

DinoMorph

Continued from Page 1

"When you really model the stuff in the computer, you do not have an artistic license to assume anything," Stevens said.

This program has caused many paleontologists to reshape previous assumptions about some dinosaurs. Stevens focused the DinoMorph program primarily on sauropods — long-necked, long-tailed, herbivorous dinosaurs. Because of the length of their necks, sometimes 30 feet long, there were many previous assumptions that these dinosaurs had very limited ranges of movement. However, because of DinoMorph, it has been shown that many sauropods had very different ranges of movement in their neck. While the brachiosaurus cannot lower its neck to any closer than five feet above ground, the diplodocus and apatosaurus could lower their heads as far as six feet underground.

"Ideas are cheap," said Dr. James Kirkland, a paleontologist and colleague of Stevens. "It's the follow through which makes science. Kent has followed through to put constraints on sauropods, which previously had been limited only by our imaginations."

All this dinosaur information is helpful not only to paleontology but also to computer science.

"Yes, from the outside it looks like dinosaurs. But on the inside, it is a very delicate piece of software," Stevens said.

The original software was developed with the help of some students at the University as part of a software engineering exercise.

"I am proud to say that all of these students have graduated and gone on to earn lots of money," Stevens said.

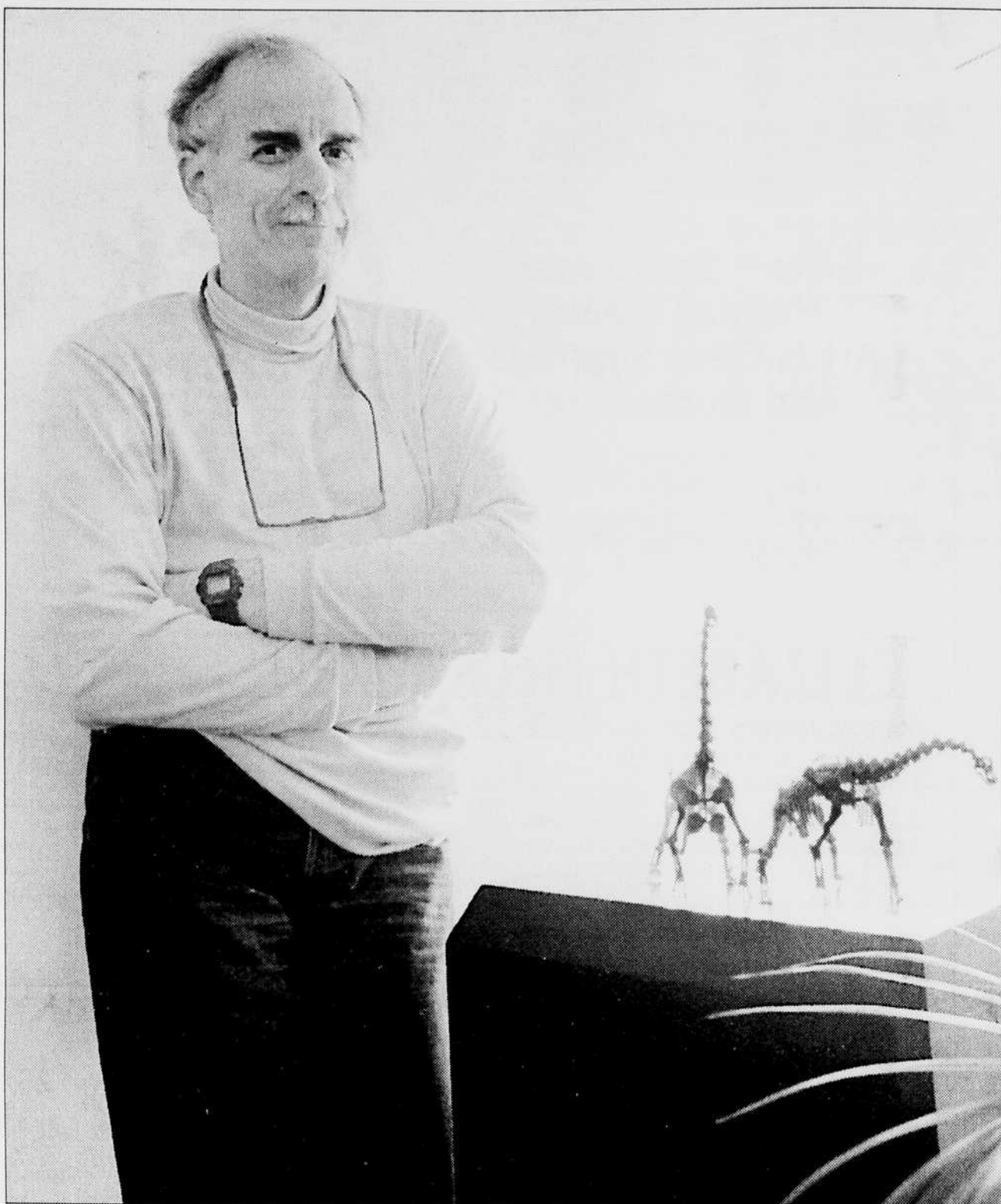
The initial version was continually modified. Stevens is hoping to write the program primarily in Java, a programming language which would enable the program to be used over the web or by paleontologists in the field.

Stevens is planning to teach an upper-division computer science class during spring term which will incorporate the development of DinoMorph.

DinoMorph has attracted the attention of many. Stevens has been featured in Discovery magazine and on the Discovery Channel. He also has been asked to be involved in the future development of a BBC show involving dinosaurs and will be at the Smithsonian Institute using this technology.

For more information about the DinoMorph project, visit Steven's web site at www.cs.uoregon.edu/~kent/dinoMorph.html.

Sarah Skidmore covers the health center, counseling center, alumni association, AAA school and the business school for the Emerald. She can be reached via e-mail at slskidm@gladstone.uoregon.edu.



Professor Kent Stevens, creator of DinoMorph software, poses with dinosaur figures earlier this week in his office.

Nick Medley/Emerald

PRIDE

Continued from Page 1

gency. But that leaves students up to the whims of the RD, who may or may not agree with the student.

Although the RHA recommended the Office of University Housing create the PRIDE Hall last spring, a decision has yet to be made by Mike Eyster, the director of University Housing.

Eyster said the length of the de-

cision-making process was created by a misinterpretation.

"The RHA went back and forth on this so many times, when they finally got back to me, I misunderstood the recommendation," he said.

Eyster said he understands the idea behind the PRIDE Hall and supports those goals. However, Eyster said he needs time to make sure the hall is in the best inter-

ests of students.

"From what I gather there are fewer than seven or eight of these halls [in colleges] around the country," he said. "One of the things I've gotten from people [at different colleges] is that it would be contradicting the goal of having diversity on campus."

Eyster said one of those worries was about the air of segregation that the PRIDE Hall might create.

Thompson disagreed.

"This isn't segregation," she said. "This is providing a safe environment. We're still going to live with everyone. We're still going to eat in the same cafeterias and go to the same classes."

Stephanie Carnahan, director of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance, said the hall would provide a worthwhile housing option for students.

But Thompson said the hall would not be entirely composed of gay and lesbian students.

"I guarantee there will be more straight people than gays [living in the hall]," she said.

Housing has until Jan. 30 to decide whether and where the PRIDE Hall will exist next year.

Emerald staffer Teri Meeuwesen contributed to this report.

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