

Animal Keepers' Forum

JANUARY 1987



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care



Executive Editor: Alice Miser
Managing Editor: Susan Chan
Associate Editor: Ron Ringer

JANUARY 1987
VOLUME FOURTEEN
NUMBER ONE

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Births & Hatchings

Carol J. Boyd of the Milwaukee AAZK Chapter reports the following births at her facility: On 14 October, 1986, after an 11-year absence, the Milwaukee County zoo again experienced a Reticulated Giraffe birth. This birth was the 26th such birth at our Bluemound Road location. The female, Jennifer, from Calgary, was separated from the herd in anticipation of the birth, her first. As sometimes anticipated with first time mothers - there was the chance of Jennifer injuring or even killing the calf shortly upon birth, so separation from the herd and very frequent night checks were instituted. During one such early morning check it was discovered that Jennifer had gone into labor and given birth quickly, but as anticipated she became frightened and began kicking the calf. Injury was too extensive and the young, a female, died shortly afterwards. At this time Jennifer is back with the herd and is doing fine. We watch for any signs of breeding - we know Jennifer will be a good mother the second time around.

November was a special month in our Small Mammal Building. Our two female Bettong (Brush-tail Rat-kangaroo) each have a joey in their pouch - the first two of their kind born at our institution. These kangaroos are considered endangered in their native Australia. Our first surviving Goeldi Monkey was born on 23 November. The mother had failed to raise her two previous offspring. The parents are on loan from the Brookfield Zoo. November also saw the 10th birth to our Mountain Fruit Bat colony. We believe we are the only institution to exhibit these African bats. The colony now numbers 16 individuals.

Randy Walsh of the Zoo Atlanta AAZK Chapters reports the following: On 10 October, 1986, one of our Reeves muntjac gave birth to her first offspring at Zoo Atlanta. This was quite a surprise since she had been kept without a male since her arrival at our zoo several months ago. On 24 October, our Grant's Zebra, "Milia", gave birth to her 6th offspring in as many years.

Ed Hansen of the Tucson AAZK Chapter reports as follows: On 10 November, 1986, the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson experienced our 4th captive birth of a second generation Giant Anteater (*Mymecophaga tridactyla*) at our institution. Overall, this is the 10th birth for this species at the zoo. The youngster is a healthy male and contentedly rides around on its mother's back, camouflaged perfectly from the potential photographer.

Sandy Voth of Busch Gardens/Tampa reported that the following species have been born at The Dark Continent during October-November: 1.0 Scimitar-horned oryx, 1.1 Sable Antelope and 1.1 Ugandan Kob.

Betty Jean Burcham of the Virginia Zoological Park AAZK Chapter reports the following: The Virginia Zoological Park at Norfolk is very happy to announce that their rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis*) are now reproducing in their indoor exhibit. 1.4 were born to their 10-year-old female on 8 April, 1986. All were still born except one female which unfortunately died on 18 May, 1986. On 16 October, 1986, however, 3.3 hyrax were born to a younger female and 2.1 survive as of this report.

Significant births and hatchings reported in the December AAZPZ Newsletter include: 0.1 white rhino at the Knoxville Zoo (the 12th since the herd was established in 1974); four litters of Virgin Island boas (*Epicrates monensis granti*) at the Toledo Zoo (two of the litters were captive-bred and believed to be the first such in any zoo); 1.0 Asian Elephant at the Tulsa Zoo on 5 October; 0.0.1 Chilean Flamingo at the Greater Baton Rouge Zoo (the first such hatching for this facility); and 0.0.1 Emperor Penguin chick hatched at Sea World in California, the only place outside the antarctic that this species have been bred.



