

elemental

GROWING UP
TOO FAST

Dinosaurs may have been the big, lumbering ancestors of today's reptiles, but they grew at a ferocious rate, says a Florida State University researcher. For decades, many scientists believed dinosaurs had slow growth rates compared to modern mammals and birds. But dinosaurs had an unusual pattern of development that linked their growth rates with ours.

"All dinosaurs—primitive and advanced, large or small—grew at rates accelerated beyond those typical of reptiles today," says evolutionary biologist and paleontologist Gregory Erickson in an article published in *Nature* magazine.

BATTLE OF
THE BULGE

Astronomers have discovered a star with a bulge. Altair, which resides 90 trillion miles away in the constellation Alpha, spins so fast that centrifugal force makes it wider than it is tall. The star spins at 700,000 mph at its equator, rotating once every 10 hours. The Earth spins at about 1,000 mph at the equator. Astronomers at the University of Florida, who helped with the discovery, say this is the first measurement of its kind.

News briefs compiled by Kurt Loft,
Media General News Service

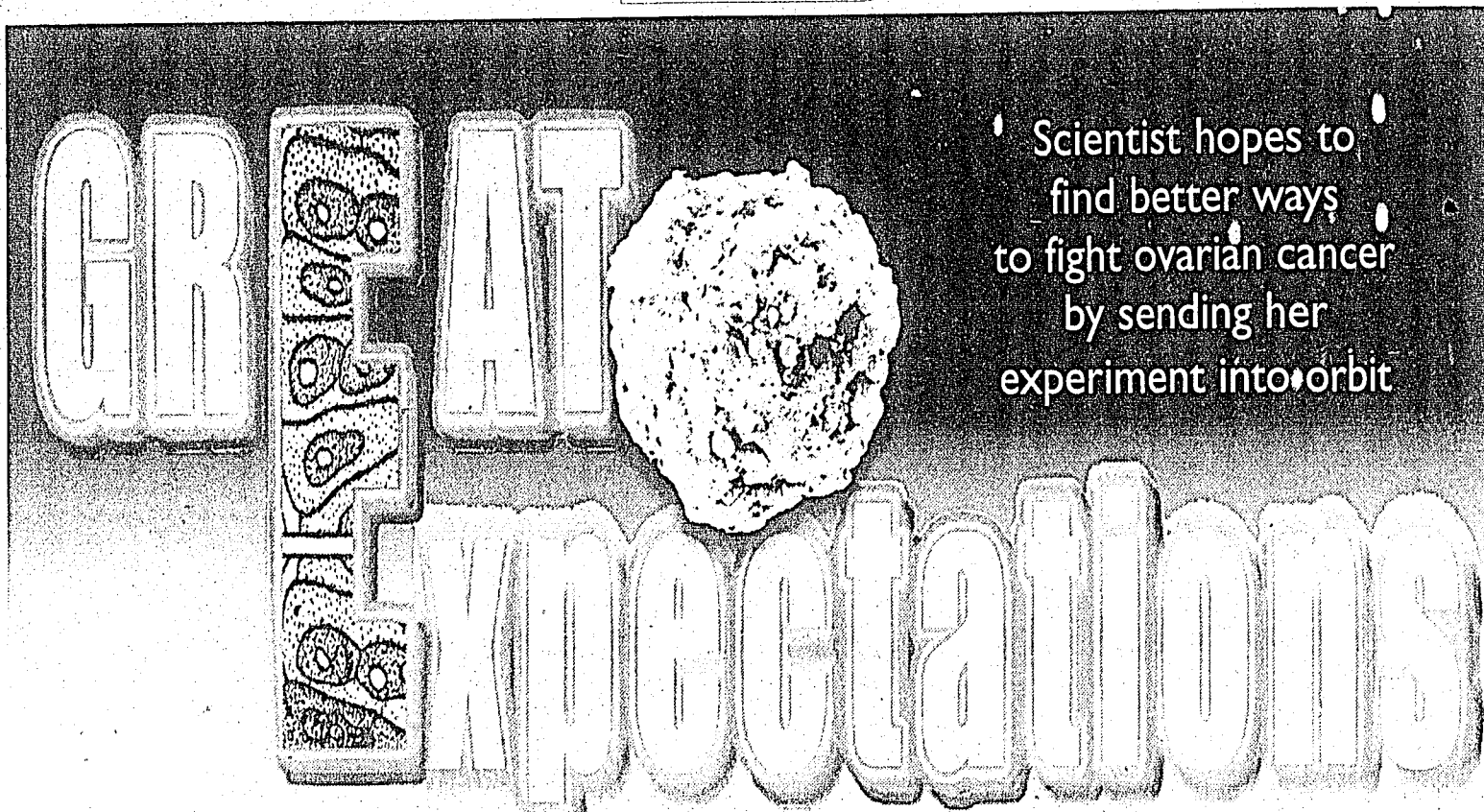
site
BYTESCAT GOT YOUR
TONGUE, OR A UNIQUE
ONE OF HIS OWN?

