

REALLY, RHINOS!

Vol. 2 #3 Fall 1988

ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

On Saturday, September 10th, I had the privilege of attending a lecture by Andy Lodge, chief pachyderm keeper at the Columbus Zoo. His words were direct, unsugar-coated and very grim: Unless something isn't done immediately, poachers will have killed all the rhinos and elephants in Africa by 1992.

Andy is the president of the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary Support Group in Kenya and spoke of one woman's valiant efforts to save the remaining black rhinos in Kenya. Current statistics give the black rhino the dubious distinction of being number one on the most endangered species list.

Lodge works 10 months with the zoo and spends the other two months at Ngare Sergoi, a 10,000 acre sanctuary on a 46,000 acre ranch north of Kenya. It has a 10 foot high fence that is 20 kilometers long. The sanctuary was founded and is managed by Anna Merz, an Englishwoman who has devoted her life

and fortune to trying to preserve the black rhino and other animals. She has invested more than \$1 million in the cause.

Poachers in four-wheel drive vehicles mounted with machine guns are roaming Kenya killing elephants and rhinos, using power saws to cut off their tusks and horns, Lodge said. An animal can be killed and its tusks or horns taken in about 10 minutes.

The most popular uses for the horns, contrary to popular belief, is not in medicine or as an aphrodisiac. The biggest market for rhino horn is in Yemen where it is used as dagger sheaths for the macho Ye-men.

The U.S. pumps a lot of money into Yemen and yet this country's demand for rhino horn is the main reason the rhino is veritabily extinct. Why? Andy thinks it's because Yemen is in a strategic position in the Middle East and the U.S. can't afford to risk Yemenite ire. I say, rhino rot!

Write a letter to your Congressperson to put some economic sanctions on the country. If there is no market, no demand, the poachers will have no work. When the last rhino is gone, what are they going to use for their sheaths? Well, let them start using a new material NOW!

THE MUSEUM OF YORK COUNTY



Ah, Fall! The morning and evening air is cleaner and crisper. Leaves change colors and vibrant hues of gold and red and orange gently float from the trees. (Is that why they call it fall?) It's a time of week-end getaways and holidays. And what is the point of all this? If y'all are anywhere near Rock Hill, South Carolina this fall (or winter or spring), stop in at the Museum of York County (MYCO).

Called "Africa on a Country Road" by Southern Living Magazine, MYCO has the most diverse collection of fully mounted African mammals on exhibition in the world. Over 200 dioramas where "you can almost sense the humidity of the jungle, the rustle of the savanna, and the dry windswept heat of the African plain."

The museum also has a planetarium, three galleries filled with art and wildlife exhibits, a cool and leafy nature trail (one of the top ten in the State) with a picnic area and grove of tall Carolina pines and oaks.

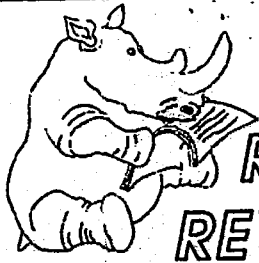
And why does she wax prosaic about this museum? Because it's mascot is a rhino! In fact, if you were to write to Stuart Schwartz, the Executive Director, he could send you a list of southern rhinobilia available at MYCO. (4621

Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29730).

One item for sale is *Rhino in the Kitchen*, a cookbook containing favorite recipes from the Guild of MYCO.

Whimsical illustrations accompany tried and true recipes from soup to nuts (don't panic - rhinoceros is not an ingredient in any recipe!).





RHINO REVIEWS

The first four titles are strictly for the rabid rhinophile because less than 1% of the books have anything to do with rhinos!

The Joke Book by Roy Mc Kie (Random House 1979). This paperback joke book only has one page with a rhino (actually two rhinos) and the joke is pretty lame but it's a rhino; need I say more?

The Rhinoceros in the Classroom by R. Murray Schafer (Universal Edition, 1975) is another obscure book. "Provocative, dominating, bigger than life, the teacher is the rhinoceros." This is a music education book, period.

Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure by Bill Peet (Houghton Mifflin, 1959). Really about a lion who mangles his mane but the rhino appears on eight pages. Bill Peet's illustrations are delightful.

Ride A Rhino by Michaela Denis (W.H. Allen, 1959). A rhino on the cover and two photos insides but the rest is basically the author's experiences in East Africa thirty years ago. If you like old travelogues and/or conservation tomes, you might want to read this one.

Rufus the Rhino by Yuilleen Kearney (Collins, 1965). At last! A whole book on the rhino! When Rufus arrived in Mrs. Kearney's kitchen in her house in the great Tsavo National Park in Kenya he was only about two days old, small and lost and hungry. Though they knew he would be

difficult to raise, the Kearneys decided to keep him. Not everyone can claim to have bottled a rhino! Like Joy Adamson's relationship with Elsa the lioness Mrs. Kearney soon must prepare to break the bond that exists between her and Rufus so that the beast can be returned to the wild.

The White Rhino Saga by Ian Player (Collins, 1972). Back in the early 1970's when the white rhino was more endangered than it is now, Ian Player and a handful of men worked toward the protection of the rhinos in the Umfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa's Zululand. The author tells how they chased, drugged, captured, tamed, healed, penned and transported this extraordinary animal gradually refining their initially primitive and dangerous methods with the help of a Zulu game guard force.

