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**The Battalion** 

Thursday, March 23, 1989

# **Bakker claims dinosaurs** were not really big lizards Scientist's theory makes colleagues think again

#### **By Andrea Warrenburg**

#### REPORTER

Although the word dinosaur means "terrible lizard,' dinosaur scientist Dr. Robert Bakker says birds are the dinosaurs closest living relatives.

Bakker, whose theories are causing worldwide rethinking in the field, spoke to a crowd of about 300 Tuesday night as part of the University Lecture Series sponsored by the College of Science. Curator of the paleontology museum at the Univer-sity of Colorado since 1983, Bakker describes dinosaurs and the colorfol unaw blocked creatives are proposed to

as fleet, colorful, warm-blooded creatures as opposed to the traditional view of dinosaurs as the slow, gray, coldblooded monsters of the past.

The era of the dinosaurs lasted about 150 million years, he said. The average species of dinosaur only walked the earth one to one-and-a-half million years before it became extinct. During the entire span, there were as many as 80 to 100 replacements of the same species. Bakker said many factors previously unstudied contribute to this rapid rate.

He said the bumps, scales and horns on dinosaurs' skulls and backs were not only for protection, but were visual signals for species recognition, gender and social ole of the animal. Because dinosaurs were not colorblind like most mammals are, the creatures probably were enhanced with color to intimidate one gender and attract the other gender, he said.

Large resonance chambers also made "singing dinosaurs" possible to attract the opposite sex, he said. "Paleontologists are reluctant to look at these visual and auditory signals as seductive or attractive," Bakker

But rapid reproduction and growth are important to

rapid evolution, he said. "If you look at the fossil bone record of a dinosaur and compare it to a cold-blooded tortoise, which takes 40 to 50 years to mature, you will find that a dinosaur grows and matures much, much faster," he said. "In the physiology of growth, dinosaurs have dense vascularization that occurs only in warm-blooded, large mammals today

Bakker said dinosaurs such as the Tyrannosaurus Rex had snake-like eating habits, swallowing prey up to one-fifth of the animal's 10,000-pound weight. This refutes the previously held beliefs that the Tyrannosau-rus ripped it's prey with razor sharp teeth.

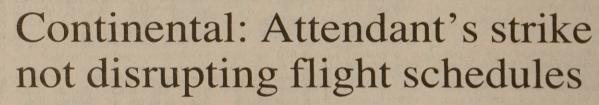
"The T-Rex could expand it's head and jaw like birds and snakes," Bakker said. "And snakes are the fastest evolving creatures on earth."

Dinosaur footprints show bird-like patterns with quicker speeds than previously believed, he said. The fleet-of-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex could reach speeds of 40 miles per hour. Footprints also show adults constantly surrounding their young, indicating maternal investment.

Birds are the only creatures with a separate optimal canal, present also in the skull fossils of the T-Rex

"Dinosaurs are in fact not extinct because the birds are their relatives," Bakker said.

A scientific lecture, "Suboptimal Evolution," will be given by Bakker at noon Thursday in Room 601 Rud-der.



HOUSTON (AP) - Continental ily cancellations out of 1,400 total Airlines officials preparing for heavy Easter travel dismissed the ef-

went on strike over contract disputes March 4. Miami-based Eastern, which has filed for bankruptcy protection, has been virtually shut down after its pilots and flight attendants honored the Machinists strike.

Both Eastern and Continental are owned by Houston-based Texas Air Corp.

For the second time in three days, Lewis Jordan, Continental's chief operating officer and executive vice president, called a news conference to refute claims made by the Union chanical cancellation, a weather of Flight Attendants.

"We believe that the traveling public during this busy holiday season has a right to know the truth," age of a said Jordan, who maintained that member the strike which began Monday morning is not disturbing service.

flights system-wide from March 1-19 and an average of 12 cancellations

For all of our cancellations . . . not one of (them) is as a result of a shortage of a flight attendant or crew member.

> - Lewis Jordan, **Continental CEO**

cancellation or any other cause," Jordan said. "And not one of those cancellations is as a result of a shortage of a flight attendant or crew

flight attendants union, however, He provided a chart indicating contradicted Jordan's statistics say-the carrier has had an average 27 da-ing there have been numerous contradicted Jordan's statistics say-

cancellations and delays caused by the walkout.

neavy Easter travel dismissed the ef-fects of a flight attendants' strike Wednesday, saying the walkout is not disturbing service despite union claims of delays and cancellations. The company also claims the strike was called at the request of the Eastern Airlines Machinists, who went on strike over contract disputes caused by the three-day strike.

