

ranges of dinosaurs is problematic because confidence in ranges of rare taxa is much less than for ranges of abundant taxa.

Ecologic diversity measures how the total number of individuals are distributed among each of the taxa and is more sensitive than taxonomic diversity. Analysis of ecologic diversity detects a decline in the abundance of a taxon, not just the elimination of that taxon.

Archibald suggests that the extinction of vertebrates at the end of the Cretaceous was not massive. The communities of land-dwelling animals, however, changed markedly at that time. Lower Tertiary communities lack the large herbivorous and carnivorous dinosaurs that are so characteristic of the Hell Creek (3). The ecologic change was massive, and we have shown that dinosaurs in Hell Creek assemblages were not gradually declining as a prelude to this changeover. The extinction seems to have been sudden, within the resolution inherent in the study of Hell Creek dinosaurs.

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New Mexico: Technology-Rich

Vincent Kiernan's 10 January article (News & Comment, p. 151) about the proposed consolidation of now separated elements of the Air Force Phillips Laboratory paints a rather negative picture of the move and of New Mexico. Permit me to offer some balancing views.

The proposed move is intended to col-

locate only those elements of several Phillips Laboratory directorates which have operations that are geographically separated but functionally interacting. It is expected to improve the functioning of all the laboratory's directorates and subsequently lead to operating efficiencies and cost savings, even for those remaining at Edwards Air Force Base and Hanscomb Air Force Base.

The article quotes one person's view that New Mexico is akin to an "intellectual desert." That would be quite a surprise to the many teams of scientists and engineers working at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, the White Sands Missile Range, and the other institutions that together are often referred to as "the Rio Grande Research Corridor." New Mexico is also the home of several significant geophysics-related entities, many operated for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

In the most recent NSF report (1) on patterns of research and development (R&D) performance, New Mexico ranks first in the ratio of R&D performance to gross state product, which, to me, means that technology is relatively more important to New Mexico than to any other state.

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