

*'Can you tell me anything you know about evolution? Any one thing that is true?'*

to one another in nature.) There may be no more than fifteen people on hand when the discussion focuses on, say, fossil rodent teeth; or there may be 150 or more when Richard C. Lewontin, the renowned geneticist and author, gives a talk on the meaning (if any) of adaptation in biology.

Patterson's address was titled "Evolutionism and Creationism." Patterson is not a creationist, but he had been trying to think like one as a sort of experiment. "It's true," he told his audience, "that for the last eighteen months or so I've been kicking around non-evolutionary or even anti-evolutionary ideas." He went on:

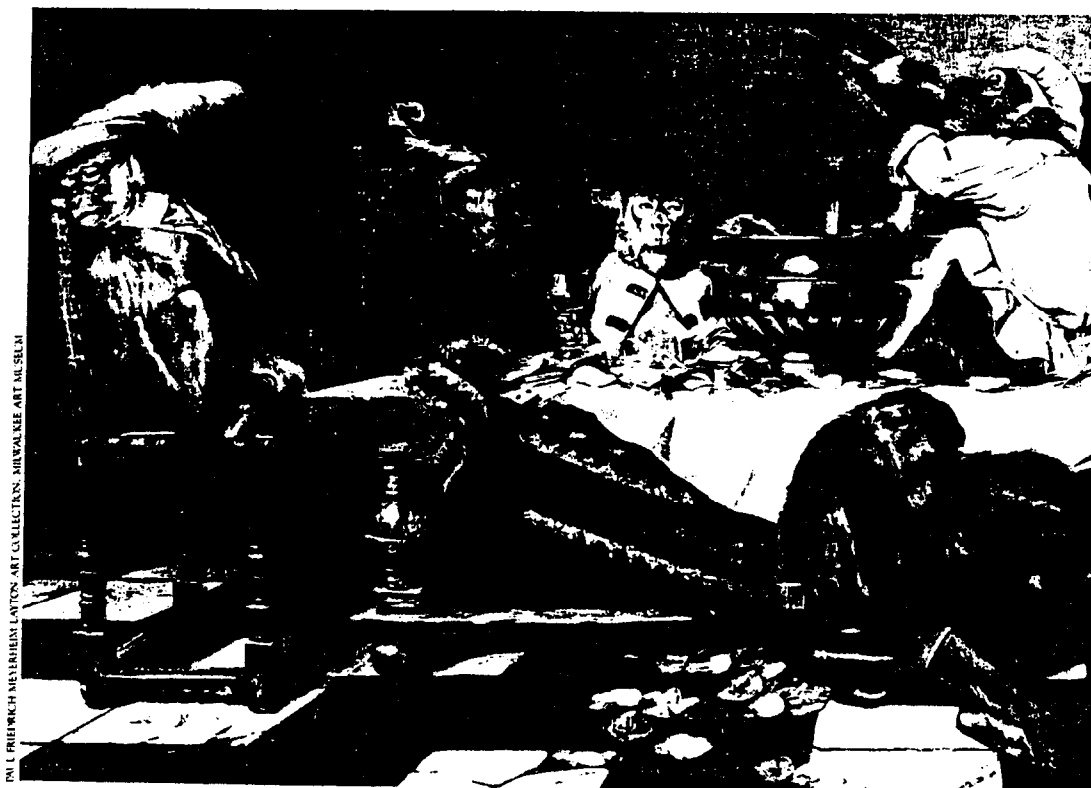
I think always before in my life when I've got up to speak on a subject I've been confident of one thing—that I know more about it than anybody in the room, because I've worked on it. Well, this time it isn't true. I'm speaking on two subjects, evolutionism and creationism, and I believe it's true to say that I know nothing whatever about either of them.

One of the reasons I started taking this anti-evolutionary view, or let's call it a non-evolutionary view, was that last year I had a sudden realization.

For over twenty years I had thought I was working on evolution in some way. One morning I woke up and something had happened in the night, and it struck me that I had been working on this stuff for more than twenty years, and there was not one thing I knew about it. It's quite a shock to learn that one can be so misled for so long. Either there was something wrong with me or there was something wrong with evolutionary theory. Naturally I know there is nothing wrong with me, so for the last few weeks I've tried putting a simple question to various people and groups.

Question is: Can you tell me anything you know about evolution? Any one thing, any one thing that is true?

In the public mind, challenges to Darwin's theory of evolution are associated with biblical creationists who periodically remove their children from schoolrooms where they are being taught that man evolved from monkeys. Most Americans know about the Scopes trial of 1925, in which a Tennessee high school teacher was fined \$100 for teaching evolutionary theory. Four years ago there was the trial in San Diego in which Kelly Seagraves, director of the Creation Science Research Center, unsuccess-



PH. L. FRIEDRICH MEYERHEIM; LANTON: ART COLLECTION; MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM