REALLY RHINOS!

73, Fall, 1993

DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY CRES?

Join the CRES Conservation Club! As a *Wildlife Friend* ($20) you get discount coupons for the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, the quarterly CRES newsletter and Zoolog, a quarterly guide with calendar of events at the Zoo and Park. *Conservationist* ($50) gets you the monthly ZOONOOZ magazine, CRES conservation stamps (10 sheets), plus the bonus package mentioned above. Send your check to CRES, PO Box 271, San Diego, CA 92112-9966. P.S. CRES is not a toothpaste. Conservation and Research Effort of the Zoological Society of San Diego is the world's largest privately-funded endangered animal research center where leading scientists study the biological and behavioral needs of endangered species. CRES uses computer tracking of genes, identifies infectious disease, conducts behavioral studies on animals which are little known - an unusual combination of research, preservation and education has made it a world leader in saving our planet's wildlife.

TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY?

"Rhino Horn; Stockpile Acquisition, Compensation & Destruction: Does it Serve the Interests of Rhino Conservation?" [by Esmond Bradley Martin, et al] Excerpted from SWARA,16(3):17-22. May/June, 1993.

"At the 28th meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES held in June, 1992, Annex 2, of the Summary Report stated that it 'regards the existence of substantial illegal stockpiles of rhino horn in some countries, including Parties to the Convention, as totally unacceptable to and incompatible with implementation of the Convention'...

"No one disputes the existence of 'illegal' rhino horn stocks in various parts of the world, but, with the rare exception, they remain hidden from government authorities. There are "legal" rhino horn stocks and products in the hands of government agencies and private individuals all over the world.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering a petition to certify thAt Taiwan, China, South Korea and Yemen are undermining the effectiveness of CITES by continuing to allow trade in rhino horn.

"China is the main country in the world making medicines containing rhino horn; the factories use up about 650 kilos of rhino horn a year.

"The authors have conducted extensive investigations on the rhino horn trade in Asian and Middle Eastern end-use markets and it is probably not an exaggeration to state that our collective research on this issue presents virtually the entire body of published market survey date to date.

"Drawing on this experience, the destruction of rhino horn stockpiles, especially those privately-owned, as advocated under the scenarios mentioned above, are not practical and would ultimately be counterproductive with serious and detrimental consequences to rhino conservation as a whole.

It is very likely that the majority of privately-held rhino horn stocks ultimately produced during any buy-out scheme would come from outsiders to the traditional medicine market (middlemen importers, speculators, and black market dealers) who lack any direct avenue for dispensation of their own. The real criminals will have profited with their anonymity intact, while the traditional trade in rhino horn as medicine will continue in one form or another.

"Another consequence is that the black market price for rhino horn would most likely increase due to the decline in supply, leading to further rounds of poaching in range states and speculative purchase in end-use markets.

"Buy-outs clearly fail to address the fundamental issue of demand and the role rhino horn plays in traditional medicine practices which span millennia. In one recent survey in Taiwan, 27% of traditional doctors felt that rhino horn was irreplaceable for certain illnesses, suggesting that minimally one-quarter to one-third of the traditional medicine community would continue to prescribe rhino horn in certain situations."

"Our conclusion is that the acquisition of rhino horn stockpiles, especially those privately-held, and other rhino products will be extremely difficult to achieve without resulting to organized buy-outs and that doing so would unleash a whole series of counter-productive forces to the detriment of the world's five species of rhinoceros."

Thanks to Mark Knapp of Austin, TX who send me an article about a Baltimore NFL expansion team which has tentatively agreed to call itself the RHINOS! If the city wins the franchise, there's a 75-80% chance that's what the team will be called! Whoever lives closest to Baltimore has got to promise to go to every home game and buy rhinobilia for me!!! We can also advertise it in future issues and I am writing a letter to the Chamber of Commerce today to track down the possible owners. This is too cool! IF ANY READERS KNOW MORE, LET ME KNOW!

RHINO CITES...

Palmer, Douglas. "Stocky Rhinos Confound the Zoologist." *New Scientist*, 135(1828):19+, July 4, 1993. (**Summary**: Reports on findings that rhinoceros leg bones are much stronger than they need to be and the implications of these findings to the study of dinosaur bones).

Dinerstein, Eric. "Effects of Rhinoceros Unicornis on Riverline Forest Structure in Lowland Nepal." *Ecology*, 73(2):701+, April, 1992 (**Summary**: a study on how large mammalian herbivores influence forest structure and canopy composition by inhibiting vertical growth of saplings, that are frequently browsed and trampled.)

