

# John Olver Arrested Protest for Sudan

Wire reports  
John Olver, D-Amherst, was  
members of Congress jailed  
er protesting outside the  
mbassy in Washington, D.C.,  
ties in the embattled Darfur

ists were expected, and Olver  
or the incident to generate  
r a rally on the National Mall  
posing genocide in Darfur,  
to his spokeswoman Nicole  
1.  
a very peaceful, organized  
d Letourneau, who was at  
t. "Everyone accepted that  
l probably be arrested."  
as flying back to Massachu-  
ay night and could not be  
r comment.

sued a statement earlier in  
n which he said, "With this  
hope to put direct pressure  
danese government to end  
ide."

ernational community has  
ke sufficient action to put an  
e ongoing campaign of gov-  
acked violence and ethnic  
n Sudan," the statement con-  
ore than 2 million people in  
ve been driven from their  
undreds of thousands have  
ully murdered."

ther Democratic House  
including James McGovern  
er, were among 11 protest-  
ed on charges of disorderly

ER/Page B2

# Man arrested for robbery

DAVIS  
er

HADLEY — A Northfield man  
made a lengthy commute to  
ley Friday morning to rob a  
of \$90 before returning home,  
was arrested within hours.

A. Finnerty, 31, of 25 Main Road  
ld is facing charges of armed  
rceny under \$250, and use of  
hicle without authority, having  
ousemate's car without per-  
mit to commit the crime, said South  
t. McClair Mailhott.  
is being held at the Hampshire

BBERY/Page A4

uth Hadley .....B3  
.....C6  
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ssword .....D5  
.....E1-E20  
on/Towns .....B4  
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.....MAGAZINE

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## REBUILDING HISTORY

# RETURN OF THE MASTODONS



JERREY ROBERTS

Brad Allen, left, Garth Dallman, center, and John Peterprudek, of Research Casting International, prepare to attach a mastodon skull and tusk to its torso, earlier this month at the new museum.

## Pratt collection to have new space at the Museum of Natural History

By MARY CAREY  
Staff Writer

AMHERST — Amherst College students making their way around campus over the past couple of weeks have been stopping in front of a new building to take note of a dramatic development inside.

The skeletons of six towering creatures have gradually emerged in the

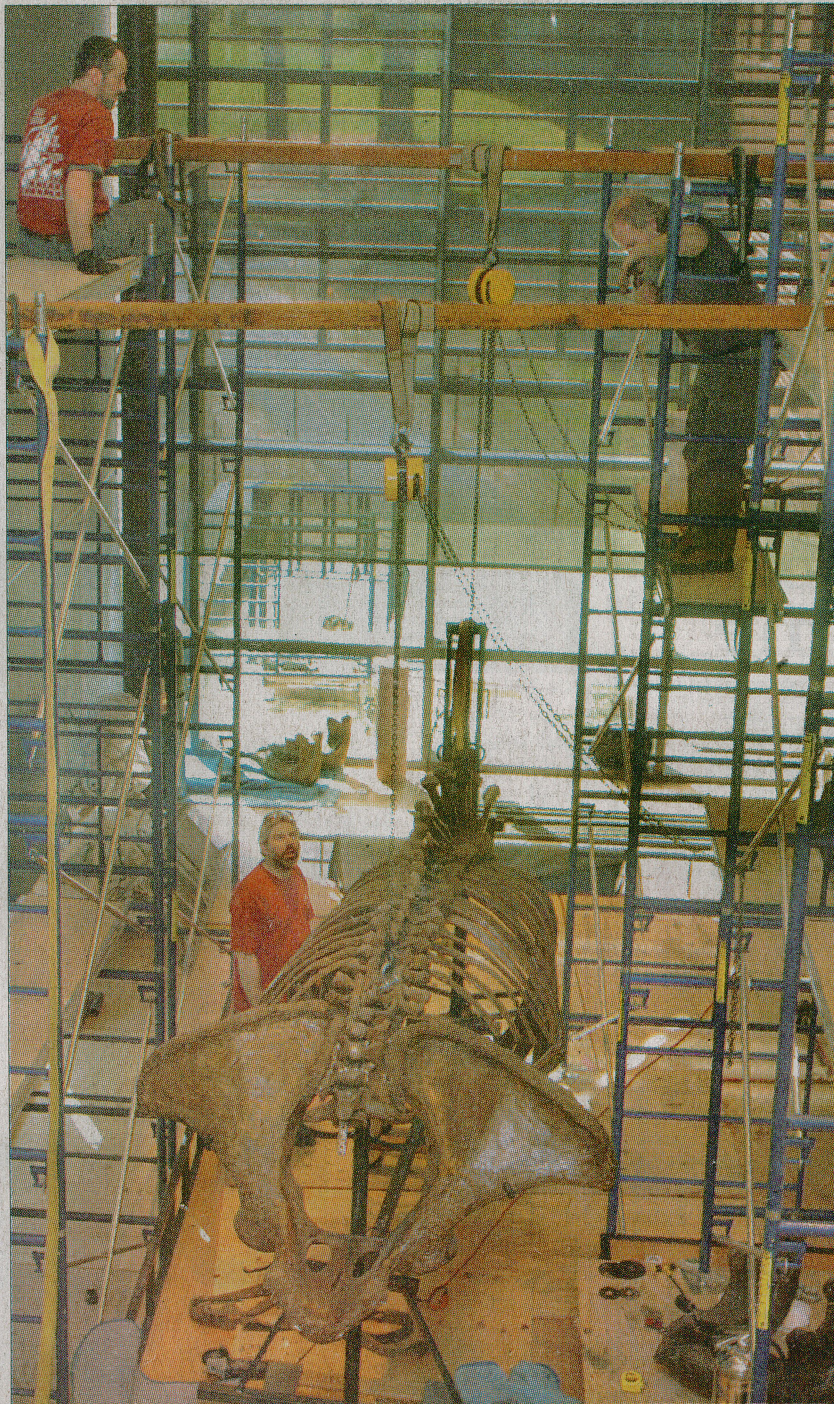
Officials expect visitors to be wowed by what is really the heart of the museum: the world's largest collection of dinosaur tracks.