Jordan also boasted the Houstonpercent.

But Hobbs, a Continental flight the company's completion rates.

has never been at that rate. I can't remember us being in the high 90s in normal situations

also differed drastically on the number of attendants not reporting to work

Hobbs claims 1,200-1,300 attendants have walked off the job, while Continental said only 180 were strik-

### A&M creating math program with Costa Rica

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By Ashley A. Bailey

STAFF WRITER

Dr. Juan Esquivel, Director the Research Institute for the Improvement of Costa Rican Educa tion, visited Texas A&M for four days this week to further the development of the Costa Rica-/Texas A&M University Program, COSTAMU.

Dr. James R. Boone, A&M mathematics professor and founder of the COSTAMU program, said the program will es tablish ongoing enhancement and support activities in math-ematics which will involve A&M and various organizations in Costa Rica.

'Scholarly visits and research exchanges of a collaborative na ture with Costa Rican scholars, in positions of leadership in educa-tion and research in math, will constitute the majority of the program," Boone said.

Boone said it is essential for the economic and political future of Costa Rica that a mathematical scientifically and technologically literate population be maintained

"This program is designed to assist these efforts by providing active direct links between leaders in mathematics from both coun tries," he said.

Program activities were selected during a needs-assessment visit to Costa Rica that Boone made last May. The activities are in direct response to needs that were identified by several Costa Rican mathematics leaders, he said

The initial phase of the COS TAMU program, consisting of the mathematics project, is the cornerstone project for the extension of this program, Boone said, because math knowledge is an integral part of the sciences.

Ultimately, the program will include science and technology education, scientific collaborative research projects with short-and long-term visits and graduate studies, he said.

Esquivel said three major areas of mathematics and science education need improvement. "We desperately need an inser-

vice training program for el ementary and secondary tea chers," Esquivel said. "We need to make a great effort in that area. day, pro

"It is expensive, but the Min-istry of Education just founded a center for inservice teaching, which is working with the univer sities on the inservice effort. We need to do a lot more, though."

The second area needing im-provement is the collegiate levels of math and science education, he

Robert "We need to have new young this mon people come to the United States or other countries to get graduate swers fr degrees in science and math edusaid in : cation," Esquivel said.

"These people are the ones

who are going to prepare new teachers, so the role of Texas

A&M and other universities in

helping Costa Rica is important."

The final area of needed im-

provement, Esquivel said, is in the

Philip Hobbs, a spokesman for the

**Doctors re-evaluate profit-sharing system** 

based carrier registered a 99.3 percent completion rate Monday and Tuesday on its scheduled flights, better than their usual goal of 98.3

attendant for six years, questioned

"It's hard for me to believe," he said. "Under normal operations it

Continental and union officials

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EL PASO (AP) — A partnership of about 140 doctors that owns two El Paso hospitals is re-evaluating the way it shares profits with doctors for referring privately insured patients to the hospitals.

El Paso Healthcare System's arrangement allows doctors to profit directly by referring patients to Sun Tow-ers Hospital, Vista Hills Medical Center, three MedPlus clinics and two medical laboratories, all of which the partnership owns.

Under the company's profit-sharing plan, doctors could get more money for ordering unnecessary tests at the medical labs, and they were discouraged financially from referring non-insured patients to Sun Towers and Vista Hills.

At a meeting with the doctor-partners last week, El Paso Healthcare System's president, Russell Schneider, discussed altering the profit-sharing plan in light of a new statement on ethics by the Texas Medical Association.

He said we're going to revise it to conform with the TMA," said Lorenzo Monsivais, business manager for his brother, Dr. Jose Monsivais. "If it's unethical, I know there's a whole bunch of (doctors) who are going to pull out.'

The Texas Medical Association's ethics statement earlier this month was a clarification and did not rep-

resent a change in the group's position, spokesman Lisa Stark Walsh said Tuesday

The association added one sentence to its guidelines on doctors' ownership of hospitals and clinics, stating that profit-sharing "should be based on capital investment" and not on referral of patients. The amplification is a restatment of the American Medical Association's position on the ethics of referral fees and kickbacks.

