




SEARCH



[Front Page](#) [»opinion](#) [»editorials](#)

Sunday, February 24, 2008

# Old Bones of Contention

By

State officials overseeing the Museum of Natural History and Science promised "a more objective perspective" on a scientific controversy by bringing in two outside scientists.

The dispute is about research identifying as a separate species an ancient creature whose fossilized bones are in the museum's collection. Spencer Lucas, the museum's acting director, initially lumped the crocodile-like lizard with a known species. Another researcher endeavored to prove otherwise and publish a paper that would clinch coveted naming rights. Lucas, meanwhile, changed his mind and beat his rival by two weeks to the publication punch.

But where the other researcher ran the gantlet of peer review and acceptance by a journal, Lucas' paper was reviewed by collaborators and employees and printed in the newsletter of the museum he runs.

That seems about as far south of scientific rigor as the choice of these particular outside scientists falls short of due diligence. Both have collaborated with Lucas on research; both are named in dedications of Lucas books. The objective perspective of one of the quasi-judges was called into doubt by his declaring a not-guilty verdict several days before reviewers convened their closed-door hearing.

Cultural Affairs should remand this dispute to the jurisdiction of a scientific academy that at least has some notion of what objectivity is.

Story Tools

- [E-mail Story](#)
- [Print Friendly](#)

Save & Share

- [Tag this Page](#)
- Powered by Del.icio.us

Most Requested

- 1 [He'll Be Back— And In N.M.](#)
- 2 [In Front of a Packed House, New Mexico Falls to Byu](#)
- 3 [Slow Start Catches Up to Lobos in the End](#)

Most E-mailed

- 1 [1st Class for Village Officials](#)
- 2 [Student Letters Fuel Debate on Remedial Classes](#)
- 3 [Metro Judge May Face Suspension](#)

Who's Blogging?

Read what's being written about Albuquerque Journal reports.

- [▶ \*\*Ain't that Rich?\*\* links to /abqnews/](#)
- [▶ \*\*ODESSA Syndicate\*\* links to Opinion:](#)

- [Crisis in Mexico Is Headed North](#)
- [▶ \*\*Women's Hoops Blog\*\* links to Sports: No. 18 Utes Rally Late to Beat Lobos to Women](#)
- [▶ \*\*SWOPblogger\*\* links to Metro: Tribune Had a Great Run and Will Be Missed](#)

Latest Albuquerque and New Mexico News

- [He'll Be Back— And In N.M.](#)
- [Suspect In Vet's Beating Arrested](#)
- [Careful Before You Pull That Trigger](#)

**The eJournal**  
is a real page-turner

**Arrested**  
O.J. Simpson faces multiple felony charges in an alleged armed robbery  
NATION # A5

**Fair darings**  
Family of acrobats wows crowds at the State Fair  
METRO & N.M. # A6

**PRETTY NIGHT**  
"Ugly Betty" actress, "Soyuznoyuz" and "Third Rock" take home Emmys  
DAILY BRIEFING # A3

**ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL**

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

HOMEOWNED AND HOME-OPERATED • MADE IN THE U.S.A.  
12TH YEAR, 265 • 48 PAGES IN 5 SECTIONS

FINAL \*\*\*\*\*  
Copyright © 2007, Journal Publishing Co. • All rights reserved.

**LEARN MORE!**

**Sports**[Lobo Women Win at BYU](#)[Reunion Rouses Muñoz](#)[Slow Start Catches Up to Lobos in the End](#)[In Front of a Packed House, New Mexico Falls to Byu](#)[Electric Setting Expected at Pit](#)[Boosters: Big Game or Bighorn?](#)[WNMU Is Cream of State's D-II Hoops Crop](#)[Every 10 Years, Since 1968, New Mexico Has Fielded a Strong Men's Basketball Team](#)[UNM in Need of Win at BYU](#)[During the Next Four Months, 63,000 Bowlers Will Be in Albuquerque](#)[Where can I buy a newspaper?](#) | [✉ E-mail this Story](#) | [🖨 Printer Friendly](#)[front page](#) | [news](#) | [business](#) | [sports](#) | [go](#) | [weather](#) | [science](#) | [classifieds](#) | [archive](#) | [arts](#) | [movies](#) | [tv](#) | [jobs](#) | [site map](#) | [search](#)[Privacy Policy & Copyright © 1997 - 2008 Albuquerque Journal: Albuquerque, New Mexico](#)  
Call the Journal: 505-823-3800 | Weatherline: 821-1111 | Place an ad: 505-823-4444[Albuquerque Journal Subscriber Services](#)[Submit a news tip](#) | [Place a classified ad](#) | [Advertise Online at ABQjournal](#) | [Advertise in Albuquerque Journal print products](#) | [Subscribe to newspaper](#) Save & Share [Tag this Page](#) |Powered by [Del.icio.us](#) ...[go to bookmarks](#)  
[back to top](#)

- ▶ [Dinochick Blogs](#) links to </news/pdf/silberling.pdf>
- ▶ [Library of Terms : Read more about different financial terms.](#) links to [NEWS/STATE: UNM's AD Says Partnership With Casino Hotel All Business](#)
- ▶ [Laelaps](#) links to [Metro: Ethics Panelist Calls Museum Flap Baseless](#)
- ▶ [Bar Of Integrity](#) links to [Metro: Iraq Vet Gets 2 Years in Death of Alleged Invader](#)
- ▶ [The Reptipage: A Site Devoted to Reptiles](#) links to [Metro: Ethics Panelist Calls Museum Flap Baseless](#)
- ▶ [Dinochick Blogs](#) links to [Metro: Ethics Panelist Calls Museum Flap Baseless](#)

[Full list and what they're blogging](#)

Idaho Snowboarder Invents Two-man-board

[More videos from Albuquerque Journal](#)**Opinion editorials**[Take Math Skills Out of Carding Equation](#)[Two Fins Way Up For Aquarium Researchers](#)[Taxpayers Prevail in UNM Money Scrum](#)[More Opinion editorials](#)