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[website – [www.sabbsa.org](http://www.sabbsa.org) ] [P.O. Box 34478, San Antonio, TX 78265]

Greetings from all of us at the **San Antonio Bible Based Science Association**! This month’s **Communiqué** will first update you on what transpired at last month’s public hearing on the adoption of new science textbooks for public schools in Texas.

Second, we have an article on how **God engineered** **working gears** into some animals! Third, there is a big stir by some people claiming that we will have a comet visiting us this Christmas that may either be analogous to the **Christmas Star** at Christ’s birth or is an omen of His second coming. We will examine what all the fuss is about with that comet. And finally, we have an article on new archaeological evidence showing that **Neanderthals were more advanced** than conventional scientists suspected and how this is consistent with our creationist perspective.

As always we will have a full listing of the wealth of creation instruction opportunities available in the greater San Antonio area this coming month and the rest of the fall. Please enjoy this edition of the **Communiqué.**

**Texas Textbooks - As Usual the Papers Got It Wrong!**

**Can’t They Read?**

AUSTIN — Proposed changes to science textbooks that critics say could dilute students' understanding of the theory of evolution drew 59 people before the State Board of Education to argue about that theory Tuesday. Both sides of the argument were well represented, with the evolution side holding about a two to one edge in the speakers who got on the docket by in order of registration then alternating sides for or against.

However, three newspapers in Texas gave an incorrect account of the proceedings, in saying that the vast majority of speakers derided the directions in the curriculum to question evolution and equated this push to teaching creationism.

In point of fact, there were many speakers who spoke positively of having students examine evidence for and against evolution and having students evaluate for themselves as the curriculum states. Only two speakers (former Board President Don McLeroy being the most vocal) spoke of teaching creationism. The board will vote on the proposal in November.

Steven Schafersman, president of Texas Citizens for Science (an anti-creation and aggressively humanist group), told board members that Texas' system to adopt science instructional materials is “sick, broken and corrupt.” He said textbook review panels responsible for biology materials — many members of which were anti-evolution activists — approached the process with a political bent, not an educational focus. He does not of course own up to the fact that evolutionists on this same board have their own political agendas.

“They want to make changes that weaken and damage evolution instruction so that students will be misled and confused about the ability of evolutionary biology to explain the existence of biological diversity, thus leaving students prey to creationist explanations,” Schafersman said.

Dr. Schafersman’s comments reflect the point of view just over half of the speakers at the meeting, but not the consensus of all speakers as the three papers inaccurately reported. Some also said the process could negate the separation of church and state.

Matt Simpson, a policy strategist with the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, said past litigation on that point has not gone in favor of those who wish to downplay evolution in science textbooks, which prompted board member David Bradley, R-Beaumont, to ask if the ACLU was planning to sue the state if the proposals are implemented.“I don't even think you'd have to wait for the ACLU to sue you. You could be sued by a number of people,” Simpson said.

Bradley contested the notion of separation of church and state as a legal doctrine.“I've got another $1,000 that's been sitting out there for quite a few years because they can't find it in the (U.S.) Constitution,” he said. Thus, the anti-creation factions played every card in their arsenal including law suits to try and “scare” the board away from implementing the curriculum as adopted from being reflected in the textbooks we buy since it will not 100% represent their biased view of Earth history.

Urging the board to adopt the textbook changes, former SBOE Chairman Don McLeroy said it would “strike the final blow to the teaching of evolution” in Texas. “There's some hidden jewels in these texts just waiting to be mined by inquisitive students that can destroy evolution,” McLeroy said. Our side of the argument for having students evaluate the evidence on both sides of the issue was also ably represented by Dr. Ide Trotter and Dr. Ray Bohlin of the Discovery Institute.

There are fewer avowed creationists on the 15-member elected board than in previous years. Four of them have departed since 2009.But, something else has also changed. If the board passes the recommendations, it wouldn't force school districts in Texas to use the textbooks. A law passed by the Legislature in 2011 allows districts to adopt textbooks that have not been approved by the board if they can certify they meet 100% of state standards.

A crowd of pro-evolution demonstrators holding signs reading “stand up for science” and “your kids deserve the truth” gathered outside the Texas Education Agency building before the hearing. Again the pro-evolution crowd missed no opportunity to pander for the media their disdain for allowing any evaluation of all of the evidence for and against evolution into our schools. Many said the changes would put students at a disadvantage when taking college-level biology courses or competing for jobs in scientific fields. This of course is not the truth as exemplified by the success of home school students in college even though they have been taught creationism in their studies throughout their K-12 education. The difference is that their curriculum exposed them to both sides of the question. Exactly what the evolutionists are scared of!

