

REALLY RHINOS!

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WE HUMBLY APOLOGIZE

In the Winter 1991 issue of Really, Rhinos!, there was a blurb on the National Environmental Scoreboard. Although we did give Ngare Sergoi's newsletter H.O.R.N. credit for the information, we did rephrase some of the words and the last paragraph was strictly an editorial comment of R.R! not part of the original work. We apologize to the H.O.R.N. editors for the confusion and promise not to do it again without written permission. For the record here is the exact reprint of the H.O.R.N. article:

CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

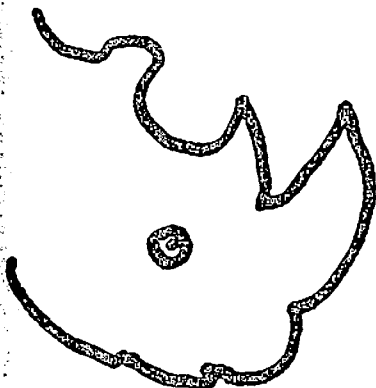
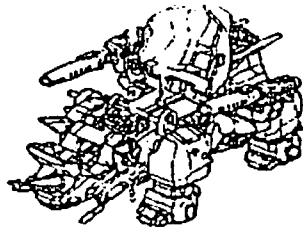
How do your representatives to Congress really feel about the environment? Their voting records indicate the truth. Each year the League of Conservation Voters issues the National Environmental Scorecards which gives the voting record of all members on key environmental actions before Congress. The scorecard is compiled annually and a new issue is available at the first of the year. The 1990 edition is the most recent available. If you would like to see your representative's environmental record, write to:

The League of Conservation Voters
1150 Connecticut Ave. NW Suite 201
Washington, DC 20036

Please enclose \$5 to cover copying and postage costs. (The league is a small organization.) And remember, 1992 is an election year..."

RHINO ROBOT FOR SALE

Corey Chandler, one of my favorite rhinophiles, is offering a rare rhino robot (transformer?) for sale. He is asking \$50 for it. Here's a thunderscanned print. If you want a photo, write to Corey at 123 Walnut Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941.



"Careful! That rhino's going to charge!"

Rx: RHINOPLASTY

You already know that Namibia has been dehorning the rhinos in an effort to save them from poachers. Now Zimbabwe is doing the same thing. According to a recent news clipping, there are about 2,000 rhinos left in wildlife sanctuaries which includes 2/3 of the world's black rhinos. Only 20 years ago 65,000 rhinos roamed Africa. Zimbabwean rangers have killed at least 145 poachers in the past seven years and still they've lost at least 960 rhinos to the @#%^^& poachers. Despite the risk; however, poachers slip across the Zambezi River from Zambia because their ill-gotten gains are still more than they might earn in a lifetime. I know some people disagree with this statement; please respond if you do. Some tourists are a bit confused when they see these hornless rhinos but as one tourist put it, "They don't look like rhinos, or anything for that matter. No one at home will believe my photographs. But if it means they're going to be protected, I'm all for it." This effort is a pilot program and if it works, officials want to dehorn all of Zimbabwe's rhinos. The irony of course is, what to do with the horns. With more than two tons of rhino horn valued hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Zimbabwe government is stymied because trade in rhino horn is (of course we all know!) illegal. Correct me if I am wrong those of you who attended, but I believe at the International Rhino Conference in San Diego last May, this issue came up. Could the horn be sold legally with the proceeds used to protect the remaining rhinos in the wild and sanctuaries (for game wardens, transportation, radio equipment, etc.)? We are indeed sitting on the horns of a dilemma R.S.V.P. if you have comments.

PACHYDERM PACKAGE

The African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group (AERSG) is part of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. They publish an annual publication called Pachyderm. In the 1991 issue (latest one I have), there are more than 15 pages (with photos) devoted to the world's rhino population. If you would like to have a photocopy of this rhino section, please send me \$5 and I will mail you a copy. The photocopying is being donated so I will mail your money directly to AERSG c/o Esmond Bradley Martin as a token of our support for all the work he and his wife Chrysee do on behalf of rhinos everywhere. Just send your check to Really Rhinos!, PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285.

