

# Island a fossil paradise

## England's Isle of Wight hot spot for dinosaur bones

BROOK, England (AP) — Nestled off southern England, a picturesque island is evolving into one of the world's great dinosaur fossil discovery sites.

Mention the Isle of Wight to most Britons, and they'll think only of sailboats and beach holidays. But to paleontologists hunting for fossilized dinosaur bones, the small island is about as good as it gets.

"If you are European, this is the place you have got to be," says paleontologist Steve Hutt, clambering over the rocks along the island's southwest beach.

In many of the world's best fossil sites in China, Mongolia and the United States, remains are found over thousands of square miles.

The Isle of Wight's fossils are concentrated in two tiny strips, one six miles long along its southern coast and the other just half a mile on its eastern coast.

The island, which lies three miles off the English mainland, doesn't pretend to compete in terms of quantity — just quality.

Its rocks are yielding fossils from the early Cretaceous period — from 100 million to 140 million years ago — which are rarely found elsewhere.

Most sites produce fossils from the late Triassic period, between 200 million and 225 million years ago, or the Jurassic period, 135 million to 200 million years ago.

"The island is a window on the Cretaceous world, which doesn't occur anywhere else in the world," says Hutt, employed by the local government as the island's sole paleontologist.

David Norman of Cambridge University's Department of Earth Sciences says the island is important not only in historical terms, but also because "new dinosaurs continue to be discovered there and are well-preserved and articulated — that is, their bones are joined together."

Last year, a previously unknown cat-like, flesh-eating dinosaur was discovered in a crumbling cliff by an amateur fossil collector. And in 1997, another previously unknown dinosaur, *Neovenator salerii*, a smaller version of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, was found on the island.

While many excavations in the United States are backed by big-name universities with budgets to match, the Isle of Wight's digs are on a much smaller scale.

Hutt does most of the work himself, aided by a volunteer or two. Every

summer, he picks from the best of paleontology interns, both from Europe and the United States.

And while other institutions have major museums to house their collections, the Isle of Wight's finds are kept in much more modest surroundings — one floor above a town library.

Hutt has one ally most other digs don't have — the sea.

Every fall and winter, the ebb and flow of the tides, together with the gales that blow north from the English Channel, remove layers of rock from the cliffs, unearthing new fossils.

"The rocks are exposed continually, so the goodies fall out," Hutt says.

Wandering along the coast at Brightstone Bay, where dinosaur footprint casts lie on the beach, Hutt points to the 50-foot cliff face, striped with white, red and dark brown wealden rock, which is one of his favorite areas for digging.

In 1998, a local collector found a turtle's skull there dating back 120 million years.

"Looks like we'll have to name that, too," Hutt says, referring to the tradition of naming newly discovered dinosaurs after the people who found them. "It's our way of saying thank you."

# Liquor control ignores club query

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Assistant City Attorney Joel Pedersen testified in opposition to the petition but urged the commission to make a ruling because of the question's statewide impact.

"You are charged and have the ability to interpret the Liquor Control Act," he said. "I encourage you that you have jurisdiction over the issue. I believe it does ask for an interpretation of the act you are charged to enforce."

When asked to comment after the ruling, Pedersen said he would have to review what the commission had done.

Other city and UNL officials continued to protest the idea of the bottle club in their testimony before the commission.

"When we heard about the proposed bottle club adjacent to our campus, we became concerned," said University of Nebraska-Lincoln Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen. "The last thing we need is a place where students can drink three nights a week into the early morning hours."

The petition, filed March 3, stated that the hypothetical club would specifically target UNL students. Members of the club would be allowed to consume their own alcohol on the premises between the

hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Griesen testified that, if passed, the petition would compromise the university's fight against binge drinking.

This year the university was awarded a \$700,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to reduce high-risk drinking among UNL students.

"We've been working on this for a long time," Griesen said. "We have more people coming to the realization that education alone just doesn't work. We need a combination of approaches to successfully reduce high-risk drinking opportunities."

Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said he was concerned about the impact the petition would have, if passed, on both the UNL and Lincoln communities.

"Aside from the university's concerns, I have the additional problem to provide police protection to the city," Casady said. "I don't want this type of activity in our community at all hours in the morning."