FEBRUARY 1987

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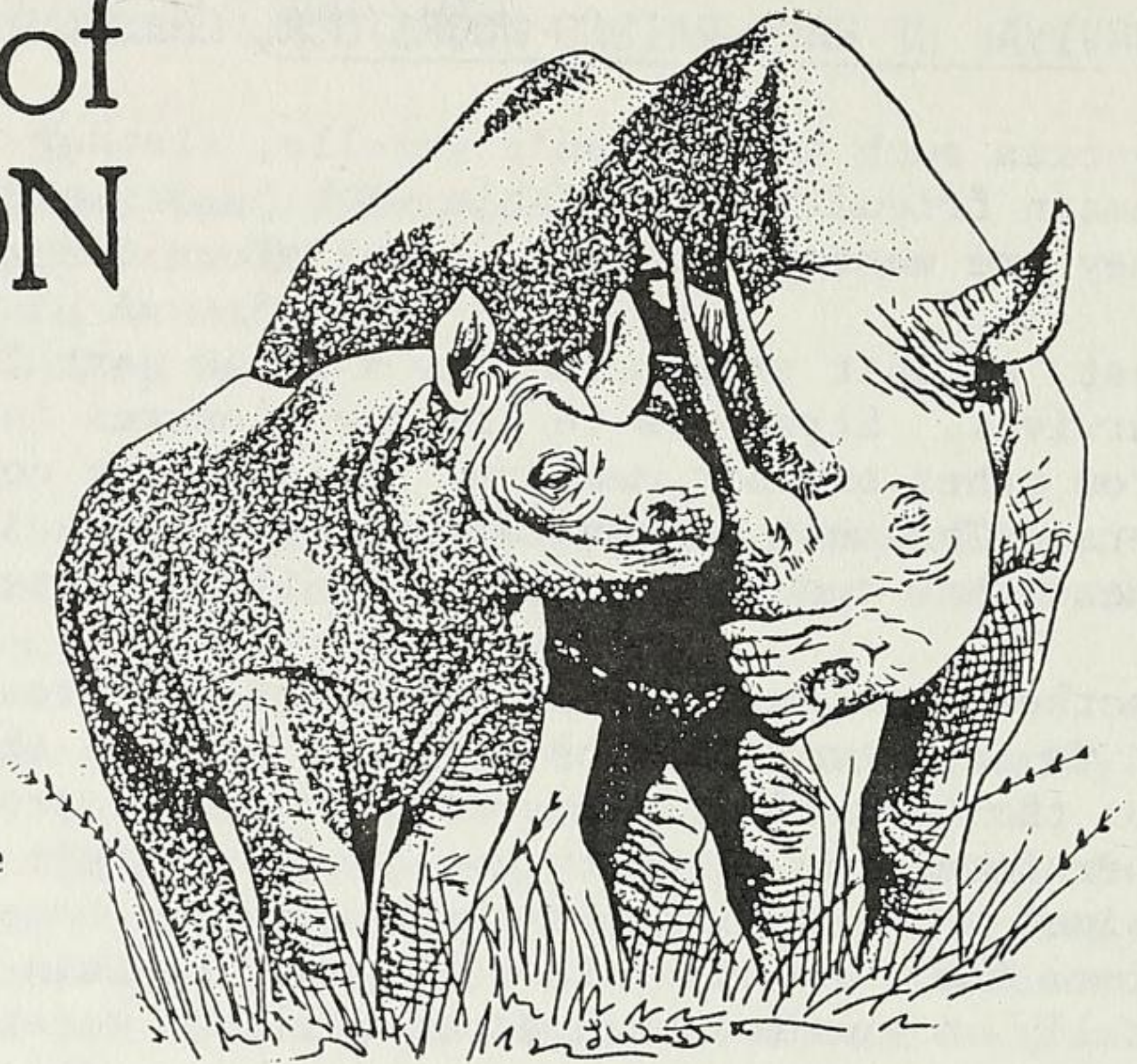
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on the brink of EXTINCTION

Everyone receiving this newsletter is aware of the crisis facing the wild rhinos. In Kenya alone, wild populations have dropped from 20,000 black rhinos in 1970 to about 350 today. Only about half of these are on sanctuaries.



One such sanctuary is Ngare Sergoi at Lewa Downs, where Englishwoman Anna Merz, using her own funds, has fenced and staffed a 5,500-acre preserve for 12 black rhinos. Since the beginning of Ngare Sergoi in 1983, five babies have been born and poachers have been repulsed near the fenceline. This has been accomplished with no government support and little other outside assistance. However, the sanctuary is nearing its carrying capacity, and Anna's personal funds are nearly exhausted.

In the spring of 1986, Columbus Zoo pachyderm keeper Andy Lodge spent six weeks at Ngare Sergoi, working with Anna and conducting a field study of the rhinos. Since his return, with the backing of the Columbus AAZK Chapter, Andy has been telling Anna's story and attempting to raise money to help keep her program going.

Armed with slide shows and his first-hand experiences on the preserve, Andy has given talks at several zoos in the United States and Canada and for local groups. There is no speaker's fee. The focus of the talk is on the plight of the wild rhino, the causes of the problem, what must be done, and the work being carried on by Anna at Ngare Sergoi. Andy is constantly in touch with Anna and provides updates on conditions at the preserve.

For more information about Ngare Sergoi or having Andy give a talk at your zoo, call Andy Lodge at the Columbus Zoo: (614) 766-3400.

Contributions to Anna Merz can be made by sending a check (payable to Columbus Chapter AASK) to: Rhino Fund, c/o AAZK, Columbus Zoo, Box 400, Powell, OH 43065-0400.