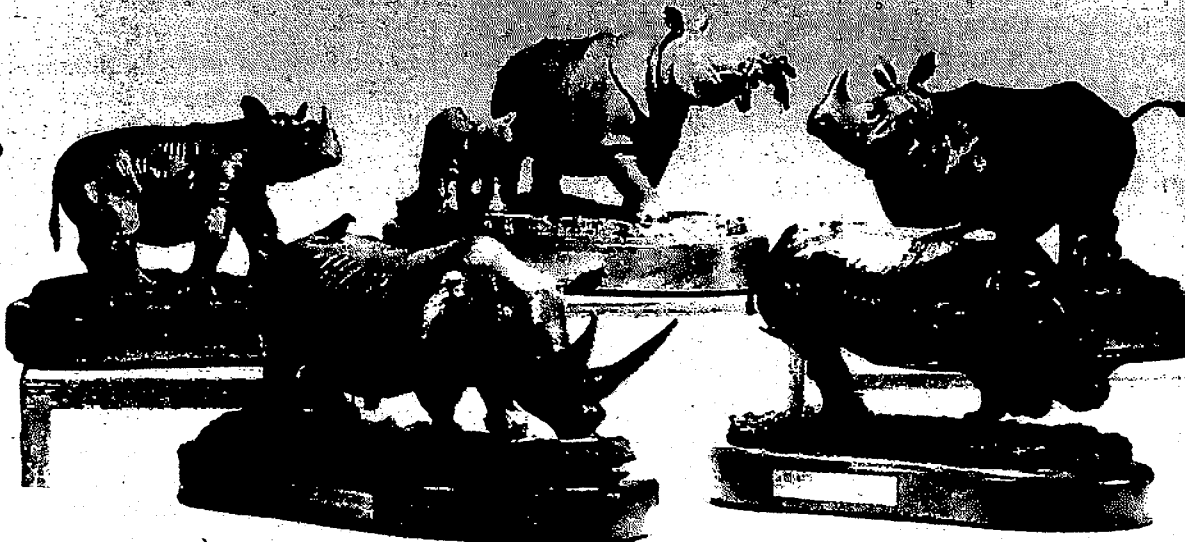
[P.S. Mr. Player is the brother of pro-golfer, Gary Player.]

The Olympics are finally over

and the U.S. came away with a share of the gold and silver. Now it's your turn to get some bronze!

Californian artist Susan J. Beatie has sculpted limited editions (30 each) of the five species of rhinoceros and a new piece called "Cera" - a white rhino calf (limited to 100). Ms. Beatie has used the same scale of one inch equals one foot for the rhinos so that the similarities as well as the differences may be observed.

Susan also has signed bronze belt buckle for \$35 (limited to 500). Her works are in zoo gift shops around the country. For more information contact her at: 10025 El Camino Real #8, Atascadero, CA 93422 (805) 466-5389. Fine rhino art for the connoisseur.



"Study of the Rhinoceros in Bronze" by Susan J. Beatie

A LAST REFUGE: NGARE SERGOI

The Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary is a 10,000-acre preserve for black rhinos on the Lew Downs Ranch near Istolo, Kenya. The land was donated by David and Delia Craig, owners of the ranch, and privately funded in 1983 by Englishwoman Anna Merz.

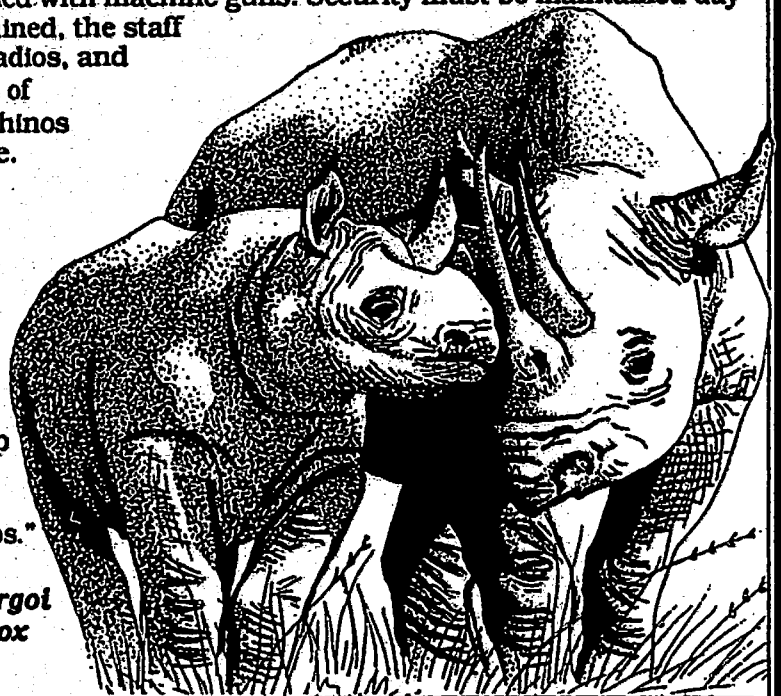
The sanctuary was established to provide a refuge for some of the few remaining rhinos of Kenya. The animals were isolated on mountain tops or in other small, remote areas in the north of Kenya, where there was no hope of them either being protected or being able to breed.

