

# Covering all the fundamentals

Soon-to-open Creation Museum to represent the evolution of education



BRAD  
LAFORTUNE

As a child who spent countless hours poring over dinosaur books of the pop-up variety, my mind was continually filled with wonder and amazement. In these books, you could even make a Pterodactyl swoop down from the sky with the pull of a single tab! Those books were magic all right.

Pachycephalosaurius, whose name means thick-headed lizard, was always my favourite. I clearly recall fantasizing that this particularly interesting species spent its time ramming its head against unsuspecting cavemen. Oh, Pachycephalosaurius!—you were such a troublemaker. Then one fateful day dawned and my fantastical prehistoric world was turned upside down.

After I broke all the tabs in my pop-up book, my mother purchased for me a new dinosaur book. But instead of tabs that begged to be pulled, this book was filled with something else: facts. That is, boring scientific details not at all in line with my imagined prehistoric world. This book was replete with facts from scientific secularists who wanted to shatter my dinosaur-human, co-existing fantasy.

Could it be true that dinosaurs had been extinct for millions of years before the first human ever walked

the earth? No. I wasn't willing to accept this outrageous notion—and thankfully, there were others who also wished to uphold a similarly outlandish childhood fantasy: those who practice literal biblical hermeneutics.

Now, Answers in Genesis, a Christian not-for-profit organization formed in the late '70s, is planning to cut the red tape on their shiny new creation museum near Cincinnati this June in a bold attempt to refute the general evolutionary perceptions of secular America—and I am stoked like fire!

**Eventually, after all the fundamental Christian propaganda, I come to the point of the digital tour I've been waiting for: the T-Rex room.**

The museum, which comes with a US \$25 million price tag, promises according to its website to "proclaim the Bible as supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice in every area it touches on"—and thus will go against the general evolutionary tide of ideology that infects all other natural history museums. The squid and the whale in New York? Pffft, whatever. I want dinosaurs in Eden.

A specific point of interest for Bible enthusiasts is the "SFX" theatre, which will introduce the major themes of creationism and biblical authority as it "explains the universe we see today,"

says the site. Another room will have Paul the Apostle, in all his misogynistic glory, lecturing about God's Word. Many of the rooms seem to be more of this same forceful and literal approach to the Bible, but I swallow hard because I know what comes to those who wait—good things. Very good things.

I've now taken the museum's online tour 37 times, and am considering a possible tour guidepost for the grand opening in the summer. Eventually, after all the fundamental Christian propaganda, I come to the point of the digital tour I've been waiting for: the T-Rex room. Here visitors reportedly witness a T-Rex in close proximity to Adam and Eve. That's right folks: as you stroll along the boardwalk through Eden, you'll see sharp-tooth just hanging out with the parents of the human race.

Eureka! Irrefutable proof that, as it turns out, my childhood fantasy of the helmet dinosaur head-butting cavemen wasn't that far off. What's more, I can now imagine the children of Eden being chased by the lizard king himself. Screw all you Darwinian naysayers—and thank you Answers in Genesis for the answers.

But don't take my word for it: go ahead and get some answers for yourself. Log onto [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org), take the digital tour and let me know when you want to come to Cincinnati with me this summer. There are even accommodations right on site situated inside the life-size Noah's ark! If all the animals on earth could fit, then so can you! Just remember: two by two.

# Purists are ruining the holidays for everyone



VICTOR  
VARGAS

Sure, companies like Spence Diamonds are constantly telling us that diamonds equal love, and maybe we're wiping out entire forests to make cards with Sauron asking us to be his Valentine while agencies like Lavalife are attempting to hook everyone into their dating service. But for all of these messages, most television shows and stories show that romance is more about doing something that's meaningful than buying a lot of bling-bling.

The people who are really ruining Valentine's Day for everyone are the jerks that proclaim: "No one knows the real meaning behind the holidays!" These people haven't realized that meanings evolve to stay relevant, and should quit whining unless they want to be treated like a kid. These are the people who go ballistic when someone tells them Merry Christmas over Happy Holidays; the guys who boycott Halloween and say it's really "diabetes day"; the jerks who say Remembrance Day celebrates war, and discounts the people who fought and gave their lives for things like the battle against Nazi Germany.

Rather than being Debby Downer for February, try actually participating for a change. If you don't have a significant other, try finding one. Edmonton is teeming with things to do, so try going to the clubs and the cafés. And if you aren't looking for love, be someone's wingman or help someone plan the perfect date. There's a world of possibilities out there, and you only live once.

Does it make you angry that our evil corporate overlords are selling Valentine's Day gifts already? Do you believe capitalism is ruining holidays like Christmas and Easter? Do you write angry blog posts to fight the power? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please tell us how dying alone is working out for you. The truth is, Adam Smith's invisible hand isn't ruining our holidays—people like you are.

Yes, the purpose of corporations is to get us to buy their crap—even if it means putting ads in front of urinals. They are the incarnation of greed on this earth and are responsible for lots of horrible things. But in regards to Valentine's Day, they've done a world more good than harm.

For example, the true purpose of St Patrick's Day is to celebrate the Roman Catholics beating the crap out of the other religions. Thanks to the power of festive green money, it's now become a time to celebrate friendships and Irish culture—and drinking Valentine's Day, on the other hand, is about celebrating the martyrdom of St Valentine, who was burned to death by the Romans. I think the celebration of love is a much more fitting tribute to him.

## Gold Key Society Recognition Award



The Students' Union Gold Key Award was created by the Students' Union President Tevie Miller in 1950 and is intended to recognize the best on campus; those who contribute most to making the University of Alberta a better place through their outstanding work in extra-curricular activities. This honour is bestowed on those people who contribute greatly to the campus community.

All members of the campus community are eligible for the award with the exception of the Students' Union Executive. The Gold Key Awards Committee shall have the discretion to award a number of Gold Key Recognition Awards. Notwithstanding other involvements, participation in Student Government, Volunteer Activities, Student Organizations, Student Services, and Community Involvement may be considered.

**Application deadline is January 23, 2007 at 5pm**

Applications are available at all InfoLink Desks, Faculty Offices, International House, 2-900 SUB and online at, [www.su.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/awards)

For more information contact  
492-4236 or [ea@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:ea@su.ualberta.ca)