Related to this story there is news report by KHOU TV in Houston. In a confused way it claims that “Texas bans the mention of evolution in textbooks.” and so on. Frank Mayo, President of the Greater Houston Creation Association has written the author, KHOU, and CBS about this error quoting the section of the TEKS requiring in detail that evolution be thoroughly covered. But as of print date there has been no response or removal. Below is a section of the letter sent to the TV station by Frank Mayo.

KHOU,

I want to inform you of a major falsehood in *During public hearing, Texans battle over role of creationism in textbooks* by DAVID SCHECHTER / WFAA Posted on September 18, 2013 at 4:47 AM, <http://www.khou.com/news/politics/224204461.html>.

The first sentence in this article states: “Texas law bans the mention of evolution in textbooks, …”

In fact Texas law requires thorough coverage of evolution in the textbooks as it should. This can be checked in section 112.34 of the TEKS standards on the Texas Education Agency website at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter112/ch112c.html#112.34> .

I have copied the most important subsections with the word *evolution* and *natural selection* and similar terms highlighted for your easy reference below. Every curriculum must 100% cover these standards and certainly every instructional material currently offered for consideration thoroughly covers these requirements.

I now have a question for you: How could you publish anything so completely false as the first sentence of the article in question? It seems that someone in your organization has been asleep at the switch – or something worse.

**God put Gears on Some Animals!**

The intermeshing gears on the hind legs of a planthopper insect are shown in this scanning electron micrograph image. (Image courtesy of Malcolm Burrows)

Gears are used all around our world, and found in items ranging from wristwatches to car engines, but it seems that God invented them first.

A species of plant-hopping insect, Issus coleoptratus, is the first living creature known to possess functional gears, a new study finds. The two interlocking gears on the insect's hind legs help synchronize the legs when the animal jumps.

"To the best of my knowledge, it's the first demonstration of functioning gears in any animal," said study researcher Malcolm Burrows, an emeritus professor of neurobiology at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Burrows and a colleague captured the gears' motion using high-speed video. As the young bug prepares to leap, it meshes the gear teeth of one leg with those of the other, like cocking a gun. Then, the insect releases its legs in one smooth, explosive motion. [[See Video of the Insect Gears in Action](http://www.livescience.com/39594-hopping-insects-use-gears-to-jump-video.html)]

**Hopping in sync**Each leg sports a curved strip of 10 to 12 gear teeth that attach to the trochantera on the insect's legs…

Insects' hind legs can be arranged in two ways. The legs of grasshoppers and fleas move in separate planes at the sides of their body, whereas jumping insects such as planthoppers, move beneath their body along the same plane. Thus, planthoppers' legs need to be tightly coupled. "If there were to be a slight timing difference between the legs, then the body would start to spin," Burrows said.

The gears synchronize the movement of the hind legs to within about 30 microseconds of each other much faster than the nervous system could achieve, according to the study findings, detailed in the Sept.13 issue of the journal Science.

Burrows did an experiment with a dead planthopper: When he pulled one of its legs, both of them extended rapidly. Thus, the mechanics of the skeletal system alone can synchronize the legs, he said.

**Gears are for kids**The cogs are only found in immature planthoppers, or nymphs, and are lost during the final molt. Adult planthoppers use friction between their legs to achieve the same effect as the gears. Adults may ditch their gears partly because gear teeth can break, jeopardizing the insect's survival, Burrows said. Nymphs shed their exoskeleton five or six times before reaching adult size, and could correct the damage, whereas adults are stuck with one body.

Adults also have larger, more rigid bodies, so friction could be a more effective way to sync up their legs…

The article above was taken from reports from LiveScience.com and the September 13 issue of the journal Science. It includes excerpts from both articles.

**Editor’s Note: If you find any machine today with gears in it, you immediately know that it was designed and built by an intelligent agent (man). Why should this same evidence not point to another intelligent agent (the Creator) when found in insects?! The amazing precision of this design also testifies to a creative mind which “optimized” the results.**

# Comet ISON and the Star of Bethlehem: A Coincidence???

http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread927467/pg1%26mem=XGodofWar

By now most of you folks have heard about the arrival of comet C/2012 S1 (ISON), which will be visible to the naked eye on its close passing to the Sun. According to NASA, this comet will be at 1.8 million kilometers from the suns surface, making it visible to the naked eye at around November of this year (2013).
This is the orbital trajectory of comet C/2012 S1 (ISON). The comet is currently located just inside the orbit of Jupiter. In November 2013, ISON will pass less than 1.1 million miles (1.8 million kilometers) from the sun’s surface. The fierce heating it experiences during this close approach to the sun could turn the comet into a bright naked-eye object.