glass entryway, painstakingly reconstructed by a small team of workers. A mammoth, mastodon, saber-tooth cat, dire wolf, cave bear and Irish elk beckon to onlookers: Come in.

It's not time yet. The new

Amherst College Museum of Natural History is not set to open until early June. But the curiosity the skeletons have elicited is just what Kate Well-spring, collections manager at the museum, had hoped and expected they would do.

Ask just about anyone who grew up in Amherst in the last half century, and that person likely could recount the magic of exploring the nooks and crannies, the stuffed bird exhibits, the minerals that glowed when the ultraviolet light was turned on at the college's Pratt Museum. Devotees were a little disappointed when it was announced that the Victorian-



JERREY ROBERTS

Research Casting International workers use scaffolding for their work.

■ See REBUILDING/Back of section

# Johnston guilty in student's murder

By KIMBERLY ASHTON  
Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON — Bryan Johnston's mother sobbed as a Hampshire Superior Court clerk read her son's sentence: the rest of his life in prison.

Johnston, 24, was convicted Friday of first-degree murder for killing David Sullivan, a friend from high school, on Dec. 7, 2004, in Amherst. Johnston had admitted killing Sullivan, a student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, but claimed he was insane at the time.

"They're devastated," defense lawyer Alexander Nappan said of Johnston's family afterward. Bryan Johnston showed no emotion as the verdict was read and Nappan said he is "OK."

David Sullivan's mother, father, brother and sister declined to make any comments Friday but are expected to deliver impact statements in court Tuesday, when Bryan Johnston is scheduled to be sentenced on his remaining convictions Friday for armed burglary, possession of a large-capacity firearm and possession of a large-capacity firearm in the commission of a felony.

The Sullivans and Johnston attended nearly every hour of the four-week trial, sitting on opposite sides of the courtroom.

The ordeal was difficult for both families.

At one point in the trial, Sullivan's mother left the courtroom in tears as a state trooper demonstrated the workings of the assault rifle Johnston used to fire six bullets into Sullivan.

Johnston's parents appeared worried and despondent at times. Joan Johnston, Bryan's mother, would cry outside the courtroom.

■ See JOHNSTON/Page A4

# Local protests planned over immigration

By DAN CROWLEY  
Staff Writer

A call for "humane" immigration reform will be heard across the Valley and in major U.S. cities Monday as students, human rights activists, and community groups participate in rallies and demonstrations, and several businesses close their doors in a show of solidarity.

A group calling itself the Western Massachusetts May 1st Coalition has coordinated events in Amherst, Northampton, Holyoke and Springfield in protest of federal legislation it says harms immigrants and cracks down on those who aid them, including employers and human service agencies.

"It dehumanizes not only the immigrants that come to this country to work," said Eduardo Suarez, a coalition spokesman. "It also dehumanizes those with good intentions who want to ameliorate their conditions."

A native of Panama and student at the University without Walls at UMass, Suarez described the pending legislation as "xenophobic."

Some businesses in the area, including three Mexican restaurants, plan to

■ See IMMIGRATION/Page A4





JERREY ROBERTS

Garth Dallman, left, Brad Allen, center, and John Peterprudek, of Research Casting International, position the mastodon torso.

## Goodbye Pratt, hello Natural History:

**THE MUSEUM:** The \$30 million project to upgrade the Pratt Museum began two years ago. The Pratt Museum closed; it reopens as the Amherst College Museum of Natural History.

