

Overcoming the loss of a loved one

Netherlands scientists have offered the first conceptualisation of what's known as the Complicated Grief Syndrome. CG is a debilitating clinical syndrome that can develop when a person is unable to cope with the death of a loved one. The study, led by Paul Boelen, a psychotherapist and an assistant professor at Utrecht University, is the first that can be used as a framework for cognitive-behavioral treatment strategies. CG is defined as a combination of separation distress and traumatic distress that causes persistent and significant problems in a person's functioning for at least six months following a death. The authors explain that, at the core of CG, the loss is poorly integrated into memory. Patients often experience the separation as very distinct, significant, and emotional as if it was new. Many have the sense that the loved one is still alive and will soon return. They continue to engage in automatic responses aimed at restoring closeness to the deceased and withdraw from social and recreational activities.

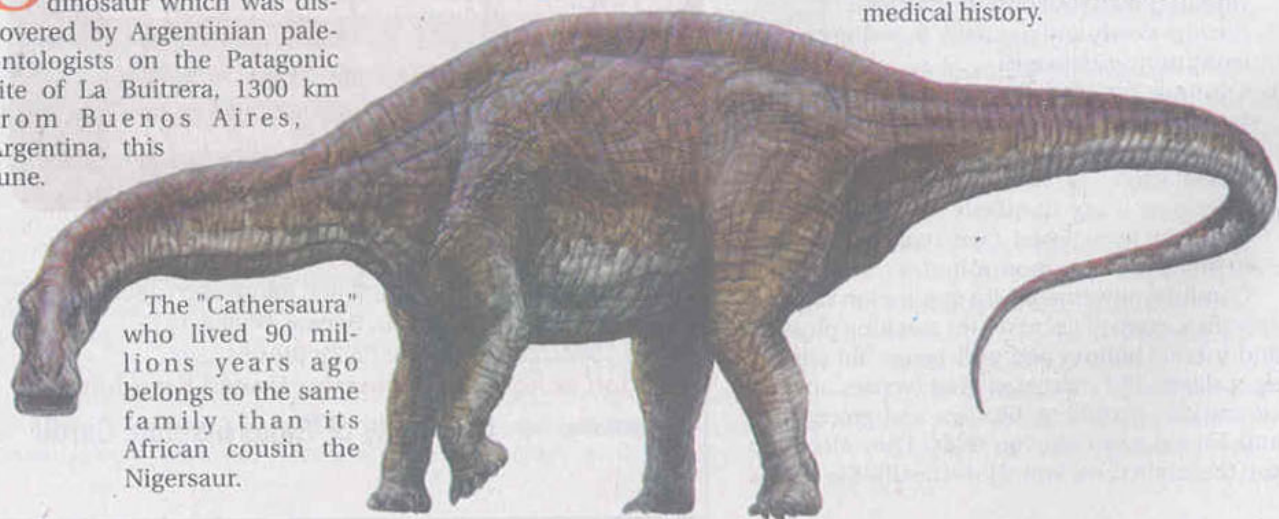


Flash drive provides emergency information

An Oklahoma computer expert has devised a portable flash drive that can store a person's medical information for use in an emergency. Dirk VanBuskirk was initially influenced by his wife's allergic reaction to a metal medical bracelet she wore alerting emergency workers to her diabetic condition. VanBuskirk used his experience as a computer programmer to create a flash drive that people can carry on key rings or wear as necklaces -- with no allergic reactions -- to provide emergency medical information. The invention, called Med-Flash, is about the size of a small package of bubble gum, the newspaper said, capable of storing about four pages -- 64 megabytes -- of information, including a person's name, address, allergies, religious preference and medical history, along with an identification photo. In an emergency, ambulance technicians or emergency room physicians can plug Med-Flash into any computer USB port, using Notepad or Wordpad to display a patient's medical history.

Dino remains in Argentina

Scientific illustration of a "Cathersaura" 20m long dinosaur which was discovered by Argentinian paleontologists on the Patagonic site of La Buitrera, 1300 km from Buenos Aires, Argentina, this June.



The "Cathersaura" who lived 90 millions years ago belongs to the same family than its African cousin the Nigersaur.