

# REALLY RHINOS!

7:2, Summer, 1993

This issue is dedicated to Beth Ann Daly of Iowa City, a new rhino subscriber who has generously contributed many tidbits & rhinos for this issue.

## UN ENVOY FOR RHINOS!

Excerpted from BBC Wildlife, 11 February, 1993: 42-44.

In 1961, Sir Peter Scott predicted that the black rhino would be extinct in three decades and today, 32 years later, despite the WWF, SSP, Operation Rhino, Save the Rhino and all the other rhino-friendly organizations, the downward slope continues. Despite all the gloom and doom, there is hope. Now there is actually a UN Envoy for Rhinos and guess who it is? Yes! Esmond Bradley Martin! "People are finally realizing that it is possible to save the rhinos. I keep hammering away at the pessimists with success stories - successes which are in some of the world's poorest countries." Bradley Martin suggests that where there is a will there is a way provided

the will is at the highest political level. In Nepal, the king himself has ordered the protection of rhinos and the governments of both Kenya and India have provided sufficient political will and commitment to control the poaching.

After the shocking realization that Zimbabwe's black rhino population was only a quarter of what had been officially claimed in November, 1992, Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, the executive director of the UN Environment Program (which among other things, administers CITES) reacted with unbureaucratic speed & in a matter of weeks he had created the post of UN Special Envoy for Rhinos, the first time this has ever been done for a species; provided funds to the Zimbabwe Wildlife Department for anti-poaching intelligence-gathering activities and co-funded a documentary film on the trade and his envoy's interviews with dealers.

Research in the U.S. indicated that there is no need to add toxins to rhino horn medicines as they already contain dangerous poisons put there by the manufacturers. Researchers at the Forensic Laboratory of the US Fish and Wildlife Service have discovered that rhino keratin has a lower molecular weight,

higher sulphur content and a lower pH value than keratin from other species. This is useful because to prosecute someone for importing rhino-horn medicines, it is first necessary to prove there really is rhino horn in the pills. In fact, unpublished reports reveal that in two brands of Asian medicinal tea balls, no traces of rhino-specific keratins were found. It would therefore appear that someone is being conned - not only are patients not getting the medicine they are paying for, they may actually be poisoning themselves or their children. Legal trade in these "medicines" has now been stopped in Taiwan and further exports from China are banned. But in China, the world's most populous nation, there are estimated to be nearly 8.5 tons of rhino-horn stock.

There is another way to bring pressure to bear on the rhino-trading countries: a clause in US law called the Pelley Amendment. It says that if any country can be shown to be undermining an international agreement to protect an endangered species, in this case CITES, the US government can ban imports of all wildlife products (including fisheries) from that country. The next CITES meeting will be in the US in 1994 and your letters

supporting this amendment are critical. How the US government stands on this issue will undoubtedly influence many other CITES member-countries as they cast their votes.

Some final words about CITES. The point of CITES is to protect species whose survival is being, or might be threatened by international trade. The failure of CITES to end the illegal rhino-horn trade is now being used as an excuse to restructure the whole convention, making its goals as much to do with continuation of trade as the protection of the species. CITES has not failed the rhino. It is the poor implementation of CITES - the failure of the people who matter to carry out the democratically voted decisions and resolutions of the people who mind. CITES can be likened to a dam across a river of rhino trade, with conservationists and customs officers in the role of the beavers. The dam is well built and most of the flow has been stopped but every time one leak is plugged, another one - another smuggling route - appears. Leakage is now down to a trickle, but the rhino populations are so low that there is a drought of rhinos to feed the trade - because for years there were more leaks than there were new rhinos. But the leaks are being plugged faster now

that rhinos have become the issue of the moment. If we succeed, we will then need a long period during which the rhino trade is totally dammed, and the level of rhinos allowed to rise. And the last thing the rhino puddle needs now is a sluice-gate of legal trade. Otherwise the rhinos will run dry, and Sir Peter Scott's dire prediction will come true - and only a few years behind schedule.

