@aol.com

April 28

Defeating Darwinism (book by Phillip Johnson) reviewed by Everett Purcell

South Bay Creation Science Association

7:00 pm, Cornerstone Community Church, Torrance, CA

Contact: Garth Guessman (310)952-0424

May 9-10

Creation Quest Bus tour with Dr. John Meyer

from Prescott and Phoenix to Kartchner Caverns, Benson, AZ

Contact: Don Micale, Master's Touch Christian Charter Svcs. (520)759-0206.

May 12

Creation Quest Day Trip near Prescott, AZ with Dr. John Meyer

Contact: Dr. John Meyer, Van Andel Creation Research Center (520)636-1153

May 18

Workshop: How To Debate Evolutionists with Dr. Duane Gish

Attendance limited to members & friends of the Creation Research Society

To be held New York / New Jersey area (location to be named later)

Registration fee: \$40 (\$10 discount if paid before May 4). Mail fee to:

Dr. David Kaufmann, 3745 NW 7th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607

Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

May 19

Creation / Evolution Seminar by Drs. W. Frair and D. Kaufmann

To be held New York / New Jersey area (location to be named later)

Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

May 19

Debate: Creation vs. Evolution with Dr. Duane Gish (vs. ??)

To be held New York / New Jersey area (location to be named later)

Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

May 25-28

Kansas Chalk Formations, Museums, and Fossil Beds

Family Creation Safari

CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)

Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

May 26

Science vs. Textbook Evolution by Dr. Mace Baker

South Bay Creation Science Association

7:00 pm, Cornerstone Community Church, Torrance, CA

Contact: Garth Guessman (310)952-0424

June 1

Workshop: How To Debate Evolutionists with Dr. Duane Gish

Attendance limited to members & friends of the Creation Research Society

Church of the Redeemer, Phoenix, AZ

Registration fee: \$40 (\$10 discount if paid before May 18). Mail fee to:

Dr. David Kaufmann, 3745 NW 7th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607

Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

June 2

Debate: Creation vs. Evolution with Dr. Duane Gish (vs. ??)

To be held Phoenix, AZ area (location to be named later)

Contact: Dr. Kaufmann (352)378-9112, kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

June 19-22

Niagara Falls and Spectacular Canyons — Creation Tours led by

Dr. John Meyer, Dir. CRS' Van Andel Creation Research Center

Origin and finish at Morgantown, PA. Paid registration required.

Contact: Dave Endy, Pilgrim Tours, (800)322-0788

June 22-24

Ozark Stream Float Trip: Learn the truth about river & canyon formation

Family Creation Safari

CSA for Mid-America (Kansas City Area)

Contact: Tom Willis (816)618-3610, csahq@juno.com

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