

David Miller

Snow storms. Nothing causes more excitement than a snow storm at this campus. I rather suspect that there are two basic reasons for this. Firstly, when you are a kid, the prospect of a good snow storm is absolutely delicious. All you can think of is the prospect of a day off school, lots of snow to slide in, and snow-men and snow-forts to build.

At that age you are unencumbered with the disadvantages of snow. The fact that it has to be shovelled or pushed out of the way of paths, driveways and roads. The absolute bitch of driving is snow when you have to go somewhere.

Secondly, whether or not the administration actually gets around to doing it, classes seem to cancel themselves.

People spend so much time trying to find out whether classes are cancelled that they don't have time to actually go to any classes.

The SUB fills up with students and school children alike. People hole up in the SUB to play cards and other games in the blue lounge, freeze in the coffee shop and listen to CHSR radio.

A good snow storm also affects The Brunswickan, because the staff gets too lazy to write stories in a snow storm.

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On the good old US of A educational system, some interesting information on something else from one's childhood came my way this week. Dinosaurs.

The only time I can really remember actually studying dinosaurs was when I was in grade 4, in the New Brunswick school system. I think that this is a shame.

In fact, until sometime in fourth year the only hard notions I had about dinosaurs were that [1] they were big but not as big as a blue whale, [2] they were cold blooded and slow, and [3] they all died from causes ranging from a disease, another ice age, and/or competition from mammals.

That certainly isn't very much information to accumulate over sixteen years of school about a very successful group of animals.

At any rate new thoughts are around us to the type of animals dinosaurs actually were. The bulk of the evidence shows that dinosaurs were actually warm blooded creatures. This actually serves to explain their success.

The information is comprised in three basic ideas. [1] Core bone cells of mammals are large oval cells, permeated with many blood capillaries. Bone cells of reptiles, cold blooded animals have relatively undifferentiated bone cells and few if any capillaries. Bone cells of dinosaurs, as recorded in fossil remains, are large oval cells permeated with capillaries.

[2] An analysis of large mammals of today shows that they need cooling fins. A good example of this would be the ears of an elephant.

Most people are familiar with the rather preposterous looking dinosaur called Stegasaurus. He had an odd looking row of diamond-shaped plates arranged in two staggered rows along his back.

These plates have large holes in their base which are suitable for large arteries. Further, wind-tunnel experiments with a cylindrical object approximating the surface area of Stegasaurus have shown that a staggered row of diamond-shaped plates along the dorsal surface is the most efficient configuration for cooling!

[3] The last area of investigation has to do with predator/prey relationships. A lion pride is very small in number compared to the antelope herd which supports it. This is because the lion needs lots of meat to create heat and energy.

A similar weight crocodile requires about one eighth as much food as the lion. This is because the crocodile is an ectotherm and it gets much of its heat from the environment.

As a result the crocodile population can be larger for a given food base than the warm-blooded lion.

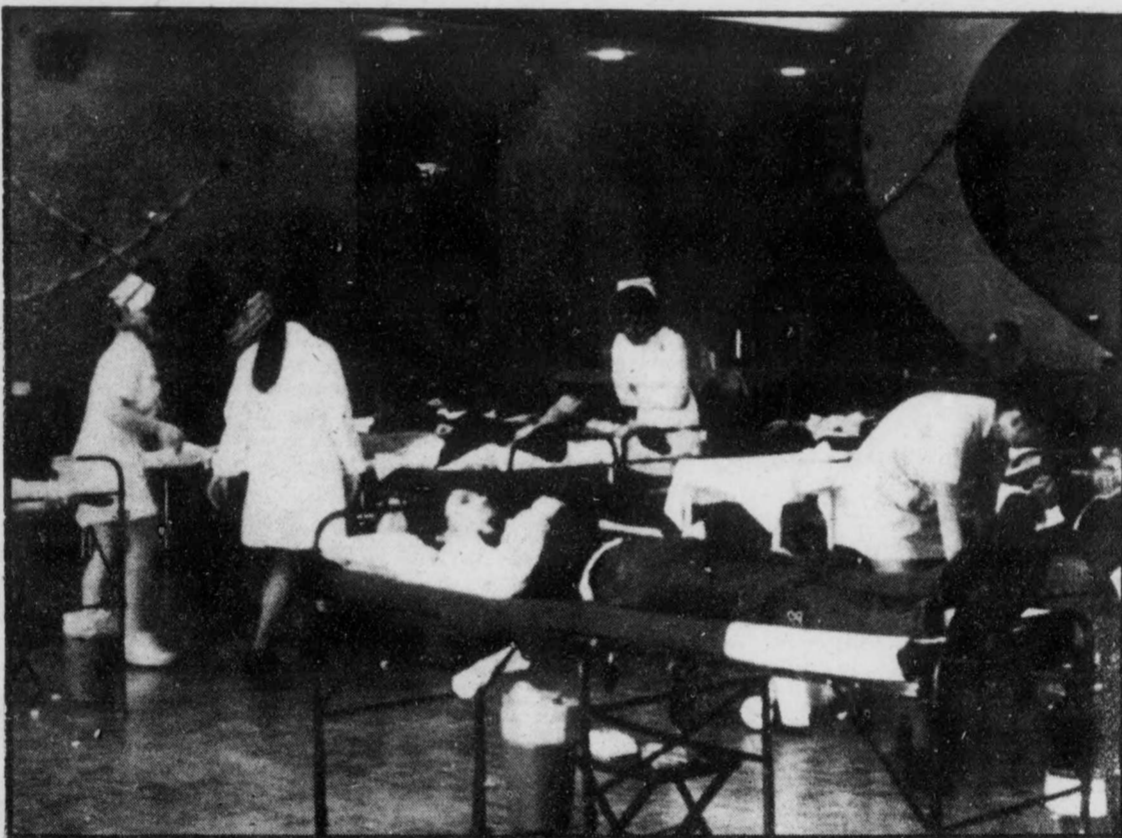
The predator/prey relationship of dinosaurs can be determined by analysing fossils in a given stratum. Consistently the evidence shows that the predator/prey relationship of dinosaurs was that of a warm-blooded species.