## MORE ON FORENSICS

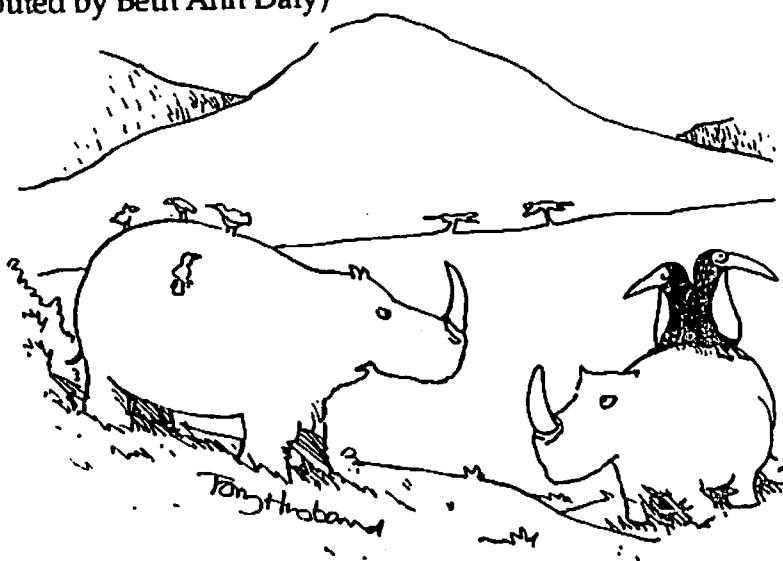
A fascinating article on new scientific methods to catch poachers can be found in the Spring, 1993 issue of *ZooLife*.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon is highlighted. (see also the preceding article).

## RHINO HUMOR

Q: Why did the rhino cross the road?

A: The chicken was on vacation!  
(contributed by Beth Ann Daly)



*"And where the hell have you been?"*

A traveller going through customs in Africa was asked by the customs officer if he had anything to declare.

"No, nothing to declare," said the man.

"Are you sure about that?" asked the customs agent.

"Quite sure," replied the man.

Narrowing his eyes, the customs officer said, "What about that rhinoceros standing behind you with bread in his ears?"

"Sir," said the man indignantly: "What I put in my sandwiches is my own business." (contributed by Arthur Chandler)

# RHINO QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME/WORK/FAX PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your birthdate (month and day..... year is optional!)
2. How long have you been collecting rhinos and what got you started?
3. What was your first rhino and when, where, how, etc. did you get it?
4. How many rhinos do you have now (approximately)?
5. Which is your favorite rhino and why?
6. Where/how do you find the most rhinos for your collection?
7. How many rhinos have you purchased that were mentioned in *Really, Rhinos!* (circle one)  

all	most	some	few	none
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8. What feature(s) would you like to see ADDED to *Really, Rhinos!*?
9. What feature(s) would you like to see DROPPED from *Really, Rhinos!*?

10. How many zoos have you visited that have rhinos? (please list them)

11. Have you ever seen rhinos in the wild? (please list when, where)

12. What is your favorite rhino conservation project/organization?

13. Do you have any duplicate rhinos you would like to sell or trade? (please list them on a separate sheet with prices if applicable)

14. What type of rhino(s) are at the top of your wish list (limit to 5 please)

15. Do you prefer the BLACK, WHITE, SUMATRAN, GREATER ONE-HORNED, JAVAN, or NO PREFERENCE? (circle one)

16. Do you think there should be a rhino museum?  
Where would you like it to be?  
What do you think it should contain?  
Would you like to help see this museum established?

17. Do you know any other rhinophiles (or rhino-artists) whom would like to know about the R.R! newsletter? Please list name/address or send business card.

18. Do you have any black & white photos of rhinos (any!) you can send for inclusion in a future issue of R.R! newsletter? Full credit will be given and original will be returned. If so, please send now.

19. Do you collect any rhino you can find or do you have guidelines? (e.g. only a certain species; a price limit; a specific medium, i.e. wood, bronze, crystal, fine art, etc., etc..) Please list any guidelines you have.