Today, the refuge is an example of successful cooperation between the Kenyan government, which owns the rhinos, the Craigs, and Mrs. Merz. It currently contains 12 black rhinos, including six calves that have been born there. Within the solar powered fences of the preserve, poachers have been turned away, the rhinos have reproduced, and other animals within its limits have also been protected.

But establishing the preserve was only the beginning. Its operation is depending upon ongoing funding, and Mrs. Merz's personal funds are depleted. Modern poaching is not a matter of bows and arrows, but instead of attacks by well-organized gangs, 30-40 strong, armed with machine guns. Security must be maintained day and night 365 days a year. Fences must be maintained, the staff paid, and food, housing, clothing, rifles, vehicles, radios, and other necessities must be provided. During periods of drought, such as has occurred in 1987-1988, the rhinos must be given supplemental feed in order to survive.

No government funds are received, and the Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary is dependent upon grants and private donations for survival. As Anna Merz says: "If you think as I do that it is a sin and a crime to allow the magnificent result of 60 million years of evolution to become extinct to provide the oil rich countries of the Middle East with carved status symbol dagger handles, then please help me to help these rhinos. Any contribution, great or small, is badly needed and greatly appreciated. All contributions go directly for the benefit of the rhinos."

All contributions may be sent payable to **Ngare Sergoi Support Group, Andy Lodge, Coordinator, PO Box 29503, Columbus, OH 43229**



According to Andy Lodge: **Sabena Airlines**, Belgium's national airline, transports horns and tusks out of Tanzania and Burundi.

Going once, going twice... A one-of-a-kind desk, shaped like a rhinoceros and made out of wood and copper with leather trim (10 feet 8 inches long), sold for \$49,500 at Sotheby's auction house in New York City!!

REALLY, RHINOS! is published 4 times a year with an annual subscription rate of \$15 (USA, add \$4 for overseas postage), \$5 of which is donated to the East African Wildlife Society's *Rhino Project*.

Reader feed-back is encouraged.
All correspondence should be sent to
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**WHEN YOU STEP
INTO THAT POLLING
BOOTH THIS
NOVEMBER,
Vote
the Rhino Party!**

Though "Rhino Fundamentalism" can be traced as far back as Socrates, contemporary "rhinocerism," - the power of positive absurdity in the face of absolute idiocy - originated in Quebec in 1963 around the kitchen table of noted Quebec humorist, author, and doctor of medicine, Senator Jacques Ferron, giving birth to the Parti Rhinoceros. Senator Ferron in 1964, first counseled: "Promising politicians must promise to keep none of their promises." He also authored their slogan and principal philosophy:

"Les rhinoceros ne sont pas des moutons" (Rhinos are not sheep.)

In 1980 the Rhinoceros Party formed an alliance with the Hoboes of America at the 80th Annual Convention of American Hoboes in Britt, Iowa. The Hoboes were first to suggest forming the Rhinos of America. Eight years later - once having figured out, then applying the rules and regulations outlines by the Federal Elections Commission, their "Great Grey Hope," is now legitimately registered as a full-fledged political party: The Rhinos of America.

The Rhinos of America are but the next chapter in the ongoing saga of the American Revolution. We are ready to forge new valleys, build bunkers on top of every hill, and fly Concorde whenever and wherever, in search of New Frontiers and Great Societies. We shall not permit rust deposits to form on the batteries of freedom's flashlight, for we cannot endure in cells! Our batteries are charged and we stand Eveready in the light of liberty, justice, and cheaper beer for all!

The Rhinos may be new to America, but consider the rhinoceros: prototype of the perfect politician - stupid, thick-skinned, myopic, with a penchant for wallowing in mud - it will flee at the first sign of trouble and is dangerous only when cornered.

We are more than mere lint in the belly-button of Big Government.

We have a self-inflicted mandate to serve as the pesticide of politics, the fertilizer of the nation, and to water the gardens of democracy.

We promise to repeal the law of gravity.

We promise to establish a Department of Absurdities and Idiots.

We promise to pay off America's deficit with our American Express Cards.

We promise to reduce the arms race to a foot race while we've still got a leg to stand on.

We promise to implement a Space Bakeries Initiative (SBI) to finally establish pie-in-the-sky.

We promise to keep none of our promises, - and this time, we mean it.

These are neither the best of times, or the worst of times, but in times like these, it helps to remember that there have always been times like these. The time has come to realize we must get in step with the times: we cannot fool all of the people some of the time, or some of the people all the time, but we if can fool a simple majority of the people at election time, that's all the time we need. At this time, we'd like to paraphrase one of the more distinguished graduates of the London School of Economics, Mr. Michael Jagger when he said, "Time is on our side."

[The above press release was sent to me by official Rhino International Headquarters. Party Bagman: D.B. Cooper. To become a card-carrying member write to Rhinos of America, POB 5381, Burlington, VT 05402.]