The last notion to consider here is that dinosaurs didn't become extinct, but they simply evolved into birds. There is little doubt that birds come from some dinosaur species because of the presence of a fossil bird called Archaeopteryx which, except for feathers closely resembles some small-boned dinosaurs.

Doesn't it make your heart feel good to look up in the sky and see the descendants of the great dinosaurs? There is even a school of thought which maintains that mammals evolved from the dinosaurs, but there is a controversy whether we branched off before the birds or with them. Dinosaur power!

Blood donors wanted

Clinic planned this month



Relax! This isn't a mass emergency, merely a preview of the next Red Cross Blood Donor's Clinic. The Clinic will be held January 24, 25 and 26 at the SUB Ballroom.

By JOHN MCCLUSKEY

This year's second Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic will be held on January 24, 25, and 26. Times have been slightly altered in an attempt to accommodate as many students as possible. Monday's clinic starts at 1:30 goes to 4:30 and an evening session is also planned to go from 6:30-9:00p.m. Tuesday's clinics are geared to students time schedules in that the clinic will begin at 12:00 to allow students to drop in over their lunch period. The mid-day clinic will go until 3:00 and a second evening session from 6:30-9:30 is planned. The last day of the clinic, Wednesday, January 26, will run from 9:30-12:00 and will finish with a final afternoon session

from 1:30-4:40. The three day clinic has again been expected to generate 600 or more donations. A competition between CHSR and Bruns members for 1) the fastest bleeder and 2) the club with the biggest proportion of members donating is planned to bring about some enthusiasm.

Once again give-a-ways will be in effect culminating with a donation from Radio Shack of a tape-cassette recorder. All donors will be eligible for this final draw so be sure your name is included! Anyone interested in volunteering to work the clinic hours should leave a message in the Pre-Med mail box at the SRC business office or call John McCluskey at 455-0984 or Tanya

Barrett at 455-2580.

Other business arising from our General Meeting includes our annual trip to Dalhousie Medical and Dental School facilities. The trip is planned to start at 1:00 Thursday, Feb. 10 and the return date is 6:00 o'clock Saturday, Feb. 12. Again anyone interested in going who has not notified our Society should do so through the above contacts. If room is available, persons interested in an inexpensive means of travel will be welcomed to come along.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 8, to finalize travel plans and finish up any loose ends so if anyone is interested, they are urged to attend this very important meeting.

expansion

CUP reps reach impasse

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- Representatives of Canadian student newspapers reached an impasse on the proposed expansion of their national organization at their 39th annual conference here Dec. 26 to Jan. 2.

The narrow defeat of a proposal to make a wire network the main method of moving news within Canadian University Press (CUP), the national news co-operative, resulted in a call for a special conference to be held March 18-20.

Making the wire service a priority was part of a series of proposals for the second phase of CUP's multi-year plan, approved at the 1975 conference in Montreal and a special meeting in March 1976 in Ottawa.

The main thrust of the second phase is the establishment of five

regional bureaus across the country, to which delegates here agreed. Bureaus currently exist in Vancouver and Montreal.

However, papers from Ontario and the Prairies did not feel the prime function of bureaus should be the exchange of news--the emphasis of the existing bureaus. CUP's Ontario region decided it wanted a reporter in the provincial legislature while most from the prairies were looking for technical assistance from their bureau.

A majority of papers from British Columbia, Quebec and the Maritimes saw bureaus facilitating the exchange of news through the use of telex.

The various regions will hold conferences to come up with concrete proposals on CUP's expansion for discussion at the

March meeting where they will decide when, where and for what purpose five bureaus will be established.

Delegates also elected the 1977-78 national executive who will staff the main office in Ottawa beginning April 1. They are, president: Susan Johnson (Atlantic fieldworker), vice-president/educational affairs reporter: Sue Vahanka (Ubysey), national affairs reporter: Ann Silversides (Varsity), bureau chief: Larry Black (McGill Daily), wire editor: Dave Colburn (Ontario fieldworker).

A new position, business manager, was created at the conference. The incoming national executive will hire a person to fill that position.