Reconstruction of the skeletons is being done by Research Casting International of Beamsville, Ontario. The new Earth Sciences and Museum of Natural History Building was designed by Payette of Boston.

**THE FOUNDER:** Edward Hitchcock, who discovered many of the tracks and created the collection in 1825, was born in 1793 in Deerfield, the son of a hatter. Ordained a Congregationalist minister, he became a professor of chemistry and natural history at Amherst College and was the third president of the college from 1845 to 1854.

**CLAIM TO FAME:** Largest collection of dinosaur footprints in the world.

**BIG THREE:** The museum is the third-largest natural history museum in New England, eclipsed only by Yale's Peabody Museum and a similar museum at Harvard, and offers a geological focus on fossils as well as an understanding of evolution.

**WHAT'S INSIDE:** The collection consists of more than 50,000 objects spanning a dozen different types of natural history collections.

The **vertebrate skeleton** collection includes about 1,500 specimens, includes a series of cat skulls once used in comparative anatomy classes at the college, along with

rare animals such as a platypus, various Australian marsupials, a moa, a hippopotamus skull, and an orangutan skeleton.

There are 8,500 **mineral specimens**, representing about 800 mineral species from around the world.

In the **meteorite** department, visitors find 18 samples, part of a much larger collection that was transferred to the Center for Meteorite Studies at Arizona State University in 1978.

**HOW THEY GOT THERE:** According to college lore, one contribution came from an alum stationed in West Africa in the 1880s. He shot and killed a gorilla and chimpanzee to send back to the college. To preserve them, he shipped them in a keg of rum.

**BIG HEADS:** Besides the mammoth and mastodon skeletons, the museum houses the skull of another giant elephant, *Deinotherium*. *Deinotherium giganteum*, one species in this genus, was the second largest land mammal ever to walk the earth after the *Indricotherium*. A typical *Deinotherium giganteum* stood about 15 feet tall.

**DINOSAUR TRACKS:** Probably the most historically important specimen of tracks in all of the museum's collections is "Noah's Raven," the first confirmed evidence of a dinosaur to be found in North America by Pliny Moody in South Hadley in 1802.

— MARY CAREY and NICOLE CUSANO

## Rebuilding history

■ Continued from Page A1

era building, which housed the museum, formerly a state-of-the-art gymnasium — in 1883 — was to be converted to a dormitory.

"It was charming," Wellspring readily acknowledges of the Pratt, which closed in 2004. "It was not good for the museum collection."

It wasn't just the drafts or the moistness or other old-building quirks that made the venerable Pratt less than a great fit for the college's world class collections.

It was the sense that being tucked away, out of sight, in the "whimsical" old building was somehow appropriate for artifacts like skeletons, dinosaur tracks and minerals. "It sort of fit people's idea of what natural history is — a thing of the past. It is not," said Wellspring, an anthropologist by training.

A kind of "street corner" phenomenon was occurring last week, as Wellspring and Steve Sauter, coordinator of education for the museum, watched workers from Research International Casting company of Beamsville, Ontario, put some finishing touches on the newly reconstructed skeletons.

Campus tour guides were suddenly bringing groups of prospective college students and their parents by the new building, which the museum shares with the Geology Department, to see what people were looking at.

Natural history museums are a rare find on college campuses, said Wellspring. More than 100 years ago, nearly every small college had a natural history museum, she said. But over the years science has become more "what you might call micro," Wellspring said.

"The discovery of DNA in 1952 sort of changed things." Sauter said many colleges have "frittered away" their collections in the last two or three decades, either by giving them away or putting them in storage.

But "you don't get rid of natural history because you think its utility is gone," Wellspring said. "These appreciate," she said, gesturing to the skeletons, "unlike my laptop."

Sauter maintains there isn't anything to compare with being in the presence of the mammoth and its Ice Age cohorts, all of whom were alive at the same time humans were. "Imagine standing

here and getting it."

"We haven't found all the fossils yet," Wellspring said. "We don't understand what the function of everything was. You want people to come into your museum — particularly students — and say, 'There's a place for me here. I can be part of this.' We're a young species, and our knowledge has a long way to go."

Assembled by Amherst College geologist Edward Hitchcock in the mid-1800s, there are more than 21,000 impressions preserved in about 10,000 slabs of sandstone. Most were discovered locally, where they can still be seen alongside the Connecticut River. Many more are probably still hidden "under places like the Ingleside Mall," in Holyoke, according to Sauter.

The tracks are a draw for scientists around the world, but were inaccessible to most visitors to the old Pratt Museum because they were locked in a room in the old gymnasium basement. The tracks are now mounted and lighted, for maximum exposure. It allowed Sauter recently to inspect a set of tracks that look as though they were made by a huge chicken. He could see them so well that the texture of the dinosaur's skin was revealed to him. It looked like chicken.

## Mother's Day Brunch Buffet at LOOK PARK

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