It is also note worthy that upon its closest approach to the sun, it will be the brightest thing in the sky apart from the Sun, and is said to outshine the moon.

Some astronomers have already labeled it as the "comet of the century".

It's being called the "comet of the century" -- a dazzling astronomical display that may prove to be brighter than the full moon. Comet ISON may give us earthlings a "once-in-a-lifetime light show" if it appears in the sky in 2013, astronomer David Whitehouse wrote in The Independent.

Star of Bethlehem**?**

There was a close approach event of Jupiter to Rigel and in the constellation Virgo in September of 4 BC which Drs. Carl Baugh, Jerry Hardwicke and others have cited as the possible Christmas Star. Another event might have occurred on the night of 25 December, 2 BC, as some say a bright star appeared in the night sky (there is wide speculation of this being a comet or other phenomena as it did not behave like a star according to biblical accounts, and even the date is suspect).. Some say it was this sign that led the biblical Magi to Bethlehem for the birth Jesus Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

This day we have come to known as the day of "Christmas", and traditionally celebrated on the 25th of December even though many scholars agree this is not the correct day of His birth.

Comet ISON Link to Star of Bethlehem

Intriguingly, the closest approach of comet ISON to earth, will be at its brightest during its passing on the period of December 25th-26th of this year, 2013, approx. 2000 years after the star of Bethlehem.

Is this coming of comet ISON, the biblical star of Bethlehem??? And what significance, will this have on the Christian belief of the second coming of Jesus Christ???

What other significance will this have on other traditional prophecies like the;
- Hopi Prophecy of the "Blue Star katchina"???
- Return of feathered serpent, "Quetzalcoatl" of the Mayan Prophecy???

**Editor’s Note: It is our opinion that this celestial event is just another wandering comet put in place by God at the creation, but that it holds no special omen of the future. The Bible says that “no man knows the hour” of Christ’s return. But it also says that we will forever be saddled with false prophets who will foretell of His coming. Christians should be aware of the science and applicable Bible to this event and not get caught up in unbiblical speculation.**

Study suggests Neanderthals were more Advanced



This undated photo provided Monday, Aug.12, 2013, by Abri Peyrony Project shows the most complete lissoir, or smoothing tool made of bone, smaller that a person's hand at just a few centimeters long, found during excavations at the Neanderthal site of Abri Peyrony. Researchers have found what they say are the first examples of specialized bone tools made by Neanderthals, a discovery that will add to debates about how advanced Neanderthals were and how much contact they had with modern humans. The discovery is being discussed by scientist, researchers and academics after the findings were published online Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Photo: Mayra Beltran, Houston Chronicle

PARIS (AP) — Researchers have found what they say are specialized bone tools made by Neanderthals in Europe thousands of years before modern humans are thought to have arrived to share such skills, a discovery that suggests modern man's distant cousins were more advanced than previously believed.

In a paper published online Monday by the Proceedings of the [National Academy of Sciences](http://www.mysanantonio.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news%2Fscience&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22National+Academy+of+Sciences%22), researchers discuss their discovery of four fragments of bone in southwestern France that they say were used as .. smoothers, to make animal hides tougher and more water-resistant… Similar tools are still used by leather workers to this day.

Until now, scientists have believed that modern humans taught the Neanderthals how to make the tools, but modern humans are only believed to have reached central and Western Europe later.

The researchers say the discovery provides the first evidence that Neanderthals may have independently made specialized bone tools — that is, tools that could only be made from bone. Other early Neanderthal bone tools were simply replicas of their stone tools.

The find adds to an evolving understanding that these distant cousins weren't perhaps the brutes they have come to represent in popular culture — but also confirms that there is still much we don't know about them.

"It's adding to a growing body of research, that's growing quite rapidly at the moment, that's showing that Neanderthals are capable and did produce tools ... in a way that is much more similar to modern humans than we thought even a couple of years ago," said [Rachel Wood](http://www.mysanantonio.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news%2Fscience&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Rachel+Wood%22), an archaeologist and researcher in radiocarbon dating at the [Australian National University](http://www.mysanantonio.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news%2Fscience&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Australian+National+University%22) who was not involved in the study.

[Shannon P. McPherron](http://www.mysanantonio.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news%2Fscience&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Shannon+P.+McPherron%22), one of the archaeologists involved in the dig and an author of the article, said it's possible that other Neanderthal dig sites contain similar tools. However, since they were probably used until the tips broke off — leaving a fragment just a few centimeters long, as was the case with three of the tools found — they would be difficult to spot.