UNL Chancellor James Moeser said he was delighted to hear the commission's decision. He said he appreciated the efforts of Griesen, coalition members, students, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and the Academic Senate in opposing the

bottle club idea.

"I think a lot of people helped kill this," Moeser said. "I am very pleased to see community concern and support."

An employee at Barry's said Webb was out of town until Monday and unable to comment.

Webb's legal counsel, Terry Schaaf, said he agreed with the commission's stance.

"I'm interpreting that to mean that they don't think it involves a liquor license matter," he said.

Schaaf said he was surprised by the response from city and university officials.

"It seems like much ado about not very much," he said.

Schaaf said he is not an advocate for Webb on this issue. He merely helped Webb write the question for the commission.

Webb was exploring whether or not a bottle club would be a legal, viable business opportunity, he said, but he was not saying whether or not a bottle club was a good idea.

"The time to debate the propriety of the proposal is later," Schaaf said. "He just asked if it was legally possible."

# Charity sale to fund child's wheelchair lift

■ The benefit is being sponsored by the Lincoln Family Resource Center and will primarily be made up of donated items.

By JOSH KNAUB  
Staff writer

A benefit yard sale Friday and Saturday could give one Lincoln girl the lift she needs.

The sale, sponsored by the Lincoln Family Resource Center, will raise money toward the purchase of a van with a wheelchair lift for 3-year-old Taralynn Worrell.

Dan and Sheila Worrell, Taralynn's parents, rely on a 1984 Chevrolet Cavalier for transportation.

Taralynn was left unable to walk at age 1 after contracting encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain, said Sheila Worrell.

Chellotte Snyder of Lincoln Developmental Disabilities Services said the family had a definite need for the van.

"It is becoming very difficult for them," she said.

Taralynn has several weekly physical therapy and doctor's appointments, Snyder said.

Snyder said the height of the special seat Taralynn needs made it difficult not to bump her head against the ceiling of the car.

Additionally, the van would provide more safety and better support for Taralynn, Snyder said.

Ann Widoe of Lincoln Family Services said the van and lift accessories would cost nearly \$20,000.

She said local businesses had donated more than \$2,100 as of Thursday afternoon.

Widoe said Sheila Worrell sent more than 900 letters about the yard sale to various businesses, officials and citizens. The response has been very good so far.

"Anything you could ever imagine has been donated," Widoe said.

Items include chairs, couches, a TV set, books, adult and children's clothing and toys.

Widoe said donations were tax-deductible.

The sale, located at 511 West Belmont, will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

A raffle for a Beanie Baby will be held during the sale.

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Softball vs. Oklahoma St.  
Sun., April 11 at Noon  
at NU Softball Complex

Sat., April 10 at 7 pm  
at Bob Devaney Sports Center

Women's Tennis vs. Oklahoma St.  
Sat., April 10 at 10 am  
at Cather-Pound Tennis Courts

Baseball vs. Oklahoma St.  
Fri., April 9 at 7 pm  
Sat., April 10 at 2 pm  
Sun., April 11 at 1 pm  
at Buck Beltzer Stadium

Women's Tennis vs. Oklahoma  
Sun., April 11 at 10 am  
at Cather-Pound Tennis Courts

Softball vs. Oklahoma  
Sat., April 10 at Noon  
at NU Softball Complex

To order tickets call 472-3111 or 1-800-8 BIG RED or purchase them at the door.

### SOFTBALL STUDENT PROMOTIONS:

- Come to 4 NU softball home games, and register to win a free trip sponsored by Pella Windows.
- Register for a chance to win a \$300 book scholarship.
- Win free CDs from Homer's in our TV home song contest.



## NEBRASKA Spirit Squad Try-outs


**Mascot, Yell Squad & Dance Team Try-outs**

**April 15-17 in Mable Lee Hall**

**Registration & First Cuts on April 15 @ 5:00 pm**

\*For more information call Trace or Beth @ 472-0775





**Dancin' + Cancin'**

Friday, April 9th  
9:00 pm to 1:00 am

An All Campus Event

City Union Centennial Ballroom

Fun, Food and Prizes

\$ 2.00 in advance  
\$ 3.00 at the door

