



## NEWS

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# Dino's last dance

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Monday, March 14, 2005 12:00 a.m.



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Friday night and we all went the way of the dinosaurs as the **Carnegie Museum of Natural History** unleashed a bronto-sized bash to bid bye-bye to its world-class bone collection of Jurassic and Triassic treasures. With an A-list that included Gov. **Ed Rendell**, some 300-plus para-paleontologists celebrated an era's end -- and helped rewrite pre-history -- during a for-the-ages **Dance Among the Dinosaurs**.

Over the next two years, diplodocus, stegosaurus and even T. Rex will migrate to New Jersey for a Mesozoic makeover that's part of a \$35 million expansion designed to triple the current size of the museum's legendary 98-year-old Dinosaur Hall. The project will add more interactive exhibits and transform the hall into a 21st-century "first-day" attraction for fossil fans around the globe. Set for a 2007 debut -- just in time for the Carnegie's centennial -- "Dinosaurs in their World" will dazzle with displays that replicate the reptilian digs that these behemoths ruled 250 million years ago.

Leading up to the evening's thunderous finale, co-chairs **Geri** and **Michael Weiss** allowed ample time for grazing on lite bites such as 'gator ettouffe, behind-the-scenes tours, dinner and, of course, dancing to CityScape. Adding words of thanks for countless hours of dedication by patrons and staff, CMNH director **Bill DeWalt** (with **Sylvia Keller**) pointed out that the long-overdue renovation was "150 million years in the making."

**Jim Roddey** (with **Elin**) dished out the evening's tastiest morsel when he asked a talkative dinner crowd to bow their heads and then thanked a higher power "for helping me get this crowd quiet" as the waitstaff served filet and stuffed sole in the Music Hall foyer, where **Tim Condron**'s top-hatted pink dino centerpieces topped the tables.

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Apres dinner, it was back to the great hall for coffee and desserts -- our faves were the green T. Rex cookies -- and more dancing. Among those cutting a rug were CMNH board prez **Jack Barbour** and **Lisa** ; Dollar Bank's **Joe Smith** with **Lynn** ; Eat'n Park's **Suzy** and **Jim Broadhurst** ; curator **Mary Rawson** and **Chris** ; Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy prez **Meg**

**Cheever** and **George** ; Citizens Bank's **Ralph Papa** and **Ruth Anne** ; **Jill** and **Chuck Brodbeck** ; **Carolyn Byham** ; **Dolly** and **Curt Ellenberg** ; **Janice** and **Ernie Meade** ; **Sylvia Dallas** and **John Oliver** ; **Victoria Lee** and **Otto Chu** ; state attorney general **Tom Corbett** and **Sue** ; **Thomas Nimick** ; **Caryn Rubinoff** and **Craig Dunham** ; **Amy** and **Sean Sebastian** ; **Jamie** and **Bill Sarris** (who donated the chocolate dinos in everyone's goodie bags); Judge **Jill** and **John Rangos** ; **Susie** and **Gregg Perelman**; **Scott** and **Judy Umstead** ; and **Lea Simonds** and **Harley Trice** .

Plus: **Julie Goetz** and **Jeff McDaniel** ; **Jean** and **Frank Brooks Robinson** ; **Laurie** and **Jim Bly** ; **Darlene** and **David Motley** ; **Alexandra** and **Doug Weiss** ; **Marguerite Jarrett Marks** ; **Pam McCrory**; **Ann** and **Jim Strader**; **Stephanie** and **Matthew Phillips** ; **Cynthia McCormick** ; **Jenifer** and **Mark Evans** ; **Crystal Castleforte** ; **Christine** and **Malcolm Ferguson** ; **Pam Douglas** ; Dr. **Helene Blodgett** ; **Dan Vitalie** ; **Maria** and **Chris Carson** ; and **Anne Lopez** and **Brian Reneski** .

Then it was the last call for the Dinosaur Hall, where director DeWalt gathered everyone for a final glimpse of the world's third-largest collection of real bones -- a source of inspiration and awe for generations. Lightning flashed and thunder rumbled while the cavernous room faded to black as the great dinosaurs once again disappeared from our landscape. But this time, we won't need to wait another 200 million years for the return of T. Rex, Dippy and pals.

### Artistic success

Pittsburgh's freshest face on the social scene is one of nation's longest-established providers of support and comfort to victims of sexual abuse. Unveiling its first-ever full-scale benefit, **Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)** painted a masterpiece with Saturday's **The Muse ReDressed** at the Priory's Grand Hall. Shadyside designer **Mary Margaret Stewart** (with daughter **Iman** and mother **Eileen** ) generously donated her talents and yards of Parisian fabric to provide a canvas for local painters **Christina Ferguson** , **Thommy Conroy** , **Monica Cervone McElwain** , **Vanessa German** and **Emma Shutko** , who created 27 works of wearable art.

On hand to celebrate the hard work of recovery and healing were PAAR director **BJ Horn** ; board prez **Rob Jones** and **Dee** ; keynoter **Terry Miller** ; fashion producer **Demeatria Gibson Boccella** ; emcee **Terry Miller** ; **Darnell McLaurin** ; **Bob O'Connor** ; **Dawn Davies** ; **Janet** and **Greg Spencer** ; **John Lamberson** ; the Rev. **Brenda Gregg** ; **Jessica Coup** and **Scott Bergsten** ; **John Suchajda** ; **Denise** and **Cain Hayes** ; **Frank Bergel** ; **Ruth Garfinkel** ; **Fran Gargotta** ; **Renee Petrichevich** ; **Susan Mason** ; **Marie Hamblett** ; **Alison Hall** ; **Gen Davidson** ; **Colleen Conley** ; and **Myrna Antonio-Hall** .