20. So, what else can you share about being a rhinophile that we didn't already ask you?

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Please return this questionnaire to:

Judyth Lessee, Editor, Really, Rhinos!, PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285

## THE RHINOENTREPRENEUR STRIKES BACK!

I want to create a rhino calendar for 1994. In it, I will include everyone's addresses, your birthdays, any other special days you want to highlight, plus any rhino or other conservation-related events. I also want to have twelve rhino pictures, one adorning each month. If you don't mind black & white photos or pictures, the calendar should not cost too much (less than \$20) but if you really want color, then it will cost at least \$25. I will of course donate all money minus printing costs to rhino conservation projects. Tell me what you think. I would like to get started on this before I go back to my 80+++ work week in August. Anyone who would like to help put this together is certainly welcome. Your feedback is really wanted and needed. So, do let me know ASAP, PDQ, STAT. Thanks y'all. (P.S. This will be a politically correct calendar. There will be male and female rhinos of various ages, from a diverse cultures.)

## SPEAKING OF STRIKES...

I just spoke to Nancy Nenad (Planet Rhino) and she and I are going to participate in Bowling for Rhinos on June 26th in Tucson. Remember that all the money from Bowling for Rhinos goes to support Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary (Anna Merz) in Kenya. Please support our rhino team by pledging some rhino (actual slang for money). Send your donations payable to Judyth Lessee c/o Really, Rhinos! PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285. I will match any pledge for every strike I get.

How is the money actually spent? According to the Wiinter, 1993 issue of H.O.R.N. (Helping Our Rhinos Now), the annual expenses at Ngare Sergoi/Lewa Downs Rhino Sanctuary are \$160,000 which is provided by Anna Merz! AAZK contributions have included the costs to relocate 10 rhinos, replace one vehicle, add security people and equipment for AAZK plane flight. More money is needed of course and we salute the AAZK members and all rhino friends who are committed to the preservation and growth of Ngare Sergoi!

Learn more about Ngare Sergoi by subscribing to H.O.R.N., Contact Andy Lodge, PO Box 29503, Columbus, OH 43229. You can also support the sanctuary by buying Anna's book. Ask Andy for details! (614-337-0676)



## RHINO BIRTH-TO-EARTH

greetings to:

Francis Ripka - June 8 (40th!)  
Debby Sorenson - June 15  
Mark Knapp - July 12  
David Rosenman - July 24  
Nancy Nenad - July 29  
Carolyn Sargent - July 29  
Corey Chandler - Aug. 20  
Bill Argersinger - Aug. 23 (50!)  
Todd Comi (Aug. 23)

If you want to send birthday cards to any of these rhinophiles, send them to Really, Rhinos! and I will forward them in one big envelope.

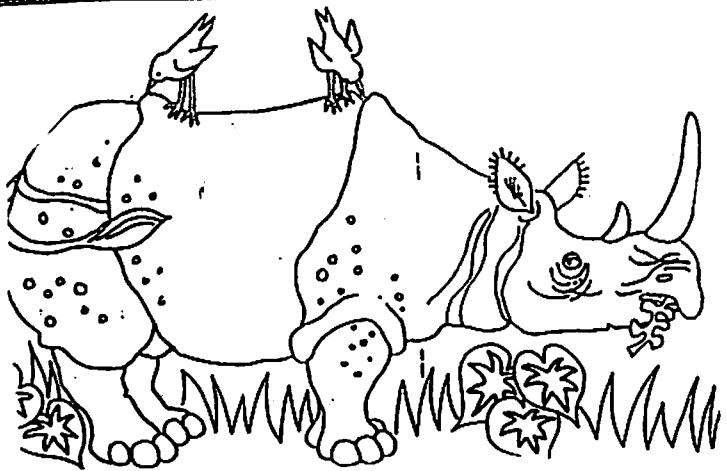
## ANOTHER BIRTHDAY TO CELEBRATE!

New baby rhino! A black rhino was born on November 15, 1992 at the San Diego Zoo. The young male was named Werihke after Michael Werihke. It's the first black rhino birth in the 76-year history of the Zoo.

## HOST YOUR OWN BOWL-A-THON! \*

Contact:  
Patty Pearthree,  
PO Box 199026,  
Indpls, IN 46219-9026  
(317) 322-8723.