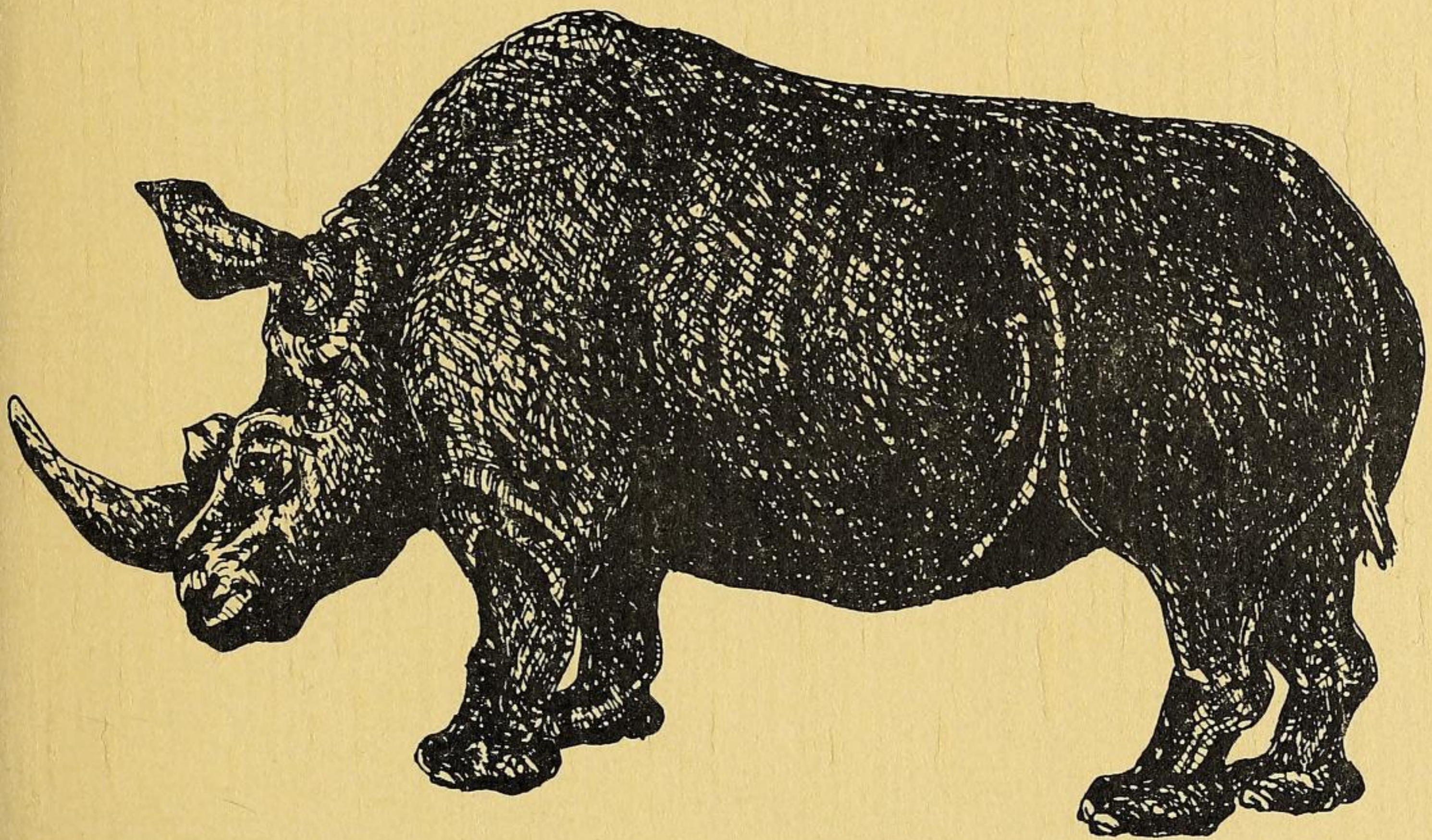
The rhino has existed for nearly 60 million years and included some 170 species. Today, there are only five species remaining worldwide, including the Indian (about 1700), the Javan (about 65), the Sumatran (about 500), the southern white (about 3,000), northern white (about 18), and the black (about 3,000). The rhino was chosen as the symbol of the AAZK in 1967 because it represented strength, persistence, determination, and presented a defined image of survival. Can we afford to let extinction be its ultimate fate?



August 1987

Animal Keepers' Forum

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This month's cover art features the white or square-lipped rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) drawn by Gwen Yoshimura, a keeper at the Honolulu Zoo. Native to the African continent, this species of rhino as well as all others, are endangered due to poaching of the animals for their horns. The horns are used to make carved dagger handles considered a sign of masculinity and power in the country of Yemen and are also used in making traditional folk medicines in the Far East. Thanks, Gwen!

SCOOPS

AND

SCUTTLEBUTT

New Board Members Named Following Election

Nominations and Elections Committee Chairperson Janet McCoy, Washington Park Zoo, has notified National Headquarters of the results of the election for the AAZK Board of Directors. Re-elected to serve second terms were Frank Kohn, National Zoo, and Oliver Claffey, Metro Toronto Zoo. Newly elected for a first term is Mary L. Swanson, Fresno Zoo. These Board Members will begin their terms on 1 January 1988 and serve a three-year term of office. Current Board member Susan M. Barnard, Zoo Atlanta, will continue her term of office until 1989. Current AAZK President, Jean Hromadka, San Diego Wild Animal Park, will be stepping down from her Board position effective 31 December, 1987.

Due to the resignation of Kerry Hoffman, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Brint Spencer of the Minnesota Zoo will fill this Board position until 1989. Brint received the fourth highest number of votes in this year's election following Frank, Oliver and Mary and was therefore appointed by the current Board to fill this vacancy.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board members. The Association is indebted to these individuals who are willing to give of their time and talents for the betterment of AAZK. The National Association thanks all those members who ran for Board positions for their interest and commitment.

A special thank you to Kerry Hoffman who will be leaving the Board following a career move to the Reid Park Zoo, Tucson, where he will be Curator of Education. We wish Kerry every success in his new position and know that he will continue to work hard for AAZK in his new capacity. His energy and sense of humor will be sorely missed at the annual Board Meetings.

A Note from ZOO India

Zoo Outreach Organization is very pleased with the response to the Keeper Sponsorship program by individual members and chapters of AAZK. We have included these sponsors on our mailing list to receive our monthly magazine Zoo's Print on a complimentary basis and we will do so for any chapter or individual who sponsors an Indian keeper.

Individuals wishing to subscribe to Zoo's Print are invited to do so for \$50.00 per year. Checks made out to Zoo Outreach Organization should be sent to our new address: Sally Walker, Editor, Zoo's Print, Pioneer House, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641 004, India.



