Some dinosaurs' flashy crests helped them toot their horns, scientists now say

Posted by John Mangels/Plain Dealer Science Writer October 16, 2008 13:59PM

Categories: Breaking News, Real Time News

If there was an "America's Next Top Model" competition for dinosaurs, the creatures called lambeosaurs would take first prize.

The heads of these duck-billed dinosaurs were adorned with elaborate crests of bone, arrayed in exotic variations -- Elvis-like pompadours, swooping comma shapes, and things that resembled Napoleon's cocked hat.

What were they there for? Over the years, researchers have suggested different purposes for the hollowed ridges. Long nasal passages snaked through them, so perhaps they boosted lambeosaurs' smelling ability. Maybe they were a kind of snorkel for underwater breathing. Or a mechanism for cooling the blood.

Now, scientists who probed the lambeosaurs' fossilized skulls with X-rays say the crests functioned like the brass tubing in a trombone. Their lengthy passages shaped and amplified the dinosaurs' deep, bellowing calls, helping them communicate with each other.

The scans confirmed the crests' role as a signaling device by showing that lambeosaurs had ear structures capable of detecting the calls, and a large enough brain to act on the information.

"The animals could both produce and hear the sounds," and had the brainpower to process them, said Ohio University paleontologist Larry Witmer, who directed...
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Posted by Scardelletti on 10/16/08 at 5:45PM

DINOSAURS LOOK LIKE THEY WERE CREATED, NOT EVOLVED

This was a very good scientific article. It stated things that most likely are facts based on solid scientific evidence. However, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History mistakenly informs people in the Kirtland Hall of Prehistoric Life that dinosaurs evolved into the beasts we find in the fossil record. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth.

From the fierce T-rex to the 30-ton lumbering sauropods like Fred...
Flintstone sits upon in the famous cartoon, there's currently no fossil evidence whatsoever that proves dinosaurs evolved from anything over millions of years. Instead, the fossils clearly show that dinosaurs were created whole just about the way their bodies are found in the ground.

Thousands of scientists completely disagree with the Museum's evolutionary beliefs and there's tons of material available showing how impossible cosmological, geological, and biological evolution really is.

There's even a book entitled: GOD VERSUS THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: WHOSE SIDE IS SCIENCE ON? which points out how unscientific many of the Museum's evolutionary exhibits really are.

Again, this was a good scientific article. But thank goodness it didn't contain any of that dinosaur evolutionary nonsense.

God Bless

Sonino John Paul Scardelletti - A Christian

Scardelletti,

Every group has its fringe elements. There are scientists who believe the world is flat, or hollow. This does not make it so. As for the "thousands" of scientists, most scientists who actually work in fields in which evolution is a cornerstone (biology, biochemistry, palaeontology, sociology, medicine, genetics, and so on) do not doubt the process of evolution. In fact, I doubt you could come up with a hundred respectable scientists who do not believe in evolution, let alone "thousands." (A respectable scientist is one who publishes regularly in peer-reviewed journals.)

There is currently no material that contradicts the theory of evolution through natural selection. There is no cosmological or geological evidence contradicting it; and especially, there is no biological evidence contradicting it. In fact, modern biology would be impossible without the theory of evolution. That theory has given us medicines and treatments that are unimaginable without evolution as the driving force behind life.

Your assertions that dinosaur fossils have no antecedents is simply incorrect. From the vast numbers of specimens from the Cambrian period, up through the Jurassic and beyond, fossil specimens represent a fairly contiguous procession. Pick up any good book on fossils, and you'll see hundreds of specimens representing an evolutionary tree from the pre-Cambrian up through today.

Evolution has been supported by every test we've conceived. That is, after all, the key to scientific knowledge: testability. There is no other alternate scientific theory to the theory of evolution through natural selection that has withstood testing. None. Not one.

The only alternative presented today is Intelligent Design, which is not a scientific theory at all, as it cannot be tested. ID is presented by a consortium called the Discovery Institute, who has stated outright that their goal is not scientific, but philosophic: they wish to discredit evolutionary theory because they believe it encourages materialism. (It doesn't, but that's a separate discussion.) This isn't a path to knowledge, but a path to willful ignorance. It isn't science, but politics. And it is most definitely not truth, but lies.