Have you ever wondered why a cat's tongue feels more like sandpaper than a dog's tongue does?

The prickly little parts of a cat's tongue are actually there for a couple of reasons—one being a flesh-tennis tool when eating his prey. Hopefully, in these modern times, your cat doesn't have to fend for himself in the wild.

That leads us to the other main purpose of this "bumpy" appendage. Your kitty uses his grooming-aid tongue as a brush, comb and washcloth all rolled into one tiny pink package.

For more kitty information, check out Pet Planet's cat entries at its Web site: www.petplanet.com/ppd/AAL6RNNX3708/ContentSystem/article.html?CSID=8208



Scientist hopes to
find better ways
to fight ovarian cancer
by sending her
experiment into orbit



By Kurt Loft
Media General News Service

Jeane Becker can appreciate the gravity of cancer research. Like other scientists in her field, she wants to find cures and save lives. But unlike many colleagues, Becker is doing the unexpected: She's taking the gravity out of her work.

Becker, a University of South Florida cell biologist, is conducting an experiment in the weightless environment of the International Space Station. Becker didn't blast off aboard the shuttle *Discovery*, but her collection of cancer cells did, and the near-zero gravity environment could have a profound effect on the way these cells grow and respond to cancer-killing drugs. For Becker—who works at USF's College of Medicine and Tampa General Hospital—such high-flying science is exhilarating.

"It's a personal thrill," Becker says. "It's the first set of culture studies that will be done on the space station, and I'm thrilled beyond belief. I grew up with the space program."

Becker's relatively modest tissue-culture model contains ovarian cancer cells. Other researchers are involved with experiments on colon, epithelial and neuroendocrine cells.

The experiment

The cells are being monitored aboard the station for two weeks, then "fixed," to end the experiment. They will return to Earth in November and will be studied by Becker in Tampa and collaborating scientists at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"We're happy about doing this research, but we're also guinea pigs," Becker says. "Since this sort of study has never been done, we don't know what's going to happen. But we're hoping to see how it goes and get the most valuable data."

The goal is to grow three-dimensional cancer cells that mimic real cancer cells in the human body, rather than the two-dimensional cells grown in laboratories. In the weightlessness of space, cells develop differently than they do on Earth.

"In a petri dish, cells are limited to the confines of their environment," Becker says.

Kurt Loft is a staff writer for The Tampa Tribune.

Cell biologist Jeane Becker will study the effect of near-zero gravity on ovarian cancer cells when the cells travel into space aboard the International Space Station. Cancer cells (top) grown in microgravity mimic those found in patients. Scientists will monitor how the cells respond to drugs.

Photos courtesy of USF/LABSCAN

Cell biologist Jeane Becker will study the effect of near-zero gravity on ovarian cancer cells when the cells travel into space aboard the International Space Station. Cancer cells (top) grown in microgravity mimic those found in patients. Scientists will monitor how the cells respond to drugs.

Photos courtesy of USF/LABSCAN

Cell biologist Jeane Becker will study the effect of near-zero gravity on ovarian cancer cells when the cells travel into space aboard the International Space Station. Cancer cells (top) grown in microgravity mimic those found in patients. Scientists will monitor how the cells respond to drugs.

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ASSISTANT Director of Nursing, Maple Leaf Health Care, 2840 Davis Avenue, Statesville NC 28625. 102-Bed long-term care facility seeking RN w/Supervisory Management Exp. LTC exp pref'd. Excellent benefits. Competitive pay. For information call 704-871-0705 or fax resume to 704-871-0708.

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Human Resource/office Manager needed for plumbing and utility company located North of Charlotte. Experience with payroll, safety, benefits, and personnel is required. Good pay, benefits, and 401K. Please send resume to: Human Resources 1811 Starcrest Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031.

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HOME & GARDEN: Parity consultants needed. Must be familiar with PC environment. Detail oriented. Hours: 8am-5pm. Type 45 wpc (corrected speed). High school grad or equivalent. Excellent resume and references. Apply in person to Carolyn Barker at the Mooreville Tribune on Wednesdays and Fridays.

360 Child Care
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ASSEMBLERS: Excellent income to assemble products in a clean, safe environment. No experience necessary. 1-919-646-1700 DEPT. NC-3221.

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ARTISTIC IMAGE: Hair Stylist. Growing location. 704-662-5329.

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ACCOUNTING POSITION: Part time 25-30 hours needed for last 2 years. QuickBooks experience a must. Call Jill at 704-662-2021.

