

# REALLY, RHINOS!



Volume 9, no. 1, 1995

**Something Is Different** You'll notice some changes in the newsletter because my computer crashed over Christmas and I had to start from scratch. New computer (Power Mac) and new software including 2,000 fonts I don't know what to do with! After eight years, it was time for something new anyway. Hope you like the makeover. As always, feel free to send any feedback.

**Sad News** A rare Sumatran rhinoceros died on Monday, February 27th at the San Diego Zoo's veterinary hospital. Tanjung, an 8-year old male, died shortly after midnight. Dr. Linda Lowenstine, Zoo pathologist, determined the cause of the rhino's death to be a twisted intestine. The 1,500 pound Sumatran rhino, one of only four of its species in U.S. zoos, received five days of intensive care at the Zoo hospital after being found lethargic and not eating on February 22nd by zookeepers. Zoo veterinarians treated the ailing rhino with intravenous fluids, antibiotics, painkillers and mineral oil. Tanjung's mate, Barakas, died at the Zoo on Feb. 22nd after a long illness. Lab reports which analyzed tissue samples from Barakas indicate the female rhino died of chronic kidney disease. Jeff Jouett, spokesman for the Zoo, said the two rare animals, also known as red rhinos (for their red hair), were among the keepers' favorites.

Deaths of Tanjung and Barakas are a setback to the international Sumatran rhino rescue effort. Little is known of the species in the wild or in zoos. The rhinos were brought to North America after four U.S. zoos - San Diego, Los Angeles, Cincinnati and the International Wildlife Conservation Park, formerly the Bronx zoo - formed a consortium and negotiated with the Indonesian government to try to breed them in captivity. Jouett said "It is a serious setback to the Sumatran rhino breeding program and since that's a component of the overall rescue effort, the whole species is worse off for it."

Send your condolences to Jeff Jouett, San Diego Zoological Society, PO Box 551, San Diego, CA 92112-0551.

**E-XCITING E-MAIL** While browsing America Online, I downloaded two pages on the rhinoceros trade. You already know the bad news... About 10,000 rhinos remain in the wild. Wholesale markets in Taiwan are getting up to \$30,000 per pound for rhino horn. Most rhinos are killed in Zimbabwe and traded through Zambia. Principal consumers are China, Korea, Taiwan and Yemen. For more information on the status of rhinos and the laws protecting them, contact Traffic, USA: c/o WWF-US, 1250 245th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. WWF also has a Wildlife Trade Education Kit which includes slides, information and activities. Send \$47 to WWF Publications, PO Box 4866, Hampden Post Office, Baltimore, MD 21211.

**WANDER EYES FOR RHINOS** At last! The endangered species series of 5-D notecards finally is offering a rhino. I still cannot see the rhino in the picture, with or without my glasses. If you would like to try your eyes at it, check your local bookstore or card shop or write to: Blue Mountain Arts, PO Box 4549, Boulder, CO 80306.

**Happy News** It's the circle of life all over again as Julia, a black rhinoceros at the Cincinnati Zoo, gave birth to a male calf, Bwana Chai (*chai* for life?) in December. It is the 17th black rhino born at the zoo and Julia's second.

