

# Def Leppard apologizes for anti-Hispanic comment

United Press International  
 EL MONTE, Calif. — The lead singer for the English rock group Def Leppard Tuesday presented checks for \$15,000 to five groups serving Hispanics and apologized for calling El Paso, "that place with all the greasy Mexicans."

Singer Joe Elliott, 24, outraged Hispanics with his statement about the west Texas border town during a Sept. 7 concert by the heavy metal group in Tucson, Ariz.

He later apologized, saying that as an Englishman he didn't realize the nature of the statement.

"This is a lot harder to do than a gig," Elliott said at a news conference in the predominantly Hispanic Los Angeles suburb of El Monte. "I would like to

publicly apologize. The statement was entirely unintentional and was said during a highly emotional part of the concert when I was trying to increase audience participation. It was patently false."

Elliott maintains that he does not remember making the statement and was unaware of the subsequent controversy until he was informed about it while on tour in Japan.

"My only excuse, although I am English and have spent most of the last three years in this country, is that most of what I have learned about Americans is through the media. But I know that all Englishmen are not secret agents or long-haired rock stars."

"The last thing Mexican-Americans need as they try to rid

themselves of the stereotype is for me or anyone else to make such statements. It was stupid of me to make such a false accusation."

The predominantly Mexican-American audience packed into a room in City Hall appeared to accept Elliott's apology, breaking into applause at the end of his statement.

The blond-haired Elliott, dressed in black leather pants and wearing a T-shirt with the inscription "Rock till you drop dead," then posed for photographers with his arm around a young boy in a wheelchair from one of the organizations that will benefit from the group's donations. He also kissed a woman from another of the organizations.

After his statement about El Paso, a number of radio stations in that city temporarily stopped playing Def Leppard music and the League of United Latin American Citizens called for a national boycott of the group.

Elliott agreed to fly to Los Angeles from Paris Tuesday af-

ter state Sen. Joseph Montoya's office contacted the management of Def Leppard to inform them they had received numerous calls from concerned constituents regarding the statement.

"I believe that he was unaware of the sensitive nature of his comment and that he truly regrets having made the statement," Montoya said. "Joe has demonstrated his sincerity by being here today to personally present checks to five local charities that primarily serve the Hispanic community."

Elliott was scheduled to fly to Mexico City later in the day to convey his regrets over his statement.

Def Leppard has released three albums, including their latest album, "Pyromania," which the group's manager Cliff Burnstein said has sold five million copies — more than any album in the United States this year.



Striking away

Michael Sanchez, Battalion

Corrie Bergeron, a senior industrial education major, left, and William Pinson, a junior philosophy major, practice for combat like knights in

the middle ages. Bergeron and Pinson are members for the Society for Creative Anacronism which conducts Medieval studies.

## Remains of dinosaurs found near Lubbock

United Press International  
 WASHINGTON — Fossils of a previously unknown type of dinosaur and a possible ancestor of the giant Tyrannosaurus rex have been found in 200-million-year-old rock southeast of Lubbock by a Texas Tech University field party, the National Geographic Society says.

The area is rocky and arid today but during the Triassic Period, 200 million years ago, it was lush with vegetation and many lakes, rivers and ponds. Paleontologist Sankar Chatter-

jee, director of the group, said the animals probably were drowned in a flash flood, then covered by mud and debris that preserved their remains.

Dinosaurs made their appearance during the Triassic and by the middle of the period outnumbered all other kinds of reptiles.

Chatterjee, whose research is supported by the National Geographic Society, said the new type of dinosaur discovered in the quarry was identified by a 4-inch-long piece of upper jaw with teeth. He said the creature

apparently was about 4 feet and ran on its hind legs to escape predators.

"The find is important because the dinosaur represents the earliest form of an ornithomimid or bird-hipped type dinosaur," Chatterjee said.

National Geographic Society's Chatterjee believes he has found the reptile ancestor of Tyrannosaurus, a giant dinosaur 50 feet long and 20 feet high. The find is much smaller, about 2 feet long from snout to tail, had dagger-like teeth, powerful jaws and curved claws.

The Texas Tech group, which calls the creature Ornithomimid, reported the complete skeleton of a sub-adult and two young of the remains of eight other juveniles.

"The discovery of so many together suggests that Ornithomimid was hunted in a pack and cared for its young before they were old enough to set off on their own," Chatterjee said.

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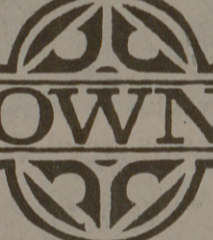
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