\*or check with your local zoo



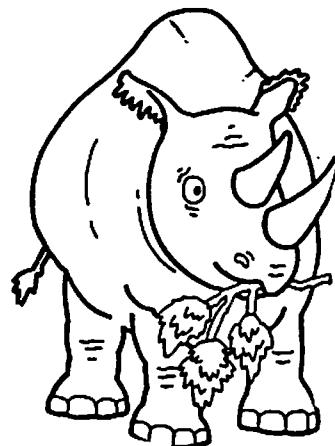
## **INVITE A RHINO TO LUNCH?**

Ever thought about inviting a rhinoceros to lunch? There are probably a couple of things you should know first. The rhino's table manners aren't the best. If it's been raining outside, chances are he'll walk into the dining room with mud up to his knees. Rhinos are big animals, about three times as large as a horse, so they have big appetites. Here's a suggested menu:

- 4 lbs. carrots (whole, not sliced)
- 2 lbs. bananas
- 2 lbs. large white potatoes
- 2 lbs. apples
- 2 lbs. green beans
- 2 lbs. oranges
- 1 lb. loaf of bread
- 25 lbs. of hay
- 1 large tub full of grain: corn, soybeans, oats and alfalfa with vitamins & minerals mixed in.

Stir to make a rhino cereal.

6 or 7 buckets of water.



Don't bother with a fancy tablecloth, he'll eat right off the floor. It's a good idea to have a mop handy. When he eats the oranges, he usually drools orange juice. The vegetables are good for him, please ask him not to hide his green beans in the corner, or step on them getting to the fruit.

He's a good natured fellow, though. Probably he won't mind if your canary perches on the bucket, while he's having a drink.

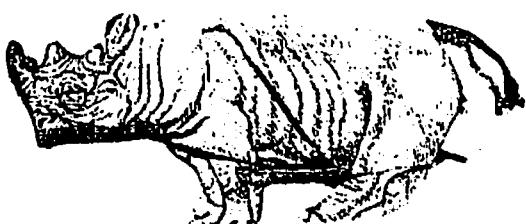
(Thanks to the subscriber who donated this!)

## RHINOCEROS<sup>164</sup>

One erudite subscriber from merry olde England, Andrew Laurie, has sent me a list of 164 words he was able to create from the word rhinoceros, including one anagram (croonerish). I say bravo to you Andrew! You win the prize. Come to Tucson and you can collect it! If anyone wants a copy of Andrew's list, send a SASE and I'll give you a copy.

## BUT DO YOU HAVE THIS ONE DEPT.?

It's a version of *How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin* but do you have the version, read by Arte Johnson which includes a rhinoceros-shaped carrying case for the cassette? Costs about \$10. Available at fine book stores, probably the zoo and if all else fails, write to Dove Audio, 301 North Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Free color catalogue available by calling 1-800-328-DOVE.



Total playing time:  
approx. 45 minutes

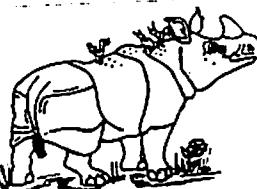
## RHINOCEROLOGY redux

I received a letter recently from Beth A. Morris who espouses "rhinocerology" which she describes as "the study of how to make it through the jungle of life without being eaten alive." Beth has given permission for me to reprint her "Bill of Rhino Rights

I still need to do homework on #4,6,8,10. How about you?



Beth A. Morris



"RHINOCEROLOGY"

### BILL OF RHINO RIGHTS

1. I have the right to "step in it".
2. I have the right to be my own Rhino self.
3. I have the right to be responsible for my own Rhino actions.
4. I have the right to say "No", and be a guilt free Rhino.
5. I have the right to have my Rhino needs met.
6. I have the right to carry out my Rhino actions despite what Cows around me might think.
7. As a Rhino - I have the right to go charging out in the world everyday "asking for it"!
8. I have the right to be treated with Rhino respect.
9. I have the right to change my Rhino mind.
10. I have the right to feel and express Rhino anger.