NEWS LEAKEY

I received a press packet from a new conservation organization which should interest you. The African Society for Animal Protection, Inc. (A.S.A.P.) is a fledgling organization with no office rent and no paid staff. Dr. Richard E. Leakey, son of renowned paleontologist Louis Leakey and famous in his own right as director of Kenyan Wildlife Services, has agreed to chair this organization. President Peter A. Bakker has promised that those who join ASAP will receive only a couple of fundraising letters a year because they want to save on unnecessary postage. A.S.A.P. is a tax-exempt organization so your contributions would be tax deductible. I am going to make a small donation on behalf of Really Rhinos! (that's YOU) but if you are willing to add a little to the pot, we can send a larger check. If you send your donation to me, I will send you a 4 page blurb about Dr. Leakey and his work with A.S.A.P.

According to the World Wildlife Fund. Did you know that if present use trends continue, one million more species will become extinct before the year 2000?

Thanks to Andrea Pett, publisher of *PETTPOURI*, for the following quote:

"Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character; and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man." -Schopenhauer-

RHINOS 'ROUND THE WORLD

Planning a trip to Israel (Next year in Jerusalem)? Visit the zoo that has all the animals mentioned in the bible (See *Punch* cartoon on the last page) and when you get to the rhino, you'll be able to call it by it's Hebrew name: karnaf. Shalom!



"POMPEII OF THE PRAIRIES"

An older from *USA Today* (May 31, 1991, 10A)

Dateline: Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park, Nebraska.

"Animals as large as 14 feet tall are being unearthed from volcanic ash. The discovery heralded as the 'Pompeii of the Prairies' is a reference to the Italian city once buried beneath volcanic debris, which was uncovered largely in tact. The findings: [include] rhinoceroses crouched with legs tucked under their bodies, or lying on their sides and other barrel-bodied rhinos with pellets of grass beneath their tongues and in their stomachs. Although these fossil mammals - more than 50 species, including the rhinos, all apparently belong to previously identified species, these new skeletons are the most complete specimens of

these creature ever unearthed.

The fact of a group of large animals preserved with their total skeletons is unusual, and to have a bunch of rhinos is unique, because these rhinos don't exist anymore," says Frank Whitmore, with the National Geographic Society's research committee.

Scientists say at least 500 animals, probably many more, died over a period of a few hours to a few weeks as volcanic ash from an eruption in Idaho floated here and fell over them at what was a watering hole. Since the site's discovery, more than 40 tons of fossils have been removed. At least 50 years of digging remain at the site where there is so much ash it would take a pick-up truck 165,000 trips to empty all of it from the park. Despite the excavations, visitors still can witness discoveries. They are able to watch paleontologist chisel and brush away the powdery gray ash, constantly revealing rarely found parts in exquisite detail and in their correct position. Now being revealed in various states: the bones and teeth of three rhinos, one of which has an embryo inside the pelvic cavity."

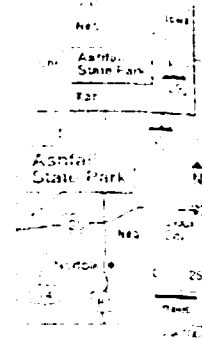
More resources on

Rhino paleontology

"The History of the Rhinoceroidea from *The Evolution of Perissodactyls* (ed. D.R. Prothero & R.M. Schoch) Oxford University Press, New York, 1989.

"The Rise and Fall of the American Rhino." Donald Prothero, *Natural History*, August, 1987 pp 26-33

"The Phylogeny of the Rhinoceroidea (Mammalia: Perissodactyla)" Donald R. Prothero, et al. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, (1969), 87: 511-560



REQUIEM FOR MAINDA

by Kuki Gallmann (An extract from my diary)

Laikipia 24 November, 1989

Today Mainda, one of our male black rhino, has been speared to death by a Pokot tribesman, just inside the ranch boundary, on the Kutua hills. When I heard the news on the radio, I just could not believe it. This is the first incident of poaching in about ten years.

Mainda was the first rhino Rob Brett had immobilized and outfitted with a radio transmitter back in 1987, on a breathless July day, a fine young male who kept going out of the boundary looking for a female.

Batteries do not last forever. Another radio was fitted when the first one eventually stopped working. It sent signals that allowed Rob to locate him, asleep below some lelechwah bush during the day, or trotting off out of Ol Ari Nyiro in his restless search for a companion. Our antipoaching team went after him several times, far into the hills, and pushed him back again and again to where he was safe.

And why should Mainda have known of man-made boundaries to safety? No fence, no ditch mark that environment. The hills look the same, the food is still there along the slopes of the Makutan Gorge where he was born. Perhaps a female waits, yet unclaimed by the dominant males of Ol Ari Nyiro, which do not let him breed. In his drowsy existence, which follows ancient patterns, why should he know that all other free-ranging rhino in Laikipia have been killed long ago? That danger, born of hunger, ignorance and greed, lurks in wait where our protection cannot reach?

