

Descartes on the Flintstones

from *The Lost Works of Rene Descartes*, edited by Darren Alexander

PRINCIPLE I
That the Flintstones could not have existed.

Having now ascertained through our anthropological studies the relevant history of mankind and the coexisting species of animals, their would appear to be little doubt that a 'cave-man's' existence such as that depicted of the Flintstones and fellow co-inhabiters of Bedrock is one of fantasy and misrepresentation.

The major premise for such an argument is twofold: the first being founded on such findings of archaeologists which have declared a gap of millions of years between the age of dinosaurs and that of man.

And the second, also based on archaeological finds, being the substantiation that the tools and appliances of cave-dwellers were limited to very crude amenities and weapons, a far cry from the advanced applications of Bedrock such as the garburator and traffic-lights.

PRINCIPLE II
Even should the Flintstones have existed, there exists many inconsistencies and paradoxes.

Even if the scientists are wrong, and it is possible that a family such as the Flintstones may have existed in such a prehistoric society as Bedrock, there remain many loop-holes and improbabilities to be answered.

For instance, there are grave inconsistencies in many of the characters with which Fred is involved. His boss at the gravel-pit, Mr. Slate, for instance, changes in shape and form from a short stout fellow to a taller, more refined man. Likewise, Joe Rockhead, one of Fred's closest chums, is seen to change in appearance several times, almost from episode to episode.

Voices too are affected. Fred's closest friend and neighbour, Barney Rubble, experiences a drastic change in both the tone and character of his voice, from a deep dopey resonance to a higher snivelling attitude. And in the case of Dino, the Flintstone's loveable pet dinosaur, the power of speech is at once lost altogether.

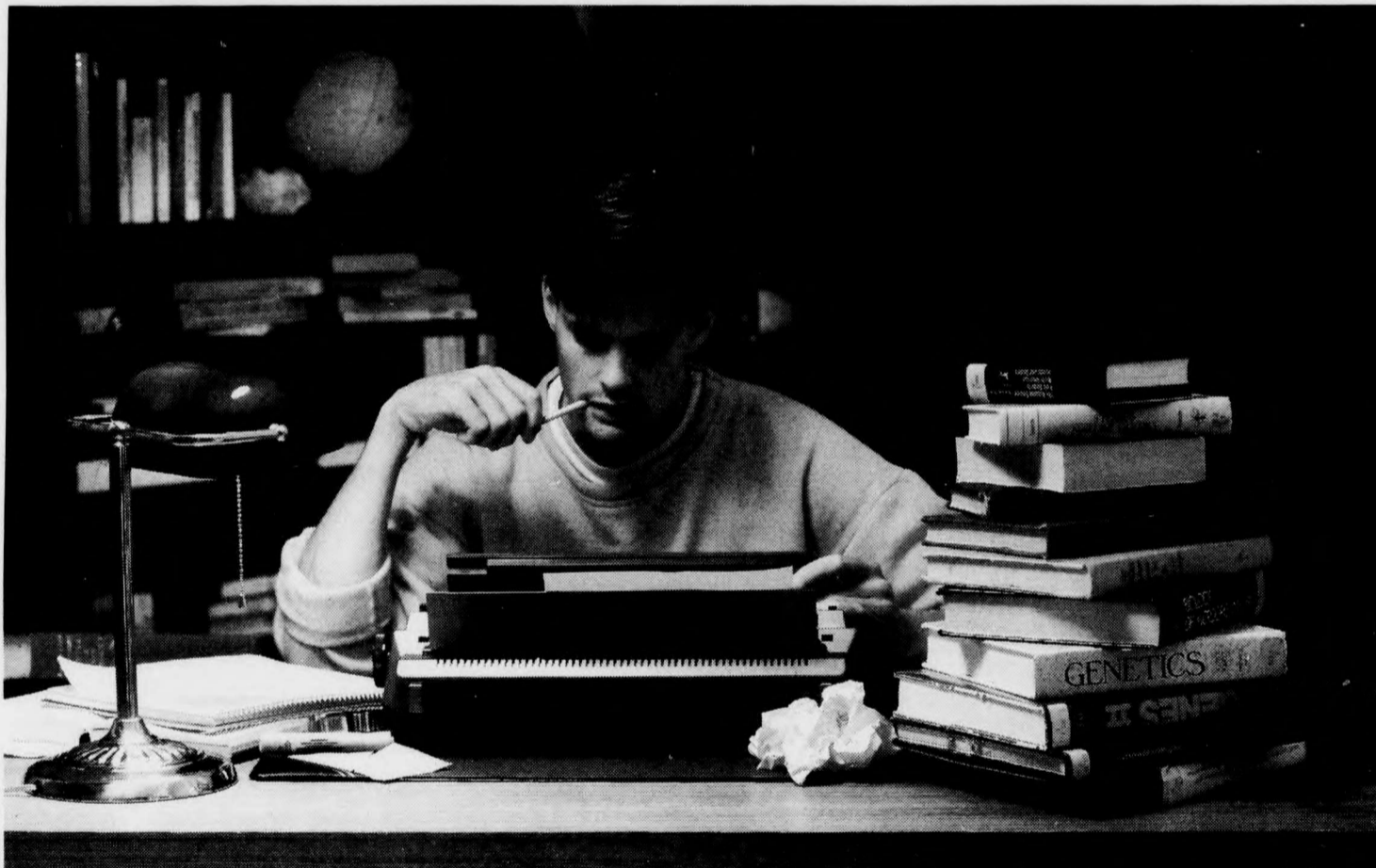
And these incongruities do not rest in the characters alone: as merely one example of many, we find that Fred must sometimes pick up his vehicle and run with it in order to gain momentum, while at other times it appears self-propelled.

PRINCIPLE III
Okay, let's assume the Flintstones et al. are for real, as real as you or I. So what does it mean?

It means we have regressed. It means we could be saving electricity by using monkeys as pin-setters and small animals as garburators. It suggests that the fez has evolved from the water buffalo hat. It means that you really can raise the roof if you yell loud enough.

PRINCIPLE IV. Of Betty's henpecking and its effects on the machismo of Barney.

- V. Why don't the rear wheels ever fall off the cars?
- VI. That we may suppose that Fred and Wilma 'coupled' in order to conceive Pebbles.
- VII. That cleaning up after Dino would have been a great chore.
- VIII. How Fred ate corn in a typewriter fashion.
- IX. That the bowling balls were not smooth and perfectly round.
- X. That the hypotheses of Ptolemy has absolutely nothing to do with the Flintstones.
- XI. That perhaps none of this is useful hypothesis.
- XII. That I am assuming that there lies great depths and insights to the world of Bedrock.



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