



CONALPIERSE

Cloning dinosaurs would usher in an era of pure awesomeness



DAVID JOHNSTON

“If the U of A can cure diabetes, cancer and AIDS, then they can surely whip out a few reborn fossils if we throw enough money at them. Now that’s how you celebrate a centennial. It’s a pity no one thought of this idea last week, because it would’ve won someone a guaranteed seat in the SU.”

My brother is obsessed with dinosaurs, to the point where entering his room is like stepping into the Mesozoic era—and if I didn’t know better, I’d say he had the reptilian version of a furry fetish. It’s a cute obsession that’s mildly offset by the fact that he’s currently 19 years old—but that’s another story.

At any rate, it was his birthday this week, and his list had “subservient dinosaur underling” written at the top. “Well,” I told him, “I can’t clone a dinosaur for you, but I can write an article that’ll convince everybody on campus to donate their life savings to dinosaur-cloning research. What do you think?”

“Dinosaurs!” he replied. That’s actually all he says these days—we’re thinking of bringing in a specialist. At any rate, I think he was nodding, so I knew what I had to do. I went straight to the top authority on dinosaur cloning (whoever came up first on Google) and then watched *Jurassic Park* and *Jurassic Park III*, so I now rightfully consider myself an expert in all forms of DNA manipulation, my C- in Biology 107 notwithstanding.

It’s actually a lot simpler than you think. The “retrieve-DNA-from-fossilized-mosquito-blood-and-clone-dinosaurs” theory Michael Crichton hacked together was surprisingly feasible, and aside from the heavy degradation of the chromosomes that would have occurred, the lack of viable dinosaur egg cells to implant the nucleotides, and the fact that most of the mosquitoes weren’t around in the same period as the dinosaurs in the first place, the theory is totally sound—and I figure those are just minor technical quibbles that can be fixed with a little more research and development.

I mean, we thought putting a real live man into space was impossible, and now here we are in an era when they’ll charge you for launching a real dead man out there. Times sure have changed, and it’s all thanks to the miracle of government funding.

If the U of A can cure diabetes, cancer, and AIDS, then they can surely whip out a few reborn fossils if we throw enough money at them. Now that’s how you celebrate a centennial. It’s a pity no one thought

of this idea last week, because it would’ve won someone a guaranteed seat in the SU. “I pledge to reanimate dinosaurs” is a much better campaign platform than promising to turn the Powerplant into a pool hall, casino, discount shoe outlet, or whatever else the latest money-sucking alternative might be.

And if science and politics aren’t enough to convince you, think about how much bloody fun it would be to have a dinosaur of your very own. You could ride around on them, bring them to class, and smite your enemies. I’d totally get a triceratops and name him “Horny”—because he has horns, you see—and then I’d pet him and my friends would ask if I was feeling Horny today, and then we’d laugh because that’s the kind of high-brow humour we find funny.

So there you see my point, which, if I recall correctly, is that we need to fund dinosaur cloning immediately and with no reservations. If we start now, we can all have raptors sitting under the tree come Christmas morning. Which will be good, since then I won’t have to get my brother two gifts this year, and I can splurge on beer.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Let them smoke in peace

Thank you for the article pointing out the tendency of people to single out smokers as being the primary cause of public health concerns (re: “Where there’s smoke, there’s bigots,” 28 February).

Indeed, I have also noticed smokers as targets for approachable subjects in public space as being asked to justify their choice. While I don’t promote smoking and understand its ill effects, non-smokers who so actively oppose the act of it in public should be happy that, with the direction the government’s moving, it will soon be legal to buy, sell, and possess

tobacco products, but not smoke them.

I’m sure it will probably be better to force smokers to remain inside their cars with the windows closed or inside their private homes (possibly with children around) instead of letting them smoke outside in any kind of outdoor “public” space.

Secondly, just for the record, while the local media was quick to jump on the unofficial report of the Black Dog fire as being ignited by a careless cigarette in a trash can before the investigators had even met with all necessary staff, it should be noted that in fact, the fire actually began as a result of an electrical problem.

DM
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author’s name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

If you’re a fan of Toilet Duck, be sure to let us know; if not, then let me know so I can lay down the toilet-paper shield.

And thanks for all the letters!



Globe is *NOT* closing!
Globe is staying *OPEN*
Globe is *OPEN* Tues-Sat

- TUESDAY PUB NIGHT**
- WEDNESDAY WING NIGHT**
34 flavours, 35¢ each
- HALF-PRICE THURSDAY**
everything is half price!
- FRIDAY & SATURDAY**
Edmonton’s best & most consistent party 5 years straight & still going strong!

**\$4 SHOTS TIL 10PM
& NO COVER!!!**



**10045.109 STREET
PHONE 780.426.7111**