BIRTHS & HATCHINGS, *Continued*

A research team at the National Zoological Park in Washington, DC has produced the world's first test-tube kittens. Drs. David Wildt and Mitchell Bush and graduate students Karen Goodrowe and JoGayle Howard spent two years conducting research before successfully producing three litters of domestic short-hair kittens using *in vitro* fertilization, a procedure similar to that used with humans. While the ordinary house cat is far from the endangered species list, this successful project could lead to techniques that will enable zoos to breed rare species of wild cats that do not reproduce well in captivity. Many exotic cats will not accept introduced mates--in some instances aggression and injuries have resulted. As this technique evolves and is refined, the long-term survival of captive exotic cats will be much brighter.

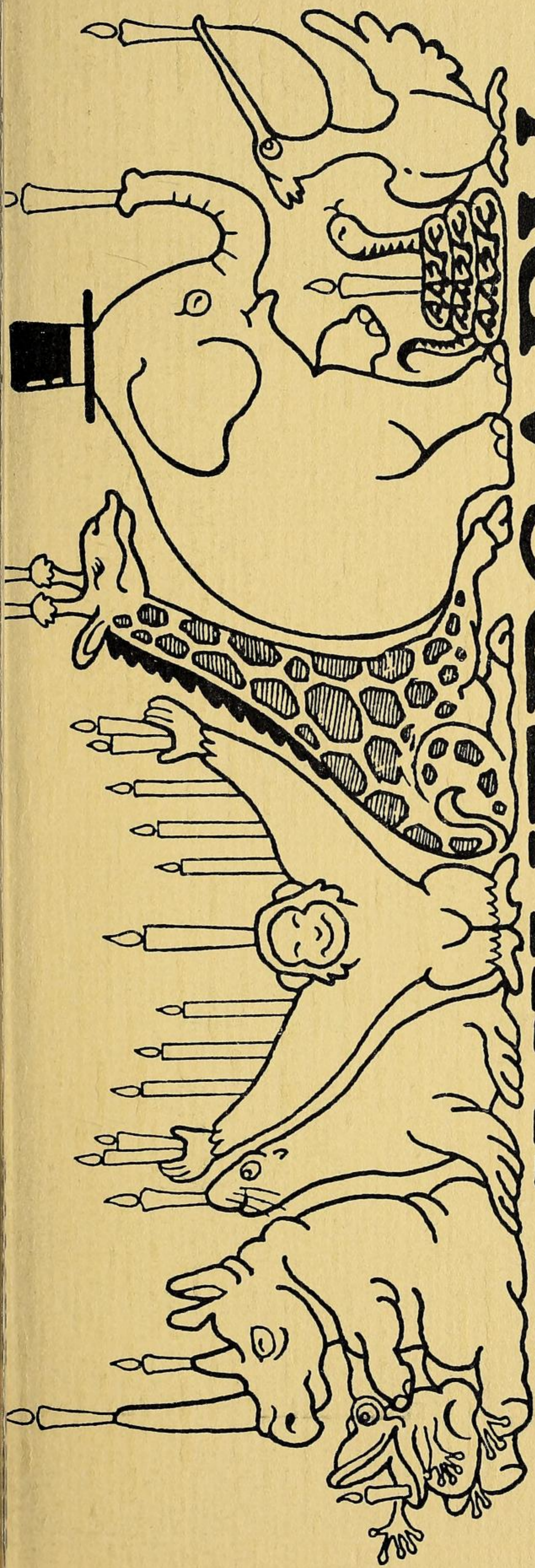
The National Zoo is also participating in a major effort to save one of North America's most endangered species, the black-footed ferret. In an attempt to save the species, Wyoming game officials removed the last 18 remaining wild ferrets from their natural plains habitat near Meeteese, WY, and are trying to breed them in captivity. Recently, two breakthroughs in this conservation effort have occurred. Several months ago at the request of the Wyoming Fish and Game Dept, NZP researchers and veterinarians began investigating the feasibility of using artificial insemination (AI) to improve ferret reproduction. On 27 January, after a few short months of study on a related species, the European ferret, two females that underwent the AI procedure gave birth to normal litters. David Wildt, NZP reproductive physiologist, said he hopes "to be able to adapt the procedure to black-footed ferrets by next year's breeding season." This success is an important breakthrough because the black-footed ferrets do not breed easily in captivity and artificial insemination may become an important backup if the animals continue to have problems. In the second advance, the Sybille Institute (where the remaining black-footed ferrets are housed) reports that a litter of six babies was born in early June. They should have a good chance of survival, having survived the critical first 48 hours. This is particularly good news since none of the ferrets bred in 1986. *from TIGERTALK, June 1987, National Zoo.*

At the San Diego Wild Animal Park, the birth of their 33rd giraffe (*Giraffa c. rothchildi*) occurred in May with the arrival of "Kiume", the offspring of "Blackjack" and "Kito". Kiume means "male". Some impressive birth records so far this year include seven Siberian ibex (*Capra ibex sibirica*), eight Siberian fox (*Siaga t. tatarica*), 17 Turkoman markhors (*Capra falconeri heptneri*) [this species usually bears triplets but one female produced quadruplets], 18 Nubian ibex (*Capra i. nubiana*), and 18 Armenian mouflon (*Ovis orientalis gmelini*). Meanwhile, at the San Diego Zoo, a Bolivian gray titi (*Callicebus moloch donacophilus*) gave birth on 4 May. This is the fourth consecutive birth for this pair, the fifth birth for the Zoo. Houston and Chicago have also had births. As of June 1986, only six institutions exhibited these animals and only 26 individuals were in captivity. *from THE KEEPER, the newsletter of the San Diego AAZK Chapter.*