Donald "Rocky" Wilcox, chief counsel for the Texas Medical Association, said he has discussed the need for changes in the profit-distribution system with an attorney for Columbia Hospital Corp. of Fort Worth, of which El Paso Healthcare System is a subsidiary.

"It's very possible they will attempt to restructure their arrangement," Willcox said.

Willcox said he has advised the El Paso County Medical Society to investigate the ethical aspects of the profit-sharing arrangement, and that the state medical association will if the county medical society doesn't.

Robin Weinman, executive director of the society said the society's Board of Censors is studying the issue.

More than 20 percent of El Paso's 650 doctors are limited partners in El Paso Healthcare System. Half the doctors get profit shares based on individual referrals to the hospitals, labs and clinics.

### Investment

#### (Continued from page 3)

the Bahamas and \$61,500 to share. A&M's first place winner, Greg Van Buskirk, a senior marketing major, closed at \$641,904 and ranked 358th. He earned a 28 per-

cent return, converting to a 112 percent annual return. Van Buskirk said his success came

from targeting two or three stocks and thoroughly understanding them.

At the beginning, I tried to hold varied portfolio of stocks," Van Buskirk said. "After the first month, I noticed that some students were putting all their money in one or two stocks and getting lucky.

"I ended up keying in on two or three stocks and getting to know them well. Most of it (my success) was in really understanding those few stocks and not trying to do ev-erything at once. I also looked out for mergers and acquisitions. I made most of my money with Reebok.

"During the first few months, I

went down \$70,000 in one day. But once I got on a strategy that worked with me, it worked out pretty well."

A&M's second place winner, David Leboe, a senior accounting major, closed at \$623,536 and ranked 449th out of the total participants. He earned a 25 percent return, con-verting to a 99 percent annual return.

Chris Wilkes, an A&M business graduate student, won third place among the 50 A&M students partici-pating, closing at \$611,625 and ranking 534th out of the 11,000 students who played. He said the game provided a good opportunity for business students.

"A lot of business students wonder if they can make money through investments," Wilkes said. "This game gives students an opportunity to perform quite well.

Some students bombed. One A&M student lost over half of his money and some students from other universities went bankrupt. However, the top winner earned more than \$2 million.

"If you can earn \$1 for every \$5 in

four months, in just over a year, you can double your money. The difficulty is that we did it for four months, but could we do it for another four? We made some good decisions, but a whole lot of it was luck.

Wilkes said he earned a 22 percent return during the game, which converts to an 88 percent annual return. His strategy was to invest in what he saw to be takeover stocks, meaning if those companies were managed differently, they would perform better.

Wilkes said he invested in three stocks: RJR Nabisco, West Point Pepperel and Hospital Corporation of America.

He bought RJR Nabisco stock at \$89 per share and sold it last month at \$109 per share.

Similarly, he bought West Point Pepperel at \$42 per share and sold it at \$57 per share.

Hospital Corporation of America stock remained virtually the same, increasing by only 75 cents throughout the four months.

Wilkes said a difference between

Adams. long-term solution for better math and science research. Co "It is in the future of course." he said. "It will take a long time to prepare the people, but through cor

initial projects in the COS-TAMU program it will be possible

Boone said, "If we're (A&M) going to be involved in Central America in a productive way, it'll be in Costa Rica because the people are receptive, and they have a progressive and enlightened view of the world and their own situation.

Boone will return to Costa Rica in May to finalize plans for the COSTAMU program.

playing the game and investing actual money was evident.

"When you're interested in winning this game, you want to gain quickly," he said. "It's a lot of high risk for short-term gain. However, true financial analyst would think more toward long-term gain at lower risks.

Van Buskirk said he enjoyed playing the game.

"I've always been interested in the stock market, but this is the first time I've done anything like this," he said. By the time the Challenge was over, I had graphs of stocks all over my wall

"One of the big things I learned was keying in on stocks that sell for under \$10 because any little movement, even one-eighth of point, can make \$20,000 or \$30,000."

Van Buskirk said participating in the game provided him with valuable practical experience.

"I understand the stock market so much more than I did before," he said. "You don't get that kind of understanding in the classroom."

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