

## Journey To The Center Of The Earth

Hippies aren't the only dinosaurs that once ran rampant on the Kilmer campus. In December, a team of Columbia University scientists drilled 3,000 feet below Kilmer to find clues to future climate changes and to a mass extinction of species that occurred 200 million years ago, at the dawn of the dinosaur era.

Using a diamond-studded drill, the only one of its kind in the world, scientists hope that core samples will reveal a record of climate over the 30-million-year Triassic period. The data may prove helpful in understanding future climate changes, such as global warming.

Additional samples may contain evidence of an asteroid that crashed into what is now Canada. The asteroid may have caused

the extinction 200 million years ago of almost half the types of animals living on earth, leaving dinosaurs to flourish in the absence of competition. Rutgers geologist Roy Schliche says that because the Newark

Basin was formed about the same time as the asteroid hit, rock sediments in the basin probably recorded the fallout better than the area around the impact site.

Rutgers geologists will be heavily involved in analyzing

the core samples. Because the earth's crust in Central New Jersey is like a layer cake that has been tilted slightly to expose various layers, it is one of the most studied geologic sites in the world.