**Beth A. Morris**

26 Glenwood Estates  
Cabot, Arkansas 72023  
(501) 843-8888  
(501) 680-4398

# RHINO PHILANTHROPY

The Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon has a wish list. If you have or wish to contribute money to purchase any of the following, please contact Sally Lawson. PO Box 1600, Winston, OR 97496-0231. (503) 679-6761.

Jack the white rhino roams free at Wildlife Safari so it's a worthy cause.

blank cassette tapes

small electronic scale in grams

electric fans

35mm Ektachrome slide film

5 gallon plastic buckets

electric knife sharpener and can opener

eight-foot couch

Apple//e computer and laser printer

adding machine/calculator w/ tape

flash attachment for 35mm camera

large water-proof tarp

mini or vertical blinds

space heaters

airless sprayer

overhead projector

two tall stool

heavy chain



## THE ZOO REBUILDING FUND

Saving our most natural resource.

Did you see the Frederick Wiseman cinema verite documentary called "Zoo"? It was a 2.5 hour trip to Miami's MetroZoo. One segment showed the life cycle in a flash as an Indian rhino gave birth to a stillborn baby. Despite incredible efforts including CPR and artificial resuscitation, the neonate could not be revived. Later in the documentary, the gruesome task of conducting an autopsy on the baby was explicitly shown. No further word on the status of the mother (the film was completed a while ago). Since that time, however, Hurricane Andrew blew into Miami and wrecked havoc on the zoo. The Zoo Rebuilding Fund has been established by the Zoological Society of Florida. All contributions will go for the immediate reforestation of the land. Any contribution is helpful. \$25 plants a seedling, \$100 plants a Sabal palm, \$500 plants an oak tree. Send your tax-deductible contribution to The Zoo rebuilding Fund, 12400 Southwest 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33177 or call 1-800-362-5800.

## SILENT AUCTION

donated by Beth Daly

pewter rhinos

ceramic black

plastic & rubber rhinos

cloth rhino keychain (WWF)

rhino puzzle in matchbox

rubber rhino nose

wooden rhino pin

carved wooden black rhino

rhino books

What is my bid for these?

Do you want to exchange them for other duplicates you might have? Do you want to bid on the entire box?

It would make a nice "starter kit for new rhinophiles!"

Send me your bid so these rhinos can have a happy home AND DON'T FORGET! The ceramic rhino that Stuart Friedlander donated is still available! Bid on that too!

# RHINO BUY\$ RHINO BUY\$ RHINO BUY\$ RHINO BUY\$

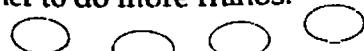
Black rhino mobiles. (2.75" high X 5" long) From: Skyflight Mobiles, PO Box 974 Woodinville, WA 98072. Five rhinos on a rod #RHIN-M (\$23.95) single rhino #RIIN-S (\$3.95)

Artist willing to draw rhinos on demand: Dewey McGuire (319-337-3233).

You want someplace to put your boring toothbrush? Try a ceramic rhino toothbrush holder.

Contact Tom Ecklund at Nag Original, 2080 Llano Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95407 and be sure to mention Really, Rhinos! I'm trying to get Tom to create some more ceramic rhinobilia.

We know rhinos don't lay eggs but that's no reason why you can't have an egg with a rhino on it! Contact Ellen Klomps, Eleggens, 470 Canyon Rd, Providence, UT 84332. (801) 753-1716. She has many different kinds of eggs (swan, goose, chicken, turkey, ostrich, peacock) and her prices vary. I met Ellen at the Arizona Renaissance Festival in March. Again, encourage her to do more rhinos.



Another eggcellent choice: Lauri Cramer, PO Box 533, Bayfield, CO 81122, Lauri also

has handpainted eggs AND she has (or at least had back in April) a beautiful watercolored black rhino, framed for \$150. Call her at (303) 884-9426.

La dolce vita. La dolce rhinocerente. I found a *molto frido* (very cool) poster of Federico Fellini(?) rowing a boat with a rhino in it. "E LA NAVE VA" It costs \$48++ and you can order it from: Barb's Frame of Mind, 402 N. 4th Ave. Tucson, AZ 85705. (602) 620-0932. It's like 3 feet by 4 feet and is basically black and white.