Ol Ari Nyiro is not an island. Surrounded by settlement where little wilderness has been left: perhaps a shy nocturnal hare? a scared dik dik? a clever duiker which has managed to escape the snare? a cunning scuttling snake? the birds free as the wind, and which, like the wind, know no boundary?

I can so well see what happened.

Mainda trots about, sniffing high, intoxicated with the fresh scent of growing things, tender sprouts of new leaves, euphorbia, spiky and sweet. The heat makes him drowsy. The welcoming shade of a lelechwah bush waits for his noon rest. He stops, unaware that someone carefully, slowly, step by step, parting with trembling hands the crackling shrubs, is prowling towards him. The wind carries no smell of danger: the hunter knows better.

In a flash of incomprehensible pain, the spear is deep into his side.

Twice, it was the dart of the friendly gun which made him, after a brief sharp pain, dizzy, comatose, and oblivious. Burned deep in the foggy memory of his life experiences, are hushed human voices, the busy shadows of people working around him, inserting needles into his thick hide, drops into his half-open eyes to keep them moist, pouring water on his back and head to keep him cool. Fixing an annoying little device to his ear, which will allow that pale human to find him always, asleep in the thick bush in the heat of the day. Soon it was over and he was free again.

Now it is somehow different. There is not the noise of the small red plane circling above to check on him, the pain gets sharper, deeper, tearing away at his tender intestines, cutting through veins and arteries, reaching down to the life core of his being.

Instinctively, he turns and runs back to the familiar land, covered in sanseveria and aloe, of his native country. 117

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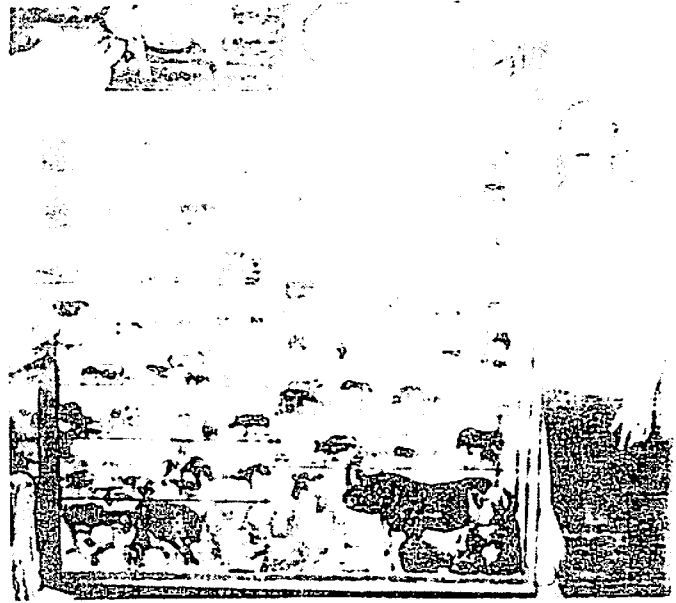
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RHINOPHILIGHTS

Our first rhinophilight of the year is Frances Ripka.

When I was five or six years old, my father bought me a nice set of plastic African animals. I lost some, broke some and some just disappeared. I still have the rhino and always will. In 1978 I remember I had five rhinos sitting on a shelf, and that's when I started my collection of approximately 30 rhinoceroses. I travel every chance I get. Some of my trips to Europe, Mexico, Hawaii, Canada, and large cities in the U.S., I always keep an eye open for a rhino or two I don't already have. When we traveled to Czechoslovakia to visit my relatives, they made me three rhinos out of clay. They aren't the most attractive rhinos, but they were made with love and they are special to me. I occasionally attend collectors and antique markets where I sometimes purchase an "old" rhino which sometimes can be a bit expensive.



My family and certain friends of mine sometimes call me and tell me where they have seen a rhino, so I can go check it out. I can usually count on a rhino or two for birthday and Christmas presents. As you can see by the picture, I display my collection in a big glass showcase which sits in my living room. I had to add four glass shelves to accommodate my slowly growing collection. I enjoy the rhinoceros so much that I found a way to have one with me permanently. I recently had a friend of mine tattoo a beautiful rhino on my right arm. [way to go, Frances!! ed.]

On my rhino wish list: rhinos doing something, e.g. mowing grass, fishing or some other sport; funny ones. God willing, may the rhinoceros never become extinct.

