

Dinosaurs and the Bible

by Lauren Kennedy

That was two hours and 37 minutes of my life that I will never get back.

I'll be the first to admit I'm probably not the most knowledgeable or articulate when it comes to discussing the Bible, but I do like to think I know my dinosaurs.

Over the course of March break, I watched a DVD by Creation Science Evangelism titled "Dinosaurs and the Bible", presented by Dr. Kent Hovind a.k.a. "Dr. Dino".

Copies of this DVD were found posted on bulletin boards around UNB for anyone walking by to take.

I was very sceptical going into this because, like I stated earlier, I don't know much about the Bible. I was hoping not to be too confused while watching this, although luckily, I noticed about three minutes in, I had nothing to worry about.

Dr. Dino stands up on a stage and starts to make his argument about dinosaurs. He pulled an original statement from a January 1993 edition of National Geographic magazine in an article called "The Geo Guide Age of Dinosaurs". The first sentence in that article said, "No human being has ever seen a live dinosaur." Now this is where the fun begins. Basically, throughout the entire DVD, he tries to rip this theory apart.

First, he talks about Adam and Eve and how they were the first people on Earth; since they were the first people to arrive, they must have seen all the creatures that lived, including dinosaurs. Then Noah came and God told him to build an arc because a great flood was coming. As soon as I heard this, I don't

know about you, but pop culture had me think of Steve Carell and Evan Almighty jokes that I could throw in here, because most of the background I know about the arc story comes from that movie. But that's beside the point.

So Dr. Dino takes the theory that a great flood came and Noah had to take only land animals on the arc and two "basic kinds of animals" – not species (he takes things very literally, by the way). So because he takes two kinds of animals, Noah must have had two baby dinosaurs on the arc. Not fully grown ones, because they would have taken up too much space, just babies. Then, after 40 days and 40 nights, the great flood came to an end and the arc landed, but what happened to the dinosaurs? He says it's not a question of dinosaurs going extinct, but figuring out if they actually did they go extinct?

After the flood, he says dinosaurs faced a harsher climate and people started living shorter lives, as did the dinosaurs and all other animals. Dr. Dino says that man was the greatest killer of the dinosaurs and offers up six reasons why. The first being for meat as they had to eat, the second for menace, the third was to be considered a hero to the people, the fourth goes along with the third to prove superiority, fifth for the competition of land, and finally the sixth for medicinal purposes. But despite all of these reasons, he says some dinosaurs have survived and still do today.

According to Dr. Dino, the term "dinosaur" wasn't invented until 1841 and before that, those animals were known as dragons; he talks about many stories in the past involving dragons. Around 300 BCE, Alexander the Great was scared by something he called dragons; in 275 CE, St. George killed a dragon. Beowulf was famous for slaying dragons as well, so Dr. Dino's explanation that

dragons or dinosaurs had to exist and humans have had to see them, comes from all of these legends of heroic people killing dragons.

One of the more awkward moments in his explanation was when he kept arbitrarily stopping in his arguments to make, in my eyes, some pretty offensive "jokes", like calling out public schools, telling children that everything they have learned is wrong, and my favourite awkward moments was when he paused and said "By the way, do you know why so many Italians are named Tony? They were being shipped to the States and they had 'To: NY' stamped on their foreheads." What the hell does this have to do with anything? Please Dr. Dino, don't quit your day job.

Oh, and I should also mention at this point that periodically throughout his lecture, the camera kept panning back to the audience and I noticed some were yawning, some were playing with their phones, and most looking like they didn't have a sweet clue what was going on.

Back to the debate. After he went on the dragon kick, he started talking about sea monsters and how pretty much every country holds their own legends of great sea monsters living deep in the water. He believes that what he sees dinosaurs or great lizards that still exist today, he can make the claim that in the past 50 years, there have been over five sightings of a stegosaurus-like creature, and over 11 people have seen "pretty factual" evidence of what he calls sea monsters.

All in all, it's a pretty one-sided debate. Whether he refers to them as dinosaurs, dragons, sea monsters, or whatever, at the heart of his debate is the Creationism-Evolution positions – a debate that has been going on since the days of the dinosaurs. He argues a completely one-



sid-
ed argument,
and in all honesty,
I'm not even sure why he is referred to as a doctor, as he never mentions what credentials he actually holds.

I'm all for freedom of expression and believe that anyone can voice their opinion and probably make an argument out of it because a healthy debate has never really hurt anybody. After all, if 200 people in the world claimed to have seen a dinosaur exist today, all 200 couldn't be wrong, could they? But maybe they should do a bit more research and understand what they are looking at instead of jumping to quick conclusions and filling the bloated heads of people like Dr. Dino.

Drugs: The highs and lows

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more cocaine cases than I would have seen 10 to 15 years ago."

However, not everyone shares Dr. Craft's opinion. Some students on campus don't see drugs or alcohol as a major issue.

Corey Gaudet is a third year civil engineering student at UNB, and in his opinion, he says there doesn't appear to be an issue of substance abuse on campus.

