

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Prehistoric Predators

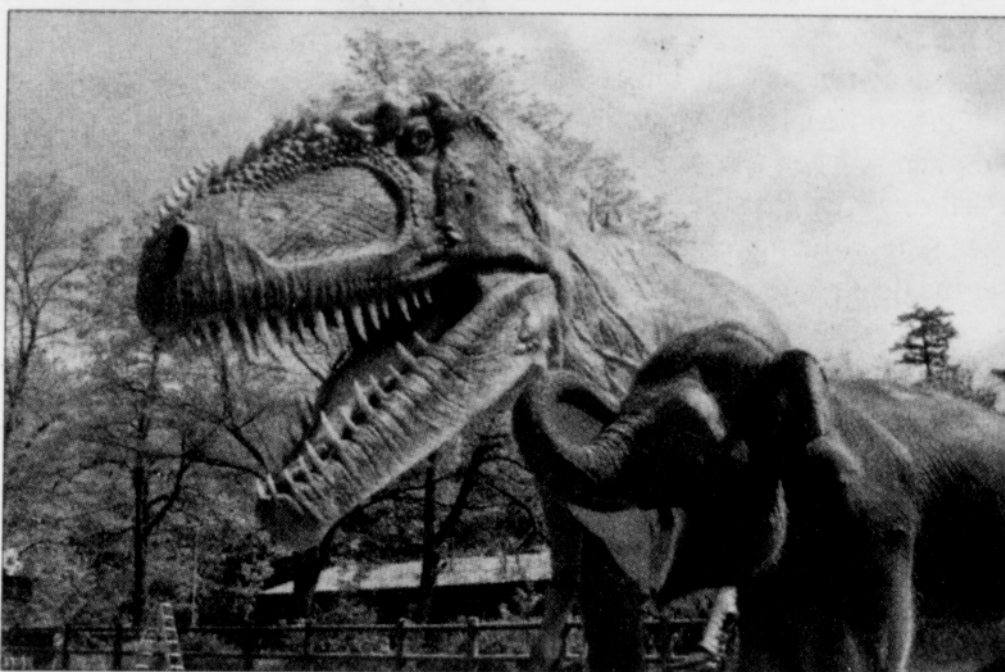
Gigantic dinosaurs descend on zoo

Quite a few employees and guests at the Oregon Zoo found themselves doing double-takes as enormous dinosaurs flew through the treetops. A heavy-duty crane was used to place the largest of the creatures in their summer exhibit, "Prehistoric Predators."

"Moving these massive animals created some pretty dramatic moments," said Jim Gilbert, zoo guest services manager. "It was amazing to see a 43-foot-long, 4-ton Giganotosaurus fly through the air."

The outdoor experience will take visitors back millions of years beginning Saturday, May 22 and running through Labor Day. Zoo visitors will follow a trail through an ancient rain forest, surrounded by the realistic animatronic creatures that roar, snarl and move with lifelike ferocity.

The dinosaurs represent 17 species from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. An intimidating Giganotosaurus, which was even larger than Tyrannosaurus rex, is the exhibit's centerpiece. Its 6-foot-long skull held enormous jaws with 8-inch-long serrated



Chendra, an asian elephant, checks out the Giganotosaurus dinosaur before it is lifted via crane into the new "Prehistoric Predators" exhibit at the Oregon Zoo.

teeth.

"Prehistoric Predators will be an experience with some real teeth to it," quipped Kim Smith, Oregon Zoo director. "The zoo's dinosaur exhibit two years ago was a huge success, so our staff has worked hard to exceed expectations."

The path also will feature photo-opportunity spots and activity stations where visitors can unearth fossils. And, drawing a connection to the zoo's recently opened Predators of the Serengeti exhibit, interpretive signs along the dino path will compare predators from long ago to those found

in the present.

Each of the dinosaurs is built on a steel frame and covered with intricately painted foam-rubber skin. State-of-the-art electronics and air pistons power the dinosaurs' grasping hands, menacing claws and gnashing teeth. Strategically placed alternative paths lead parents with younger visitors to activity stations, where they learn what these giants ate, how they cared for their young, what their relationships to other animals were like, possible reasons they became extinct and more.

Admission to the dino exhibit will be \$3.50 plus regular zoo admission.

Arab-American Miss USA

Rima Fakih knew she had won the 2010 Miss USA title when she saw the look on Donald Trump's face: It was the same one she'd seen him flash at the winners of "The Apprentice." The 24-year-old Lebanese immigrant from Michigan beat out 50 other women to take the title Sunday night.



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