"When Rhinos Roamed the Alps..." *New Scientist*, 132(1792):16+, October 26, 1991.(**Summary**: Pictures archaeologist Beat Arnold with a 10,000 year-old rhinoceros skull which was found by a fisherman in Lake Neuchate, just west of Bern, Switzerland.)

"Graham, Jr., F. "Rapunzel." *Audubon*, 93(3):10+, May, 199 (**Summary**: Discusses a rare Sumatran rhinoceros, who no lives at the Bronx Zoo, how s was captured and acclimated her new environment.)

Kaler, K. "The Blue Lake Rhinoceros." *Earth Science*, Fa 1989, pp. 22+. (**Summary**: Describes a fossil mold of the Blue Lake rhinoceros, discovered in 1935, that is a ra 3-D preservation of an ancien mammal.)

INTERIOR DESIGNS ON RHINO HORN

"Interior Department Action May Halt Trade of Tiger Bone and Rhino Horn"

(reprinted from WWF ★ CITES 10(4), July/August 19

On June 1st, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt sent letters to officials in Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, informing them of the Department's findings and of his intentions to certify them under the Pelly Amendment. The letter gave Taiwan and China 30 days to provide substantiated information to

RHINOPHILIGHTS

finally bring back our nophilights section and odly introduce you to ee Nelson, swing keeper eater) at the Reid Park Zoo in son, Arizona.

e has been with the Zoo for ee years and works mostly h the hoofed stock. She ent eight years working with mates then cats and bears at e Audubon Zoo in New leans. Dee always enjoyed mals when she was young nger and thought she might a vet but she eventually got B.A. in retail marketing and ent nine years in management orking for K-Mart until she ed, "No more!" Because -Mart moved her around Dee the opportunity to visit zoos different cities. By the time e quit K-Mart, she had cided to "do zoos." Armed th a certificate in biological ks training from Santa Fe mmunity College in inesville, FL (which has an ht acre zoo on campus) in 80, Dee found a job at budon which was expanding d needed keepers. She was trained on the job.

Although it seems like an exotic, alluring job, Dee reminded me that, " You can't work in this profession and just call it a job. The pay is low and it is not a nice, clean air conditioned job." In her present position at Reid Park, Dee was trained on every area including the kitchen. She sometimes has to fill in for others and occasionally gets to do special projects. Currently, she is working with the rhinos and giraffes the most. When asked about her kinship with the rhinos, Dee replied, 'They're so - they're rhinos, what can you say? They have a personality.'

At one time, there was a possibility of getting them to breed. Dee liked the idea of being a part of this and she started by taking blood from their ears (training them to stand for it) for a Vitamin E study. That caused her to work with them more.

Rhino Routine. "The rhinos are put in a barn and given alfalfa pellets, bermuda and alfalfa hay and oats and a liquid Vitamin E supplement. The rhinos are locked out of the exhibit and I go into the exhibit to rake left-over hay, take it away (along with 'rhino remnants') and bring fresh food. I make sure there is a good mud wallow, lock the gate, let them out, drain their drinker, wash down the barn and drinker and give everything a visual inspection. I put fly ointment around their eyes. The egrets in the enclosure help control the fly population. Our rhinos consume about 35-40 pounds of Bermuda and 20-30 pounds of alfalfa daily along with about 5 gallons of pellets and oats."

"Yabanga (female) and Zubulu (male) have the same father and they come from the San Diego Wild Animal Park. They are about 20 years old and have been at our zoo for about 17 years. Zubulu is less shy and he will often move Yabanga out of the way. (Greed? Protection? I don't know)"

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When asked what else she might like to do, Dee's answer was, "I cannot imagine myself doing anything else!" She added, "You learn things from books but most of it is working with the animals since they all have different personalities.

"I'm conservation-oriented for all the critters. I wish they could all go back in the wild and there was no danger of extinction. I wish that for every animal - and that includes snakes."

Finally, Dee wanted to extend many thanks to those who participated in the **Bowling for Rhinos** fundraiser this past summer. Tucson raised almost $1700 which was more than last year. Oh and by the way, guess who was the worst bowler of the night? You guessed it! I got the supreme honor of keeping the "Bolus Bowler" award until next year. This unique plaque has a big ball of rhino dung plopped right on the award. Tres chic, n'est-ce pas?

Zubulu coming...

...and going!

To order Zoo Doo fertilizer and other products, including a t-shirt (see insert), call 1-800-I-LUV-Doo (1-800-458-8366)

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS...

The next *Really, Rhinos!* is our holiday edition. Because I know you want time to buy all those rhino presents for yourselves and your loved ones, the issue will be sent out in late November. If anyone has anything to sell or knows of someone who will make rhinobilia available, please give me all necessary information no later than November 13th.

Really, Rhinos! is published quarterly. Annual subscriptions 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, Z 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.

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