Write to Frances at 850 Clark, Muskegon, MI 49442. (lots of Midwest rhinophiles aren't there? Immmmmmmmm)

IF IT'S SPRING IT MUST BE RHINO BABIES

Thanks to Tony Nichols for these two cute bambinos. They aren't babies anymore but I thought you would like to add them to your collection. By the way, the last time I heard from Tony, he was preparing for a January visit (his first?) to Africa. I suspect with only a slight twist of his arm, I can get him to share his exploits in the next issue. I swear if we cloned Tony and put him in the African and Asian wilds, there would be no more poaching. When it comes to rhinos, this man has more energy than anyone I know. You're aces, Tony!



2 week old Sumatra rhino (Eastern black rhino) born 11/26/90

2 week old Gujarat rhino (Greater Indian rhino) born 12/26/90

RHINOBUYS • RHINOBUYS • RHINOBUYS • RHINOBUYS

HERE TOMORROW (and
tomorrow and tomorrow...)

Want a new t-shirt for your collection? It's from a company called The Wild Resort, Inc. (dba Here Tomorrow). They offer a black rhino with the slogan "Rhino Rescue" and a cartoon that says "The Wildlife Reserve". At the bottom of the shirt it says "An all out effort must be made to end the poaching and stop the trade in man is going to save this remarkable beast who has lived on this earth for the past 25 million years. The price of the shirt is about \$18 including shipping but a percentage of your sale will go to TREES FOR LIFE which planted 5 million trees in 1989. They expect to plant 100 million trees before the end of the decade (500,000 in the U.S., 50 million in India, 100 million globally). The shirt is Fruit of the Loom 100% cotton and comes in all sizes, even an XXL. Write to The Resort, Inc. 1330 E. First #135, Wichita, KS 67214 (316) 267-2635. If you want other ecologically oriented shirts, they have them too. My favorite (next to the rhino shirt) is "Compost Happens."

I want to stir some interest in the zebra paintings featured in the 5:2, 1991 issue. I still have a few left and I have no wall space to hang them. Please consider buying one for the rhinophile you love so I can send the Cleveland Zoo money to help feed their two white rhinos. Sitting in my closet, the pictures will get ruined. If you need another copy of the pictures, let me know.

REALLY, RHINOS!
PO Box 1285
Tucson, AZ 85702-1285

SAVE THE RHINO DAY
FEB. 29, 1993

If there is a check mark in this box your subscription has expired. Please send in a renewal check today! Thank you for being a



If "Compost Happens" then Zoo Doo does. Whether you have a farm, a garden, or a single plant, you want to get some good fertilizer. What could be better than rhino manure, right? "Zoo Doo" begins with herbivore manure from one of several "Zoo Rhinos and elephants are typically our biggest friends and benefactors (contributing about 2/3 of the total), but

each animal species has a different diet and contributes accordingly. After the manure has been composted for six months, it is dried, screened, and then blended with natural fortifiers (we like to consider the blend *poop poop*). Zoo Doo® may sound funny, but its performance is serious: the minimum guaranteed analysis of our "Premium Organic Fertilizer" is 4•3•4 (% Nitrogen•% Phosphorus•% Potassium). For gardeners who prefer to go completely *au naturel*, Zoo Doo® without additives will be available as 'Classic Compost' beginning this spring. Zoo Doo's best reviews have come from vegetable growers, one of whom claims that Zoo Doo® helped him grow his biggest tomatoes ever and kept them from being ravaged by deer. Maybe deer understand that rhinos are king of the garden." You can order small or large quantities in reusable buckets or burlap bags and there are even t-shirts for sale. Write to Zoo Doo Compost Company, Inc. 5851 Ridge Bend Rd, Memphis, TN 38120 or call (800) I LUV DOO. 51% of the proceeds from the sale of ZOO DOO® benefits the Memphis Zoo." It's a zoo-per idea, so buy some today while the animals keep dooing their part. Zoo-Doo® president, Pierce Ledbetter, will be our next rhinophilight.

"We're coming in six by six. Any objections?" ▼



Cover of Planch, 7/14/82

☛ O.K. Which rhinophile was born on September 15th? Your questionnaire was nameless! Your favorite rhino is from the Cleveland Zoo. Who are YOU?

Really, Rhinos! is published quarterly. Annual subscription is \$15 (\$17 overseas) which \$5 is donated to rhino projects.

Reader feedback and rhino citing should be reported to Judyth Lessee, Editor, *Really, Rhinos!* PO Box 12 Tucson, AZ 85702-1285, (602) 227-90

Note: If you find errors, please know they are a crime these who always look for them. We try to print as fast as we can.