

Casts tell fossil story

by Kevin Stewart

The best way to learn about fossils and artifacts is to handle the material — but if the material is from ancient humans, it may not be easy to obtain. Because of this, the Department of Anthropology has a collection of over 1200 fossil casts and about 350 stone tools.

A cast is a copy of a fossil used for study when the original is unavailable. Since hominid (human) fossils are extremely rare, casts of new fossils are made to be distributed to other institutions. Depending on how important the fossil is, it takes about two years for its cast to be made available.

The U of A collection has casts from Transvaal Museum (South Africa), National Museum of Kenya, University of Colorado and Carolina Biological Supply Company. Also, the Department may lend and borrow casts from other institutions.

The casts represent fossils that range in age from 65 m.y. (millions of years) to 5000 years old. The oldest are teeth from the earliest known primate *Purgatorius*, and the most recent from modern humans. Although there are some relatively complete specimens, most are teeth and fragments of the thickest parts of jaws, since these parts are the most easily preserved.

The collection has Miocene pri-



Author Stewart and skeletal monkey

mates, *Gigantopithecus* and *Sivapithecus*, for example, and direct ancestors of humans: the Taung Child and other australopithecines. The genus of modern man, *Homo*, is represented by many skulls.

The collection also includes several articulated skeletons such as monkeys, a tree shrew, a human fetus and a human skull.

Not all of the casts represent bones. For example, the Laetoli footprint casts are footprints made by fully erect hominids over 3 million years ago, preserved in volcanic ash. Also present is the endocast

(fossil brain) of the Taung Child. There is a large cast collection of obsidian tools, projectile points, and North African stone tools.

The casts are used for demonstration and display purposes, for anthropology students, and for research by advanced honors and graduate students. The collection is not open to the public, but some of the casts can be seen in display cabinets on the first floor of the Tory Building. They represent a fascinating glimpse into the fossil history of the human race.

ACT winds up again

by Gateway staff

The Anti-Cutbacks Team for 1988 will be holding its executive elections Friday, January 29th.

The ACT is the more unconventional arm of the Students' Union lobby effort on government and has employed such tactics as student demonstrations at the legislature, a wake for education, as well as petition and letter writing campaigns in the past.

Last year's ACT campaign caused a bitter dispute between the ACT executive and the Students' Union executive prompting Martin Levenson, then Chair of ACT and also External Commissioner to conclude "the Students' Union established the anti-cutbacks team in order to be seen as addressing a student concern, as opposed to actually doing something."

Four students to a house

WATERLOO (CUP) — The student council at the University of Waterloo fought the city of London and lost \$24,000 and their case in an attempt to stop the city from enforcing a by-law which limits the number of unrelated persons who can occupy the same residential dwelling.

After a four-day hearing in December, the Ontario Municipal Board ruled that it was within the jurisdiction of the city to enact the bylaw which is used mainly to control the numbers of students living in a house.

"I'm quite certain the city has a list of the potential cases that they will go after now that it is enforced," said Allan Williams, president of Western's student council.

The student council challenged the by-law, which limits the number of unrelated persons in the same dwelling to four, on the grounds that it was not well-researched and would not address residents' concerns about noise, property and parking standards.

Williams said the student council has until January 28 to decide whether, or not to appeal to the OMB ruling to a district court or the Supreme Court of Ontario.

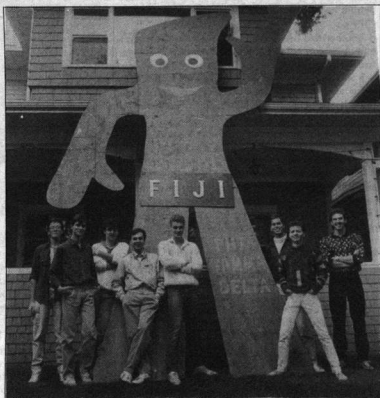
Meanwhile, an Ontario government MPP has introduced legislation which would prohibit municipalities from passing by-laws which limit the number of unrelated persons who can occupy the same residential dwelling.

Cam Jackson, Progressive Conservative MPP for Burlington South, said his private member's bill is aimed at exclusionary by-laws now in force in at least six university cities in Ontario.

"It's clear that these by-laws discriminate against post-secondary students who share accommoda-

tion," said Jackson. "If the bill is passed, exclusionary by-laws will be of no force and effect, regardless of the OMB's London ruling."

In an election survey last fall, all three provincial parties said they would challenge a municipality's right to enforce exclusionary by-laws.



In Waterloo, communal fraternity houses are prohibited by bylaw

Russell addressed

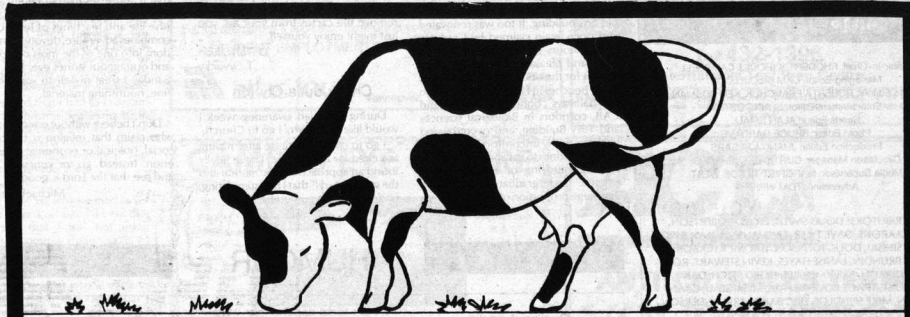
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The forum would include student leaders, university leaders, university staff, business leaders, government, and representatives of other interested groups.

Petryk, however, noted that Russell "seems undecided about it. He needs a reason for it to happen." He added that they hoped to show Russell that the forum would not be "just a lobby forum for students, but we would hopefully form some kind of consensus over where education should go."

Russell was also asked about the present 10 percent ceiling on tuition increases. The University of Alberta administration has suggested it may be asking for the ceiling to be increased to 20 per cent, but according to Petryk, "It sounded like Russell was going to hold it (at the present level) or even lower it."

Lethbridge was curious as to the effects of its lobbying efforts, and according to Slemko, Russell "has noticed the lobbying." Slemko attributed this to the effort they have put in, and encouraged other schools, "don't give up that fight."



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