

CREATION INSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION FTB 56 NEWSLETTER by Brian Young

“I can Ardi believe it”

The latest supposed "missing link" is called Ardi. Ironically, it is over 15 years old already, however, they must keep the public interested in evolution since we are still in the year of Darwin. The same was true of the lemur, "Ida" announced a few months before Ardi and that was found over 20 years ago. Hmmm! Anyway, Discovery channel is putting out this propaganda on a program called, "Discovering Ardi". It is a two hour program that was actually quite dry without any good evidence to support evolution. Of course there was plenty of artistic license and interpretation, but nothing to suppose Ardi is anything special. The fact is, Ardi is going to replace Lucy, the previous missing link that was riddled with problems. However, they can't mark Lucy off the list of icons for evolution until they have something else to replace her with.

I found it very humorous that they use computer simulation to reconstruct Ardi's skull. Not that this isn't acceptable, however, they do it ten times before they were finally "satisfied." I think what they mean to say is, until they got what they wanted. This isn't science, that is a religious interpretation. Sadly, this is what happens all the time. In fact, a recent Survey in *PLoS One* showed that 1 out of 7 of scientists admitted to fake data in research. 3 out of 4 committed “questionable research practices” and 1 out of 3 admit “failing to present data that contradict one’s own previous research.” And we trust these people? (<http://www.physorg.com/news162795064.html>). A perfect example of this was seen a few years ago on PBS Nova where there was a program showing how Lucy was the missing link. On this program Dr. Owen Lovejoy fixes the hip to make it look like a human one even though they admit that, "the hip resembled a chimpanzee." However, Lovejoy speculated that the hip bone had been stepped on by a deer and made it look more like a chimpanzee hip. As a result, he makes a cast, grinds parts of it down to remove entire pieces, and then they say, "As a result it looks nothing like a chimp, but a lot like ours." You give me some play-dow and I can get it to look like a human hip too. If this is what they call science, I would like to see what faith looks like. Ironically, it is this same Owen Lovejoy that is in charge of making Ardi's hip joint look like it walked upright too. On the Discovery program they show this shattered hip joint that has been put back together the best they can with the pieces they have. They then highlight a tiny area, no bigger than nickle and say that this is the evidence that shows Ardi walked upright. That's a big leap of faith or an interpretation that is forced to fit what they want to see.

As the program continues we see they move to the foot of Ardi. They are "shocked" to find out that it has an opposable digit or a grasping toe. This is what chimpanzees and primates have so why is this so shocking. Because they interpret that Ardi walked upright, therefore, she shouldn't have a grasping toe for climbing in trees. Actually, the evidence would suggest that the interpretation of the hip was wrong and it did not walk upright. Then there is nothing shocking about the foot.

In order to further the propaganda they decided to show us what Ardi would have looked

like walking around. To do so, they hire a small woman and hook her up to a computer to digitally analyze and record every movement just like they do for special effects in movies. You can even see them instructing this woman how to walk before they reveal a computer generated Ardi walking through the woods. This is not what Ardi looked like walking, this is what a woman looks like climbing up scaffolding and ducking to avoid obstacles as she walks as instructed. Again, this has nothing to do with science, this is better viewed as art.

Speaking of art, they then take the bones and have an artist complete the missing bones and attach muscles, tendons, skin and hair all over the body. First, of all, none of this fossilized and science has proven that this is very inaccurate. In fact, there were pictures of Neanderthal drawn by many different artists who viewed the skull and not a one looked like the other. Secondly, hair does not fossilize so how do they know it was or wasn't there? I believe it was covered in hair because it was a primate, however, they always do this; especially to the missing links to make the human look more apelike. In order to get the ape to look more human-like they will always put whites in the eyes. This was done with Lucy to give her that human characteristic because monkeys and apes do not have whites in their eyes. It should be no surprise that this artist made Ardi with whites in her eyes as well. Once more, this isn't reflective of science, but rather what they want to see and believe. Summing this all up I would say that Ardi should really be called Art-eeh.

So what is making Ardi so significant. They are saying that based on their interpretation of the evidence, Ardi is not a chimpanzee (because she walked upright and had slightly smaller hands), yet Ardi is not a human (because she has primate-like feet and skull). Since she isn't a chimp and she's not a human, she must be something in between, which is also causing them to suggest that humans didn't come from the chimp as previously thought by evolutionists. As you can imagine, there are plenty of scientists who are already disagreeing with this interpretation. But how do we as Creationists explain this evidence.

Simply put, this is exactly what the Bible says is supposed to happen. Let's say I found a great dane in the fossil record, then I found a little tea-cup poodle. Years later we discovered a labrador in the fossil record. It would be very easy to say, hey look, it isn't a poodle, nor is it a great dane, it's the missing link between them. Clearly, this wouldn't be a missing link but just another species of dog. Likewise, Ardi isn't a chimp, it is just another species of primate. The Bible says things reproduce after their kind and this is what we see happening all around us. Dogs have puppies, fish have guppies and people have yuppies. We can get different sizes, shapes and colors of each of these, but they are always among their respective kinds. I would expect to find animals like Ardi that look like chimps but have slight differences. Therefore, next time you hear about the newest "evidence" remember it isn't evidence, but rather poorly interpreted beliefs being put off as science, though falsely so called. We will continue to find a variety of species among created kinds of animals.