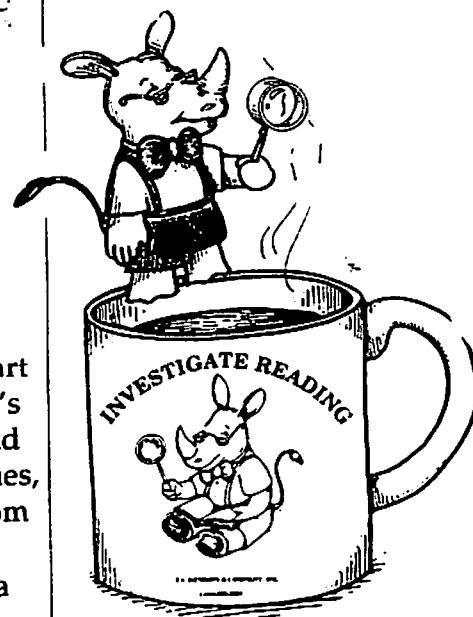
Do you have kids? *Play* magazine will keep you informed on the latest in quality entertainment for your children. A two year subscription is only \$24 and you get a Kid Rhino sampler free with prepaid orders. Call 1-800-247-2160.



For kids of all ages! A jigsaw puzzle depicting a cheerful savanna scene (no poacher allowed!). The 10-by-13-inch, 24-piece puzzle with an illustration by author and illustrator Helen Cowcher is part of the Children's Book Council's effort to get children to read and learn about environmental issues, and it intended for children from pre-K to third grade (or rhinophiles of any age!) Send a

check for \$8.50, made payable to Children's Book Council, Order Center, 350 Scotland Rd., Orange, NJ 07050, USA.

Hey, rhino educators!! You don't have to be a classroom teacher to request a copy of T.S. Denison's 1993 catalogue. It's free and a rhino is on every page! And, best of all, you can buy some inexpensive rhinobilia. To schlepp your rhinos around, you can buy a tote bag. To relax, sip something cool or hot from a rhino mug with the same logo - "Investigate reading" There is also a poster with the same logo. Prices are very inexpensive and if you spend \$35 worth of merchandise, you can get a tote bag or mug free. Any purchase will entitle you to a free poster. So, get on the horn and call 1-800-328-3831 and remember to mention Really, Rhinos!



## MORE RHINO BUY\$

Are you already sick of Jurassic Park? First, take a Tums and then go down to the bookstore and buy a copy of *A World Without Rhinos*. It's a pop-up book which illustrates four ancestors of today's rhinoceros. Costs about \$8. If not available in stores, write directly to Dial books for Young Readers, 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014.

## MORE RHINO BUY\$

Sterling rhino jewelry available from a store in Scottsdale, AZ. I bought some at the Int'l Rhino Conference in '91. There is a rhino head ring (\$35), a bracelet (@\$60), key ring, earrings and pins. Write or call: (602) 483-6293.

## MORE RHINO BUY\$

At last, we've covered it all! You can now buy a dust cover for your computer monitor and keyboard which has a rhino in it! You can order an environmentally friendly, deluxe vinyl or budget vinyl cover. Call INMAC at 1-800-547-5444.

## FINALLY, LASTLY, IN CONCLUSION...

Is anyone interested in either a rhino ear cuff or a rhino-carved meerschaum pipe? I am negotiating with two artists.

### Gentle Rhino Readers:

*You may have noticed that this issue is 'double strength'. I decided to throw everything in that I had up to press time because I do believe that life is short and you should eat dessert first. There is no sense in stockpiling rhino info. I cannot promise future issues will be so voluminous. Just wanted to let you know what's going on in my head. (see Bill of Rhino Rights #2)*



*Really, Rhinos! is published quarterly. Annual subscription are \$15 (\$20 overseas) of which \$5 is donated to rhino projects.*

Reader feedback and rhino citings should be reported to Judyth Lessee, Editor, *Really, Rhinos!* PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285, (602) 327-9048.

Note: If you find errors, please know they are printed for those who always look for them. We try to print something for everybody.

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