"I don't see drug use as a problem. It's not like I see random people walking around strung out on drugs all the time," said Gaudet.

Even though it may be hard to spot students who are under the influence of drugs, it doesn't mean there isn't an abuse problem or even that no one practices them.

Gaudet is familiar with drugs, but not longer uses them. To him, there is no difference between students drinking alcohol or smoking marijuana, and everyone has the choice to do them or not.

"I consider it all the same. I really don't see much overuse of the substances going on," said Gaudet.

The question of whether or not there is a drug and alcohol abuse problem on campus can be looked at in many different ways. Chances are that most students will not have the same perspective as a counselor or an addiction specialist who works with people with substance problems may have.

Dr. Craft says there are two ways to look at the issue.

"On the one hand, if I look at our own records and look at the number of

individuals who have presented specific substance abuse problems, it is a small number. So from that point of view, no there is no problem," said Dr. Craft. "From the other point of view, a lot of people come in here with a number of problems from anxiety to relationship issues. Usually, I see really excessive drug use as being part of that and then I think there really is a problem."

He also says the main problem lies

"ALCOHOL IS THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM, MARIJUANA IS THE SECOND, AND I'VE SEEN MORE COCAINE CASES THAN I WOULD HAVE SEEN 10 TO 15 YEARS AGO."

- DR. CRAFT

with students who practice the drugs. In almost all of the cases, the person addicted fails to see there is a problem. If people aren't willing to admit they have a problem, it is that much harder to help them.

Usually, referrals to the counseling center are based on cases of alcohol abuse, but very rarely is there a case involving marijuana. Dr. Craft referred to marijuana as a "gateway drug" and a "hidden problem", indicating that it is used so frequently that no one really sees it as a problem anymore.

"A student may be smoking marijuana two to three times a day. As a counselor and a person, that strikes me as problematic. Unfortunately, I can't always get them the help they need because they don't see it as a problem," said Dr. Craft.

Third year St. Thomas student, Ryan Gallen, says he uses drugs like marijuana, mushrooms, and acid – but keeps them in moderation.

"In moderation, drugs can do great things for creativity and the expansion of human thought," said Gallen. "In excess, unfortunately, they will kill you and your mind."

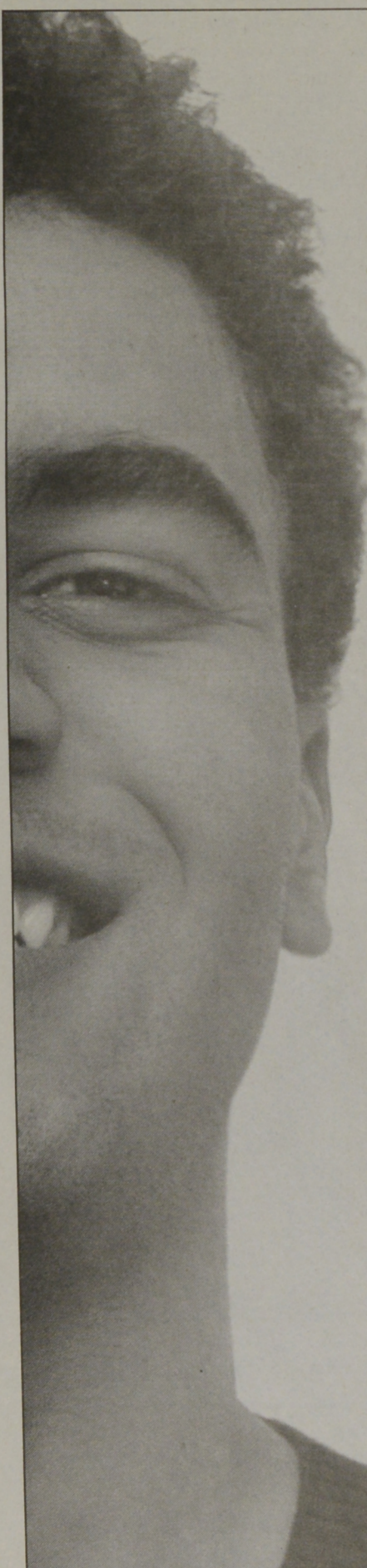
The problem occurs when people overuse the substances and are unable to stop. Gallen has known many people who have been so addicted they have had to go to the methadone clinic.

When asked to choose between alcohol and marijuana for the most dangerous substance practiced amongst university students, Gallen was quick to answer. "No one has ever died from smoking natural marijuana, by natural, I mean nothing added. You have to smoke three times your body weight to kill yourself, but you would pass out before then," said Gallen.

According to Dr. Craft, substance abuse is the highest among people 18-25. One reason is because drugs are becoming easier to obtain, and the media is making them more of an epidemic, explained Dr. Craft.

When it boils down to it, it is all a very seductive habit that is difficult to escape.

"There is no drug for recreation that I think is safe. It is all an illusion, and it is basically giving up your life to a substance," said Dr. Craft.



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