NEWS FLASH FROM SDWAP - the world population of endangered black rhinoceros increased by one on 12 July with the birth of a male at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Keepers named the rhino Mashaki which means "trouble" in Swahili and reflects the youngster's feisty behavior. Mashaki is only the second black rhino born at the Park; the first was his mother, Nanyuki, who was born there in October of 1976. The calf's father is Mwaniki, a seven-year-old rhino on breeding loan from the Cincinnati Zoo. Mashaki was born after a gestation of approximately 460 days. There are currently 65 black rhinos in 21 U.S. zoos. Their population in the wild is estimated at 4,000, down from over 60,000 in 1970. *from SDWAP News Release.*

The Greater San Francisco Bay Area AAZK Chapter reports the following B&H from its member zoos: Jane Tollini of the San Francisco Zoo reported the birth of 0.0.1 Nile hippo, born on 12 July, the 12th offspring of that facility's prolific hippo couple. Jane also noted the birth of 0.2 Snow leopards and the unfortunate stillbirth of a 0.1 lowland gorilla. This season, 17 Magellanic penguin chicks are being raised at San Francisco. Susan Wier of the Micke Grove Zoo (Lodi, CA) reported the birth of 2.0 Snow leopards. From Marine World Africa USA, Mike Owyang has reported the most recent addition to the Land Mammal Dept. was a 0.1 Scimitar-horned oryx born on 7 July. A second Scimitar-horned oryx birth was expected in late July. This will be the fourth birth of this endangered species at that facility. --*from Chapter Newsletter*





ANIMALS' BIRTHDAY PARTY

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Births and Hatchings, Continued

San Antonio Zoo....The San Antonio Zoo AAZK Chapter reports these significant births and hatchings for January through August 1987. The following endangered species have been bred this year: 0.0.1 Yellow-headed rockfowl (*Picathartes gymnocephalus*), 0.0.4 Queen of Bavaria conure (*Aratinga guarouba*), 0.0.2 Guam kingfisher (*Halcyon cinnamomia*), 0.2 Scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*), 0.0.1 Ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*), 0.0.1 Lesser mouse lemur (*Microcebur murinus*), 0.0.2 Golden lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus rosalia*), 1.0 Southern white rhino (*Diceros bicornis*), and 1.1 Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*). The clouded leopards, which are being reared by the mother, are the first to be born at this zoo in eight years. An F-1 generation pair of the highly endangered Guam kingfisher was set up in our off-exhibit avain reproduction center early this year.

The following births and hatchings were firsts for the San Antonio Zoo this year: 15 Brazilian rainbow boa (*Epicrates cenchris*), 0.0.1 Texas map turtle (*Graptemus versa*), 0.0.4 Grey-headed kingfisher (*Halcyon leucocephala*), and 2.0 Aardwolf (*Proteles cristatus*). It is possible that the Texas map turtle is a first North American breeding.

Other notable species bred include: 0.0.3 African spurred tortoise (*Geochelone uniphora*), 0.0.4 Hawkhead parrot (*Deoptuus accitrinus*), 0.0.2 Galah (*Eolophus roseicapillus*), 0.0.3 Bartlett's bleeding heart pigeon (*Gallicolumba luzonica*), 1.1 Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*), 0.0.2 Crested screamer (*Chauna torquata*), 0.0.1 Inca tern (*Larosterna inca*), 2.0.6 Prevost's squirrel (*Callosciurus prevostii*), 0.1.3 African hedgehog (*Erinaceus albiventris*), 1.1 Fennec fox (*Vulpes zerda*), and 0.2 Jackson's Hartebeest (*Alcephalus buselaphus jacksoni*). ---submitted by Cherie Langlois, Secretary San Antonio AAZK Chapter, San Antonio, TX.

Bronx Zoo....The Bronx Zoo Chapter proudly announces the following notable births and hatchings for the month of August. The Mammology Dept. reports the following significant births. On 14 August, a male lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) was born to our 25-year-old female named "Tunuka". The baby, "Konga", was her 6th offspring. Konga was sired by our 19-year-old male, "Congo". Congo has sired three offspring by three different females. Konga weighed 5lbs 8oz at birth. He was pulled for hand-rearing as Tunuka has shown little interest in mothering in the past. The population of Silver leaf monkeys (*Semnopithecus cristatus*) continues to grow in the Lowland Evergreen Rainforest exhibit in Jungle World. A male was born on 14 August, he is the 11th born to his troop and the second born to his mother. Also this month several endangered or rarely kept cervids were born: on 10 August 0.1 Barasingha (*Cervus duvauceli*), on 11 August 1.0 Formosan sika deer (*Cervus nippon taiouanous*), and on 13 August 1.0 Red brocket deer (*Mazama americana*).