"It's like looking at pencil leads," he said, expressing hope the find would fuel more discoveries. "Once you sort of get the pattern, it's a lot easier to spot them."

McPherron even held out the possibility that Neanderthals were the ones who showed modern humans how to make lissoirs (smoothers), although modern humans clearly started making specialized bone tools on their own.

"It's pretty rare that you hear that argument, so it's nice to hear it," said Wood, who noted that mostly researchers talk about modern humans influencing Neanderthals.

Even though the age of the tools suggested Neanderthals began making them on their own, McPherron, of Germany's [Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology](http://www.mysanantonio.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news%2Fscience&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Max+Planck+Institute+for+Evolutionary+Anthropology%22), and his co-authors didn't rule out the possibility that they did adopt this technology from modern humans. But that would mean modern humans entered Europe much earlier than thought.

Scientists have recently begun to ask new questions about whether and for how long Neanderthals and modern humans co-existed. … "Our find could indicate that there was a long period of interaction, where modern humans came into Europe and sent ripples through the pond, and then maybe withdrew and then came back again," McPherron said.

**Editor’s Note: This evidence coincides well with the creationist’s view that Neanderthals were simply ancient humans who lived before and just after the flood. Both DNA evidence and archaeological evidence are consistent in this conclusion. It is also consistent with the biblical view of man devolving from a more advanced state technologically in the ancient past than the “caveman” scenarios touted by evolutionists.**

**Science Workshops at FEAST in 2013 - 2014**

We will again put on the **FEAST Science Workshops** on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the **Family Educational Alliance for South Texas**. We thank FEAST for having faith in us to provide this teaching for the seventh consecutive year! Below is the schedule of multimedia presentations we will present for the home school community this school year.

Each one of these titles represents a multimedia presentation with embedded films and pictures to enhance each presentation. We will offer a companion young children's program to go along with the youth and adult's program described.

September, 2013 - **Biology and Missing Links: Lucy Unveiled** (We had a great crowd on hand for our first workshop !)
October, 2013 - **His Wisdom in Our Cells**
January, 2014 - **Biology in a Created World**
February, 2014 - **God, Man and Dinosaurs**
March, 2014 - **What If God Wrote the Bible?**
April, 2014 - **Audience's Choice of Creation presentation**

Synopses of each of these presentations are available on our resources page.

**SABBSA Presentation Schedule for Fall 2013**

We believe we have put together an exceptional set of speakers from across the country for this fall at our monthly meetings of the **San Antonio Bible Based Science Association**. The list of speakers, their date of presentation and topic are described on the next page:

**October 15, 2013, at Castle Hills First Baptist Church at 7 pm** (special night and place for this big event)

October 15, 2013 - **Dr. Robert Carter from Creation Ministries International** will speak on **"Adam and Eve, Myth or Reality?"** Dr Carter was converted to Christ at an early age, but did not know what to do with the theory of evolution. He always knew what he wanted to believe, but had no way to express what he was thinking and no evidence to support his views. In his freshman year of college, he was exposed to the information for creation for the first time and soon after adopted it as his *modus operandi*. He says he felt a tremendous joy when he realized his science and his religion were no longer at odds. This joy (and, he says, *Creation* magazine and the *Journal of Creation*) enabled him to get through the in-depth evolutionary training of his undergraduate and graduate programs with his faith intact.

He obtained a BS in Applied Biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1992. He then spent four years teaching high school biology, chemistry, physics and electronics before going to the University of Miami to obtain his PhD in Marine Biology.

He is currently a senior scientist and speaker for CMI-USA in Atlanta, Georgia, where he lives with his wife, Leanne, and children and is currently researching human genetics and other issues related to biblical creation.

Dr. Carter will also be speaking to the Castle Hills Baptist Church School on Wednesday October 16th during their chapel time around noon that day.

**November 12, 2013**

**Bruce Malone with Logos Research Associates** will present **"The Red Record"** revealing God's creation account in American Indian culture. Bruce has a **B.S. in Chemical Engineering.**  He is an author, speaker, teacher, founder and director of [Search For the Truth](http://searchforthetruth.net) and a Logos Research Ambassador.

Bruce retired from Dow Chemical after 27 years as a chemical engineer, to do creation ministry. Key inventor of 18 issued patents and 4 patents pending, author/co-author of 3 books on evidences of creation (2 more in progress), publisher of 60,000 books and DVDs now in circulation, producer of 200 radio programs, and Founder and Executive Director of Search For the Truth Ministries, Bruce is one busy guy!

