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# Dinosaurs most misunderstood creatures, specialist explains

United Press International  
BALTIMORE — Dinosaurs are the most misunderstood creatures in history, according to a Johns Hopkins University specialist.  
Paleobiologist Robert Bakker said the popular notion is wrong that the prehistoric predators were cold-blooded animals who over-ate themselves into extinction.  
Bakker has used modern scientific tools to demonstrate that the dinosaur's use of body energy and its

bone structure are identical to warm-blooded creatures such as mammals and birds.  
His studies into the predator-prey ratio of dinosaurs demonstrate that like all warm-blooded animals, dinosaurs used only a small portion of their food intake for body cell reproduction. The majority of the food was used for energy production to keep warm and move.  
The low energy-efficiency rate, a persuasive argument that dinosaurs

were warm-blooded creatures, corroborates other studies in the last ten years that the bone structure of dinosaurs is identical to warm-blooded animals.  
Bakker said the dinosaurs became extinct because they were too specialized and couldn't cope with changing environmental conditions.  
"The big, successful animals were killed off in the weather changes of the Earth," said Bakker. "The dinosaur went extinct because it didn't

replace itself, as the weather killed them off."  
Mountain-building and sea-falling, which happens all over the world constantly, limit the formation of new species and the most highly evolved, delicate species are the most vulnerable.  
The dinosaurs didn't grow too big for themselves, or kill each other off, or get too dumb to eat, or too weak to move, as is popularly believed.  
Bakker also said the popular myths that dinosaurs were replaced by superior creatures called mammals, including man, is inaccurate.

"Actually, dinosaurs and mammals started about the same time but the dinosaurs grew so much larger and stronger faster," said Bakker.  
Bakker disagrees with Charles Darwin's ideas about the survival of the fittest as far as dinosaurs are concerned.  
Bakker said Darwin, who wrote in the mid-1850's, did not have many facts about dinosaurs at his disposal when he formulated his theories of evolution.

"As a result, Darwin's theories on the survival of the fittest are actually short-term theories because of the limited facts he had to deal with. The long-term survival of species gives you a very different pattern of life and death. The most successful animals for a short-term, like the dinosaurs, are the most vulnerable long-term," said Bakker.

Bakker pointed to the alligator as an example of a species that has remained the same for thousands of years and is not very vulnerable to environmental changes.  
The alligator, a cold-blooded creature, efficiently uses the majority of its food intake for cell growth rather than internal energy production.

## Administrators seminar set for July 17

About 30 of the newest administrators in higher education are coming to Texas A&M University July 17 to attend the 11th annual academic administration summer seminar, a leadership program designed to familiarize them with the new territory and sharpen decision-making skills.

The opening address will be Monday at 9 a.m. on third floor of Rudder Tower.

During the first two of the day-long sessions, the new administrators — from directors and department heads to presidents — will receive a comprehensive analysis of needs and issues facing Texas higher education now and in the near future.

The balance of the seminar is devoted to topics aimed at strengthening the participant's expertise in aspects of governance, management, government relations, legal matters and decision-making.

## A&M department needs volunteers for smoker study

Texas A&M University researchers are seeking some pack-a-day cigarette smokers for continuation of an experiment that began in March.  
Smokers will be reimbursed for the cigarettes they buy during the study. The researchers are looking for people who have been smoking a pack or more of cigarettes a day for several years.

Volunteers will monitor their own smoking habits and be asked various questions.

Interested persons should contact the Texas A&M Psychology Department (845-2581) and leave their name and telephone number. Dr. Larry Christensen or Doug Ris will contact them.

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