In the Ornithology Dept. things have finally slowed down but two of the hatchings are of note. First, on 2 August 0.0.1 Tawny frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) hatched. The chick is being hand-reared and is reported to be cute as a button and doing well. On 12 August 0.0.1 Mauritius pink pigeon (*Columba mayeri*) hatched. The chick was foster reared for 10 days by a pair of Domestic ring doves (*Streptopelia risoria*). Then, on the 23rd, the chick was pulled for hand-rearing because the foster parents are usually unable to satisfy the food requirements of the chicks for much more than a week. As of this writing it too is reported to be doing well. ---Submitted by Mark L. Hofling, Corresponding Secretary, Bronx Zoo AAZK Chapter.

Greater Baton Rouge Zoo....Several animals were born or hatched at the Greater Baton Rouge Zoo this August. These include: 0.1 Grevy zebra, 1.0 Barasingha deer, 1.0 Dama gazelle, 1.0 Sable antelope, 1.0 Greater kudu, 0.1 Besia oryx, 0.0.1 Blue monkey, 0.0.4 Grand eclectus parrot and 0.0.2 Scarlet ibis. ---submitted by Linda Sanders, Head Keeper, Greater Baton Rouge Zoo, Baton Rouge, LA.



Nixon Griffis Fund for Zoological Research Awards Seven Grants

The Nixon Griffis Fund for Zoological Research (NGFZR), established in 1984 by New York Zoological Society Trustee Nixon Griffis, awarded seven research grants in June 1987. The recipients were:

Adam Asquith and Howard Snell, Ph.D., University of New Mexico
"Ontogenetic Changes in Nutrient Procurement and Assimilation
in the Galapagos Giant Tortoise (*Geochelone elephantopus*) "

Roger C. Birkel, St. Louis Zoological Park
"Field Study on the Behavior and Ecology of the Black Lemur
(*Lemur macaco*) in Madagascar"

Nancy Czekala, San Diego Zoo and Bill Lasley, Ph. D., U. of CA., Davis, School of
Veterinary Medicine
"Taurine Evaluation in Captive Exotic Cats and Its Relationship to
Reproduction"

J.K. Hodges, Ph.D., Zoological Society of London
"Non-invasive Assessment of Reproductive Function in the Northern
White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) "

Katherine A. Houpt, Ph.D., Cornell University and Minu Chaudhuri, Ph.D., New York
Zoological Society
"Pregnancy Diagnosis in the Przewalski horse and Grevy's zebra - Two
Endangered Species of Equid"

Paul F. Terranova, Ph.D., and John D. Brannian, University of Kansas Medical
Center; and Roger E. Brannian, DVM, Mike Blakley, and Frank Griffin, Kansas City
Zoo, Kansas City, MO
"Two Estrous Cycle Lengths in the African Elephant"

Deanna K. Tolliver, Southwest Missouri State University
"Assessment of Genetic Variability in the Scimitar-horned Oryx"

Nixon Griffis Fund for Zoological Research grants are available to members of the zoo and aquarium community. Fund recipients may be keepers, curators, veterinarians, or research and consulting biologists. Grants, not to exceed \$3000, are awarded semi-annually. Closing periods are 1 January and 1 July of each year. For information about the Fund and grant application procedures, contact John Behler, Coordinator, Nixon Griffis Fund for Zoological Research, c/o New York Zoological Society, Bronx Zoo, Bronx, NY 10460.



Felid Research & Conservation Interest Group

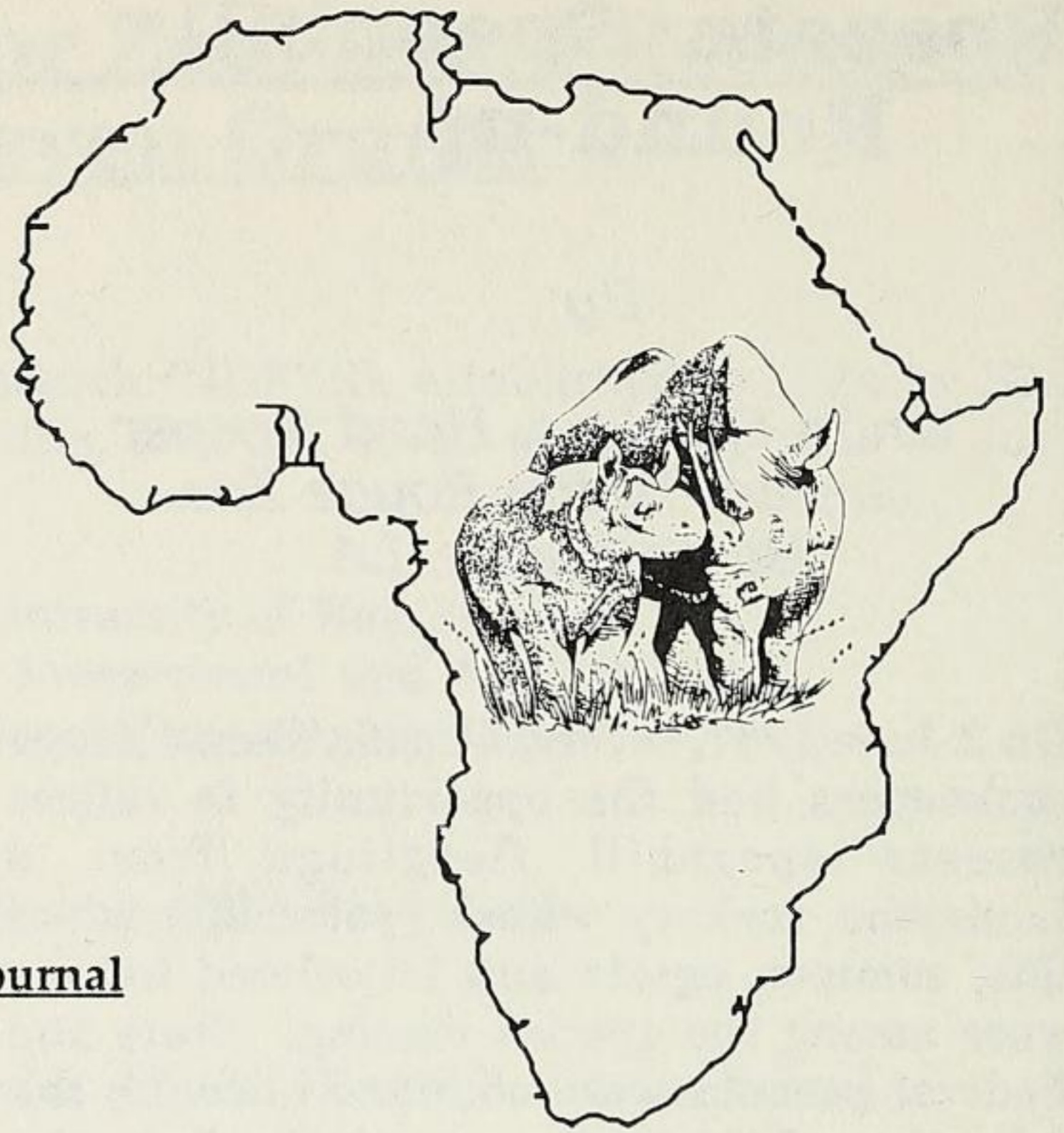
I would like to organize an interest group whose purpose would be to share information from conferences, symposia, and ongoing research among individuals interested in felid research and conservation. Additional activities could be the generation of a felid and felid-related bibliography, a periodic literature update, a quarterly newsletter, and a directory of interested individuals. If you have a sincere interest in participating in such a group, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Gail E. Foreman, Department of Zoology, OSU, 1735 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210.

