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Subject: Postcard

Today we hiked across the parking lot. All the way to the car.

Our first stop was at the BLM Visitor Center to get some advice on driving on park backroads. Our ranger recommended a drive which curls around the back end of Lake Powell to Alstrom Point and looks down at the lake from high canyon walls. But his shoulder length gray hair and diamond stud earrings were startling, to say the least, on a park ranger. As we quickly learned (or more precisely, as he quickly instructed) he was Merle H. Graffam (yes, *the* Merle H. Graffam) who discovered [*Nothronychus graffami*](#), a new dinosaur species. As we further learned, this area is an actual hotbed of new dinosaurs and this visitor center is home to a huge collection of dino heads. Well actually the collection is small. The heads are huge.



Utahceratops (left)

Merle is knowledgeable about dinosaurs in general and is clearly expert in *Nothronychus graffami*. He's a pretty good salesman, too. We left with a graffami T-shirt, a graffami model, a graffami coloring sheet and an autographed picture of Merle reenacting his discovery. It could have been tedious. But it wasn't.

We left the ranger station and headed for Alstrom Point. We dropped into 4-wheel low and crossed a Rubicon of sorts, Wahweap Creek.







Merle and Bogie done good.

BTW...



... get the built-in GPS.

D&S

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