

SCIENCE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Ultrasaurus



Photos: Brigham Young Univ.

Brigham Young University paleontologist James A. Jensen finds that even his prone, six-foot-plus body (above) falls considerably short of matching the length of his latest discovery. The nine-foot-long shoulder blade comes from what Jensen believes is the largest dinosaur yet discovered: a *Brachiosaurus* that stood between 50 and 60 feet tall and probably weighed about 80 tons. After discovering the giant scapula in the remote Dry Mesa quarry in western Colorado, Jensen and co-workers placed a ridge around the bone and began to prepare a plaster of paris mold. About seven years ago, Jensen dug up a scapula nearly eight feet long, which media wits dubbed "Supersaurus." Jensen calls the animal connected to this newly found shoulder "Ultrasaurus." The long bones in its legs were 9 feet long, Jensen says. □



Brachiosaurus illus. from *Archosauria* by John C. McLaughlin (See review, p. 95).

Sun Day organizer is new solar director

Solar energy advocates are applauding the appointment of Denis Hayes, last week, as director of the Solar Energy Research Institute in Golden, Colo. Directing \$30 million in operating funds and \$60 million in contract work, Hayes, at 34, becomes the youngest director of a national laboratory. While a senior researcher at the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, Hayes was among the guiding forces that launched Sun Day — a national fete to celebrate solar's promise (SN: 5/13/79, p. 309) last year.

Hayes inherits command of an institution already riddled by criticism and hobbled by chaos. In part, that reflects the inevitable organizational growing pains that result when a laboratory expands from a staff of zero to more than 600 in just two years. But it also reflects serious "definitional" problems that the Department of Energy and Congress have yet to resolve. At question is: SERI's independence in setting research and solar-development directives; its authority or coordination with federally funded regional solar laboratories; and who its director and program managers must answer to at DOE. Next fall, Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.) plans to investigate how these problems might be re-

solved in hearings before the House Subcommittee on Energy Development and Applications, which he chairs.

Unlike his predecessor, Paul Rappaport (SN: 4/22/78, p. 255), Hayes enters his post with national visibility and a grassroots following, largely due to his solar advocacy. In the past two years, he has published at least three reports and a book on solar energy. And in addition to spearheading Sun Day, he has served as chairman of the board for two of its spinoffs: Solar Lobby and the Center for Renewable Resources. He has frequently criticized the federal government's funding of solar research and its commitment to financial incentives that would spur solar's chances in the marketplace.

Some have questioned whether Hayes's appointment wasn't really a move to "shut him up" by moving him "inside" or to bury him away from the Washington spotlight with an assignment to the hinterlands. But when colleagues posed those questions to Hayes last week, he responded confidently, saying that he would not be "buried" or "bought off." Says Jim Broyles at Solar Lobby, "We can expect fireworks," because "you're not going to see a quiet Denis Hayes." □