Kenya Diary

By
Andy Lodge
Keeper, Columbus Zoo
Columbus, OH

(Introduction by John Becker)

On the Brink of Extinction : A Ngare Sergoi Journal



During November of 1985 Andy Lodge, a keeper in the pachyderm unit of the Columbus, Ohio, Zoo realized a lifelong dream by leading a tour to Kenya. Andy's love for wild animals (especially elephants and rhinos), and his fascination for the mystique of the Dark Continent had been as a siren's call luring him to Africa.

From his first glimpse of the primitive landscape, as the Alitalis 747 glided toward touchdown in the brilliant African dawn, Andy experienced a thrill that few people ever experience. For ten days, Andy and his companions vanned across Kenya, from the modern metropolis of Nairobi to the snow-capped peaks of the magnificent Mt. Kilimanjaro.

One stop on the trip was at the huge (46,000 acre) ranch of David and Delia Craig in Northern Kenya. Lewa Downs, as it is called, is also the site of a 5500 acre sanctuary for black rhinos. The Craigs, fully aware of the serious plight of these animals, have set aside this land in a valient attempt to save black rhinos from extinction. They donated the land to Anna Merz who in turn has invested her time, effort and money in establishing the sanctuary. Her singular devotion to stopping the salughter of rhinos has been a true labor of love, but the venture is not without great expense.

The cost of erecting and maintaining a fence around 5500 acres is staggering. Anna must also pay the natives who act as anti-poaching patrols, and those who maintain the living quarters. These employees must have boots, rifles, radios and everyday necessaities such as food. Even veterinarian care for the rhinos can be a major expense. If a rhino must be immobilized for medical treatment it can be as much as £500 (\$750 U.S.). To meet these expenses Anna has been forced to sell her jewelry and her home in Nairobi (she now lives permanently on the sanctuary).

While visiting the ranch, Andy discussed with Anna their mutual love for rhinos and the very real threat to their existence. The demand for rhino horn as a traditional medicine in the Far East, as an aphrodisiac in parts of India and for dagger handles in North Yemen has caused a premium to be paid for the horn. The demand for rhino horn includes not only the black and white rhinos of Africa, but of Indian, Javan and Sumatran rhinos as well. All but the white rhino of Southern Africa are now in imminent danger of extinction due to man's greed. Rhinos, possibly more than any other mammal, are remanants of prehistoric times. It is hard to comprehend all the changes in the world that they have survived through the centuries. Yet now they are on the verge of being snuffed out in our lifetime.

As Andy and Anna continued discussing rhinos and the strategies that have been developed to protect them, Andy explained the black rhino breeding program at the Columbus Zoo. Zoo officials, realizing that black rhinos may not survive in the wild despite private and government sponsored conservation programs, have attempted to breed the pair of black rhinos now in residence at the Columbus Zoo. Despite attempts at natural breeding and

Kenya Diary, Continued

artificial insemination, no black rhino offspring have been produced in Columbus. Few other zoos around the world have experienced success breeding black rhinos either. This only darkens all the more the prospects for the salvation of the species.

During their conversation, Anna mentioned that she desperately needed help in tracking and recording the behavior of the rhinos on the sanctuary. Andy told Anna that the value of having a zoo staff person study rhinos in the wild had been discussed on several occasions. Both agreed that such a project would be mutually beneficial and ultimately contribute to the conservation of black rhinos.