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MITCHELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Mathematics instructor. A master's degree with a minimum of eighteen semester hours in mathematics is required. Adequate academic preparation to teach applied mathematics courses is preferred. Experience in teaching mathematics courses in high school, college and/or transfer students in a community college setting is preferred. Apply by October 1, 2001. Send letter of interest, M.C.C. application, resume, and references, transcripts to: Personnel Office, 500 West Broad Street, Statesville, NC 28677-5293. <http://www.mitchell.edu>

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242 RIVER BIRCH CIRCLE \$168,000
3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, kitchen with snack bar & tile flooring. Great room with gas fireplace, ceramic tile in baths. Master Bedroom ceiling fan, 2 car garage. Built by Lewis Carpenter Construction Co., Inc.

180 RIVER BIRCH CIRCLE \$206,900
3 BR, 2 full BA, 1 1/2 story w/covered porch area of kit, sliding door in MBR, & finished off bonus room upstairs. HW floor in foyer, SolidSurface countertop in kit. Kenmore appliances, gas FP in GR w/warmable surround & hearth, h/r near deck, smooth ceiling, & much more. Built by ET Homes.

139 RIVER BIRCH CIRCLE \$224,900
3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 1 1/2 story, kitchen with Dining Room, ceramic tile backsplash, Great Room with tray ceiling and fan, Master Bedroom with walk-in closet, Master bath garden tub, shower, double vanity, 2 car garage. Built by Lewis Carpenter Construction Co., Inc.

304 RIVER BIRCH CIRCLE \$204,900
3 BRs, 2 full BA, 1 1/2 story w/covered porch area of kit, sliding door in MBR, & finished off bonus room upstairs. HW floor in foyer, SolidSurface countertop in kit. Kenmore appliances. Built by ET Homes.

163 RIVER BIRCH CIRCLE \$169,900
3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 2 story. Great Room with gas fireplace, large master bath, utility room, breakfast area, 2 car garage. Built by Bob Rudisill Homes, Inc.

159 RIVER BIRCH CIRCLE \$149,900
3 BR, 2 BA, galley kitchen, oak cabinets, garden tub and shower in Master Bedroom, Great Room with gas fireplace, 2 car garage. Built by Bob Rudisill Homes.

116 BLACK ALDER COURT \$159,900
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Great Room with gas fireplace, vaulted ceiling, tray ceiling, walk-in closet in MBR, pantry, 2 car garage. Built by Bob Rudisill Homes.

LiveUpdate feature of Symantec's Norton AntiVirus can be deceiving

Software companies have sought on to the fact that most people don't know how to — or don't want to — hunt down and install updates and patches.

So more and more applications include the ability to perform those tasks for you with a mouse click or two.

Manufacturers of antivirus software were among the early adopters of such automated-update features. Click a button, get the latest virus definitions to protect against malicious code.

Easy. Fast. Convenient.

But if you're one of the many users of Symantec's Norton AntiVirus, the

program's LiveUpdate feature might be misleading you.

Norton AntiVirus came preloaded on a new system I bought last fall. For months, LiveUpdate worked flawlessly.

Then, for no apparent reason, it began telling me that "All Symantec products installed on your computer are up-to-date."

I knew better. So once every couple weeks, I would run LiveUpdate, and promptly ignore its conclusion that I needed no updates.

Then I'd go to www.symantec.com, find the latest virus definitions, and download and manually install them.

Had I accepted LiveUpdate's assertion that I needed no updates, my computer would have been vulnerable to malicious code written after the outdated virus definitions that would have been on my computer.

If LiveUpdate consistently tells you no updates are available even when you know your virus definitions are out of date, you might need a dose of the truth serum I used to fix my problem.

First, launch LiveUpdate and look in the window displaying the Symantec products it lists as being installed on your computer.

If Norton AntiVirus isn't listed — but is, in fact, installed — the next

step is to head to Symantec's Web site, www.symantec.com/search.

Once there, enter this incredibly long ID number in the search box: 2000082409183613. You'll find complete instructions for making LiveUpdate tell you the truth.

QuickBooks Bug Fix: Trying to update payroll is causing headaches for some small-business owners using Intuit's popular QuickBooks 2001 program.

Thankfully, resolving the problem is quick and easy.

If this error message looks familiar — "QBW32 caused an Invalid Page Fault in module unknown [or in kernel32.dll, gbt02.dll, qbsty32.dll, or qbont.dll]" —

Intuit recommends clearing the Internet history file in Microsoft Internet Explorer.

To do that, Click Start, point to Settings, and select Control Panel.

Double-click Internet Options and click the General tab. Click the Clear History button and click OK.

Close the Control Panel and attempt to update your payroll.

You'll find other troubleshooting tips for QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro at www.quickbooks.com/support/.

Doug Stanley writes about computers and the Internet. Write him at dstanley@tampatrib.com or The Tampa Tribune, P.O. Box 191, Tampa, FL 33601.

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