

**Title: Visiting The Evolutionary Museum**

Author: Allen Dvorak

File name: evolution museum.doc

If you are planning a family vacation in the near future, you might consider taking the kids to a new museum recently opened in the greater Cincinnati area. It is the Creation Museum, a project sponsored by a group known as Answers in Genesis. The museum's exhibits reflect the group's belief that the book of Genesis is literal truth, that God created the heavens and the earth in six days about 6,000 years ago. According to a Reuters news story authored by Andrea Hopkins (*New museum says dinosaurs were on Noah's Ark*; May 26, 2007), the museum includes roaring dinosaurs and a replica of Noah's ark. The founders of the museum believe that dinosaurs were among the passengers on the ark and that the formation of the Grand Canyon took only days during the world-wide flood!

Not everyone, however, is enthused about the "creation" of this museum. According to Ms. Hopkins, its opening has drawn criticism from "scientists, secularists and moderate Christians," who intended to protest the museum's public opening this past Monday. Even during the news conference announcing the opening of the museum, an airplane trailing a "Thou Shalt Not Lie" banner circled above!

Why are these people so opposed to such a museum? Why are they upset by the presentation of an alternative view of scientific evidence? They argue that the museum's exhibits will just confuse young people who will eventually learn in school that the world is really billions of years old rather than a mere 6,000. Neal Bortz, radio talk show host, ridiculed the museum on his nationally syndicated program, noting that young people who were influenced by such creationist ideas would be hindered in their education at our country's public universities, most of whom are bastions of the general theory of evolution. It is ironic that Mr. Bortz frequently criticizes the public education system on his program as being ineffectual and infected with political correctness...until his view of the world's beginning is challenged by something like a museum advocating divine creation. Suddenly, he is a concerned expert on the general theory of evolution, worried that future university students might be misled into thinking that the general theory of evolution is not "fact." Perish the thought that young minds might be deceived into believing that dinosaurs and men lived at the same time!

Of course, the Bill of Rights, attached to our nation's constitution, still guarantees the freedom of speech, the free expression of opposing viewpoints. It is for this reason that I wish to suggest that those who favor the general theory of evolution should open their own museum! This museum would present the truth about evolution and could be named the Museum of Evolutionary Hoaxes and Bloopers and I am offering my humble services in the design of some of its exhibits.

The tour of the MEHB (an acronym for all of the government and military types reading this) would begin with a thrilling, life-size reproduction of the Nebraska Man. Next to the skeleton of this evolutionary ancestor of man would be the nameplate

*Hesperopithecus haroldcookii*, the name given by paleontologists to this creature whom Henry Fairfield Osborn, eminent paleontologist in the early 20th century, said combined the characteristics of a chimpanzee and a man! Naturally, the exhibit would explain that Nebraska Man was the result of the discovery of a single tooth and a framed picture of a peccary (a type of pig) would hang on the wall behind the skeleton. This would be especially appropriate since it was later discovered that the tooth actually belonged to a peccary and not any ape-man. A tour guide would explain all this to amazed tourists. "Move along, folks, stay with the group. Here is our next exhibit, the Piltdown Man!" Amid gasps of awe and wonder at the "ape-man" skeleton, the tour guide would mesmerize his listeners with the story of the discovery of the jawbone and partial skull of this "missing link." "For almost fifty years," the guide would say, "the world's greatest authorities on evolution were convinced that these bones belonged to our evolutionary ancestors." Then he would point to some iron salts in a display case and explain that similar salts had been used to make the skull look old. For that special touch, the same display case would contain a metal file, perhaps like the one used to file the teeth on the jawbone to make them look simian, i.e., monkey-like! The effect that this "evolutionary" total fraud would have on the tourists just brings goose bumps to my skin!

"What is this flask?" asks one of the curious tourists. The tour guide would then sheepishly point to the next exhibit, a swan-necked flask, and explain in a hushed voice that this flask was identical to those used by Louis Pasteur to disprove the theory of spontaneous generation. "Pasteur was instrumental in establishing the law of biogenesis, the fundamental principle that life comes from life," he would explain. "Of course, the general theory of evolution teaches that life comes from non-living matter. I really wish this exhibit had not been included in the museum; it just confuses people." One of the tourists might ask, "If life only comes from life, as Pasteur affirmed, why does the general theory of evolution continue to assert that life must have been generated at some point from non-living material?"

"See what I mean?" the tour guide would say. "The exhibit only confuses people."

Wow! The possibilities for exhibits in the MEHB just seem endless. Next to Ernst Haeckel's pictures of the development of the human embryo, which he carefully altered in order to support his theory of embryonic recapitulation (the idea that the human embryo demonstrates in various stages of development the evolution of mankind), we could put huge pictures of the effects of genetic mutations, maybe a photo of a calf with three eyes or two faces. The placard underneath would explain that some evolutionists still suggest that genetic mutations are probably the mechanism by which living organisms develop into more complex creatures, better equipped to survive and carry on the evolutionary process.

Tourists to the museum could walk through the life-sized reproduction of a cave and admire the drawings of our cave-man ancestors, drawings of dinosaurs they never saw. The tour guide could explain in reverent tones that scientists all acknowledge that men and dinosaurs never co-existed. "These drawings," he would say, "must clearly be

drawings of modern animals, like elephants and camels.” You can probably imagine the tourists nodding their heads in silent agreement as they viewed the pictograph from the Hava Supai Canyon in Arizona of an upright animal balanced on its tail. The exhibit could even include a computer-generated photo of an elephant balanced on its tail!

Time fails me to tell of the possible exhibits explaining isotope-dating fiascos and whales fossilized while standing on their heads! I just think that a trip to the Museum of Evolutionary Hoaxes and Bloopers would be so revealing that most people would probably never look at the general theory of evolution in the same way again.

I would recommend, however, since some folks will probably persist in believing creationism foolishness, that a plaque be mounted over the exit to the MEHB with the words, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1) and the directions to the Creation Museum in the greater Cincinnati area.