### Children's crusade

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They are the forgotten kids ... those living in homeless shelters. They know all about the school of hard knocks and little about lesson plans.

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Enter Dr. **Joe Lagana** , a retired educator, who set about correcting this desperate situation. In 1999, he founded the **Homeless Children's Education Fund** , and it's now bringing learning, hope and a new backpack to area youngsters each year who are enrolled in public schools and in sheltered Learning Centers.

Monday's cause for applause was **Champions for Children** at the Rivers Club, where **Richard Garland** , **Janet Korenich** , **Gail Odorcich** , **Rich Venezia** and Pa. Auditor General **Jack Wagner** went to the head of the class for improving the quality of life of our most vulnerable kids.

**Julie** and state Rep. **Don Walko** chaired the benefit that added more than \$100,000 to the coffers for children's programming in shelters.

In the crowd of 300 guests bidding at the nifty silent auction to the jazzy vibe of the Harold Betters Trio: U.S. Rep. **Mike Doyle** with **Susan** ; board prez **Bill Wolfe** of MARSH; **Becky Rodgers** ; **Joe Belechak** ; **Jerry Wozniak** ; **Jan** and **Mike McCarthy** (he built the North Hills Learning Center as a favor to Joe!); **Tom Begandy** ; Sister **Linda Yankoski** ; **Jeanne** and **Scotti Mulert** ; **Joey Vallarian** ; **Rachel** and **Horace Payne** ; **Richard Piacentini** ; WTAE's **Sheldon Ingram** as emcee; **Mary Beth Johnson** ; **Dotti** and **John Bechtol** ; **Jerry Wozniak** ; **Bob Fragasso** ; **Arlene Snyder** ; **Terry Fedele** ; and singer **Vanessa Campagna** , who stopped traffic at cocktails with a big, wonderful voice. Harrumph, she's 11.

### Point taken

Braving arctic express winds, the 90-plus women who answered the call to lunch from Dr. **Ellen Roth** warmed up nicely during Thursday's matinee at the CLO's Cabaret at Theater Square to celebrate the 14th anniversary of **Getting to the Point** , the good doctor's entrepreneurial enterprise that partners with local corporations to recruit top talent to the region and make them and their significant others feel at home.

A transplanted Clevelander, Ellen got to the point 31 years ago when she moved here with her husband, Dr. **Loren** , and waited for a welcome wagon that never arrived. Collaborating with co-founder **Jacqui Fiske Lazo** , they set out to "do for others what was never done for us." Since then they've helped more than 650 families settle in and call Pittsburgh someplace special, turning them on to the city's best cultural institutions, educational opportunities, medical facilities and other benefits.

A leading lady in her own right, Ellen took center stage to welcome newcomers such as **Iris Radke**, **Dee Glenn**, **Holly Buffinton** , **Francoise Lagasse**, **Sylvia Gonzalez** and **Fanny Long** . Here's a round of applause for chanteuse **Natalie Gallo** , funnyman **Tim Brady** and juggler **Michael Karas**, who entertained a power-lunch audience that included Point Park prez



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Katherine Henderson ; Pat Siger ; Catherine Loevner ; Pam Golden ; Liz Concordia ; Hilda Fu ;  
Dino's mom, Charlotte Henderson ; Dr. Margaret McDonald ; Rose Linda Lebovitz ; Dorothy  
Russell ; and Julie Langley .

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## Quick Takes

**History class.** The city's smart set booked to the Sen. John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center for Friday's **History Uncorked 2005** . Back for a seventh go-around, this high-energy bash attracted a youngish crowd of 1,500 that mixed, mingled and learned a thing or two about the region's storied past. Here's an A+ to party chair **Andrea Oates** for planning this mostly singles event. Of course, the recently opened sports wing attracted big crowds, as did the plentiful grazing stations and watering holes, where we spotted History Center prez **Andy Masich**, **Niccole Cook**, **Dennis Brown**, **Mary Colaianne**, **Erik Riedel**, **Julie Beck**, **Michelle Felion**, **Jill Cenna** and **Kim Fonzi** .

**Fashion plates.** Thirteen-year-old **Emery Feldman** summed it up best when he thanked his mom and friends during Thursday's **Cystic Fibrosis Luncheon and Fashion Show** at the Oakmont Country Club, where **Cindy Feldman** and pals staged a midday runway revue to benefit CF's research and treatment coffers. As models prowled the catwalk in the latest looks from Carabella, Catherina and Victoria, the best-dressed guest list featured CF director **Pat Joseph** ; **Cindy Sproull** ; emcee **Shannon Perrine** ; **Ann Gatty** ; **Angie Kinney** ; **Cindy Tauberg** ; **JoAnn Moorhead** ; **Collen O'Brien** ; **Paula Lockhart** ; **Karen Flynn** ; **Janet Brendel** ; **Nancy Wolf** ; **Marsha Dobies** ; **Debbie Fazi** ; **Heather Levy** ; **Evy Diamond** ; **Karel Ulizio** ; **Bernadette Thompson** ; and **Lynn Seel** . Additional Information:

## Photo Gallery

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