**Humor Corner**

**Around Texas**

**Houston:**
The **Greater Houston Creation Association** (**GHCA**) meets the first Thursday of each month. They meet at Houston's First Baptist Church at 7 pm, in Room 258. After the presentation, there will be refreshments, fellowship and creation science materials for all to enjoy. For more information go to [www.ghcaonline.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bztaencab&et=1103662222545&s=545&e=001xF-6WOYzM5Yyre44Ea_qUjH5EOT_fFIGjrfpfa5h-rD53IlUVbz3Vc0Dp47_VEwW3iQQ6F1b6K0EtKc_vUxYKpzN_8V2upXFbsOScvUeD92nJdUTjDIFeg==).

**Glen Rose:**
Dr. Carl Baugh gives a “***Director’s Lecture Series***” on the first Saturday of each month at the Creation Evidences Museum just outside Glen Rose, TX. The new and improved museum is also a great and beneficial way to spend any day. Presentations are at 11 am and 2 pm. For more information go to [www.creationevidence.org](http://www.creationevidence.org)

**Dallas-Ft Worth:**
The Metroplex Institute of Origin Science (MIOS) meets at the Dr. Pepper Starcenter, 12700 N. Stemmons Fwy, Farmers Branch, TX, usually at 7:30 pm of the first Tuesday of each month. See our special article about this month’s meeting at the top of the previous page.

**Lubbock Area (Crosbyton):**
All year: Consider a visit to the Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum, directed by Joe Taylor. The Museum is definitely worth the visit if you live near or are traveling through the Panhandle near Lubbock. If you call ahead and time permitting, Joe has been known to give personal tours, especially to groups. For more information, visit [http://www.mtblanco.com/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bztaencab&et=1103662222545&s=545&e=001xF-6WOYzM5bqqt6T1G_CwJWJosrOSIhLAagtnP0Z504J-gEROEBe22S3gq720x6ofjFVqK-AfJcsjrsuQyRtoepYiAQVVUFC-cF56fLwwBJ0SQ-44KlLmw==).

**Greater San Antonio area:**

Listen to **Answers with Ken Ham** online at the address below. (No nearby station for this broadcast). <http://www.answersingenesis.org/media/audio/answers-daily>

To hear program from the **Institute for Creation Research**, listen online at this address. <http://www.icr.org/radio/>

Also, tune in KHCB FM 88.5 (San Marcos) or KKER FM 88.7 (Kerrville) for **Back to Genesis** at 8:57 AM Mon-Fri, then **Science, Scripture and Salvation** at 1:30 AM, 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Saturdays.

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**Last Month at SABBSA**

**John Pendleton, Creation Evangelist to Latin America**

In September, we had an old friend talk to us. We asked **Creation Evangelist to Latin America John Pendleton** to give us an update on his pterodactyl hunt. He detailed what has been done so far and enumerated the steps he will take once he raises $97,000 to fund his next try at capturing one.

In addition, we have asked John to update us on the new findings in creation science presented at last month's **International Conference on Creationism in Philadelphia**.

Finally, John presented to us the stories of four creation scientists: **Robert Boyle, Matthew Maury, George Washington Carver and Charles Babbage.** These men and their scientific careers exemplify the major role a belief in God has historically played in the development of science and still should today!

**Next regular meeting:** **Two SABBSA Meetings in October:
Tuesday, October 8 and 15, 2013, at 7 pm**

**Coming to SABBSA on October 15
Dr. Robert Carter, Creation Ministries International**

The main event for the month will be will be special presentation on a special night by **Dr. Robert Carter** on Tuesday, October 15 at 7 pm in **Castle Hills First Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall** entitled **"Adam and Eve: Myth or Reality?"**

In this science packed multimedia presentation Dr. Carter will present genetic evidence for the reality of Adam and Eve. Genetic evidence shows that we came from one women and only one race of people which is consistent with the biblical account!

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**On our regular meeting night on Tuesday, October 8th
SABBSA Board Member Terry Read** will present an updated version of his talk on
**"Darwinism: Science or Religion?"** In this talk Terry will show Darwinism -
1. Is a Materialistic Philosophy.
2. Requires Inconsistent Thinking.
3. Is Bad Science.
4. Does not fit what we observe, but the Biblical Worldview does.

Please join us on October 8th for this challenging program, good food and warm Christian fellowship! As always we will meet at the Jim’s Restaurant at the corner of San Pedro and Ramsey.