Andy and Anna reluctantly concluded their conversation and the tour group bid goodbye to the Craig Ranch.

Several days later, Andy and his fellow travelers completed their tour of Kenya in the wildlife-rich Northern Serengeti in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. The seed that had been planted at the Craig Ranch, however, continued to grow in Andy's mind until he returned to Columbus and the Zoo. Andy formulated a plan for studying the black rhino in Kenya and presented a proposal to Zoo Director Jack Hanna. Jack was a receptive audience for such a proposal, having visited the sanctuary himself and having been involved in organizing the "Save The Rhino Fund". This fund was initiated to provide financial support in the fight to save the black rhinos.

Within six months plans were approved for the study, and the Zoo supported the cost of sending Andy back to Africa. He was to be the first in a series of researchers from the Columbus Zoo to study the black rhinos in their native habitat.

The adventures Andy experienced during the six weeks of his stay at the rhino sanctuary, including a poacher raid, are related in the following excerpts from his journal:

May 15, 1986 - I arrived in Nairobi this morning. I couldn't sleep very well on the flight in because I was so keyed up. Consequently, I had the pleasure of watching the magnificent Kenyan sunrise as it lit up the land below us. I checked into the plus Inter-Continental Hotel and got organized for my great adventure.

May 16 - I got up at 5:30 a.m. and from my balcony I watched the sprawling city of Nairobi awaken. I never tire of observing this fascinating city with its cosmopolitan admixture of peoples. The trip to Lewa Downs took me north through hilly country adorned with coffee and pineapple plantations and the small neat farms of the Kikuyu natives. My Park East Tours driver and I arrived at the ranch at 3:00 p.m. I met with Anna and we discussed the project format. Initially, my movements will be restricted until I am familiar with the area. While we talked we saw, from her porch, a pair of rhinos sauntering through the tall grass.

May 17 - I went with Anna on her morning run to check on the rhino. We saw ten of the twelve, most from a distance. We also saw a herd of Grant's gazelles, a Grevy zebra and a herd of reticulated giraffe. Seeing the distinctly thin-striped Grevy zebra was a thrill because these animals are becoming quite rare, and this was the first I had seen in two trips to Africa.

I am beginning to feel comfortable here despite a lingering feeling of being completely cut off from the rest of the world. The ranch is very remote with no phone, electricity only between the hours of 6-10 p.m. and a short-wave radio that only reaches others on the ranch. In many ways this is a lonely, strange and beautiful place. I stood in the doorway of the small house I now call home and gazed out at the mountainous terrain. It is dotted with scrub grasses and Acacia trees silhouetted against an aqua blue sky. The loneliness is offset somewhat by a Meru man who does my laundry and cleans my house. Thankfully, his English, while far from perfect, is much better than my meager Swahili.

I just received a welcome bit of news, Jilly (a student from Nairobi who is at the ranch to study plant life) brought me a Land Rover to use next week. Anna also assigned one of her trackers to go with me on occasion. Things are becoming a lot more comfortable.

The Craigs sent me some supplies today, everything is starting to come together.

Kenya Diary, Continued

May 18 - I got up at 5:30 a.m. this morning so I could watch the sunrise - what a beautiful sight! I made my breakfast, one five-minute egg and some of that aromatic Kenyan coffee. I had the chance to take some photographs of Anna with Samia, the baby rhino she's been hand-raising. What a sight to see the affection between the two!

I had some time this morning so I photographed the wide variety of birds that can be seen from my house. I can't identify them all, but they come in an array of colors and sizes, and there seems to be several types of eagles right here on the ranch.

I took a hike with Jilly and some of her friends. We went outside the reserve to a mountainous area. We made a steep descent into a beautiful river gorge that ambles along below a granite cliff. After a brief rest, we swam in the river and enjoyed an idyllic afternoon in this storybook setting.

Anna gave me her notes of the observations she's made on the rhinos, and after the strenuous hike, I think I'll just relax tonight and read through the notes.

May 19 - I went with Anna this morning. This reserve is quite large and the rhino can be very difficult to locate, even for her. I've decided for my study to concentrate on selected individuals and not try to include all twelve rhinos. Anna agreed that for the amount of time I will be here I should not spread too thin.

I had my first experience driving the Land Rover today. I've never driven a vehicle with the steering on the right side so it was quite an interesting ride. Jilly was very patient with me, although I'm sure I scared her half to death. Some of the roads are quite narrow and many run along very steep hills, but I managed to get us back safely. Whether Jilly will ever go with me again is questionable.

While on our drive we saw alot of game. We saw a very large herd of eland, many reticulated giraffe and the first impala I've seen here. There also seem to be a large number of Grant's gazelles on the ranch.

Anna's husband, Karl, is here for a week and then he must return to Europe and lecture to try and raise money for the rhino reserve. I listened with rapt interest as he related fascinating stories of their life together in Ghana in West Africa many years ago. They have certainly had many strange and exciting adventures.

After a delightful dinner, fraught with conversation about the sad plight of the black rhino, I returned to my house to take a bath. This seemingly simple task is not without risk here as small scorpions sometimes come up through the drain. Karl was stung not long ago with very painful results. "Jumping in the tub", as we say, sometimes is not such a good idea here.

To Be Continued.....

