

Dear Editor

I read with interest articles by Sylvia Baker and Pete Moore in the Spring 2006 edition of *ACT Now*. I accept that both my intellect and Holy Scriptures are God-given, but it has not always been easy to reconcile one to the other.

In the past I have been irritated by arguments from both Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses which place an unhealthy emphasis on the fossil record, which I hope many evolutionists would consider as only a small, albeit essential, argument in favour of organic evolution. I have a particular interest in biochemistry and molecular biology and am fascinated by the homology which exists between different, quite taxonomically unrelated, species.

I find Sylvia's remarks about the atheistic nature of evolution somewhat extreme as I have come to accept that if God has created some primitive organism with the capacity to evolve into the huge diversity and complexity of life today, then reflecting upon such design and foreknowledge is indeed a source of both wonder and praise and is perhaps a more amazing achievement than that suggested by a literal interpretation of Genesis.

Ultimately, however, there remains an element of doubt about both creationism and evolutionism and the scientific mind also needs the humility to accept that the truth will not be known in this life. I think one thing that transcends either viewpoint is that life is not a mere collection of bio-chemicals but implies both design and maintenance from an amazing God who loves and cares for His creation and who is indeed worthy of our worship.

Charles Hill



Dear Editor

Pete Moore's call for our thinking about matters of origin to be done in a spirit of humility (*ACT Now*, Spring 2006) is, I think, important and welcome. It is a quality often lacking in the debate.

However, being humble does not preclude standing firm in the faith that God's Word is the source of all truth, only that we must be humble in our interpretation of it, for example in the matter of God's 'day' being twenty-four hours long.

I find his article very reasonable – literally!

He says he believes in using the Bible, church tradition and reason as guiding principles. I see a problem here if by this he means giving them equal value, for the Bible alone must be our authority. For all the good things the 'Church Fathers' have written, the things that some of them wrote about the Jews, for instance, are entirely unacceptable. The words of the Church Fathers too must be weighed against the Scriptures, and likewise any tradition. As for reason being a guiding principle, if we refuse the truth that is revealed to us, our minds are darkened (see Romans 1:21 and Ephesians 4:18) and our reasoning therefore becomes hopelessly untrustworthy. We start to believe all sorts of crazy things.

I am sure we will agree that nothing in God's Word to us can be against true science. We need to be humble about our science if we find a conflict with the truth of Scripture. Great surprises do indeed await us. My guess is that – in the fullness of time – when (God's) true knowledge about the universe and our origins become known, much of the science we are so sure about now will turn out to be full of foolish misunderstandings! Science has had to keep changing over the years, and keeps having to change as new things are discovered. The truth of God's Word never changes.

Chris Elston

Subject: please don't accentuate the positive
ACT Now issue: Spring 2006
 Item responded to: Arthur Jones' article

Dear Editor

Arthur Jones is worried that *ACT Now* contains stories by Christian teachers who have been broken by the system, or who have struggled on at great personal cost.

I would like to say that I respect the integrity of *ACT Now* all the more because it does not ignore or gloss-over these experiences. In my experience, most educational journals (especially those presenting government spin) and Christian magazines (especially those which see themselves as tools for evangelism) only print stories that have a happy ending.

I sincerely hope that *ACT Now* will continue to print the genuine testimonies of genuine Christians working in genuine schools. Often the truth is painful to hear.

Bob Childs