

This month ZONOOZ follows creatures great and small, from rhinos of differing patterns and hues to butterflies that have homesteaded a passion flower vine. Botanical Side adventurers embark on a voyage to follow sea beans and sea hearts—seeds set adrift.

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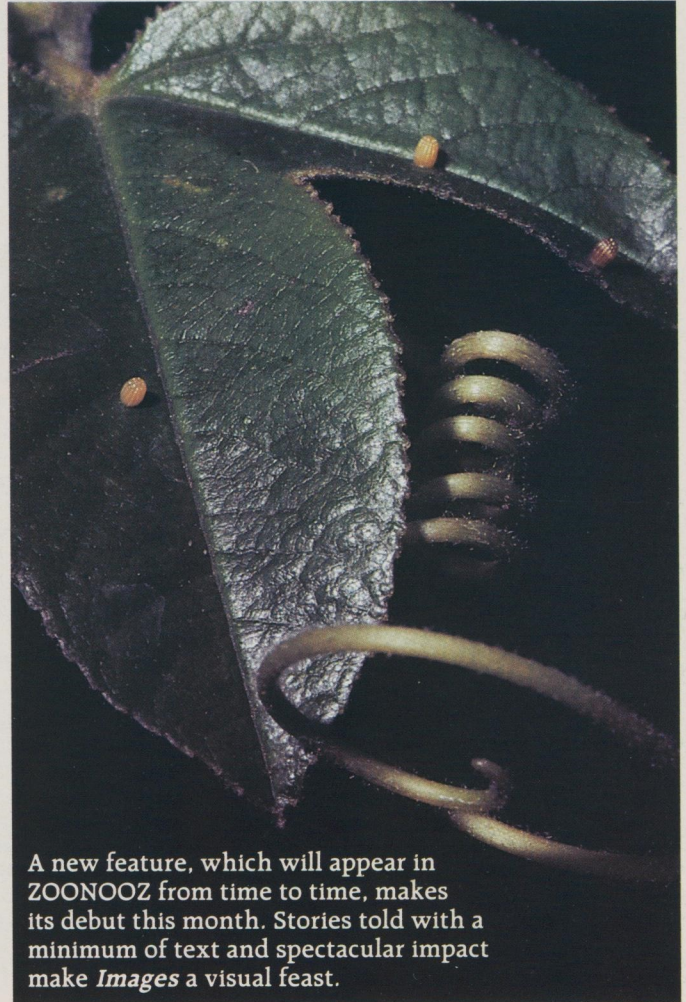
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COVERS

Front: Jorhat, a young Indian rhino, nestles against his mother's "armored" side. Jorhat was born to Jaypuri and Lasai on May 1, 1983. Last September he was sent on breeding loan to the Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa, Florida, to begin a new dynasty. San Diego Zoo photo by Ron Garrison.

Back: An Asiatic tree frog *Polypedates leucomystax* has the last laugh. San Diego Zoo photo by Ken Kelley.

Opposite: Australian stone curlew *Burhinus magnirostris*.



A new feature, which will appear in ZONOOZ from time to time, makes its debut this month. Stories told with a minimum of text and spectacular impact make *Images* a visual feast.



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- Generate interest in and membership in the Society.
- Contribute to the reader's knowledge of exhibits, research, education, animals, plants, and other matters pertinent to the Society's purposes.

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San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park
Spring Hours

March 6 through May 31

Gates open: 9 A.M.

Gates close: 4 P.M.

Off Grounds/Zoo: 6 P.M. Off Grounds/Park: 5 P.M.



San Diego Zoo, K. Kelley

Barakas is one of two female Sumatran rhinos that arrived in California last November. She and Mahatu, who is spending the winter at the Los Angeles Zoo before moving on to Cincinnati, are the first of their endangered species to reside in United States zoos since the turn of the century. Sumatran rhinos were exhibited at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., in 1896, and the Bronx Zoo in New York in 1902.

LADY IN RED

Leaves rustle. A branch snaps. From out of the dense forest emerges an unusual animal with a massive body, large head, broad chest, and short legs—its destination, a muddy pool just ahead. Though the animal is covered with coarse red hair, stands 4 feet high, and weighs 1,800 pounds, it is not easily seen on such a trek. A shy, solitary animal, the Sumatran rhinoceros is active mainly during evening, night, and early morning hours, seeking heavy cover as it rests during the day.

Not merely elusive, the Sumatran rhino is also highly endangered—as few as 500 are believed to inhabit remnant tropical rain forests in Burma, Malaysia, and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Even though these animals are protected, poaching continues. Their populations have been isolated and pushed into smaller and smaller areas as the forest land around them is destroyed for lumber and agricultural uses.

The Sumatran rhino needs help. A consortium of zoos and aquariums in the United States and Canada has included the Sumatran rhino in its efforts to preserve 46 critically endangered species through cooperative captive breeding programs. Seven pairs of Sumatran rhinos from the wild will be sought as a base group for a captive breed-

ing program. Two pairs will remain in Indonesian zoos, and one pair each will reside at the San Diego, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, and Bronx zoos. The seventh pair will travel to another, as yet undetermined, United States zoo.

The first three Sumatran rhinos to join this program are all female. Barakas made her debut at the San Diego Zoo in February. Mahatu is spending the winter at the Los Angeles Zoo before continuing her journey to the Cincinnati Zoo. A third female is at home at the Surabaya Zoo in Indonesia.

San Diego's red-haired rhino is named for the region in Sumatra where she was found last July. Barakas weighs 1,600 pounds and her age is estimated at 13 years. Her skin is furrowed, or pleated, in deep folds. Sumatran rhinos are also known as hairy rhinos because of their bristly hair. Some references inappropriately call the Sumatran rhino the woolly rhino. This may be confusing, as one of the Sumatran rhino's early relatives, an extinct rhino of the Ice Age, is indeed known as the woolly rhino. The Sumatran rhino's coat is not as dense as its woolly predecessor's, but it may share one distinctive characteristic—a reddish hue. There is much variation in color, from buff to reddish brown to light or even dark gray. The true

color is often camouflaged by a heavy coat of mud or dust. Sumatran rhinos seem to enjoy wallowing in muddy pools or ponds, and the mud helps keep their thick skin supple and free of parasites. Though one might not guess it to look at them, Sumatran rhinos are also good swimmers. These imposing looking animals are vegetarians, preferring leaves, twigs, and fruit when they can find it.

Barakas, however, seems to have no definite preference—once in her newly landscaped enclosure, she began munching immediately on any vegetation in sight or, for an animal with poor eyesight and a keen sense of smell, anything within range of her nose. Don't be surprised if this "timid" lady in red doesn't shy away as visitors approach. Sumatran rhinos quickly become habituated to new surroundings. There's no doubt—Barakas is in charge at her new home in San Diego.

—Maureen L. Greeley, Editorial Assistant

That's a mouthful! Vegetarian Barakas can select her favorites from as much as 16 pounds of browse a day, including such delicacies as Ficus, Acacia, Eugenia, and Hibiscus cuttings.

