

THE GATEWAY

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The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Umax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Minesweeper and Simcity 4.

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Researchers give moniker to mystery mammal

DEREK LARSON
News Writer

A previously unknown species of the natural world, millions of years old, has been uncovered by University of Alberta researchers. What they've found is surprising, and it's brought much public attention to this often low-key branch of paleontology.

Horolodectes sunae, a new ancient mammal from the Paleocene Epoch (right after the dinosaurs went extinct), was named and described in a scientific paper in September by Craig Scott, a PhD student in the Department of Biological Sciences, though precious little of the skeleton has been found. Scott described the difficulties of understanding the mammal without more to go on.

"Did it jump? Did it live in trees? Was it a fast runner? We don't know any of that. We have no post-cranial bones [bones that aren't part of the skull] ... so all we have to go on is teeth," Scott explained.

With just this small amount of material, though, paleontologists can still discover a lot about the animal.

"It was maybe between 15–20cm long with the tail," Scott said. "And that seems by today's comparisons quite small ... but when you consider

that most of the mammals living in the Paleocene were the size of a shrew or mouse, it's quite large. It probably dined on insects or maybe insect larvae; given that it was probably larger than most other things at the time, it may have eaten other small vertebrates."

There are two main reasons why this fossil critter has received so much public interest. The first is a question of its family tree.

"*Horolodectes* is completely new to science—there's nothing else like it," Scott related. "We had initially thought that it might be a member of a group of mammals that eventually gave rise to modern ungulates: horses, cows, deer, pigs, that sort of thing, [but] once we discovered more mostly complete specimens with many teeth in the jaw, we knew that it didn't have anything to do with ungulates at all. But that being said, we still didn't know exactly where to put it."

The second exciting thing about the animal is its location. Though rocks from this particular time are found and studied in many places in Canada and the United States, specimens of *Horolodectes*, of which there are about 40, have only been found in three separate localities, all located



CLAUDIA TOMCZYK

NOTHING BUT THE TOOTH Researchers don't have much more to work with.

in Alberta.

And concerning the new animal's popularity in the media, Scott was quite positive.

"We really didn't think at the time when we published it that it would garner this much attention.

[Mammals] get over-shadowed by the dinosaurs, and [paleomammalogy] is another interesting part of the whole ancient ecosystem that deserves to be publicized and be talked about," Scott said, adding that he is pleased about the media attention.

Alberta's universities not 'carbon copies': Cournoyer

Different schools offer different programs, which may account for funding differences, says CAUS chair

CALGARY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A report created by the postsecondary institutions in Calgary has pointed out that they receive much less funding from the province than those in Edmonton, to the tune of the 11 473 fewer student spaces in total. Labonte explained that this translates to the Alberta government providing 1.5 times more funding per student for U of A students compared to those attending the U of C.

But Cameron Traynor, spokesman for Advanced Education, explained that there was reasoning behind the differences in funding, as the two centres don't draw in the same numbers of students from outside city limits. He explained that different regions created different options for prospective students, was 26 per cent of U of A students come from

outside of Edmonton, while Calgary's rate was less than half that, at 12 per cent of students from beyond the city limits.

"The reality is that, for students in southern Alberta, there are more schools and universities to choose from. They can go to Calgary or they can decide to go to, say, the University of Lethbridge. But in northern Alberta, there aren't as many choices. There is Edmonton, and that's about it," Traynor said.

Dave Cournoyer, chair of the Council of Alberta University Students and Vice-President (External) for the U of A Students' Union, noted that the different institutions around the province have different departments and areas of study, which can affect the amount of funding needed from the province.

"The universities do offer different programs. Like the U of A and its density program; it offers more professional programs, and those cost the university more. I think it's important to remember that the universities are not carbon copies of one another," Cournoyer said.

He went on to say that the problems in Calgary were indicative of a bigger problem.

"It's a widespread problem through the whole system. The U of C is experiencing growing pains. So is Edmonton. Grand Prairie too. It's really a failure of the provincial government to step up to the plate and properly fund postsecondary education," he said.

In the end, however, officials at the U of C don't wish to focus on the differences between the two cities,

but advocate cooperation. Roman Cooney, Vice-President (External Relations) for the U of C, said that a united front would be much more effective.

"We don't want this to be about what Calgary is getting opposed to what Edmonton is getting. It would be much more effective to work together. I want to stress: it isn't a competition," Cooney said.

Labonte echoed Cooney's sentiments about co-operation between regions.

"I know there have been people who have been worried about approaching the issue because it will cause a division between the cities. I don't think that's fair. I don't think there has to be a division. We can work together to make sure that every one is taken care of properly," Labonte concluded.

STREETERS

Charles Simonyi, the billionaire behind Microsoft Word and Excel, is paying \$20-25 million US to be the next space tourist.

What would you give to go to space?



Kyle Maskewich
Arts II

I would give up ice cream for a year, [and] it's my study food.



Jeff Jamieson
Science II

A testicle and my first-born child.



Amanda Nickless
Science IV

I don't really want to go to space. I'm kind of scared of space—it seems like there's a lot of things that can go wrong in space.



Vanessa Dorsey
Phys Ed III

I would give \$20 000 [maximum] because I don't really want to go to space, it's not really that important to me.